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Photo By Valerie Witte

Members of the comedy troupe, Second City, unwind after their Tuesday night show in the Bryan Campus Life Center. The Chicago-based group, which performed sketch comedy and improvisational theater, boasts such famed alumnae as Bill Murray, Shelley Long, and Joan Rivers.
Review Page 6.

Kenneth Starr to Speak at Rhodes

By Valerie Witte
News Editor

Rhodes students will have the opportunity to speak with Kenneth Starr, former Independent Counsel in the Whitewater investigation, on Monday, February 7. Starr is the featured speaker at the Institute on the Profession of Law sponsored by the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning and numerous law firms and corporations.

In addition to the formal session, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Starr will be available for student questions at 3:30.

The question-and-answer period will be held in Blount Auditorium and is open to a limited number of students. Interested students should contact the Meeman Center (x3965) to sign up.

"We hope students will take an interest in meeting Ken Starr if they're interested," said Marilyn Hury, Marketing and Program Manager, Meeman Center. According to Hury, this is the first time the center has offered a separate question/answer ses-

sion for students.

"It's an opportunity for the students themselves to actually engage the speaker," added Deborah Pittman, Director of the Meeman Center.

The program is the institute's 13th annual session on legal ethics. According to Hury and Pittman, the institute serves as a forum for discussion of ethics in law rather than a how-to program for attorneys. Pittman explained that this type of program, with its broader focus, is more consistent with a liberal arts education and is designed to give lawyers more options in the field of continuing legal education. In addition, it serves to "bring nationally known speakers to the local community."

"We also wanted to make it available to students," she said. With that in mind, professors in the Business/Economics Department and Political Science Department are sponsoring students who would like to attend the session.

Pittman and Hury said Starr's

name came to mind as a featured panelist because Claudia Haltom, Program Director for the Institute on the Profession of Law, knows him personally.

This will be one of his first public appearances since leaving the independent counselor's office.

Starr served as Independent Counsel for the Whitewater Investigation from August 1994 until October 1999. A graduate of Duke Law School, he is currently on a leave of absence from Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C., writing a book on the Supreme Court, and serving as an adjunct professor at the NYU School of Law.

This year's topic will be "When Does A Contribution Become a Bribe?" Participants will address Watergate to the present, the Tyson and Sub Diamond cases, the standard for enforcement of gift-giving, and the best method for enforcing ethics in government.

See Starr, Page 4

Julian Bond Gives Lecture, "2000: A Race Odyssey," at Rhodes

By Margie Hall
Staff Writer

Julian Bond, President of the National Board for the NAACP, spoke at the Bryan Campus Life Center on January 19.

Bond began his lecture by referring to his experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who taught one of his classes at Morehouse College in Atlanta. In his speech, "2000: A Race Odyssey," Bond focused on the efforts that will be essential in continuing the "dream" of King.

The event opened with the music of the Rhodes Gospel Choir, which was followed by an invocation and brief tribute to Dr. King by Luther D. Ivory, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies.

Next, the winners of the Snowden essay contest read their pieces. All three students wrote about continuing the dream of King and of hope for equality for all in

the future. Rhodes President William Troutt then introduced Bond to the audience.

Notable among Dr. Bond's numerous achievements are his positions as Distinguished Scholar in Residence at American University and Professor of History at the University of Virginia. In addition to holding seats in the Georgia House of Representatives and the Georgia Senate, Bond helped to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Bond spoke of a continuing plan to ensure equality of African-Americans in American culture. He began by outlining the struggles of his people, from the times of slavery and the Civil War, to the obtaining of suffrage, and the Civil Rights Movement of King's time.

He went on to speak of the struggles of blacks today. According to Bond, a great wrong was done

to the blacks from the outset of their existence in the United States, and the effects of that wrong can still be seen today in the low social and economic status of many blacks. He cited numerous surveys providing evidence of this status.

Bond claims that efforts should not stop until everyone truly has political and economic opportunity. He spoke against "half-hearted remediation," his phrase for the concessions given so far, and the belief that no great harm was done to blacks, so no great pains should be taken for recision.****

In addition to past treatment, Bond blamed the dismal status of many black Americans' lives on several other factors, including "racial scapegoating." As Bond explains, there is a reversal of blame in our society: the whites believe that the cause of the position of blacks is their behavior, not white racism. As

a result, the "privileged become victims" in their own eyes. This causes a cycle in which blacks are kept down by white attitudes, which perpetuates their status, continuing the beliefs.

Bond informed the young people of the audience that, if they don't agree with his position, they are too young to remember the great struggles. Bond's stance was that relations between blacks and whites were unfair for a long time and that the scales should now be tipped in the favor of blacks to reciprocate.

He pointed out that this has not yet happened, that our African-American leaders have gone from Thurgood Marshall to Clarence Thomas, and that the political movement has changed from benign neglect to compassionate conservatism. Things have gotten better, but the apparent

changes for the good, according to Bond, are not good enough.

"All of us are implicated in continued inequality; therefore, it will require our combined efforts to see it to its end," Bond stated.

Members of the audience had mixed reactions to the lecture. "Overall, I respect him as a great oratorical speaker," said Shayla White, ('03), but she felt as if she heard most of what he had said before.

Tom O'Hara ('03) said that, though he was glad to attend the lecture, it "shook him up." He agrees with Bond's observations, noting that here on the Rhodes campus, many of the menial jobs are held by blacks and agrees that too few people have a great percentage of the wealth to be had. He sees it as a "problem of perception," saying that few people see this as a problem.

Behind the Scenes of the Bush Campaign

JOHN SEALE
Red-Haired Stranger



When Blake Rollins asked me to write this article, I immediately began to think of some captivating opening sentence that would hold the reader's attention with a joke or witty anecdote. Sorry to disappoint, but I can't seem to come up with one. I will just start by saying that I spent the better part of my summer working for George W. Bush's presidential campaign. Let me be clear, though, that the purpose of this article is not to convince you that "Compassionate Conservatism" is *really* better than any other slogan out there on the campaign trail. Rather, I just want to let you know what it was like to work on a presidential campaign.

