

THE SOU' WESTER



VOL. XC, NO. 16

3.17.04

Review

Carolyn Cole reviews
the new film *Secret
Window*, starring
Johnny Depp and
Maria Bello.



SeeScene

Opinion

Jeff Knowles offers his
views on gay marriage
to *The Sou'wester*.

SeeOpinion

Rhodes professor receives Fulbright Award

Dr. Eric Gottlieb to study in Chile in 2004-2005

By Frances Rabalais

Dr. Eric Gottlieb, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was named one of 12 post-doctoral Fulbright Scholars to study and teach in Chile for the 2004-2005 school year.

Established from legislation introduced by Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright, the Fulbright Program, which began in 1946, is a prestigious educational exchange program which awards students and scholars with the opportunity to study, teach or conduct research in another country. The United States and 140 other countries participate in the partnership, which is coordinated by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Gottlieb's award will be funded by a Science and Technology grant.

While in Chile, Gottlieb's responsibilities will include teaching calculus courses at the University of Talca and conducting research with Canadian mathematician Dr. Luc Lapointe. The University of Talca is home to a mathematics research institute and will possibly develop a graduate program in mathematics in the future. Unlike Rhodes, Talca "has an emphasis on engineering and other professional programs," explains Gottlieb.

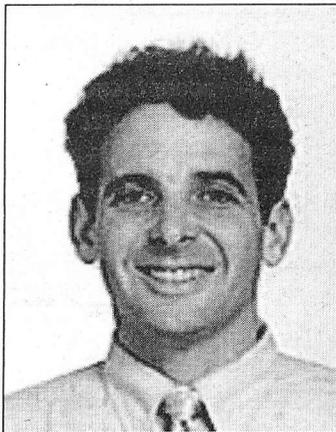


Photo courtesy of www.rhodes.edu

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Eric Gottlieb was selected as a Fulbright Scholar.

Gottlieb has prepared for the difficult endeavor of teaching in a foreign language by taking Spanish courses and practicing the language in *Calculo Aplicado*, a section of Applied Calculus that he teaches in Spanish. Gottlieb says, "I owe a debt to the brave students who enrolled in *Calculo Aplicado*," since his experiences with the class have helped him prepare for teaching classes in Spanish in Chile. Gottlieb explains that abstract mathematical concepts are the same in every language, though some terms are more alike in Spanish and English than others. Gottlieb plans to continue offering the unique course after he returns from Chile.

Dr. Gottlieb's research will involve studying symmetric functions with Dr. Lapointe. Gottlieb may also continue to

work on his current research interest, partially ordered sets. He plans to publish at least one article on the work he does in Chile, which, Gottlieb explains, will effectively contribute to the prestige and good reputation of the Math Department at Rhodes.

In Chile Gottlieb will be in contact with several respected mathematicians, from whom he hopes to "broaden and deepen my mathematical knowledge." As he interacts with scholars from all over the world, Gottlieb says that these professional connections will give him the opportunity to make the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rhodes "more widely known in the scholarly community." In addition, Gottlieb is excited about the "broader pedagogical perspectives" he can gain from teaching in another country, which is a general goal of the Fulbright Program.

Gottlieb's wife, Rebecca Terrell, and their twin sons, Gus and Sam, will make the move with him to Chile. Gottlieb is glad that his family will have the chance to be immersed in the Chilean culture and hopes that his children can gain fluency in Spanish while they live in Chile. As for what he hopes to gain

Gottlieb, continued on Page 5



Mr. SHAMROCK

Photo by Miriam Dolin

Eben Cathey was Alpha Omicron Pi's contestant in Mr. Shamrock. Mr. Shamrock, held Tuesday night, is sponsored by Kappa Delta sorority. Proceeds from the event benefit the Memphis Exchange Club.

Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies selects Fellows

By Frances Rabalais

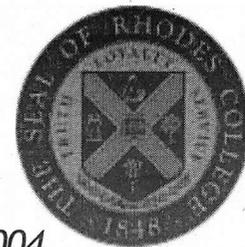
The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies last week announced its Fellows for 2004. A summer research program, the Rhodes Institute awarded 18 students with Fellowships. These students will work with the six faculty members who serve as supervisors for the researchers. Research interests range from historical to biographical to economic investigations of significant events and people in the Mid-South area.

