

# THE SOU' WESTER

VOL. LXXX, No. 12

1.29.03

## Memphis debates light-rail from down- town to airport

By John Zeanah

The proposal of a light-rail transit system in Memphis is back on the transit authority's agenda. This comes after the extension of the Main Street Trolley east on Madison to the downtown Medical Center.

The plan is to connect the downtown area to the Memphis International Airport, giving the city a modern form of public transit from the airport and FedEx, two of the city's largest employers, to the entertainment and medical centers of the city.

With modern light-rail vehicles, the route from downtown to the airport is estimated to cost \$400 million and under ideal circumstances would be finished by 2008. The rail would run on Madison, through Overton Square, move south on Cooper, and eventually meet Airways and Plough Boulevards. A quarter of the financing would come from sources other than the federal government.

Local businesses, particularly in the Cooper Young and Overton Square districts, have voiced complaints that putting the light rail through their districts would disrupt business. They fear that the lengthy construction time would deter patrons for months.

The Memphis Area Transit Authority expects construction

done in two-block increments would take three months for each segment.

Business owners have also complained that after completion, the modern transit line would take away from the historic look of the areas, the rail line would reduce parking, and riders would not use the rail for transportation to the two entertainment districts. Under MATA's outlined proposal, two sets of light rail tracks would be placed in a central median raised from traffic.

Parking on the street on Cooper would be eliminated, and vehicles would not be able to make left turns over the tracks. This would affect traffic going from Cooper to Young. The Cooper-Young and Overton Square festivals held in the street would be eliminated by the light-rail plan.

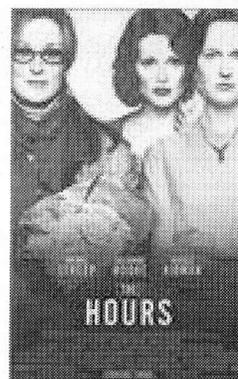
Southland Capital Corporation, who owns Overton Square, thinks differently of the proposal. Karl Schledwitz of Southland Capital was quoted in *The Commercial Appeal*, saying that "one of the most important things we could do is get light rail."

Although MATA's primary proposal would run the rail line through these two districts, the major alternative

### NBA Basketball

*Memphis Grizzlies host rookie Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets.*

SeeSports



### Review

*Amber Shaw reviews the Golden Globe award-winning motion picture The Hours.*

SeeA&E

plan would use Lamar Avenue to transport passengers from the Medical Center to Airways and Plough. The light-rail would follow Pauline and Somerville in the medical center, connecting with Lamar. The Lamar route would extend 9.3 miles, while the route through Overton Square and Cooper Young would be 10.4 miles.

Citizens of these districts, along with the local merchants, have objected to the proposal. During MATA's neighborhood meeting in November, the transit authority was met with strong resistance to the route in the form of hundreds of public comment forms.

MATA maintains that the reason for the downtown-to-airport light-rail line would be to connect two of the city's largest employment centers, rather than giving airline passengers and tourists direct connection to downtown. However, this comes at a time when downtown revitalization plans aim to attract more hotels and commerce, including conventions, with the rebuilding of the Cook Convention Center on Front Street.

Transit officials could make the decision on the light-rail route this summer, while the construction of the Main Street Trolley extension to the Medical Center and east into Overton Square continues. MATA officials expect the extension to be completed in 2004, at a cost of \$74 million.

*Some facts compiled from "MATA re-thinks light-rail in face of resistance" and "Optimistic pitch on rail still leaves businesses leery" from The Commercial Appeal.*



Photo by John Zeanah

### PUBLIC TRANSIT CHANGES

*Memphis buses have been joined downtown by shuttles, replacing the trolley for the next two months. While construction continues east on the extended Main Street Trolley line along Madison Avenue, shuttles will follow the Main Street and Front Street routes until mid-March.*

## Bush affirms union is strong

By Calvert Tooley

In his State of the Union speech last night, President Bush presented Congress not only with a confident and forceful image, but with an impressive set of initiatives. Amid strong applause from both Republicans and Democrats, Bush outlined his plans for both the foreign and domestic spheres, assuring the audience that "our faith is sure, our resolve is firm, and our union is strong."

