

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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RSG Passes Honors Resolution

By Valerie Witte
News Editor

Rhodes Student Government (RSG) recently passed a resolution aimed at improving the current Rhodes Honors Program. The resolution calls for a faculty member from the department of a given honors proposal to serve on the committee which approves honors projects.

Lisa Bloom ('02), RSG representative and chair of the Academic Affairs committee, explained that there has long been discontent among students and faculty with regards to the structure of the Individualized Study Committee, the committee that decides whether a student's honors proposal is acceptable.

Under the current system, the committee is composed of nine voting members from different disciplines. Since this nine-member committee cannot include representatives from every department, individuals who may not be qualified to assess work in a certain discipline are often forced to do so, resulting in what some view as unfair treatment of the candidates' proposals.

To illustrate the problem, Bloom gave the hypothetical example of a French major submitting an honors proposal: "Not only is there a possibility that there won't be a professor from the French Department on the committee, but there might not even be someone from the foreign language department.

"As a result, it is asking a lot of, say, a biology professor, to accurately judge the viability of a French student's honors proposal.

"Understandably, students and faculty would prefer better representation to ensure fair and accurate consideration of each honors proposal," Bloom said.

As the new honors program proposal states, "The nine voting members of the standing committee shall be augmented by a non-voting rotating member from the department of the Honors Proposal under consideration. This rotating member shall act as a consultant only while the committee is considering Honors Proposals from his or her department."

The proposal also states that members from departments will sit on subcommittees that encompass

their discipline only when honors projects from their committee are being considered and that department representatives must serve on the committees as long as a proposal from their department is under consideration.

The new resolution will eliminate "the possibility of confusion based on variances in methodology between different areas of study," said RSG representative and member of the Academic Affairs Committee John Ramsey ('02).

Ramsey further explained that the resolution will hopefully allow "all deserving proposals to result in Honors recognition."

Before the changes can be implemented, Bloom said the resolution must be given to Dean of Academic Affairs John Planchon, who will pass it along to the proper committee to consider it for enactment, after which time it will be brought before the entire faculty.

"What we hope is that Dean Planchon will pass the resolution along promptly and that the structural changes we are suggesting will be implemented next year." Planchon was unavailable for comment.



Photo By Susan Hughes

Kerry Wingo ('02) takes a shot in the February 21 Rhodes women's basketball game versus the University of the South. Story, Page 8.

College Bowl Sweeps Regionals

By Matthew Shippe
Editor-in-Chief

Coming off consecutive victories in Chattanooga and Knoxville, the Rhodes College Bowl team has qualified for both the NAQT and College Bowl, Inc. (CBI) National Championships, both of which will be held in Boston.

The NAQT tournament will be held April 7-9, and the College Bowl National Championships will be April 28-30.

Three seniors, Tim Hayes ('00), who is also President of College Bowl, Steve Perry ('00), and Dan London ('00) lead the team.

Doug Lemme ('02), the lone sophomore on the squad, and Rachel Denning ('03) fill out the team's lineup.

Assistant Professor of History Tim Huebner is the faculty advisor for the squad. Steve Wirks, Assistant Professor of Political Science, accompanied the team to Knoxville.

Last weekend the team secured a spot in the College Bowl National Championship by winning the CBI Region 5 Championships.

According to Doug Lemme, Rhodes competed against such teams as the University of South Carolina, Wofford College, and '99 regional champions Virginia

Tech.

"The team came out of the qualifying rounds with one loss (to Virginia Tech) and one exciting, come from behind, victory over the University of South Carolina," said Professor Huebner.

According to Huebner, they then lost to South Carolina in the first round of the semifinals but beat Wofford and Virginia Tech in their other semifinal matches. This put them in the finals against South Carolina, and Rhodes won both games.

The last game against South Carolina came down to the very last question.

"With thirty seconds remain-

ing in the match, there was only ten points [which is the value of one toss-up question] separating us from South Carolina," said Lemme. "Lucky for us, Dan [London] got the question right."

"This one was nice because we were up against larger schools than last weekend," said London.

The previous weekend the team clinched a berth in the NAQT National Championship by compiling a 12-2 record at the NAQT Southeastern Sectional tournament. At that tournament Steve Perry won the Most Valuable Player Award.

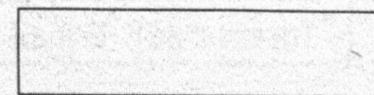
"Steve is the smartest man alive," said teammate Dan London.

When talking about their chance

of winning a national championship, the Rhodes team remains optimistic.

"I think our chances are good," Perry said. "We beat some good teams this weekend. We have two months to get ready. I don't see a reason we can't win. This is our chance to beat Harvard, Princeton, etc., and that's motivation enough for us."

"We plan to do well at nationals," London said. "Rhodes is one of the few small schools going to nationals, so it will be nice publicity for the school."



McCain's Bout with Dukakis Syndrome

WILLIAM BALDWIN
Piano Man



Well, the South Carolina firewall has once again kept the conservative wing in power in the Republican Party. John McCain's prospects for the nomination have all but crumbled before his eyes. It's not that McCain lost the ultraconservative state, but how he lost.

McCain broke even with the veteran's vote and lost young peoples' votes in an open primary with the largest voter turnout in the history of South Carolina. Those were McCain's crucial constituency, and his failure to capture them in a state to which he devoted so many resources has negative connotations for the future. McCain ran a two-state campaign, and, if you do that, then you must win both, especially if you are fighting the establishment.

McCain may have won big in New Hampshire, but the average republican resembles a South Carolinian more than someone in the "Live Free or Die" state. South Carolina was a test to see if McCain could bring new people into the party while still holding the traditional elements together. Did he fail at both and, in so doing, put to rest all fears of a "new" Republican Party?

The religious right was out in droves in South Carolina with the goal of, according to the Christian Coalition, stopping McCain from doing to the Republican Party what Clinton did to the Democratic Party. Clinton moved that party to the ideological center to capture independents' votes.

The conservative fraction of the Republican Party has worked for years to gain control over the party,

and they do not want some outside "liberals" changing the parties' platform. Pat Robertson said that no one can get the Republican nomination without the support of the religious right, and he may be speaking the truth. But, with McCain out of the way, does that necessarily mean that no changes will take place in the parties' platform?

Before McCain became a real threat, Bush had released several statements criticizing the Republican Congress for being negative about the country and having a tax plan "balanced on the backs of the poor."