The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies, founded in 2003, gives students the opportunity to explore Mid-South-related topics that are of interest to them and the Rhodes community. In order

to be selected for this competitive program, students with a minimum 3.0 GPA were required to submit a detailed proposal of their projects, along with faculty recommendations, to Professor Timothy Huebner, the Institute's director. Since the program focuses on scholarly research and dialogue among several disciplines, students of all majors were encouraged to apply. After being selected, students receive housing, meals, funds for conducting research and a \$2500 stipend for their summer work.

The program consists of eight weeks of work: a two-week seminar, five weeks of research in the field, and a final week for formal present-

Rhodes Institute, continued on Page 5



Wednesday, March 17, 2004



THE SOU'WESTER
 founded 1848

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Letter to the editor

To the editor:
 I would like to clarify one point in the last issue's living wage debate. In his argument for the living wage, Josh Low quotes me as noting that "wage costs are only part of the cost of doing business." Of course, this is true; machinery, maintenance, raw materials, energy and profits are just some of the other de-

mands on businesses' resources. When I made this point on Rhodes Connect, however, it was in the context of pointing out that the living wage would not reduce any of these other costs. The burden is on those who believe the living wage would not increase overall costs to come up with a way to reduce non-labor costs. Josh, in his article, does not suggest an answer to

this problem. Many others have replied that "businesses can just reduce their profits," but this reflects a fundamental lack of understanding of economics and the meaning of "profit." Until someone can show me precisely how other costs of doing business could be reduced, my point about the potential inflationary pressure of the living wage still stands. --Jay Sulzmann, '04

ELIZABETH BRANDON

Introduction to fiction writing

Jayson Blair, a former writer-plagiarist for the *New York Times*, has concocted a memoir entitled "Burning Down My Masters' House." This infamous, disesteemed journalist has embroidered, hyperbolized, and simply fabricated stories for the highly respected paper. Now he returns with this supposedly factual account of his life, and he insists upon its truth. However, it appears as though few are likely to trust any modicum of authenticity in his words. Sources have dubbed this work the "Blair Bitch Project." In a recent interview, he discusses his memoir, reactions to it, his plans for writing in the future, and reasons for refusing to "crawl in a hole and disappear." Blair feels as though this exposure may serve as some form of repentance for his actions in the past, while the book offers therapy for his personal issues. Some believe that he attempts to profit from this work, and others do not see