Bush's speech was well received, and showed remarkable improvement over his earlier speech-making style. After watching the speech, Political Science professor Michael Nelson stated, "In terms of delivery, I thought it was the most effective State of the Union speech I've ever heard."

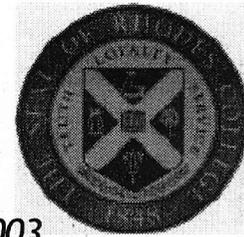
Starting with his proposed \$674 billion tax cut, Bush spent

over half of the speech addressing domestic issues. He stressed the need for more efficient energy production, including spending \$1.2 billion researching hydrogen-powered cars.

Many of Bush's domestic initiatives hearkened back to the "compassionate conservative" promises on the campaign trail. He proposed providing government-trained mentors for disadvantaged children and increased federal support for drug rehabilitation centers.

The main venue for this new compassion is not in the U.S., but in Africa, where the AIDS virus poses "a death sentence" to the 30 million people infected with it. Taking analysts by surprise, Bush proposed a plan to treat over seven million African AIDS victims, saying, "Seldom has history afforded

*Bush, continued on Page 4*



Wednesday, January 29, 2003



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*founded 1848*

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**TED STONBELY** QUIRKY BYLINES ARE STUPID

## *U.S. Foreign Policy* *Unpopular at home and abroad*

The current administration of the United States has put our country into an estranged position in our relationships with foreign nations. We have incensed our European allies as we declared our unilateralist intentions to violate the sovereignty of a state without express consent of the global community.

The state, of course is Iraq, and the time to decide on invasion and regime change is approaching quickly. The team making that decision will be Bush, Cheney, Rice, Rove, and Rumsfeld. Colin Powell is also on that team, but only to be the harbinger of the bad news that the United States has no obligation to listen to anyone, ripping the mask off our disguise of UN-backed multilateralism. They have been able, thus far, to get away with their trickery because opposition has been hushed in Congress, and the media has downplayed anti-war activism both in the nation and abroad.

Their deception runs much deeper than the public is led to believe. This war, if not played out exactly as they plan, could have a disastrous effect on our economy, thereby sending shockwaves

throughout the global economy. The Center for Strategic and International Studies held a conference and provided economists three scenarios by which to judge their consequences.

The "benign case" entailed a rapid victory with the Iraqi soldiers surrendering after several weeks of bombing, lifting uncertainty that wards investors off with only the prospect of a war. There is only a temporary and minimum loss of oil, which would be offset by other Gulf States.

The "intermediate" case envisioned three or more months of fighting, oil fields being damaged, driving the price as high as \$42 a barrel. Unemployment, already rising steadily in this country, would jump to around seven percent.

It would be higher in the "worst case" scenario which forecasted heavy damage to oil fields, driving oil prices around \$80 a barrel, aggressive urban warfare inhibiting progress, increasing costs, and a strong backlash of anti-war activity and social unrest in the US and Gulf region. Yale economist William Nordhaus estimated well over a trillion dollars for a decade of occu-

pation and reconstruction forcing inflated oil prices and slow economic growth for the U.S.

I am certainly no economist and definitely not a gambler, but my money would not be on the benign case. President Bush has threatened the use of nuclear weapons if necessary, and his resolve to oust Hussein is becoming increasingly zealous.

The premise of our claims when put into a modern historical context reflect a certain pattern that appears many times throughout the course of U.S. foreign policy. We empower ruthless dictators that commit atrocious, repressive acts to retain the power that we grant them. Though the U.S. did not install Hussein, who broke off diplomatic relations with Washington in 1967, he was later the recipient of a special envoy sent to the Middle East by Reagan in 1983.