His statement outlines perfectly the two biggest image problems the Republican party has: 1. The Republicans are nothing more than a bunch of old, white, cynical men that are still angry rock 'n' roll is legal; 2. The GOP is nothing but a tool for giving generous tax cuts to the rich.

Bush wanted to distance himself from the Republican congress, so he could branch out to other constituents. Back in early 1999, he had enough popularity to defy the party establishment, but, when McCain attacked him from the left, he jumped to the right for support. Now, one would believe that Bush is chained to the established right and will run a Dole-Bush campaign if the establishment sets one before him. However, that may not be the case.

With McCain all but dead, the Republican Party does not have any other stars besides Bush. After impeachment, Congress does not have a path for the Republican bid,

Bush is their only hope, which is why they fought so hard for him. The party establishment will therefore be more reluctant to criticize him.

Bush said he wanted government to be strong when it proved necessary. The words "strong" and "government" in the same sentence—no what conservatives like to hear.

Bush will need to promote some policies based on the "strong government" position if he wants to attract new voters, and, if little Bush is anything like big Bush, he should have no problem defying his party establishment.

Bush won't need to worry as much about conservative blowback,

could be portrayed as a right winger if he does not play his cards right.

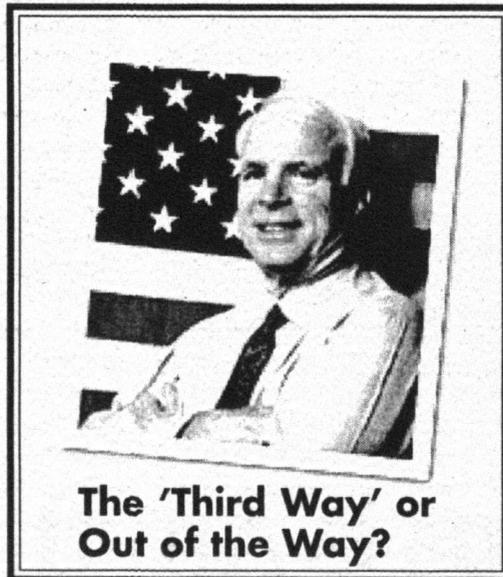
First there is his unfortunate visit to Bob Jones University. No one knows what will become of this in the summer and fall, but it does not look good for Bush. He has already denounced the no interracial dating policy, but critics say he should have done it while on campus. Bush said he did not want to punish the students going there just because the administration invoked those policies. That argument may work, but Bush may be more successful attacking the Democrats on race issues.

Bush could point out that it is hypocritical for the Democratic Party to condemn Bush while supporting Clinton, even though he declared Confederate Flag Day and played golf at a white-only golf course during the 1996 campaign. Secondly, Bush's tax plan may be viewed as too big and favorable to the rich, but tax issues are not center of this campaign. Bush can win the election with his charms while either cutting the tax plan or finding a way to sell it to independent voters.

The election of 2000 is on course to resemble the elections of 1996 and 1992. Both party establishments will probably get their choice and run platform campaigns. Bush better worry about his platform, since his side has lost the last two elections, and try to do something about it.

Whatever happens, it looks as if the election will be mean-spirited. Both Bradley and McCain were undermined by attack ads. Furthermore, they complicated matters by not responding. They reinforced the Dukakis syndrome: that it pays to be noble and run a clean campaign.

Bush and Gore are watching and learning.



because he has been endorsed by many conservative organizations. Conservatives, especially Christian conservatives, will believe Ralph Reed over any political commentary any day of the week. The conservative establishment will support him, because they have no one else.

But has pandering to the religious right hurt Bush in the long run? South Carolina is more conservative than most conservative states and is certainly far more to the right than the average American. Bush

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Introducing....

Forum

A supplement to *Sou'wester* news coverage focusing on issues of national and global importance. Students are encouraged to write on pressing scientific, economic, cultural, or political topics.

All Rhodents are welcome to participate.

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Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom!

Let a Hundred Schools of Thought Contend!

\$ finger me :)

JOE PEEPLES
THE WORLD MUST
BE PEEPLED!



Messenger, and various and sundry other e-mail or messenger programs, which have all but replaced the humble Alpha-based "mail" or "phone" commands.

Even the Burrow Library—that noblest of institutions—is to blame: in the name of promoting learning and research, the librarians deliberately deleted the shortcuts to the Alpha and to Telnet on most of the library computers, thus severing the students' link to the once-rich font of inspiration and entertainment that was the plan file.

No one, to my knowledge, knows exactly what a plan file really is or what the primordial computer programmers of the Alpha originally intended the file "plan.txt" to be used for. Surely, the following thoughts were not going through the heads of these founding fathers and mothers, as they calculated complex logarithms and conjugated obscure computer languages:

"Why don't we include a file in which users can post their favorite inspirational quotations, literary excerpts, song lyrics, random thoughts,

and comments from friends and professors taken way out of context?"

Equally perplexing is its name: what are we supposed to be *planning* to do or make with a plan file? None of the standard definitions of the word "plan" adequately explain the plan file's intended purpose or function within the Alpha's intricate matrix of meaning.

However, regardless of the programmers' original intent or design (which, as far as we know, is ultimately unrecoverable and unreliable as a point of inquiry), we Rhodes students have appropriated this artifact of the text-only computer networking era and developed it into our own means of communication, which was, at least for once in the history of Rhodes, nothing less than an art form.

As I've said, our younger comrades probably have no way of understanding the pervasive nature of the plan file during its Golden Age; not only were many of them still in high school at the time, but others had more advanced e-mail programs automatically loaded onto their shiny new iMacs and Dells and Gateways

that they bought for college. The Alpha probably does not even exist for some of these lost souls.

Unfortunately, there's no way to retrieve the plan files that have contributed so much to the overall ethos of this campus in the last couple of years. Plan files come, and plan files go, and only the most self-absorbed authors have preserved their plan files in any form. Last semester I used my own plan file to announce what I had recently perceived as the Exhaustion of the Plan File, to which a recent alumnus responded with the following e-mail (don't ask me how he managed to get into the Alpha to check my plan file):

"In regard to your plan file about plan files having 'shot their bolt,' I believe the problem is that the small number of 'pub center' people who turned the plan file into an art form all graduated. Too bad for short, pithy communication worldwide."

To a certain extent, this is true. Many of the Golden Age's greatest artists have already left the hallowed halls and computer carrels of this school, and they have gone on to apply their

celebrated plan-file writing skills to similar pursuits in the real world, such as creating inter-office memoranda, writing graduate dissertations, or grading fourth graders' tests.