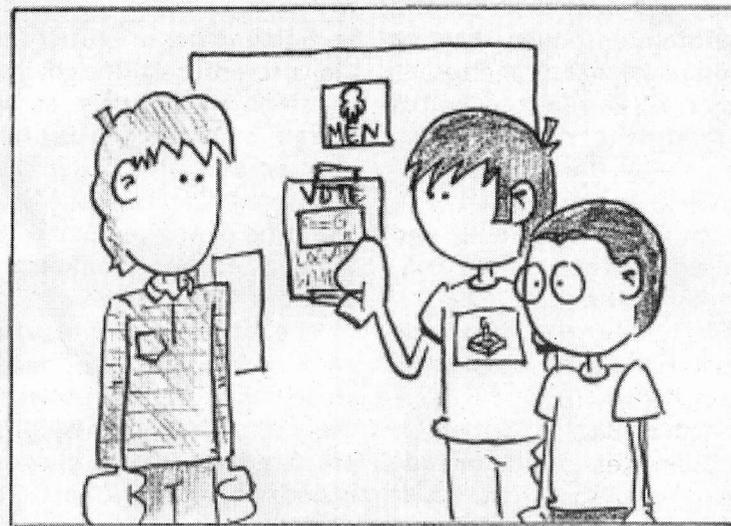
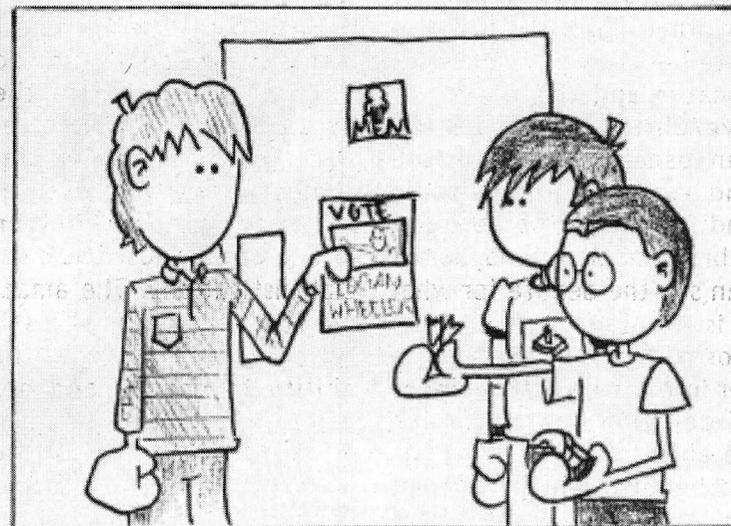
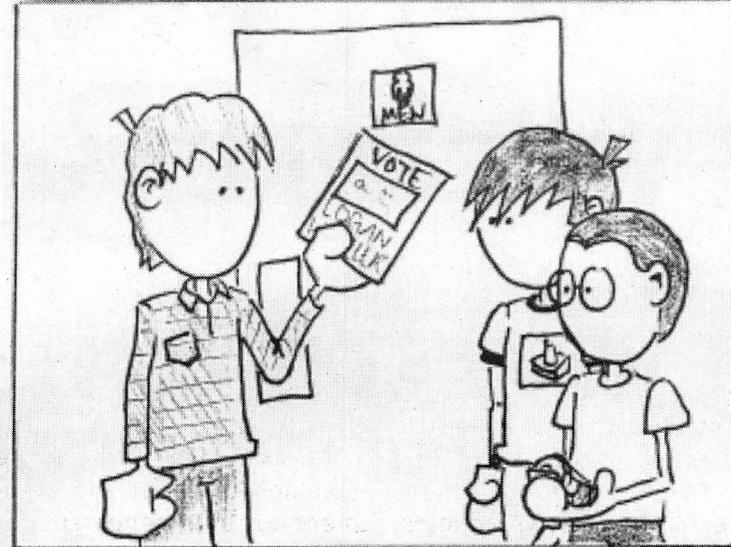
reason to offer Blair that much attention.

One may wonder at Blair's motivation in printing untruths as facts. Some speculate on the influence of affirmative action in his decision to—understated, *embellish a few things here and there*. This would place Blair in the victim's position rather than the immoralist, the criminal. Because he felt the immense pressure of proving himself and satisfying "the boss," in addition to all of his emotional problems, the man must have fabricated affecting pieces in order to display his talent, his creativity, his worth as a journalist. And so Blair was merely responding to the pressures of living up to certain expectations in journalism? Was race really a factor? Maybe he was just too young and incapable of harnessing the power he had over "the facts." In one article, a writer explores reasons for Blair's behavior, stating, "most liars make things up for the simple reason that they

don't have the talent or the ability to get the story any other way." Journalism did not appear to be the man's calling.

In an interview with Brian Braiker of *Newsweek*, Jayson Blair discusses "Burning Down My Masters' House" and reactions to it. Blair declares that he has finished lying and even supports an idea in the *New Yorker* magazine that newspapers "check the facts" in stories on a random basis. Reformed? Many have brought up the problematic issue concerning Blair's ability to tell the truth, whether readers can invest any trust in the veracity of the memoir's content. Blair claims to be penitent and prepared for any criticism. Because writing this book has been therapeutic, he insists that there would be no point in making up facts or exaggerating anything. On the media attention he has received, Blair states, "I think it's been overblown and harsher than it would be if this story were

THIS WEEKEND by LOGAN WHEELER



coming out of any other profession." And you wonder why. Returning to the issue of race and its influence and position in the story, as evident in the title, Blair remains conflicted. Ultimately, he does acknowledge his own responsibility as integral to his actions, more so than racial issues. He feels as though he

has found his talent in fiction writing and already has a story in mind. Having suffered from personal and emotional problems, Blair still refuses to retreat from coverage. He sees such exposure as reparation for his wrongdoings. With an infamous name, Blair ventures to continue a career.