Donald Rumsfeld headed the envoy in an attempt to elevate its diplomatic status and to find a new ally after Iran plunged into conflict with Saddam. Other topics included discussion of a pipeline from Iraq to the Jordanian port of Aqaba and an attempt to persuade Hussein not to escalate the conflict with Iran through air strikes against oil facilities and tankers, which would have necessitated U.S. involvement. Last, and certainly least, on the agenda

was raising the issue of Iraq's use of chemical weapons in response to the "human wave" assaults by Iran. Hussein gave no promise to refrain from further use of such arsenal or from escalating the conflict.

In February of 1984 the first Iranian offensive after Rumsfeld's visit took place. In this offensive Iraq used large amounts of mustard gas and also first used the nerve agent tabun.

Despite such horrible atrocities, only months after Reagan's re-election in November of the same year, Washington restored full diplomatic ties. Conceivably, our government's actions left Iraq feeling empowered to escalate the regional conflict with increased chemical weapons use such as the wholesale gassing of thousands of innocent Kurds. Only in the last decade has the U.S. played the humanitarian card to garner support for containment and, now, preemptive policies.

Our policy of preemption, our apparent drive towards isolationism, demonstrated by our not signing the Kyoto treaty, our pulling out of arms treaties, and our not recognizing the world court has not only radicalized our relations with numerous allies, it has spawned an anti-war movement that some compare to that of the 1960s. I read and hear on TV that there is no cohesive Left in America. Though this is true to some extent, our pluralism sometimes gets the better of us.

I believe that all those that protest against this war agree that opposition is rooted in the fear of huge casualties, an intensification of an already stressed situation in the Middle East, possible long-

term occupation of Iraq with horrible consequences for both American and Iraqi societies, and that it might backfire and fuel Islamic fundamentalism and anti-Americanism, thus increasing terrorism.

This war appears as a diversion from our failure to disable Al Qaeda, the imminent threat, our dragging economy, and the fact that the Bush administration does not care about Iraqi democracy or the Kurds. Finally, in its policy of preemption, this war violates international law and licenses other nations to take similar measures. One example is Israel, where twelve Palestinians were killed this week as Israel intensified its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza to ensure security on election day. Ariel "Bulldozer" Sharon was re-elected and will no doubt continue his party's policy of the slow destruction of Palestinian freedom.

The anti-war movement in this country and around the world is beginning to be heard. The march on Washington was a good start but was underappreciated in the mainstream media. I know our school is not famous for the political activism of its students, but our campus must engage the dialogue on this war and its consequences.

The Bush administration must be challenged on other policies that seem to represent nothing but nails in the coffin of our democratic freedom.

Those who dissent from President Bush and his imperatives must strive to reopen the channels of liberty and democracy in our society and to spread the words of the people's voice.

And remember, you can email halmn if you'd like to have YOUR opinion printed in *The Sou'wester*.



Wednesday, January 29, 2003

# PAGE 3 OPINION

**CHRIS ALEXANDER** CONTRIBUTING WRITER

## *AOL poll indicative of national sentiment Bush's popularity waning among conservative public*

Ladies and gentlemen, brace yourselves. What I am about to say may shock or frighten you. We are all familiar with America Online, I'm sure. Some of us even use it, for whatever reason. Perhaps our families own an account, and we use it for free internet access. Perhaps we don't know of any other way to get online. At any rate, this is immaterial, although what I am about to say has a good deal to do with AOL.

Who uses AOL? Usually, it is people like me, people like us. Well, I suppose I mean people with enough money to afford the monthly costs. What am I getting at? People who use AOL are, by and large, white. Also, a staggering 64%, according to a recent online poll (well, an online poll conducted a year and a half ago) claim to be a part of the Republican party. Given these facts, perhaps the thing I'm going to tell you will shock you. If it does not, that is fair and good. I may be uniquely struck by this fact, which I am about to let loose for your consumption, because I myself am an AOL user.

Every day, some sort of a poll pops up, and for almost a year and a half now, most of these polls have dealt with what a fantastic job President Bush is (was) doing. Over that year and a half, I have to admit to a certain level of frustration, and after I tell you what might shock you, you will understand why my level of frustration has tapered off a bit.