I guess that it is important to note that I was working at the campaign headquarters in Austin, Texas. I only mention this because the headquarters is where everyone, and I mean everyone, calls when they want something. All of the senior staffers had their offices there, and it served as the nerve center of the campaign.

My time there started off in a rather mundane fashion. The first couple of weeks, I was helping the finance department with their fund-raising efforts. Primarily, that involved putting fund-raising materials together to be sent out so that people would send money to the campaign. Also, before a full-time receptionist was hired, the interns (there were about 30 of us for the summer) were on a telephone rotation. For two hours at a time, once or twice a week, we had to "man the phones" of the main switchboard. Those of you who have worked in a Congressional office, either locally or on Capitol Hill, know exactly what this is like. For those of you who haven't, it is an experience that I would recommend having before you leave this earth.

Most calls that come in are from people who know what they want and know who they need to speak with in order to get it. On the other hand, there are the people that call and say that an alien craft has just landed, and they demand that the Governor give it his full and immediate attention. For some of the more bizarre calls, there was an emergency policy line that we could forward them to. That baby saved me more than once when all twelve lines were ringing, and someone had just decided to call and

tell the campaign how the farming industry (I have nothing against farmers) has been through ups and downs during the past fifty years!

People's opinions are very important to a presidential campaign. Most of the time, we would just take their name and address and give their comments to the policy department, who would respond with a letter stating the Governor's position on a certain issue. That system worked very well probably 95% of the time.

It would probably be helpful if I described how the office was organized. The campaign was divided up into separate units that were all part of the larger whole. The different areas were: finance (fund-raising), press, political, strategy, executive, policy, correspondence, and scheduling. Each department has its own boss, who is usually someone that is in a senior staff position. Senior staff members work together with their colleagues in other departments. This type of cooperation ensures that the activities of each department are in concert with one another and that all activities are focused on the same goal.

To the same end, senior staff and general staff meetings were held every week. Since I did not ever get to attend these meetings, I can only assume that they tried to serve the same purpose, to make sure everyone was going in the same direction. The difference between a senior staff meeting and any other staff meeting is that senior staff is a much smaller group of people, maybe five or six.

On the other hand, general staff meetings included every paid member of the campaign team. In talking to some of the people I worked with, it seemed that these meetings served a rally-around-the-candidate purpose, among other things. When they would return from the meetings, there was a renewed sense of focus and direction. I know all of this probably sounds really cheesy, but it's true. Staff meetings served as a means of keeping the campaign on task, and I think they did a very good job of this.

Once a full-time receptionist was hired, and interns did not have to answer the phones any more, it turned out that I landed in the finance department again. After a while, I was put in charge of updating a database which keeps track of all of the people the George W. Bush campaign has authorized to raise money on its behalf. A quick note on fund-raising: all presidential campaigns do this. It enables citizens to solicit money on

behalf of a candidate.

However, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has stringent rules that must be adhered to. Therefore, extensive records must be kept, so that the campaign can file its quarterly reports to the FEC without getting into trouble.

My job was first to obtain information from these people about their employer and occupation, then I would send them fund-raising materials that the campaign had put together so that they could solicit funds. I found this to be rather exciting and very rewarding. It was a hands-on perspective of how the campaign was able to raise so much money.

One of the other tasks that I had while at the campaign was working in the executive department. This was basically the office of the campaign manager and his support staff. For a brief period (like one week), I was writing thank-you form letters to state senators and representatives from all across the country. The campaign was thanking them for their endorsement of Governor Bush as the Republican nominee for president.

This sort of activity made me realize that campaign work is not just

about the issues and a plan for tax cuts. Every minute detail of campaigning must be taken care of in a timely fashion. Even if it means sending a response letter to the person who claims aliens have just landed, it needs to be done.

At the end of the summer, there was a reception for all of the interns at the state capitol building. This was an opportunity for us to meet the governor and hear a little more about why he was running. I have to say that he is a very down-to-earth guy who was willing to take an hour out of his morning to talk with the interns. That was a really nice gesture, considering we did not get paid for our work.

Basically, my time spent in Austin was an eye-opening experience. Before I got there, I was not aware of the work that was required to run a national campaign. When I left, it was clear to me that it is essential for a candidate who is running for president to try and gain support from every area of the United States if he so much as wants to be a *contender* for the office. In that regard, Governor Bush seems to have succeeded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A recent article in *The Sou'wester* ("What Have You REALLY Learned In College" 11-17-99) prompted a discussion among some friends and me concerning the relationship between creativity and the natural sciences.

Math and science classes at Rhodes are not typically thought of as requiring creativity, yet I maintain that this is not the case. In fact, all of science is based in creativity, and, more specifically, in the hypothesis. Hypotheses are nothing more than creative guesses; they are mental pictures of how a system is behaving that can explain what is observed.

There is no way to formulate a hypothesis without making a creative leap of logic—it is, by definition, a guess. Newton's laws of motion, for example, required an incredible leap of logic to formulate. We think of them as simple today, but it took humankind over a thousand years to realize that the natural tendency of an object in motion is to continue in that state rather than to stop.

If you are not convinced by this argument, then think about all of our current theories of atomic and nuclear physics. Or take a class in quantum physics, and I will bet you will find many of the concepts in it "creative," to say the least.

As for science and math on the local level, I can only speak for the classes I myself have taken. As a physics major, I can attest that the problems we solve do not have pre-set paths for us to follow. They require careful analysis, critical thinking, and, often, the construction of a mental image of the situation described. This does not completely solve the problem, however; it merely allows the mathematical equations behind the problem to be set up, and they too require careful thinking.

Once again, there is often no clear-cut path to take. The solutions to integrals and differential equations vary widely in their approach, and many of these approaches are unintuitive. Differential equations in particular have plagued physicists, mathematicians, and economists for a long time, and the completely unrelated techniques of solving them are surely a testament to the hard work and creativity of those who originally discovered them.

The problems in physics classes clearly require the same creativity and analysis of any other philosophical field. In fact, physics was once called the natural philosophy. In short, the idea that science classes here at Rhodes require no creativity is simply not true.

Jeremy Brewer '00

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A New Year's Resolution

JOE PEEPLES
THE WORLD MUST
BE PEEPLED!