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OPINION

JEFF KNOWLES

Gay marriage: There is nothing to fear

On February 24, President George W. Bush addressed the nation to propose a Constitutional amendment to ensure the "preservation of marriage." In the midst of the recent "gay marriage blitz" in California, the establishment of homosexual civil unions in Massachusetts and the revocation of anti-sodomy laws in Texas, Americans are overrun with news articles, radio talk shows and media coverage absorbed in a debate between gay rights advocates and the Conservative/Christian Right. If we can escape the headache and confusion of AM radio and 24-hour cable news for a brief moment, maybe we can see the debate for what it is: the legal status of homosexuals who wish to enter into a contractual pledge of devotion (marriage) and be able to obtain the same tax benefits and protections heterosexual couples enjoy. The most significant and refreshing consequence of this debate is that it incites all Americans to reexamine our own notions of equal rights, the relationship between government and morality, the trajectory and evolution of our Constitution, Biblical interpretations and implications in our society and the preservation and development of social well-being. President Bush's amendment adds an element of here and now, immediacy and urgency, which I think this debate needs. Rather than wrestle with the issue state by state, the proposed amendment demands a strong opposition argument for the qualification of gay rights, and while many have attempted to write that argument, what follows is my humble effort.

President Bush in the same speech said: "America

is a free society, which limits the role of government in the lives of our citizens. This commitment of freedom, however, does not require the redefinition of one of our most basic social institutions. Our government should respect every person and protect the institution of marriage."

I think this is where the common sense of the argument for an amendment restricting homosexual rights breaks down. The "commitment to freedom, limited role of government in the lives of citizens and the respect for individual choices," without reserve, *does* require the redefinition of one of our most basic social institutions. The amazing thing about social institutions is that they have the ability to change and develop, whether from within by organic means or by the imposition of our own government. Yes, our government has intervened to modify basic social institutions to ensure the rights of citizens who exist in those institutions. Social institutions like universal suffrage, slavery and segregation and even marriage have been altered by our government, a government based on specific obligations, not institutions. In the Declaration of Independence, we claim "unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Constitution avows our intentions to "form a more perfect union" and "secure the blessings of liberty." We understand that freedom does not exist simply because it is written, rather because our government is involved in a process of establishing freedom and expanding rights.

Only once has our Constitution acted to restrict rights—the 18th amendment

(Prohibition), but even then it lasted a mere fourteen years before being repealed. The expansion of rights and the modification of institutions more aptly demonstrates the true objectives of our Constitution. For example, the institution of slavery was abolished 78 years after the creation of the Constitution, women were granted the right to vote 55 years after that, the institution of segregation under "separate but equal" ended with *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 and the definition of marriage was expanded and secured in 1967 in the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*.

The debate in 1967 was almost analogous to the one occurring today. Conservative opinions renounced the idea of inter-racial marriage, and in many states it was against the law. People saw miscegenation as an avenue towards the breakdown of society and the end of civilization. Forbidden by the Bible and "against nature," inter-racial marriage was viewed as a threat to the sanctity of marriage as God or, more importantly, God's followers deemed.

According to the Virginian judge who struck down the marriage of Mildred Jeter, a black woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, his rationale seemed patently obvious. "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents," he wrote. "And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages." This sounds all too similar to the "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" argument we hear today. In 1967 the Supreme Court ruled that Virginia must per-

mit interracial couples marry, deeming marriage one of the "basic civil rights of man."

Some Conservative voices say the sanctity of marriage is threatened by gay marriage. I would say the current state of marriage warrants reconsideration. Surely Britney Spears' 24 hour marriage, and television programs like "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?" or "The Bachelor" are much greater threats to the purity of this blessed sacrament than gay marriage. What about polygamy in Utah? What about marrying your first cousin, which is allowed in many states? What about the climbing divorce and adultery rates in America? In this regard, I agree with President Bush—Americans should act to strengthen the fundamental nature of marriage and the creation of strong family units. But not by protecting who gets into this elite marriage club but rather by reforming the membership.