They carry with them the virtues of a quick wit and even quicker typing ability, which were both manifest in the lost legacy of plan files that were deleted along with their usernames upon graduation.

But are we to dwell continually in the past? No. We, as the future and the lifeblood of this school, this college, this *community*—we must all shoulder the responsibility of continuing the rich history that was begun several years ago at the dawn of widespread computer usage at Rhodes. We must remind each other of the importance of such unique traditions here at Rhodes, and we shall never fail to teach an inquisitive freshman the essential "create plan.txt" and "edit plan.txt" commands.

Let the alumni tremble at our rejuvenated plan file culture. We have nothing to lose but our chains (and the few minutes it takes to rewrite a plan file). We have a world to win.

Living on Campus is Anything but Bunk

DAN LONDON
BACK IN ST.
OLAF...



pillow and blanket as my Holy Grail and the forces of gravity my nemesis. And the terrible dilemma in the middle of the night—to get up and go to the bathroom, and be faced with the daunting task of climbing back up in the pitch black, or to try desperately to hold it in until morning—made *Sophie's Choice* look like a decision between Jiffy and Peter Pan. So, it should be apparent why, after my summer camp career was over, I vowed to myself never again to sleep on the top bunk.

It is now the year 2000. I am a senior. I am 21 years old. And I sleep on the top bunk. But you know what? I don't really care. I don't care about many other so-called atrocities of dorm life.

I don't care that the toilet seats in the hall bathroom are wetter than any other surface on earth, with the possible exception of the cafeteria trays in the Rat. I don't care that it takes two dryer cycles to dry a pair of socks. I don't care that four of the five "Previous Channels" on my TV remote are 73, 72, 71, and 68 (all of which, if you don't live on campus, can be

most politely described as "Scrambled"). I don't even care that our bathroom is so infested with ants that it is used as the lab for several biology courses. I have learned to accept these mild inconveniences because, after nearly four years, I still love living on campus.

I love waking up five minutes before my first class and arriving on time. I love living with three generous, kind, and mild-mannered suitemates who go out of their way each day to point out my faults, out of a purely selfless duty to help me learn and grow. I love capturing that mystical parking space in the Phillips Lane lot that is

closest to my dorm and keeping the spot for as long as possible, even if it means going months without a haircut. I love pulling the fire alarm at 3:30 a.m. on a January morning and watching all the shivering peep—uh...did I

mention that good parking space?

The fact that so many students live on campus is one of Rhodes' greatest characteristics. And ResLife and the rest of the administration, undeservedly maligned last summer for the housing shortage, are ensuring that this will continue to be the case. Sure, the bagels at Java City cost more than the annual income of some third-world workers. And yes, the model of the future dorm (resort?) that is on display in the Rat looks a bit spooky.

But the point is, they under-

stand the importance of on-campus living to the Rhodes community, and they are working hard to sustain it. As in all situations, compromises have to be made. I even had to agree to mention one of my suitemates in this column

so he would pick me up a Whopper at Burger King. Compromises are better than nothing, however. Just think of all the improvements we have had in four short years. Why, it seems like just yesterday when I had no consistent network connection, and complaints about the dorm being too hot or too cold filled the silences between false fire alarms. Well, you know what they say: the more things change....

Still, there have been actual improvements—cable, ResNet, Java City, and, starting next year, call waiting. Oh, there will still be complaining next year, and the year after that, of course. There are simply too many hours in the day for Rhodes students to fill without resorting to our collegiate pastime.

In fact, if you want to complain to me, stop by my room. I might even climb down from the top bunk and open the door.

It is now the year 2000. I am a senior. I am 21 years old. And I sleep on the top bunk. But you know what? I don't really care. I don't care about many other so-called atrocities of dorm life.

Delegates Attend Model NATO Conference

By Margie Hall
Staff Writer

Eleven Rhodes students are competing in a Model NATO conference in Washington, D.C., from Wednesday, February 23, through Saturday, February 26.

The conference is part of an educational program coordinated by NATO.

The team will participate in a simulation of NATO processes along with other schools such as Georgetown University, The Citadel, Howard University, and the Tuskegee Institute. The schools represent the 19 countries of NATO, as well as the 20-25 European countries that are considered "friends" of NATO. The representative schools will debate issues of their countries that are currently facing NATO as a whole.

Rhodes students, who will represent Poland and the Czech Republic, have been preparing for several weeks in the various committees of their respective countries to create position papers and a sample resolution to propose at the conference.

According to Stephen Ceccoli, assistant professor of International Studies and the faculty sponsor of Model NATO, the organization provides an opportunity for students to participate in and understand "the

roles and organizational activities, as well as similar issues facing all members of NATO." He emphasized that the students are going to the Polish and Czech embassies to be briefed by the Chief of Mission, the second in command to the ambassador, of each.

The keynote speaker of the conference, Ambassador Donald McConnell from Belgium, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of General Political Affairs of NATO. Officers of the British army will brief students on the affairs of NATO as well.

The students will spend most of their time in Washington in individual sessions, debating the specific issues they have prepared for over the past few weeks.

This is only the second year that Rhodes has participated in Model NATO, but Ceccoli hopes to make it an annual event.

Emily Clark ('00) is the only Model NATO "veteran." She is returning to participate for the second time in Model NATO and was enthusiastic about the contacts she has made through the program. Clark discussed the significance of the conference, as she was able to become better acquainted with Rhodes students on the same career path as she, as well as forge contacts with Rhodes professors.

Clark added that she sees the con-

ference as an opportunity to "observe and take part in bureaucratic decision making, as well as learning new angles of arguing things." In addition, she was able, through common debate, to learn a great deal about other countries' positions.

Steele Means ('00) became interested in NATO in the fall of 1998 during a course on military power and international politics.

His interest increased last summer during an internship with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, following a semester abroad in Antwerp, Belgium. Means is especially interested in the changing role of NATO as a peace-keeping and stability-projecting institution.

He hopes, through his participation in Model NATO to develop important analytical and diplomatic skills. As he said, the conference is an "opportunity to increase my knowledge of the issues facing NATO at present and my ability to make intelligent policy proposals and analysis."

Students participating in the conference include Steele Means, Patrick Betar ('01), Heather Lockridge ('00), Kenneth Lukas ('02), Cisco Bertorini ('02), Tracey Colley ('02), Emily Clark, Josh Tucker ('02), Charles Sheehan ('01), Raleigh Finlayson ('01), and Meghan Bromert ('02).