Everyone knows that New Year's resolutions are bad things. Sure, it's good to set goals, and, for that first week or so, life is good: you've thrown away all your cigarettes, you're conscientiously counting your calorie and carbohydrate and caffeine intake in the Rat while reading a newspaper just before you jog off to the CLC to work out, where you smile and say, "Hi!" to everyone you meet.

Afterwards, you trot back to your room and try to think happy thoughts about your roommate, even though he or she still leaves Chalupa wrappers and dirty laundry all over your side of the room. (Your side of the room, of course, was immaculate ever since you decided to reorganize your life for the New Millennium.) After a brisk shower, you head straight for the library, because *this* is the semester that

you're going to get that perfect 4.0, darn it! (You've also sworn off swearing in Y2K.)

Yeah, well, we all know that by the first of February, you'll be digging through the garbage trying to find those cigarettes, and your side of the room will be littered with your own wrappers from Taco Bell, which you've been frequenting every night for the past two weeks like a crack whore in Harlem.

The only reason you'll visit the CLC now is to wolf down onion rings and chicken Philly steak sandwiches sopping with grease, you'll know the weekday TV sitcom line-ups better than your own class schedule, and you'll mutter obscenities under your breath every time your roommate walks into the room, which isn't often ever since the time you threatened him or her with a Choc-o-dile.

But is it really that bad to make New Year's resolutions? Despite what they say about the road to hell, New Year's resolutions—whether they are fulfilled or forgotten—are usually made with good intentions. There's

something nice and empowering about saying, "I'm going to change! I'm going to quit being such a selfish, ignorant, lazy slob!"—even if you end up being the exact same selfish, ignorant, lazy slob (though perhaps a couple pounds heavier) on December 31 of the same year.

So, change in life is good; it keeps us from getting bored and makes it all worthwhile. This may not be much of a revelation, but it seems to be something that we can easily forget about once we get caught up in another semester at Rhodes. Right now, at the beginning of the term, things may be still a little new and fresh, but, in just a week or so, we'll all fall into the daily and weekly routine of going to classes, going to the Rat, going to meetings, and going out to the same bars and parties on the weekends. Lather, rinse, repeat.

Before we know it we'll be studying for finals, and we'll wonder where the semester went. Trust me, I've done this seven times already, and, right now, I'm wondering where my life as a college student went. That's what

happens if you don't try to do anything different with how you spend your time here. Even though it may not seem like it, your days here are numbered.

They all tell us that our college years are supposed to be the best times of our lives, and I believe it. But college is supposed to be *fun*, not just something that you're supposed to bring a date to, or something where you're supposed to sit at the right table, or something that you have to be bombed out of your mind to enjoy.

We limit our range of college experiences by choosing—unconsciously and through sheer force of habit—to do the same thing over and over, every week, month, and year. How often do we experience novelty or wonder, once we've gotten over the initial shock of freshman year? How often do we take chances, except when we're down in Tunica, taking advantage of cheap drinks and sometimes not-so-cheap thrills? And when's the last time something important happened to you—something that

changed your life forever—at a "swap," a "date party," or a formal?

Maybe I'm just playing the role of the Old and Jaded Senior, fed up with the pointless games of college life and ready to move on to the bigger, more complex (but maybe just as pointless) games of The Real World. After all, senior year is a time of hubris and aloofness, when we venerable and slightly arthritic seniors get to bask in the knowledge that, after three and a half years, we've got this place pretty well figured out.

This helps to assuage the gnawing anxiety that, as soon as we graduate, no one is going to care about how well-versed we are in the workings of the rumor mill or—an even more impressive feat—how to survive that whirlwind of confusion also known as the newly renovated Servery A.

The point is, though, that years from now, when we look back on these years as the best of our lives, will we see ourselves just going through the motions, or will we remember how we sought out the best that Rhodes, Memphis, and life have to offer?

A Commemoration and Rededication

EBONY WOODS
Thirty-Three And
One-Third



Celebrations of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took many forms last week. We watched as the NAACP led a protest march against the flying of the Confederate flag over the state capital in South Carolina. The city of Memphis, along with other cities across the country, held a parade in his honor. Rhodes College sponsored a community celebration featuring young poets, essayists, and a lecture by civil rights activist Julian Bond.

What would Dr. King think about the various ways Americans celebrated his legacy? Would he be proud of the celebrations, humbled by them, or displeased? How do the ways we choose to celebrate Dr. King's life reflect our interpretation of his vision for America and our progression towards that vision?

A network news reporter commented that Dr. King's work and the civil rights movement were very

successful and, although racism still exists, America should be proud of its accomplishments. The progress of civil rights in the thirty-one years since his death is remarkable. However, everyone does not share the optimistic picture that this reporter paints. We cannot forget that the struggle for civil rights remains with us.

The civil rights movement did not end with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 or Dr. King's death. Widespread discrimination against Americans because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status still exists in America. Our country maintains its claim as the world's protector of democracy and human rights yet remains uncomfortable and inactive when faced with facts to the contrary. We continue to treat hate crimes and disparities in income and education as small bumps on our road to continued prosperity.

Today, just like forty years ago, Americans with different experiences see different pictures of the same situation. We honor Dr. King's life in different ways because we interpret his life and America's

progress differently. As Dr. King articulates in his book, *Why We Can't Wait*, it is difficult to show people who take their rights for granted what it feels like to have those rights denied.

It is simple to say wait or compromise when you are not the person being treated unfairly. As our communities and workplace continue to diversify, we must remain aware that equal opportunity for all Americans does not exist and complacency is not an option.

When one thinks of a holiday, one thinks of a celebration. Celebrations make people feel good about themselves and the object of their celebration. No one wants to hear bad news or feel guilty about something during a celebration. Is it disrespectful when honoring someone's life to mention things they did not or could not accomplish during their lifetime? Does it make their accomplishments any less worthy of recognition?

In reference to the centennial celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1963, Dr. King said, "It must be observed not as a celebration, but rather a commemoration ... and a rededication to the obvious fact that

urgent business was at hand—the resumption of that noble journey toward the goals reflected in the Preamble to the Constitution, the Constitution itself, the Bill of Rights, and the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments." Those words effectively articulate how Dr. King's birthday should be celebrated.