In a pragmatic sense, gay marriage will strengthen the essence of the institution and society. Yes, marriages, both homosexual and heterosexual, create family arrangements that allow greater economic investment, purchasing power and home-ownership. Gay parents also have the option to adopt children, a social function that virtually all Americans would agree is positive. Gay couples have the same intentions that straight couples have when contem-

plating marriage—life-long devotion, legal protection and the formation of a family. The truly Conservative argument should endorse gay marriage and see it as a welcome addition against the more detrimental effects of promiscuity, adultery and divorce. Families, whether they involve parents of different gender or the same, should not be discouraged, especially when single parent households are becoming more prevalent.

Gay marriage is not about granting special rights to homosexual Americans but about granting equal rights. President Bush's hermetically sealed definition of marriage once read "no racial mixing" but has been changed via *Loving v. Virginia* to ensure the freedom of individuals. Marriage must be open to the inclusion of homosexual couples as a matter of useful consequence, meaning it will in fact strengthen the definition rather than harm it. Ultimately, heterosexuals have nothing to fear and nothing to lose from homosexual marriage. An amendment to safeguard marriage misses the greater picture and the benefits these marriages could have towards the economy, the family and social stability.

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

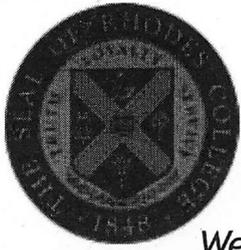
As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in the second floor of Briggs Student Center every Monday evening at 8 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhode'ster*, opinion columns, and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

REACHING *THE SOU'WESTER*
Phone: (901) 843-3970
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-mail: sou'wester@rhodes.edu

Address: Rhodes Box 3010
The Sou'wester
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690



Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Campus Safety

3.6.04-3.12.04

3/6	Spring Break	
3/7	Nothing unusual reported.	
3/8	Nothing unusual reported.	
3/9	8:00 p.m.	BCLC locker room; student's wallet is stolen from his locker; wallet contained credit card and \$80.00 dollars in cash. Suspects were seen running away from the CLC and jumped the fence. Suspects are described as three African-American males, between ages of 20-25 years of age. MPD was notified.
3/10	7:15 p.m.	Mallory Gym; twelve teenagers are escorted off campus by Campus Safety for playing basketball after the gym had closed.
3/11	12:50 a.m.	Suspicious person is reported by resident at 1981 Lyndale; Campus Safety arrived on scene and called MPD. MPD responded and arrested prowler in area behind 1976 Snowden.
3/12	Nothing unusual reported.	

STATS:

ACCESSES: 65	ESCORTS: 5
VISITORS: 683	JUMPS: 0
CITATIONS: 11	BOOTS: 0
PROPPED DOORS: 2	TOWS: 0

Gottlieb, continued from Page 1

from the experience for himself and his students, Gottlieb says, "I hope that seeing how math is taught elsewhere will give me a sense of what I have been doing right and what I could do better."

Write a news article for The Sou'wester! Email rabfj for more information.

The Rhodes Activities Board would like to announce the dates for this spring's festivities.

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss it!

Battle of the Bands
March 26
7 p.m. in the Lair

Rites of Spring
April 23
7 p.m.-12 a.m.
April 24
5 p.m.-12 a.m.

Rites to Play Harder
April 24
1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Rhodes Institute, continued from Page 1

tations of the research. The seminar includes lectures from the participating faculty and field trips to important places in Memphis, such as the National Civil Rights Museum and the Stax Museum of American Folk Music. Students are also expected to write a research paper that details and explicates their findings. Extending the impact of the program into the school year, the Rhodes Institute expects the Fellows to present these papers to the academic community at the College's spring Undergraduate Research Day.

A part of Rhodes CARES (Center for Academic Research and Education through Service), the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies is funded by the Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust.

The 2004 Rhodes Institute Fellows are as follows: Kim Bawgus, John Bordelon, Courtney Collins, Craig Cooper, William John Corvey, Jeta Donovan, Caroline Downing, Sarah Hildenbrand, Rebekah Kaithern, Erin Kitchell, Jeffrey Knowles, Valery Krieg, Jonathan Nelson, Laura Stanford, Colin Strickland, Ben Tanner, Andrew Trundle, and Logan Wheeler.