College Bowl

From Page 1

College Bowl is in its second year of existence here at Rhodes. Tim Hayes helped to create the organization in 1998, and he has been involved as both President of the club and as an active player on the squad.

"As many of my friends know, it doesn't take a lot to get me excited about College Bowl," said Hayes.

"Twenty-three months ago this thing didn't exist. It is sort of my baby. I met with Cindy Pennington [former Director of Student Activities] two years ago and got the ball rolling. Everything has worked for us since Day One."

According to Perry, the administration has been supportive of the team during its two-year existence. "We've had a decent budget," said Perry. "RSG or Rhodes Activities Board doesn't give us [much] money, but Dean Planchon has been pretty supportive of the team."

"We started the year with a sizable budget of \$2700," added Hayes.

In a sense, this has been a rebuilding year for the College Bowl team.

Two of its leading players, Gerry Tansey and Matthew Marcotte (of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* fame) graduated last year.

"We lost two great players last year in Tansey and Marcotte," said Hayes. "The practices at the beginning of the year were sparsely attended, but, by January, I think we knew what we were doing."

"If you had asked me a month ago if I thought we were going to win both tournaments, I wouldn't have laughed, but I was pleasantly surprised to win them both."

Next year also raises many concerns for the team, as they are graduating three of their starters in Perry, London, and Hayes.

"We have a couple of promising [underclassman] players," said Perry. "The administration should bring in people who are interested in College Bowl."

"We have no juniors on the team this year, and that's a big dropoff. It's disappointing that we can't get more people interested in the team."

"With a lot of study and practice, the team has proven itself this year to be among the top College Bowl teams in the nation," Huebner said.

"I have no doubt that they will continue to improve in upcoming tournaments and build a solid foundation for the team's continued success for the long term."

Model UN to Compete in Midwest Conference

By Valerie Witte
News Editor

Members of Rhodes' Model United Nations (MUN) chapter will attend the Midwest Model United Nations Conference in St. Louis this week.

According to Model UN President Jessica Anschutz, for the conference, each delegation is assigned to a special committee in which the members discuss topics, draft and debate resolutions, and work towards bringing the members of MUN to a consensus.

"In the past, Rhodes has done very well at this conference," said Anschutz, "and, based on the hardwork and dedication of the 13 delegates going, we expect continued success this year."

Anschutz added that Assistant Professor of International Studies Karl Kaltenthaler, the group's faculty advisor, will accompany the team to the conference.

Midwest Model United Nations Conference Wednesday, February 23 - Saturday, February 26

Committees/Topics

First Committee: Disarmament and International Security

Inhumane Weapons
Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Verification

Second Committee: Economic and Financial

Investment and Capital Management in the New Millennium
Financing for UN System Development Programs

Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

Review of Habitat II
Refugees

Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

Ethnic and Territorial Conflicts in Africa
Comprehensive Review of the Question of Peacekeeping

Economic and Social Council

The Status of Agenda 21 at the Millennium
The Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Poverty Eradication

Representatives

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Barry Fullerton

Jessica Anschutz
Beth Purves

Mara Zimmerman
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Security Council: Jen Eliason

Algeria

Stuart Turner

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Confluence The Southwestern Review
Cereal Info Lynx Yearbook

The application is available on the Academic Volume in the Pub Board Folder under Student Organizations.

Questions? Please email shuar@rhodes.edu

Publish or perish? Not quite, but....

Confluence: The Rhodes College Journal of the Humanities & Social Sciences

We're now accepting research papers and critical essays for the 2000 edition. Submit Word or WordPerfect Rich Text Format (rtf) files to the *Confluence* In-box under Student Organizations on the Academic Volume. Copies of last year's *Confluence* will be available in Briggs lobby, if you want to see how it looks.

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College Democrats and College Republicans Gear Up for the Campaign Season

By Steele Means
Associate Editor

As the primary campaign heats up between the main contenders for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations, the College Democrats and College Republicans are doing their part to bring a measure of political activism and awareness to Rhodes.

Both groups will be organizing a number of events to mark the primary season.

For example, according to Brandon Waggoner ('00), President of College Democrats, the two organizations are cosponsoring a mock debate, at which two members of the College Republicans will play the parts of George W. Bush and John McCain, and two members of the College Democrats will role-play as Bill Bradley and Al Gore.

The debate will be held next Monday at 4 p.m. in the Orgill Room. It has not yet been decided who will play the roles of the respective candidates, according to Waggoner.

He went on to say that the College Democrats will also perform the service of informing their members of absentee voting rules and regulations.

In addition, the organization is sponsoring the upcoming visit of former Tennessee governor Ned McWherter, who was for-

mally invited to come to Rhodes by President William Troutt. The exact date of McWherter's visit is uncertain, but it will likely be sometime in March.

The club will hold a meeting this Thursday, at which they will finalize the plans for the mock debate on Monday and schedule other events for later in the semester.

Barrett Haga ('01), President of College Republicans, provided commentary on the internal political preferences of the club. Most of the members are Bush supporters, he said, though a few are backing McCain.

Somewhat surprisingly, one College Republican even supports Bradley.

Commenting on this fact, Haga stressed that the College Republicans have no desire or intention to foster partisanship and that the club is accepting of a wide range of political opinion.

However, in general, the members of the club favor fiscally conservative and socially moderate policies.

The club has not yet formally endorsed one of the candidates, but it will do so at some point in the future.

Waggoner said that the national bylaws of the College Democrats prohibit the individual clubs from making an official endorsement but said that most of the members support

Gore.

Waggoner is a Gore supporter himself, and he said that he admires the Vice-President for his person-to-person skills and for standing by Clinton during the Lewinsky and Whitewater affairs.

Also important to him personally is the fact that, realistically speaking, Gore has a chance of winning the election, while Bradley as the Democratic nominee would not.

According to Haga, the nominations will ultimately go to Gore and Bush, and, as the two are currently running neck-and-neck in Gallup polls, the characteristics and popular perceptions of their respective running mates will be highly influential in the final vote in November.

Haga thinks that Elizabeth Dole would be an excellent choice for Vice-President in a prospective Bush Administration. She was very popular while she was in the race, according to Haga, but was ultimately unable to compete in the fundraising game.

Waggoner thinks that Gore, if he does win the nomination, should pick a running mate from the North.

The standard strategy is for a Presidential candidate from one region to ensure that he or she chooses his or her running mate from another area of the country.