The most memorable parts of the MLK Celebration here at Rhodes included not only the outstanding attendance by the Rhodes community but also the creative work of the Snowden students. Amanda, an eighth-grader, expressed how she personally would further Dr. King's vision. She articulated how, as a future teacher, she would spread Dr. King's message to her students. She realizes that no law or supreme court decision alone can bridge the divisions in our society. She understands that, without the effort and dedication from all Americans on an individual level, Dr. King's dream cannot be achieved.

You don't have to listen to a speech, march in a parade, or visit any historical sites to celebrate King's life. Those things are important and have their place. Our progress comes from a personal commitment to effect

change. The achievement and preservation of civil rights for all Americans is a struggle that continues everyday in our homes, classrooms, and jobs.

Commemorative events help educate the young and remind the old about the movement Dr. King effectively and faithfully led. However, the best and most effective way to honor Dr. King's legacy is to rededicate ourselves to the philosophy of equal opportunity and justice for all Americans and actually mean ALL Americans. Fundamental change in our society never occurred by waiting for it.

The thousands of Americans who protest for women's rights or economic justice for the poor are regular people who decided to make equal opportunity their goal, and they have not stopped in their efforts to achieve that goal. We must identify and combat the discrimination that persists in our individual environments.

We might not have another leader with a profound message like Dr. King's. However, his life can be celebrated everyday through the individual efforts of regular people like us, committed to making America the best place it can be for all Americans.

Rhodes Organizes Peruvian Study Abroad Program

By Nia Frantz
Staff Writer

Rhodes' study abroad opportunities are about to increase with the addition of a new exchange program between Rhodes and the University of Lima in Peru.

The program has been conceptualized and created through a collaborative effort by the Latin American Studies Department, International Programs Office, and Dean of Academic Affairs John Planchon.

The goals of the program are to increase diversity on campus and give students more foreign study possibilities.

The Latin American Studies Program began in 1996, combining courses in history, foreign language, international studies, and anthropology/sociology. Since then, the professors involved in this interdisciplinary study have toyed with the idea of creating a study abroad opportunity in Latin America to accommodate students better within this discipline, as well as to expand the availability of Spanish-speaking foreign study destinations.

During the past year, the department has been working intensely through the start-up stages of the program, procedural

and curriculum committee meetings, working with Planchon, and one member even making a trip to Peru.

"We have created a legit, real program which will combine education with fun," stated Michael LaRosa, Assistant Professor of History and Latin American Studies and a key figure in the program's development.

The committee chose the University of Lima because of its location in the suburbs of Lima, which, according to LaRosa, is a "high quality, modern city." Not only is the university in a nice, safe city, but a centrally located one as well that allows for convenient, inexpensive opportunities for travel.

The school itself has become an important educational institution in Peru and has a history of being very politically stable as opposed to some of the other Latin American schools where student protests and turmoil prevail.

The institution specializes in the areas of business, economics, psychology, and computer science; however, students who wish to take courses in the humanities and social sciences have been granted permission to study at La Catlica, a neighboring university.

Since the program has been developed directly through Rhodes'

International Programs Office, students' financial aid and credits will transfer directly. Students can go to Peru for a semester or a year and can take courses in any academic departments.

There are no dorms at the university, so students will be staying with a family and will have the chance to experience a typical Peruvian collegiate lifestyle.

LaRosa expressed the valuable chance that this program offers, saying, "The student will be completely immersed in Peruvian culture. They will be able to get up and do things!"

LaRosa's advice to students: "Go away!"—he believes that all college students should challenge themselves by going abroad. The importance of studying abroad and the experiences it provides inspired the committee to start the program.

"Participating in Latin American culture will not only help students to appreciate that culture, but themselves and their own education as well," asserts LaRosa.

The final contracts are currently being signed by the administrators in Peru, and the committee hopes to place students in the program beginning next fall.

Interested students should contact the International Programs Office or Professor LaRosa.

Renovated Rat Garners Mixed Response

By Steele Means
Associate Editor

Students, faculty, and staff returned from winter break to find that the Burrow Refectory has undergone major internal renovations.

According to Tim VanderMeersch, Director of Aramark Food Services, the changes were carried out by Big A Distributors.

He added that the remodeling, which was funded by Aramark, was designed to allow for a greater variety of food, as well as for a less congested flow of traffic through the serveries.

VanderMeersch pointed out that the changes are accompanied by a number of innovations, such as a permanent grill service in Server A, a salad cooler, and food service from pewter containers. Currently, the only other university cafeteria using the latter method is at Boston University.

VanderMeersch said that the renovations have received good reviews from the faculty and staff and that the student response has also been generally positive, though there has been some concern over the position of the beverages.

Emily Seitz ('02) said that, overall, she is pleased with the renovations, but the beverages are more difficult to reach than before.

Richard Cuminalo ('01) agrees that the beverage section is too cramped and that the overall organization is not as good as it could be. On the other hand, he likes the fact that the lines are shorter.

According to Claire Chambers ('01), there are more food choices, and the new grill is a positive innovation, but traffic flow is terrible, and the old setup was more conducive to movement.

However, VanderMeersch asserted that, once everyone becomes accustomed to the new framework, it will be looked upon much more favorably than the old structure.

Jonathan Russom ('02) echoed VanderMeersch, saying that the new framework will be better than the last once people become better acquainted with it.

"I have a feeling that it takes time to get used to the system," said Russom.

VanderMeersch invited students to come see him if they have any concerns or opinions about this issue.

Essays Celebrate King's Legacy

By Gelsey Bennet
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, January 19, 2000, the Kinney Program, the Chaplain's office, and the Black Student Association sponsored the "Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Poetry and Essay Contest" for the students of Snowden elementary and middle schools.

The topic, "Living the Dream," was created by the organizers of the event and sent to the Guidance office and to the English teachers at Snowden. For the essay, students explained what they would do in order to keep Dr. King's dream alive.

"I think the kids were very knowledgeable about what they talked about," said Ebony Woods ('00), one of the competition judges.