Participating faculty members are Associate Professor of History Timothy Huebner, Assistant Professor of Economics and Business Administration Teresa Beckham Gramm, Associate Professor of English Marshall Boswell, Associate Professor of Religious Studies Stephen Haynes, Professor of Political Science Michael Nelson, and Assistant Professor of Music Timothy Watkins.

Rhodes Institute Fellows 2004

Kim Bawgus--"Race and Politics in Memphis: The Election of Mayor Herenton"

John Bordelon--"Shelby County's Drive to Secessionism"

Courtney Collins--"Social Costs of Gambling in Tunica, Mississippi"

Craig Cooper--"A Seemingly Unlikely Choice: Translating the Relationship Between President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore from Campaign to Office"

William John Corvey--"Refugee Resettlement in Memphis: An Examination of the Policy, Procedure, and Politics of a Faith-Based Initiative"

Jeta Donovan--"The Religion of Yoknapatawpha: Examining the Social Function of Religion in Faulkner"

Caroline Downing--"Habitat for Humanity: An End to Substandard Housing or the Beginning of Bankruptcy?"

Sarah Hildenbrand--"The Literary Life of Ida B. Wells-Barnett"

Rebekah Kaithern--"Local Experience and Expression: The Life and Work of Peter Taylor"

Erin Kitchell--"Contradiction and Confrontation in the Music of the American South"

Jeffrey Knowles--"Memory of a Corporate Monolith: An Historical Appraisal of the Memphis Sears Crosstown Building"

Valery Krieg--"The Forgotten Movement: Fighting Jim Crow Streetcars in Memphis, Tennessee"

Jonathan Nelson--"Judeo-Christian Relations through the eyes of the Mid-South"

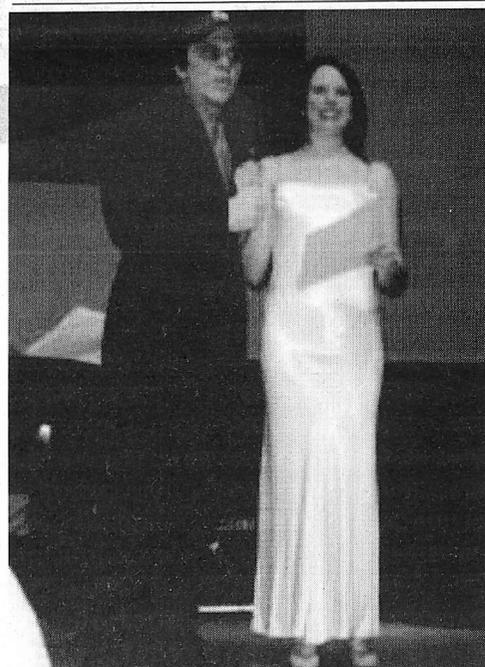
Laura Stanford--"A Look Into the Economic Causes and Effects of the Population Movement in the Memphis MSA"

Colin Strickland--"Historical and Natural Preservation at Ft. Pillow, TN"

Ben Tanner--"Musical Genre in Southern Christianity"

Andrew Trundle--"The Southern Baptist Convention's Conservative Values and Memphis"

Logan Wheeler--"The Soul of Freedom: An Examination of Memphis Soul During the Civil Rights Movement"