Okay, so enough of this. What am I going to tell you? The most recent online poll on AOL asks its users to consider various aspects of the Bush presidency, and to analyze how well he and his cabinet are dealing with said aspects.

Certainly, it should come as no surprise that at last count, 58% of AOL disapproved of Bush's economic policy. But what I am about to tell you is slightly more striking. Okay, here goes. On the day of Bush's State of the Union address, a majority of 53% of mostly white, Republican AOL users feel that Bush is, generally speaking, making the wrong decisions as president.

I know, you think this should not be exciting. First, an AOL poll is hardly accurate. It is less than likely that it will show up on ABC World News or BBC America. But the implications, and pardon my saying so if you feel otherwise, are staggering. In six years of using the AOL service, this is in fact the very first in which a question that polarizes political parties (mind the alliteration) turned up Democratic, or at least non-Republican.

The newly-organized anti-war movement on campus hopes that there are like-minded people on campus; people whose (for a lack of a better expression) souls will be stirred to excitement by the fact that the once phenomenally popular President Bush is, in fact, beginning to lose his sway. He has lost his composure in recent press conferences, often becoming flustered when questioned about his intentions in Iraq. We're fighting our own small war now.

Contact Chris Alexander at [alewc@rhodes.edu](mailto:alewc@rhodes.edu) for further information.

### SOU'WESTER POLL:

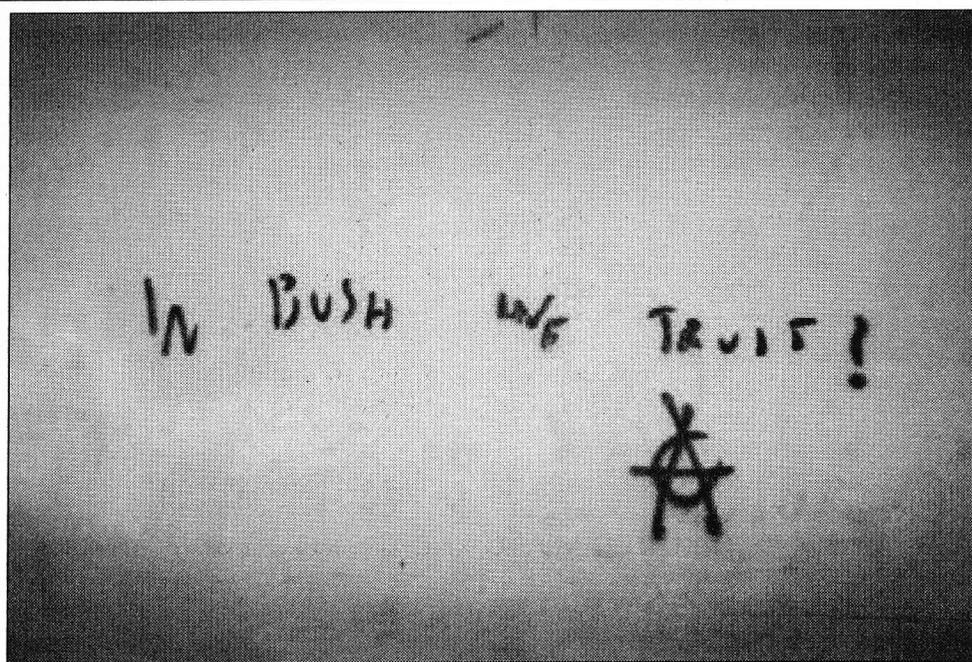
## *What does the Rhodes community think of war with Iraq?*

- 1. How do you feel about possible U.S. aggressive action against Iraq?**
- 2. Under what circumstances would this action be appropriate?**
- 3. How do you feel about Bush's decisions regarding Iraq to this date?**
- 4. Do you worry about rising gas prices as the result of a possible war?**
- 5. Do you think that the U.S. economy should be given precedence over issues in Iraq?**
- 6. How do you feel about President Bush's representation of Iraq?**
- 7. Do you think that other countries would support the U.S. in a war with Iraq? If so, which countries do you believe would do so?**
- 8. How significant is the threat posed by North Korea?**
- 9. If given the choice between war with North Korea or Iraq, which do you feel would be more prudent?**
- 10. On a scale of 1-10, rate President Bush's effectiveness as a president.**

EMAIL HALMN WITH YOUR RESPONSES.