He pointed out that this is obviously not an absolute rule, though, as shown by the selection of Gore, a fellow Southerner, as Clinton's running mate in 1992.

Waggoner speculated as to the selection of Richard Gephardt, congressional Representative from Missouri, as Gore's running mate, but is ultimately unsure of the outcome.

Both Waggoner and Haga also identified what they believe to be some of the crucial issues on the campaign trail at present.

Haga asserted that these included national defense, particularly the efforts to build a missile defense system, and the contention surrounding the flying of the Confederate flag in South Carolina.

Waggoner thinks that the issue of education is very important, as is the debate concerning the use of the budget surplus to cut taxes and/or reduce the deficit. He also pointed out that abortion is a very heated topic between the Republican candidates.



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Arts & Entertainment

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THE
SOU'WESTER

Wednesday, February 23, 2000

A Hilarious *Escape* from the Ordinary at the McCoy

By Anna Teekell
Staff Writer

The shout, "I can't believe what is happening!" from the mouth of a leading character in Act I of *Escape From Happiness* (George F. Walker, 1991) pretty well defines the audience's reaction to the McCoy Theatre's newest play—hysterical and fascinated disbelief in what was happening onstage. *Escape* is both a wild and funny romp into the dysfunctional and a chilling allegory of the American family.

My first reaction to Trent Lutz's set was that it looked just like anybody's kitchen at home, right down to the half-used condiment bottles on the table and the refrigerator magnets. But this normalcy is first called into question by the opening voiceover: "When I was twelve, I stood outside watching our house burn down after my father had set fire to it..." The audience is about to meet a family who turns

out to be far from ordinary—or are they?

True, the average Rhodes student's father probably does not leave for ten years after setting fire to his house with his sleeping family inside, only to return unrecognized by his wife and cook up a "loving" plot to save the neighborhood by concealing drugs in his basement. True, the average Rhodes mom most likely doesn't hire known felons to do household work. And chances are you're not too likely to go into Orange Mound to kidnap said felons, beat them, and tie them up in your home as part of your Urban Studies service learning class.

However, if you have siblings, you have undoubtedly fought with them, and you have been critical of your family probably more often than you'd admit. Perhaps, as Gail does to her sisters Elizabeth and Mary Ann, you have looked at your

family and surmised that you "feel like I'm in a science fiction movie where I'm the only human and everyone else is some sort of plant life." George F. Walker's witty and wildly funny play shows us the dysfunctionality of our own families through this story of an oddly perfectionistic adult family running from their own chance at happiness.

Escape is refreshing in its casting of less seasoned actors; Erin Cook ('02), Rachael Graeff ('01), and Jonathan Harder ('02) all make their McCoy stage debut in this production. Together, they are a great example of ensemble acting; their chemistry and ability to play off each other keeps the cast working like a real family. Ashley Sewell is fabulous as the frazzled, offbeat mother, Nora. Her performance gains humor and believability as the play progresses. Erin Cook, as the frenetic and annoying middle child Mary Ann, brings in laughs and gri-

maces with her every complaint, and Elizabeth Watt ('00) proves her talent again as the eminently believable oldest sister, Elizabeth. Watt works the audience into laughter and sympathy with her character, and she even gets the chance to show off those tying-up-the-criminal skills that she perfected last year in *Extremities*.

Youngest sister Gail is played capably by Rachael Graeff, who does not have the character freedom to sway the audience like her onstage mom and sisters, but who makes an important contribution to their family chemistry. One great scene involves the three grown girls in an all-out fight, while mom disinterestedly plays Solitaire until the moment is right for her to calmly walk to Elizabeth pinned on the floor and plant a big wet strawberry on her tummy.

John Whitfield ('02) is a bit disappointing as Tom (the father). In Act I, Whitfield gives a great deadpan performance of senility, but, when his

character changes in Act II, Tom needs more vitality than Whitfield delivers. But the laugh-a-minute antics of Joshua Welter ('02) as Rolly the crook and Jonathan Harder as his son, Stevie, are worth the price of admission on their own, as is David Hurt's ('00) portrayal of Gail's offbeat husband, Junior.

The play comes together seamlessly, right down to the intermission, during which Rolly is still tied to a chair onstage, and Gail and Mary Ann come out to clean the kitchen, remaining in character the whole time. Rhodes graduate Leigh Ann Evans deserves credit for directing a play that will make you laugh until you're tired but still keeps you up at night thinking about its hidden implications.

Escape From Happiness is showing this Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Don't miss this perfect escape from all that midterm studying!

Nine More Websites (Still Porn-Free, Sadly)

By Patrick Lane
Scene Editor
Blake Rollins
Op/Ed Editor

The Artchive

www.artchive.com

A massive online gallery of visual arts masterpieces. Browse and enjoy. Those with color printers may reap great rewards.

Babelfish Translator

babelfish.altavista.com/

I first heard of Babelfish when a magazine ran song lyrics through its translator to produce amusing nonsense. Beck's line "I've got a devil's haircut in my mind," when translated into German and back, becomes "I've got a crop of a devil in my understanding." You'll waste hours of otherwise productive time getting Babelfish to spit weird translations back at you. (It's pretty easy to figure out why it's named after the biblical Tower of Babel.) And, occasionally, you might use it to translate something in Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, and Italian that you've always wanted to understand.

CIA: Electronic Document Release Center

www.foia.ucia.gov

Peruse recently declassified government documents about UFOs, CIA involvement in Chile and the Bay of Pigs, POW/CIA, or the Rosenbergs. For a laugh, check out how much of any given document is blacked out.

Gallery of the Absurd

www.absurdgallery.com

"They're happy because they eat LARD!" So goes one of the many strange and often uproarious ads displayed in the Gallery of the Absurd. As a repository of the weirdest adverts imaginable, the Gallery thrives because people like you and me find bizarre products and commercials that were best left in their inventor's mind. Luminary examples of the products parodied on the Gallery are a clown toilet-brush holder, a wee-wee water squirter (which shoots out a stream of water when you tug down the little plastic shorts of the figurine), and a chain of liquor stores in the Pacific Northwest called "Bunghole Liquors." Check out Derrick's section devoted to strung-out J. Crew models (better yet, check out some of the responses he received from angry readers). And the scariest thing of all...They're all real!