The students in fourth through sixth grade participated in the poetry contest, while the students in seventh and eighth grade participated in the essay writing contest.

The teachers chose four finalists in the poetry category and five in the essay category.

The judges for this event were a panel of seven Rhodes students and staff members, including Mary Allison Cates, Coordinator for Church-related Ministry, and Terese Buscher, Director of Admissions.

The judges graded the finalists on the content, style, creativity, grammar, and oral presentation of their works.

The finalists recited their work at Rhodes during the Martin Luther King Program. The winners were: Amanda Davis (Eighth grade) in the essay category; Matt Haltom (Fourth grade), and Brandon Meriwether (Fourth grade) tied on the poetry category.

The winners received a trophy and a savings bond.

Amanda Davis, winner in the essay category, wrote about how she would live the dream by being a teacher. Her work, as well as the others', was personalized and demonstrated understanding of the

importance of the issue.

"I think it shows an improvement in how students understand their roles," said Woods.



The session always includes a panel designed to represent a wide range of opinions. Among this year's panelists are Stephen Potts, director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics; Paul Greenberg, editorial page editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*; Gary Burhop, Vice-President for Government Relations for Harrah's Inc.; James Gilliland, former General Counsel to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Clinton administration; Bruce Kramer, General Counsel of the ACLU of Tennessee; and John Lyell, Nashville attorney and lobbyist.

Also serving as panelists are Rhodes political science professors, Daniel Cullen and Michael Nelson, who will each moderate particular segments of the session.

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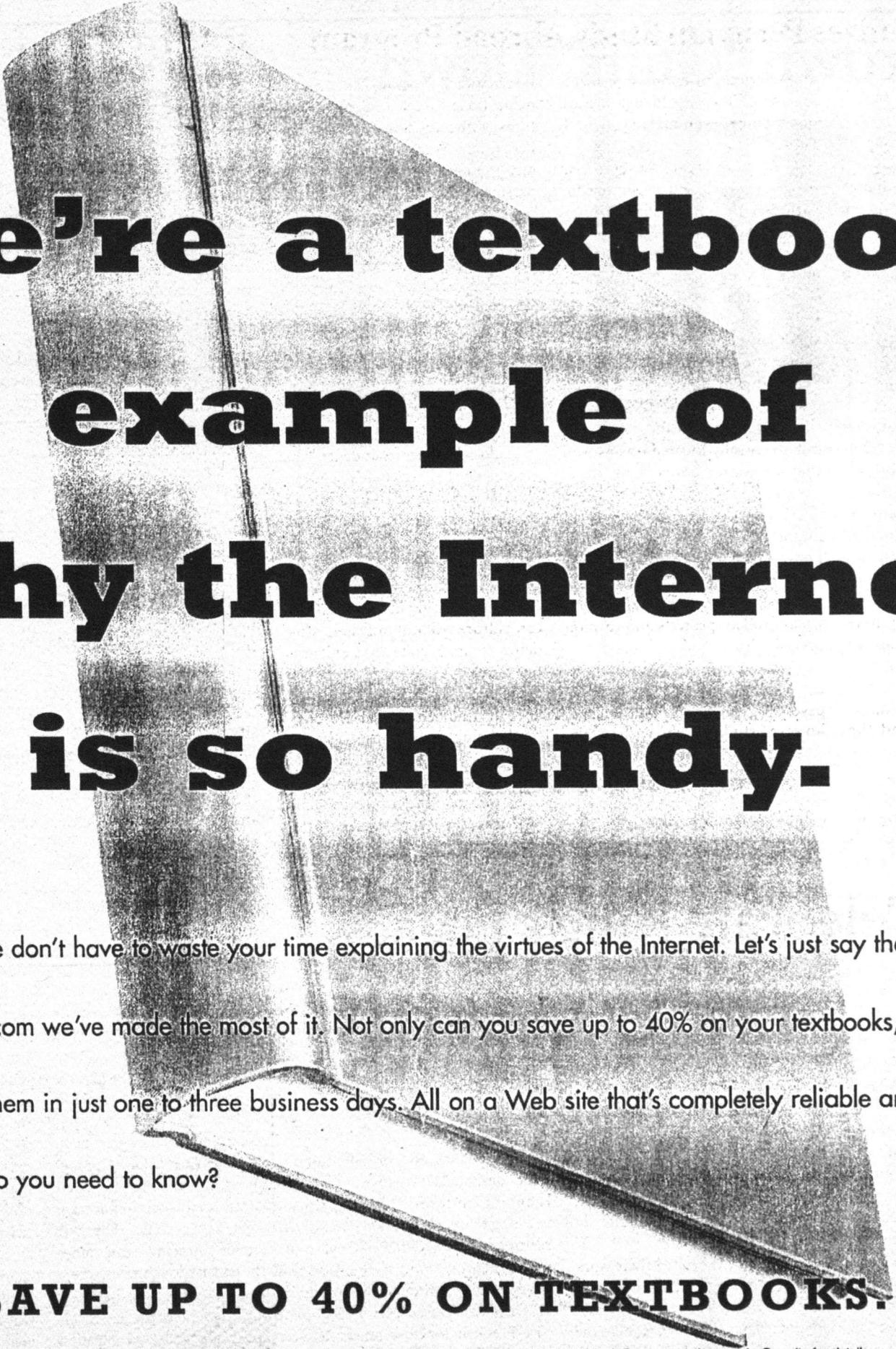
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Arts & Entertainment

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THE
SOU'WESTER

Wednesday, January 26, 2000

Junior Brown "Guits" Down

By Drew Hughes
A&E Editor

Junior Brown and his opening act, led by Charlie Robison, came to Newby's Saturday night and staked Austin, Texas' claim to the seat of country music, dangerously close to country's conventional home. The two-and-a-half-hour show put on by these singer-songwriters was anything but conventional, enough to erase from one's mind the "new country" detritus that clogs the country radio airwaves and to renew a reviewer's faith in the music with which he grew up.