**CHECK NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY.**

*Smile, the first Rhodes'ter of the semester is coming out next week.*



**GRAFFITI**  
"In Bush we trust?" Ted Stonbely ('03) took a picture of this wall in Florence, Italy in November of 2003. This graffiti is a chilling indication of anti-American sentiment abroad.

Photo by Ted Stonbely



## Week in Review

### International

**IRAQ** U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Tuesday that he would appreciate any information that the United States currently has about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Blix asserted that such intelligence would aid the inspectors with their work in Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell has responded that U.S. information, including satellite photographs, will likely be released next week.

**COLOMBIA** On Tuesday Marxist rebels announced they would release two journalists, Ruth Morris and Scott Dalton, who were kidnapped last week in eastern Colombia. The reporters were on loca-

tion for a story they were covering for the Los Angeles *Times*. According to CNN.com, the war-torn country is "one of the world's most dangerous places for reporters."

**ISRAEL** Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party won 36 seats of the 120-member Knesset in Tuesday's elections. Sharon said he would invite all political parties to join him in a national unity government. The prime minister asserted in a post-election television broadcast that the nation needs unity and stability. However, the defeated Labor party's leader Amram Mitzna spoke against joining Sharon's unity government.

### National

**CALIFORNIA** Scott Peterson revealed to police on Tuesday that he told his wife, the missing Laci Peterson, that he had an affair with massage therapist Amber Frey the month of Laci's disappearance. Last week Frey admitted having the affair with Peterson, but she claimed she did not know he was married. Modesto, California police have not ruled out Scott Peterson as a suspect in the disappearance of his wife.

**UTAH** A three- or four-year-old toddler was found on Saturday in an abandoned shopping cart in Salt Lake City, Utah. Officials say the boy did not appear to be neglected or abused; rather, he was well-dressed and neatly groomed. The boy does not know his last name or his address, and police are still attempting to piece together his story.

**WASHINGTON** The National Transportation Safety Board announced Tuesday that the crash of U.S. Airways Ex-

press/Air Midwest Flight 5481 on January 8, 2003, was caused by improperly adjusted elevator cables. A problem with the cables, which control the aircraft's pitch, could make the plane nearly impossible to control, experts say. The plane crashed just after takeoff from Charlotte Douglas International Airport, killing all 21 passengers on board.

**MISSOURI** Low water levels and ice are causing problems for the shipping industry along the Mississippi River. Such extreme conditions are the results of unusually low temperatures combined with last year's drought. The reduction of barge shipments on the river is costing the barge industry \$1 to \$2 million daily in lost revenue. The shippers are asking the Corps of Engineers to remedy the problem by releasing water into the Missouri River.

*All news compiled from CNN.com, except Missouri, compiled from weather.com.*

*Bush, continued from Page 1*

an opportunity to do so much for so many."

Bush then turned to other international topics, on which forecasters expected him to spend most of his time. He spoke optimistically about the continuing war on terror, stating, "The war goes on, and we are winning."

At this point in the speech, the audience grew silent as Bush made his anticipated argument for attacking Iraq. He argued that Iraq has harbored al-Qaeda operatives, and he added a new level of urgency to the crisis, explaining how these operatives could easily be armed with Iraqi chemical or biological weapons for an attack on the U.S.

Iraq denies that these weapons exist, but Bush repeatedly stated, "Saddam has not accounted for these materials. He has given no evidence that he has destroyed them." Bush cited Iraq's lack of compliance as reason enough to proceed with military action. He left no room for doubt when he warned, "Let there be no misunderstanding, if Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm, for the safety of our people and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him."