The Lonely Planet

www.lonelyplanet.com

The Lonely Planet has built a sturdy reputation as *the* travel guide for the young, footloose adventurer. Think of any destination in the world—Bhutan, all the Central Asian states, the Falkland Islands, Inner Mongolia—and Lonely Planet covers it. Read about local customs, currency, recent travel advisories, and dates and times of cultural festivals in their info-packed site. Best of all, read up-to-date feedback from tourists who just returned (or still are enjoying) time abroad and who have followed the advice of the Lonely Planet

guides. What a great way to fantasize about what you *could* be doing with your Rhodes tuition money....

MP3Now

www.mp3now.com

Are you looking for MP3s? Do you know your international copyright law? If you don't, then check out MP3Now, featuring a regularly updated list of the top 20 MP3 search engines on the internet.

The Random Portrait Gallery

moonmilk.volcano.org/portraits/portraits.html

Exactly what it claims to be. View random portraits of random people from the Internet. Submit your own mug shot and be looked at by random people. It's the Random Portrait Gallery!

Virtual Crack Rock

www.virtualcrack.com/

Wish someone a happy birthday in that special inner-city way: send a Virtual Crack greeting card.

Where's George?

www.wheresgeorge.com

"The Great American Dollar Bill Tracker." This service needs your support! Simply enter the serial number of the bill into their system, write a simple note on the bill telling the next person to receive it in their IHOP change to visit Where's George?, and, lo and behold, you can follow the progress of your dollar bill as it travels across the country. Don't expect results right away; this site can only work if more people participate. Help the community of Internet time wasters! Visit Where's George!

Live Theatre: Running into Walls

By Drew Hughes
A&E Editor

In front of a packed McCoy Theatre following Saturday's performance of *Escape from Happiness*, Rhodes' improvisational comedy troupe Contents Under Pressure (CUP) began its first performance of the new millennium with a look back to the group's roots.

Presented in slide show format, with the CUP players posing as slides and John Ramsey ('02) narrating, the opening history lesson won over the audience instantly. If we are to believe them, Contents Under Pressure earned its name when its African-American members were forced underground in Pressure, Pennsylvania, during the days of Harriet Tubman, and Brian Harris' ('99) departure from the group was due to a freak auto "accident."

Least believable of all, though, was Bob Arnold's ('02) claim that joining CUP hasn't done as much for his social life as he expected: "I'm not getting laid," he said. If the number of apparent Arnold groupies in attendance is any indication, he should be having no problem whatsoever.

After the quick start, the show's first improv game, "Whose Line Is It, Anyway?" nearly imploded when the players used several inappropriate and, worse, unfunny lines written by the audience, including some of the Arnold fans. Wisely, Arnold rejected one of these audience suggestions as the game neared its end, a provision that will have to be more common in the future if the quality of the submis-

sions doesn't improve.

The next game, the ever-popular "Party Quirks," cleared the air, and thereafter the CUP players gave as consistent a performance as possible, given the nature of improvisational comedy. I say "as consistent as possible" because it's not improv's place to be polished. The problem is not that the joke fail, but that they sometimes fail to be funny enough.

Improvisation demands a lot of energy, not just from the performers but also from the audience. When the audience becomes complacent, as it sometimes seemed on Saturday, even the best comedians struggle. That was evident at the CUP show, despite the obvious talent of several of the performers.

Accordingly, CUP's scripted skits usually fared better than the improv. Beyond the slide show skit, the periodic interruptions for "a word from our sponsors," including a commercial in which a mugger beat an old lady for the Mentos in her purse and one featuring Matt Reed ('02) drinking coffee, his Java City brew replaced with Folger's crystals, were among the show's highlights.

The CUP players finished strong with a hilarious "running into walls" exhibition. The players took turns running and jumping into a plywood "wall" in what was the most refreshing, off-the-wall part of the comedy performance. I left the McCoy satisfied but hoping to see more of this kind of comedy at the next Contents Under Pressure show.

Breathing New Life into Overton Square Independent Film Theater, Microbrewery, and Coffee Shop to Come to Midtown

By Margie Hall
Staff Writer

Southland Capital Corporation, the company that purchased Overton Square in 1997, plans additions and renovations in the near future, and more extensive changes later on. Southland has high hopes for the area, which now contains popular Rhodes student destinations like T.G.I. Friday's and Memphis Pizza Café, as well as small shops that specialize in items such as home furnishings or jewelry.

Two new additions that are already underway are a five-screen Malco theatre and a Bosco's restaurant.

Julie Kelyman of Malco Theatres states that the company is "really excited" about their new theatre, which is called Studio on the Square. The theatre will not show popular films, but will specialize in independent, foreign, and popular crossover films. However, it will have all the perks of the newer theatres, such as stadium seating, a large curved screen, and digital sound, plus a few unusual comforts. Malco, in addition to the prerequisite popcorn and cokes, will include a cappuccino and wine bar, possibly a microbrewery, and hors d'ouvres and veggie plates.

The new theatre will be the site

of film festivals and will be working with Memphis Film Forum and Delta Axis, two local coordinators of film festivals. These festivals might include older films, B-films, and a focus on a certain director, actress, or actor. Ms. Kelyman indicated that the theatre would be involved with film events throughout the area. The theatre is slated to open at the end of March or beginning of April and will be located behind Paulette's.

Another newcomer will be Bosco's. The management of this popular restaurant, which has a location in Saddle Creek Shopping Center in Germantown, said that the store in Overton will have a slightly different menu to cater to midtown patrons. There will be noon, dinner, and late-night menus, and the bar will be open until 3 a.m. on weekends.

In keeping with a feature of the Germantown location, there will be a microbrewery on the premises. The Overton Square Bosco's will have a pizza bar around the pizza oven and is hoping to attract live musical entertainers.

Kathy Smith, Overton Square's first ever marketing director, indicated that Southland intends to "realize the potential of Overton Square" with their developments and maintains that the area will not be "just what Southland

owns." The company hopes to work with current, established retailers to attract customers to all of the businesses. New additions that are underway include a regional bath and body product retailer, as well as Java Blues, a popular coffee shop.

More tentative plans include attracting a national book or home store, such as Barnes and Noble or Pier 1, and a larger, more mainstream Malco theatre. Southland intends to provide parking for all of this with the construction of a parking garage, which has already been contracted with the city.

Right now, Smith is searching for potential tenants, planning festivals and advertisements to attract attention to the area, and working with Southland to improve the appearance of the Square.

Southland hopes to create a "festival-type environment," with wider sidewalks, outside gathering areas with fountains, displays of local artwork, and live music.