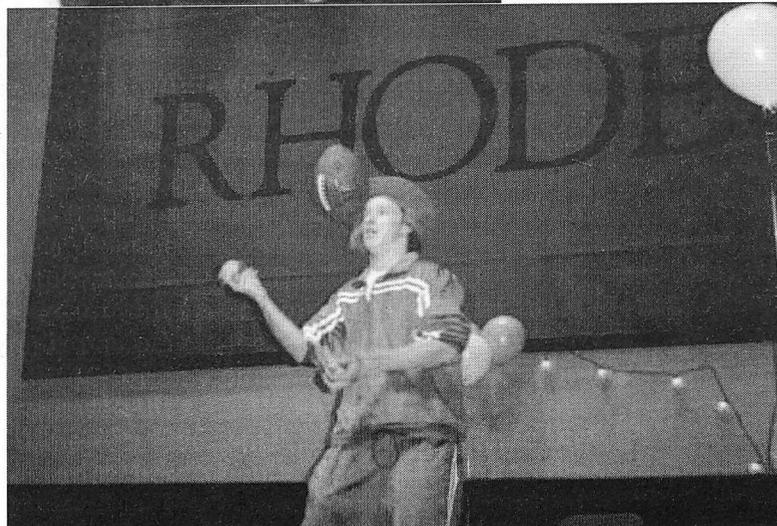
MR. SHAMROCK
Left: Hosts for Tuesday night's Mr. Shamrock were Anders Reynolds and Joanna Young.

Below: Allen Sheehan displays his juggling talent for the audience at Mr. Shamrock.

Photos by Miriam Dolin

INTERESTED IN TAKING PHOTOS?

CONTACT RABFJ OR SHAAN IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE THE SOU'WESTER'S PHOTO EDITOR NEXT YEAR!





Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Week in Review

International

JAPAN Setting a Guinness World Record, electronics giant Toshiba has unveiled the smallest hard drives to date, measuring just 0.85 inches wide. The miniscule drives will be utilized in portable electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDAs and cameras. With a capacity of as great as four gigabytes, Toshiba's product may be available to companies as soon as the end of 2004.

RUSSIA An architect whose wife and children were killed in a plane crash has been accused of murdering the air traffic controller in charge of the flight. Though the architect initially denied charges he had stabbed the controller, he now admits that he is uncertain if he is responsible, having "lost control" and blacked out upon arriving at the controller's house seeking an apology. Reports say the crash leading to the incident was caused by the controller's ill-advised directions to the plane's pilot.

ALGERIA Concerned about possible terrorist threats to the upcoming presidential elections, Algerian officials have eliminated 17 militant Islamics in multiple executions over the span of a week. Officials are concerned that the members of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat will disrupt the election process, as they have in past years since 1992, when the decisions to elect many Islamic party members were annulled and the party was outlawed.

CHINA In an effort to stop the extinction of giant pandas, veterinarians in Beijing are showing panda Hua Mei sex education videos. The four-year-old female was born in a zoo in California, and officials hope she will become pregnant within the month. Because she has lived all her life in captivity, however, vets are speeding up her sexual awakening with the videotapes depicting giant pandas in the act of mating. Hua Mei will be given four potential mates to choose from, Zhuang Zhuang, Xi Meng, Da Di, and Di Di. Officials say that their sex ed methods have worked in the past for producing panda pregnancies.

National

CALIFORNIA A nine-year-old boy saved his own life by pretending to be dead after his father shot him and shot and killed his mother. The father then took his own life, thinking he had killed them both. After assuring he was safe, the boy bicycled to a friend's house, where he told his story and was promptly taken to the hospital. The boy will be placed in child-protective services, though an older family member is requesting to be his caretaker.

FLORIDA Army Sergeant Camilo Mejia, a Nicaraguan immigrant with U.S. permanent resident status, is seeking conscientious objector status after serving three years in the military. Shocked by events of the war and appalled at fighting "an oil-driven war, Mejia is vehemently refusing to return to Iraq, having returned home on temporary leave. Mejia says he is prepared to face any consequences, including prison or deportation, to avoid going back to what he considers an unjust war.

NON-PROFIT CAREER FAIR

March 24, 10 am-4pm in the BCLC

sponsored by Rhodes, Hands on Memphis, The Grant Center of Memphis, Volunteer Memphis and CONNECT! non-profit newsletter.



KFC What's Cookin' DAILY DEALS

MONDAY
Chicken Fried Steak Meal Combo

- Chicken Fried Steak
- Ind. Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Ind. Cole Slaw
- Biscuit
- Small Drink

\$2.99 Plus Tax

Valid on Mondays only.



TUESDAY
Chunky Chicken Pot Pie Combo

- Chunky Chicken Pot Pie
- Small Drink

\$2.99 Plus Tax

Valid on Tuesdays only.