Charlie Robison put forth a forty-five-minute set featuring songs faithful to traditional country themes, but he wasn't afraid to bring out the electric guitar for several of his songs. He sang with a somewhat gravelly voice and humorous, conversational lyrics reminiscent of Robert Earl Keen, who hails from the same small Texas town as Robison. The set was well-received by the audience of 300, many of whom seemed familiar with Robison's material.

Thirty minutes after Robison's set, Junior Brown made a dramatic entrance, working his way from the front of Newby's to the back, where he joined his band waiting onstage.



Photo courtesy of
www.juniorbrown.com
Junior Brown, live on Austin City
Limits in 1995.

Nattily dressed in a suit and his usual cowboy hat with the extra-curved brim, and carrying Big Red, his trademark cherry gut-steel, Junior made quite an impression. (The "gut-steel" is an instrument Brown himself developed based on a dream fifteen years ago, a double-necked guitar combining the standard six-string with the steel guitar.)

His set consisted of over twenty songs, including two by his wife/rhythm guitarist, Tanya Rae Brown, and one by his bassist, Steve Layne.

Junior's distinctive baritone and his blend of traditional country & western, honky-tonk, and Texas swing sounds don't fit well into the typical country radio format. Nonetheless, a few of his singles, like "Highway Patrol," "Venom Wearin' Denim," and the Grammy-nominated "My Wife Thinks You're Dead," have gotten significant airplay, and naturally they garnered an enthusiastic response from the audience.

Junior makes the most out of country music's fondness for plays on words, too, eliciting laughter from the audience with "Still Life with Rose" (chorus: Still life with Rose is better than the life I had with you) and his ode to modern telecommunications, in which he promises to call a girl "on my cell phone/from my cell in cell-block B."

But nothing electrified the crowd like the songs that showcased Junior's sold-his-soul-to-the-devil guitar playing, including his single-string picking and slide guitar stylings. He took guitar players of all genres to task in "Sugarfoot Rag" and then again during the encore in his blistering instrumental finale, a medley of the popular surf instrumental "Pipeline" by the Chantays and snippets of other familiar songs, including "Wild Thing" and "Secret Agent Man."

Second City Wages War on Conformity

By Bob Arnold
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 18, Second City, a Chicago-based comedy troupe that boasts such alumni as Bill Murray and Mike Myers, brought six members of its touring company to Rhodes.

A RAB-sponsored event, Second City packed the ballroom of the CLC with their no-holds-barred approach to humor. The troupe members followed two hours of sketch comedy with thirty minutes of improvised material, and they left the stage amid a standing ovation.

One of the most popular skits involved a powerful general and his overzealous assistant who met on the second floor of the BCLC to review the Kennedy assassination tape. When played at a slower speed, they discovered that the tape revealed the secret of the President's death, which involved wrestling, breakdancing, childbirth, and vampires.

An obvious understatement, and one that could be applied to

the entire evening. Before the night was over, Elvis came home from India, loserdom was cured by surgery, and rental cards from the Evil Empire of Blockbuster were collected, slaughtered, and left in worthless halves on the McCallum Ballroom floor.

What could cause this kind of chaos in a venue normally reserved for lectures and somber academic ceremonies? What is it about Second City's show that makes so many students willing to part with their coveted Blockbuster memberships?

Cast member Andy Cobb believes that the show appeals to many simply because it's different. "If live theater is going to grow and change," he said, "it's got to do things that movies and TV can't. We do something that can't be done through those mediums."

That something, according to cast member Al Samuels, is incorporating the audience into the show.

"A lot of stand-up is confrontational and combative with the

audience," he said. "With improv, they're part of the creation of it. When it succeeds, they feel part of the success, which is great."

Despite its off-the-wall sketches and comedic pot shots, the cast agreed that the show does indeed have a serious message.

"Question authority," said Cobb. "Question authority and you will find corrupt authority."

Cast member Abby Sher agreed. "I think that every character presented in the show is in search for truth in some way," she said. "Truth has a lot of side-alley to it. There's a lot out there, a lot of authority figures telling you what the truth is, and you should question that."

"And that part, the idea of questioning authority, is held sacred," added Samuels. "We make fun of everything, but at the end, it empowers the audience to actually do something. I think it's very uplifting."

The actors certainly seem to

Magnolia: Loss and Renewal in the City of Angels

By Barrett Hathcock
Rhode'ster Editor

From director P.T. Anderson (*Boogie Nights*) comes *Magnolia*, a wonderful, overblown mess of a movie. The beginning sequence, which belies its enthusiastic, virtuoso creator, defies adequate description, but I will hazard one anyway. Three vignettes follow one another, each ending in at least one death and all hinting at a karmic connection despite their apparent randomness. They are quick, impressive, and the perfect ignition for a movie which closely resembles a chain of fireworks; once it is lit, the explosions continue for the remaining three hours and eight minutes.

These vignettes provide the perfect thematic prologue for the rest of the movie, which centers around a day in the life of nine characters: a man dying of cancer; his dedicated nurse; his pill-popping, Prozac-chomping, adulterous trophy wife; his estranged, sex-guru son; a former kid quiz show genius; a current kid quiz show genius; the host of the quiz show; the host's cocaine-snorting daughter; and one really nice cop. And that's just the quick and dirty version. Rather than centering on one conflict and one resolution, the movie, which is akin to something like Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*, shows each character dealing with their struggle for love, whether it takes shape in fatherly or romantic approval. The core of the movie is remarkably cheesy. One character says, "I have so much love to give. I just don't know where to put it."

Like another movie currently in theaters (*Any Given Sunday*), *Magnolia* boasts a carefully integrated soundtrack, in this case a collection of Aimee Mann songs. The first memorable moment of song comes with the end of the vignettes, where the music introduces our characters and our situation for the day of impending conflict with a combination of delicate, electric piano and the lyrics "One is the loneliest number..."

The second great moment functions like an incidental music video;

the characters, each removed from each other in their own particular solitude, sing a few bars of a Mann ballad. The gesture is surreal and relevant, random yet connected.

Tom Cruise, the most famous actor in the cast who plays Frank T. J. Mackey, gives an exciting, sometimes hilarious, and sometimes bewildering performance, slithering from the sexual self-help sermons of "Seduce and Destroy" to parading around yet again in a pair of very tight undies (remembrances of Dirk Diggler, here) to galactic ranting on par with *Rainman* and *A Few Good Men*. His last scene with his dying father is excessive yet moving.