Smith emphasized that a key component of Southland's plans in the development of Overton Square is the desire to appeal to college students. Southland hopes that the end result of their efforts will be to attract Midtown residents back to the Midtown retail area.

The Square Under Construction

OVERTON SQUARE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

DEVELOPER:
SOUTHLAND CAPITAL CORPORATION

ARCHITECT:
THE HAZLIP FIRM

LEASING INFORMATION:
TERRY A. LYNCH - SOUTHLAND CAPITAL,
901-680-0590

MANAGEMENT BY:
JPM PROPERTIES, INC.
901-278-6300

FINANCING BY:
SouthTrust Bank

Welcome to Our Newest Additions

Studio on the Square by Malco Theatres

COSMIC CLOSET

HAMPTON-DAVID ANTIQUES & DESIGN

BOSCO'S SQUARED

Photos by Patrick Lane

Southland Capital Corporation hopes to bring Memphians back to Overton Square (bottom) with development projects such as Malco Theatres' soon-to-open Studio on the Square (middle).

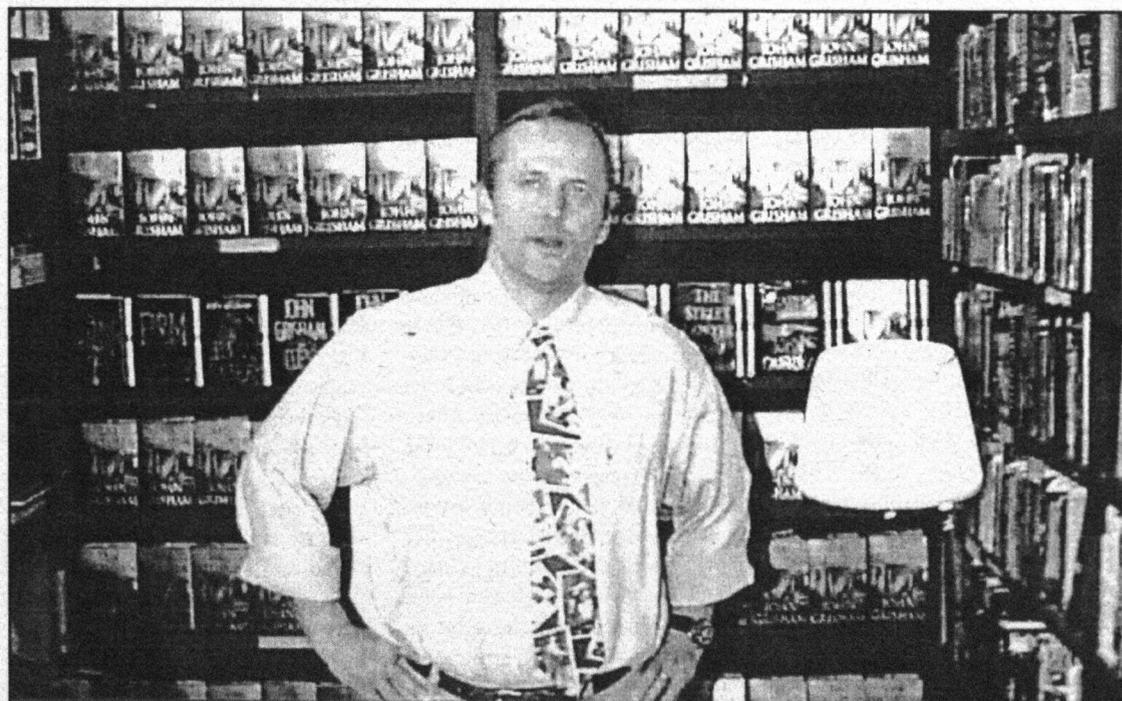


Photo by Matthew Shipe

Author **John Grisham** signed copies of his new book *The Brethren* at Burke's Books on Tuesday, February 15th. In a short press conference, Grisham discussed his new novel and his experiences with Hollywood. Grisham often visits Burke's Books, because it was one of one of the book stores that supported him in the early part of his career.

Rhodes Defeats Centre, Loses to Sewanee in Last Home Weekend

By Stu Johnston
Staff Writer

Another weekend produced another split for the Rhodes men's basketball team. Two extremely physical contests with Centre College and the University of the South resulted in a win and a loss for the Lynx. This is the third consecutive week that the men have split games with conference foes.

Friday night's game was especially hard-fought in front of a raucous crowd at Mallory Gym. Rhodes compensated for poor shooting in the first half with stifling defense, holding Centre to only twenty-seven percent shooting.

Rhodes picked up the slack offensively in the second half. The Lynx caught fire, shooting a scalding sixty-three percent from the floor and hitting half their shots from beyond the three-point line. They maintained intense defensive

pressure throughout the game, as Centre finished with only twenty-three baskets in seventy-one attempts.

Neal Power ('01), Michael Davis ('01), and Ross Armstrong ('01) joined forces to thoroughly dominate the frontcourt. Power had another big night, with twenty-six points on 10/11 shooting and eleven rebounds. Armstrong and Davis combined for seventeen points and fifteen rebounds.

Rhodes honored its seniors on Sunday afternoon with a pre-game ceremony. Mark Strausser, Jason Heller, and Josh Cockerham played their last home game for the Lynx.

Sewanee built an 18-11 lead to begin the game, but Rhodes went on a 19-8 run, keyed by several blocked shots from Davis and pressure defense that led to two shot clock violations. However, Sewanee recovered with a run of their own to lead 37-33 at the break.

The seesaw battle continued in

the second half, with Rhodes getting the upper hand for the vast majority of the period. They led 65-62 with three minutes to play, but Sewanee took over, scoring the contest's last ten points and ultimately stealing the victory.

"Losing Neal to foul trouble was crucial. He generally holds down the fort on the inside," said Strausser. "We also committed some turnovers down the stretch in situations where we usually execute well."

Bench play was a key to Rhodes' early second half success. Drew Murphy ('01) and Bryan Baird ('03) both had big games offensively. Baird had eight points in only fifteen minutes of action, and Murphy chipped in nine of his own. Strausser made several flashy passes on his way to a game-high six assists. Power and Davis registered sixteen and thirteen points, respectively, and Davis controlled the boards with fifteen rebounds.