### Locke delivers Democratic response

*By John Zeanah*

Gary Locke, governor of Washington, delivered the Democratic response to President Bush's State of the Union address on Tuesday night. Locke called the rebuttal the Democratic "view of how to strengthen America." He stated that the Democrats support the president in his efforts to protect America and the world from terrorists and tyrannical dictators abroad.

Recognizing that key members of al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden are still at large, he expressed that America should support the president in working with the United Nations and foreign allies in addressing terrorism. Locke also

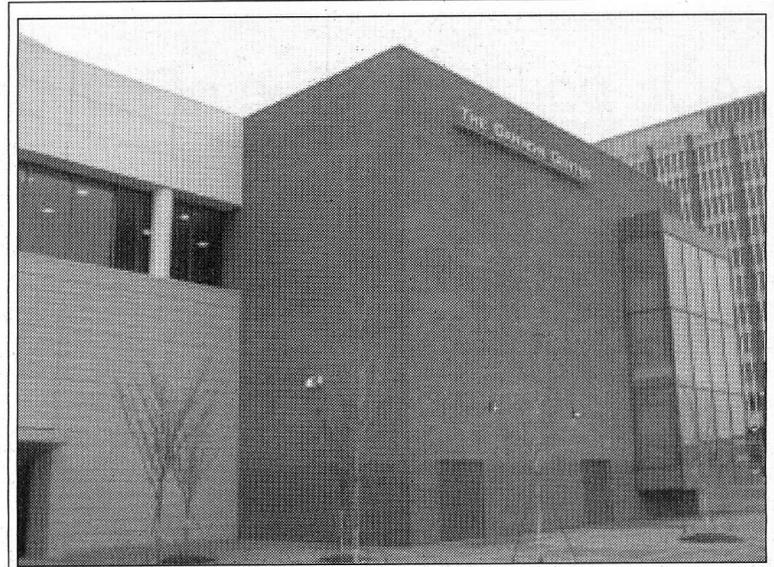


Photo by John Zeanah

### CANNON CENTER

*After six years of exile, the Memphis Symphony will once again have a stage to call their own. The symphony kicked off the completion of the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts on Friday with their first concert. Many Rhodes students were in attendance.*

stated the Democrats favored alliance with the U.N. and foreign allies in the conflicts with Kim Jong Il of North Korea and Saddam Hussein, who he called a "ruthless tyrant" who must be removed from power.

Locke noted that for America to be strong abroad, the U.S. must also be strong at home. Since the economy has weakened over the past two years, there has been no opportunity for recovery for working Americans and Americans searching for jobs. Locke stated that since Bush took office, two million jobs have been lost, and budget deficits will reach over \$1 trillion in the next decade. Because of this, Locke said, community jobs such as police, fire fighters, and health care workers have been eliminated, and many communities have had to raise taxes.

Locke stressed that the middle class and working class citizens needed a fair tax break, while preserving federal savings for Social Security and health care. He also called for incentives to businesses to help create jobs, as well as increased funding to health care and education. He and Democrats believe that Bush's current economic package is wrong to give too much tax relief to the rich, more than the amount 95 percent of Americans would receive.

Addressing homeland security, Locke stated the importance of protecting American ports, guarding against bioterrorism, and protecting nuclear plants. He stated that Democratic efforts to fund these projects were refused in the past by Bush and the Republicans.

Locke called for increased funding for public schools in America, stating that currently the president's budget failed to give communities the funding needed to improve schools.

On the issue of health care, Locke expressed the Democratic view to extend prescription drug benefits to all senior citizens. He criticized the Bush plan, saying that it only helped seniors who left the traditional Medicare program, essentially privatizing health care services.

Locke called for the promotion of environmental awareness at home as well as abroad. He and the Democrats believe America should begin a national program that would reduce dependence on oil instead of seeking out drilling, particularly in areas like the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge.

Finally, Locke expressed the Democratic beliefs that they would continue fighting for issues such as a woman's right to choose, equal protection of rights, affirmative action, and diversity in schools.