Which brings me to the tone of the movie. Where *American Beauty* was a focused and controlled take on the shatterings of suburban illusion, *Magnolia* is a diverse, frayed, layered montage of loss and renewal. And where *Being John Malkovich* was a clever but emotionally barren practical joke, *Magnolia* is an explosion of genuine sentiment.

One would whip out the trusty Ironic-Eye-Roll several times during the film if only the emotions weren't so...emotional. After two hours (at which point you still have a good hour to go), the movie almost becomes too much to bear. If you listen to your favorite album at maximum volume, when your favorite track shows up half an hour into the disk, you are at a loss for emphasis; there is nowhere to go but down.

And yet, I loved it. From a technical aspect, the movie is seamless—from the deft editing of the multiple plots to the use of sound, where the songs are both a part of the characters' environment and also an effect superimposed. Many scenes make you twist in your seat, such as when Donnie, the former quiz show champion confesses his love to the hunky bartender, or when the cereal-sweet-looking, latest quiz-kid genius urinates on himself mid-show. These are painful moments, like touching the tender, pink skin under a blister, and, if you can stand the sting, it's a great way to spend an evening.

practice the kind of nonconformity that they're preaching. But, if not for Second City, would they also be filling out employment applications at the local Blockbuster?

"I don't know that I could do anything

else," said Samuels. "I'm unemployable, really. I can never, never picture sitting at a desk job."

"It would take a lot for one of us to become a lawyer," said Sher.

And for that, the Kennedys should be thankful.

Celebrating One Hundred Years of Richard Halliburton

By Nathan Ragain
Staff Writer

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Richard Halliburton, "traveler, author, and lecturer," in whose memory Rhodes' signature tower was erected in 1962. For most of us, however, the memory of Richard Halliburton goes no farther than "that guy Indiana Jones was (maybe) based on." (This legend, while somewhat likely, has actually never been confirmed by anyone related to the Spielberg trilogy.) In an effort to fill out the life of the man behind the tower, the main floor of the Burrow Library will host a display of items from the Rhodes College Richard Halliburton Collection, normally housed in the library's rare book room.

Halliburton was born on January 9, 1900, in Brownsville, Tennessee, to Nelle Nance and Wesley Halliburton, and was raised in Memphis. He attended Yale from 1918 to 1921, but, "at the end of Sophomore year, failure to get to Europe in the navy, spurred on [his] wanderlust, and beyond control [he] 'ran away' to sea in an effort to allay [his] gipsy fever" (All Halliburton quotes are taken from his notebooks, housed in the Rhodes collection.). Traveling from Memphis to New Orleans without his parents' consent, he enlisted as a sailor on a commercial vessel. The voyage was, as Halliburton reports, a failure, and he returned to Yale after six months. However, his "wanderlust" and "gipsy fever" got the better of his education, as the following passage from his note-

books attests:

"At last we had 'become educated'. Our families, our friends, and our own sense of responsibility had with difficulty sat upon the lids of our cauldrons of restlessness for four years, but now these restraints were reversed to stimulators. At last it had come! At last I could stretch out and begin to live, begin to learn other castes of society than my own, other types of men than my class mates, other philosophies, other climates, other worlds."

Halliburton left Yale after graduation and almost immediately went to New York, where he again enlisted on a commercial ship, the Ipswich, with college roommate Irvin Otty Hockaday (in whose honor Richard inexplicably named his own well-loved camera). This voyage went far better than his earlier attempt and instilled in Richard a life-long respect for sailors and sailing. It seems apparent that Richard foresaw his career as a writer even as early as this voyage. The journals are filled with Romantic-style prose and references to "Dear reader." For example, the following lines begin the very first journal, and were written while still on the Ipswich:

"This story of wandering and adventure is not meant for everyone. It is not meant for the contented and the satisfied, not for the unimaginative lovers of the kitchen stove, nor any person who rejoices in his daily occupation. If you are deaf to the call of the sea, unmoved by the God made and man made wonders of Europe - content to let the orientals enjoy their Taj Mahals and tropic nights, and not

share it, beware this book. But if you are restless, if you have an urge to move, if you find your eyes gazing at the passing clouds rather than at your account book, if your imagination pictures you in distant places, on rolling seas, among green isles, if moon light has a distracting effect, if you love romance and adventure and crave them...in short, if you have a WANDERLUST, then this story is written especially for you."

This sentiment is characteristic of Halliburton's disdain for the American mundane, but it is also characteristic of his youthful arrogance. There is much to take issue with in his writing. When reading Halliburton, one moves between respecting his originality and contempt for ugly American tourists and quickly tiring of the self-importance fueling this. His rhetoric is a mixture of conquest metaphors (note book title *New Worlds to Conquer*, below) and grand descriptions of the glories of nature and civilization, and tends toward the era's racism.

Halliburton spent the next fourteen years of his life traveling around the world and writing about it. He published six more books in this period: *The Glorious Adventure* ('27), *New Worlds to Conquer* ('29), *The Flying Carpet* ('32), *Seven League Boots* ('35), *The Book of Marvels: The Occident* ('37), and *The Second Book of*

Marvels: The Orient ('38). (These books are no longer in print, and are only available in our library through Special Collections.)

Bill Short explains the popularity of these writings: "The American public in the Depression needed an escape, they needed to know there was at least someone out there doing something like that. The Depression didn't really hurt his book sales that much."

And the things Halliburton was doing out there were certainly 180 degrees from Depression existence. In Egypt, he climbed atop a pyramid and slept there two nights in a row. He rode a mule across the Pyrenees into Andorra in winter. He retraced the path of Hannibal's conquest, riding an elephant, and visited a hashish den in Turkey (twice). He climbed Mt. Olympus and the Matterhorn, and sailed something like the voyage of Odysseus. All of this was funded either by book sales, or, in the case of the first voyage, by money made as a deckhand, which means he also spent a lot of time trying to sneak on to boats, trains, and even planes.