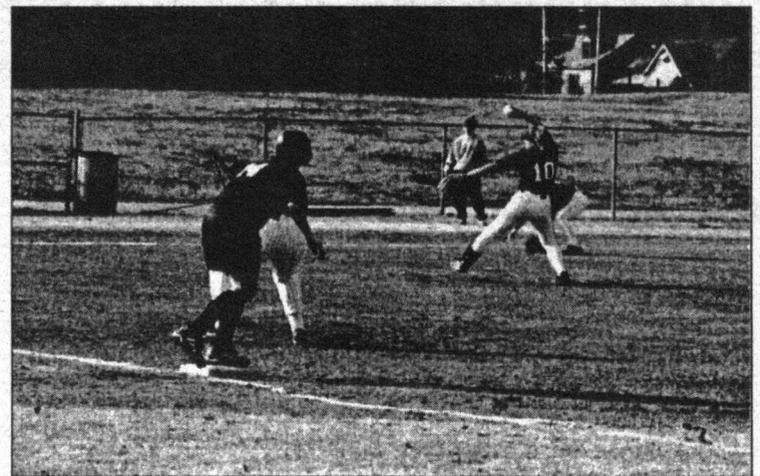


Photo By Susan Hughes

Becky Harper ('01) winds up for a pitch, as the Rhodes women's softball team begins their season. In the opening doubleheader last Wednesday, Rhodes soundly defeated the competition, recording two wins in the first week of play. In the coming weeks, Rhodes softball goes on the road looking to improve on their 11-14 record for 1999.

Lady Lynx Record Two SCAC Losses

By Jeremy Smith
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Rhodes women's basketball team failed to continue the momentum from the road trip, losing to both Centre and Sewanee. On Friday night, the Lynx lost 72-66 to Centre in a close battle, and, two days later, Sewanee convincingly defeated Rhodes, 80-73.

Before the Centre game in a Senior Night ceremony, the team celebrated forward Jessica Crawford's ('00) accomplishments during her four-year career. The game got off to a sloppy start, with each team committing turnovers and shooting the ball poorly. The Lynx came back to take a 22-21 lead with 5:45 left; however, Centre went on a 15-7 run to end the half. Crawford had a great game, as she scored seventeen points and grabbed thirteen rebounds. She was a defensive force, and her five blocks kept the Colonels from getting into an offensive rhythm. Guard Sara Miles ('01) had a solid game with fifteen points and six rebounds. Guard Anna Kizer ('03) played well, but her seven turnovers took away from the rest of her performance: thirteen points, five assists, and five rebounds. Guard Kerry Wingo ('02) didn't have as good a game as usual, though she did score nine points.

Before the Sewanee game, the players showed their appreciation to their parents by presenting them with flowers. During the game Sewanee's tough backcourt press forced turnovers and upset the Lynx's rhythm early in the contest, as the Tigers jumped to a 11-5 lead. The team had

some trouble keeping their composure, and the technical fouls by forward Jackie Ehrentraut ('02) and forward Jo Winfrey ('02) are perfect examples of this problem. Sewanee took a commanding 43-25 lead at the half and increased the lead to 83-62 with 2:42 left in the game. The team did rally with eight unanswered points to end the game, but the Tigers' lead was insurmountable. The team definitely showed good effort to lose to Sewanee by thirteen points, considering that the Tigers are 17-4 overall and 11-4 in the SCAC. Sewanee outrebounded the Lynx, 47-38, and made twelve more free throws than Rhodes. However, Rhodes forced 24 Sewanee turnovers, five more than the Lynx committed.

Wingo had a much better game Sunday than Friday, as she scored seventeen points and collected six rebounds. Her reverse layup in the second half was a very impressive play. Kizer had a performance similar to Friday's game with fifteen points and six rebounds but also six costly turnovers. Guard Rosemary Boner ('03) had seven assists and four steals and was an effective playmaker. Ehrentraut had eight points but fouled out in only thirteen minutes of playing time. Crawford, in her last home game at Rhodes, had another double-double: 10 points and 10 rebounds. She earned the ovation that she got from the fans upon leaving the game during the final minute.

The women's basketball team has one more game before the end of its season this weekend at Hendrix. The Lynx players hope to defeat Hendrix and spoil their chances of winning the SCAC title.

Swim Team Impresses at SCAC

By Brad Damare
Staff Writer

Last week, the Rhodes men's and women's swimming and diving team competed in the conference championships at DePauw University.

Though the level of competition at this year's conference championships was at an all-time high, with a number of swimmers from across the conference setting meet records, both teams delivered strong enough performances in the three-day competition to elicit praise from their competitors.

The men's team placed fifth overall, one place higher than in last year's conference. Individual scorers were seniors Nick Grojean (50y free, 100y free, and 100y back) and

Todd Foss (100y back, 100y fly); junior Brad Damaré (400y medley); sophomore Jon Wood (100y fly, 100y breast); freshmen Chad Jones (1650y free, 500y free, and 400y medley), J.R. Tarabocchia (200y back), and Leo Drolshagen (200y fly, 100y fly, and 400y medley); and divers Mark Loeffler (sixth in 3m and eighth in 1m.) and Wil Harris (9th in 1m). The men defeated Hendrix, Centre, and Southwestern, barely giving up the fourth place slot to Rose-Hulman in the last day of competition.

The women's team outscored their fifth place performance from last year's conference meet, however, with a much increased level of competition, they ended this year in seventh. Individual scorers were senior

Melissa Rall (200y breast); junior Julie Auwater (100y back, 200y back); sophomores Julie Mediamolle (50y free, 100y free, 100y back) and Melanie Telzrow (100y back, 200y back); first-years Anne Katherine Rice (200y free, 1650y free), Karyn Spence (100y breast, 200y breast, 400y medley), and Susanne Wimberley (200y free); and diver Mary Johnston (eighth in 3m and ninth in 1m). The women's competition ended with a much tighter race—a meager thirty points separating them from the fifth place slot.

During the course of the conference, coaches from the opposing teams expressed their admiration for Rhodes' accomplishments in having a second year team with such a high level of competition. "They were quite impressed with our performance this year," said Lynx coach Steve McGrath. "A lot of other coaches have come up to me and told me that they are surprised by how well a team this young has been competing with the more established teams in our conference. And I'm optimistic, as well. If we continue to improve at this rate, it's only a matter of time before we can make a serious bid for the top slot."

With only a handful of team members graduating this year (one female swimmer, 2 male swimmers, and 1 male diver), the future looks good for the Lynx swim team.



Photo By Brad Damare

Karyn Spence ('03) strokes her way to a strong showing at the SCAC Swimming and Diving Championships. The women's team placed seventh in the conference.