Such a romantic life turned Richard into quite a celebrity, which meant he also had to split his time with lecturing and public appearances. He even starred in a motion picture entitled *India Speaks*. The li-

brary has a video of clips from the film, and two original movie posters (pictured below), which are masterpieces in the Hollywood creation of evil foreign stereotypes. Richard seems to have resented this side of his life as another "lid on the cauldron of his restlessness," and, to his credit, he completely disavowed *India Speaks*. He quickly tired of celebrity status. "He eventually grew up and wanted to do something more serious. He wanted to write history and biography. But Bobbs-Merrill (Richard's publisher) wanted him to keep up at 35 the stunts he was doing at 25," Bill Short explains.

The imperative to perform greater stunts eventually led to his early death. In March 1939, he was to sail in a Chinese junk ship, across the Pacific from Hong Kong to San Francisco for a World's Fair. Because his arrival was a key event in the Fair, he had to be able to control his pace, so he had a motor attached to the junk. In footage taken by a member of the crew just before the boat's departure, one can see how the extra weight from the motor caused the boat to ride dangerously low in the water. Between March 23 and 24, 1939, Halliburton encountered a typhoon and was lost at sea.

"People warned him the boat wasn't safe, but he felt like he had to go," said Short.

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Items From The Halliburton Collection

(Left to Right): 1) Original poster from *India Speaks*; 2) Painting of the Sea Dragon, the Chinese junk on which Halliburton was lost at sea; 3) Field notebooks which became the text for *The Royal Road to Romance*; 4) Halliburton Tower.

Men's B-Ball Squeaks Past Sewanee

By Jeremy Smith
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team beat Sewanee on January 21 in a hard-fought 61-55 battle. Two days later, the Lynx defeated Centre 67-62 in another close game. After the weekend, the SCAC named forward Michael Davis ('01) an honorable mention player of the week. Davis scored a game-high eighteen points against Sewanee and helped lead the team to victory.

This weekend propelled the team to second place in the SCAC. With a 7-2 record, the Lynx trail Trinity for the conference lead by only one game, improving their overall record to 13-3.

The team is one of the most talented teams in recent Rhodes history, with several returning players. Forward Neal Power ('01) leads the team in scoring, ranked third in the SCAC with 17.1 points per game. Guard Josh Cockerham ('00) is second on the team and sixth in the conference with 15.1 points per game. Michael Davis ('01) averages 12.1 points, and Drew Murphy ('01) also averages over 10 points per game. Point guard Mark Strausser

('00) is second in the SCAC with 4.8 assists per game, and Davis leads the conference with 9.2 rebounds per game and 1.8 blocks. Power is third in the conference in rebounds, and Cockerham is one of the most dangerous three-point shooters in the SCAC.

Several other players make important contributions off the bench. Guard/forward Ross Armstrong ('01), forward David Lightburn ('01), guard Jay Fuqua ('02), guard Bryan Baird ('03), and guard Jonathan Pence ('01) all add important depth.

In the win against Centre, Cockerham had an excellent game, as he scored 21 points including a perfect eight for eight from the free-throw line, while Murphy added 14 points. Against Sewanee, guard Bryan Baird ('03) and Davis shouldered the offensive load, as Cockerham struggled through a shooting slump.

Throughout the season the Lynx have proven that they can win without one of their starters from last year, forward Patrick Yoder ('00), who is out with an injury. The team looks forward to the rest of their season as they try to overtake Trinity, a team Rhodes defeated earlier in the season.

Tough Weekend for Women's Basketball

By Jeremy Smith
Staff Writer

The Rhodes women's basketball team dropped road games to Centre and Sewanee this past weekend. On Friday, January 21, the Lynx lost to Centre, 63-47, as 26 turnovers hurt the team's chances in coming back to win. On Sunday, January 23, the University of the South (Sewanee) defeated Rhodes 80-48, forcing 36 Lynx turnovers. Before this disappointing pair of games, the team had a very successful weekend at home, defeating Millsaps on January 14 an impressive 80-67 and recording a 61-55 victory against Oglethorpe on January 16.

Equestrian Team Shows Over Break

By Anne Markus
Staff Writer

Following last semester's finals period, nine members of the Rhodes equestrian team traveled to Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro to compete in the annual Christmas horse show. Raven Babcock ('01) placed fourth out of seventeen in the walk/trot division, a finish that vaulted her into the next level and qualified her for the Regional Championship. Babcock also received

The women's basketball team has had its ups and downs so far this season. The team's record is 8-8, including a 3-6 mark in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC). Guard Kerry Wingo ('02) and senior forward Jessica Crawford ('00) lead the team's balanced offensive attack. Wingo averages 11.5 points per game and scored 28 points against Millsaps. Crawford averages 11.4 points per game and provides an imposing force in the paint, as she is second in the conference in blocks.

Two first-year players, guards Rosemary Boner ('03) and Anna Kizer ('03), have seen lots of playing time already. Boner leads the team in as-

sists and ranks fourth in the conference in assists and first in steals. Kizer is fifth in the conference in steals.

On offense, the Lynx only average 60.3 points per game and have the worst three-point shooting percentage in the conference. However, Rhodes' opponents only shoot 36.8% from the floor, the lowest opposition percentage in the conference. The team also consistently outrebounds opponents by an average of 5.7 rebounds per game, led by the efforts inside of Crawford, Jackie Ehrentraut ('02), Jo Winfrey ('02), and others.

a second place in her first class in the walk/trot/canter division. Allana Clarke ('02) placed fifth in the walk/trot division, while Sarah Tipton took home a third place in the advanced walk/trot/canter, and Leigh-Taylor White followed with a fifth place.

Captain Kristin Kleber won the intermediate over-fences division and placed third in the intermediate flat division. Rhodes riders were extremely successful in the Open Flat division, as Tara Krisle ('03) placed first, Ashley Post

('02) received second place, and Jack Stewart ('02) earned fourth place.

On January 21, two riders traveled to Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green to compete in a western-only show. Allana Clarke placed first and second in the beginner walk/jog class, and Lauren Dellinger ('02), a new addition to the team, received a fourth place in the Advanced II division.

February 11-12 the team travels to Truman University to compete.

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