THURSDAY
Crispy Strips Meal Combo

- 3 Colonel's Crispy Strips®
- Ind. Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Ind. Cole Slaw
- Biscuit
- Small Drink

\$2.99 Plus Tax

Valid on Thursdays only.





Good at participating KFC® locations.
Limited time offer. Not valid with any other special offer.

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Wednesday, March 17, 2004

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Dinner & a Movie

This week, Autumn Brice reviews can't-miss Mississippi restaurant The Olive Branch Catfish Company, and Carolyn Cole reviews the Johnny Depp thriller Secret Window.

Bring your appetite to the Olive Branch Catfish Company

By Autumn Brice

Located a short drive from Memphis in Olive Branch, Mississippi, the Olive Branch Catfish Company has been serving catfish fried, blackened and grilled since 1993. In the last ten years, it's become a wildly popular establishment; on any given weeknight, the parking lot is full of cars, mostly families. Keep this in mind if you decide to go—the OBCC is most definitely a family establishment, screaming children and all.

As you've probably guessed, the main attraction at the OBCC is the catfish. All-you-can-eat catfish (\$1.00 off on Sundays!) is available for un-

der \$12.00, and you can't go wrong with this one. Our waitress was beyond attentive, bringing new baskets of fillets before we'd even finished our first serving. She even let us take home our leftovers, something you won't always find with an all-you-can-eat option.

The catfish here are undeniably great—generous and lightly battered with a delicious cornmeal mixture. Other menu favorites include the surprisingly tasty (and enormous) onion rings, neverending baskets of slightly spicy hush puppies and what our waitress described as "the best sweet tea in the world." The menu also

featured a variety of dinner options besides catfish, including sandwiches, shrimp and seafood platters.

You can find a partial menu, including prices, online at www.memphisdining.com. There, you can also find directions; make sure you take them with you, because it can be a bit tricky to find the place.

Oh, and bring your appetite. You'll need it.

Olive Branch Catfish Company

Genre: Southern
Location: 9659 Hwy 178, Olive Branch, MS
Phone: (662) 895-9494
Prices: \$10-\$15

Depp cannot save Secret Window

By Carolyn Cole

The reason to see *Secret Window* is, for most of the people on this campus (since females do make up more than half of our population), pretty obvious: Johnny Depp. In all seriousness, Depp's performance in *Secret Window*, along with that of costar John Turturro (of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) is the saving grace of this otherwise formulaic psychological thriller adapted from a likewise formulaic novella by Stephen King.

Depp, fresh off his commercial success with *Pirates of the Caribbean*, plays Mort Raimey, a popular writer going through a painful divorce. The fact that Depp can believably play a character named Mort is a testament to his acting ability. The first ten minutes of the film show Mort moping around his isolated cabin in upstate New York (which should immediately

trigger horror warning bells), giving Depp the chance to establish his character and do some great comic acting. However, the tranquil time is over when a mysterious Mississippian calling himself John Shooter (Turturro) shows up accusing Mort of plagiarizing a short story. Turturro's and Depp's scenes are the best of the movie. Turturro makes his character funny in a very scary way, and Depp's hilarious nervous sarcasm is at its best.

The rest of the first hour of the film is really enjoyable. Despite the tame script, director David Koepp (*Stir of Echoes*) moves the story by showing creepy shots of the cabin juxtaposed with cheery shots of the nearby town and intermittently cutting to a series of stunning flashback scenes. However, as in so many horror movies nowadays, Koepp goes for cheap

scares by cranking the bass-heavy score up at tense moments, only to let the viewer down, and force them to wait until the music gets loud again.

The last half hour of the film shows the storyline rapidly disintegrating, *What Lies Beneath*-style. As in that film, the suspenseful element is sacrificed for gore and general all-out hysteria. Despite Depp's best efforts to make the story fly, it crashes miserably, not able to pull off a surprise ending like, say, *Identity*. And the whole failure is made worse because the viewer is left feeling cheated out of an inventive ending. All in all, *Secret Window* isn't worth the expense of seeing it in the theater. Wait for it to come out on DVD, and rent *Identity* in the meantime. Besides, you can get your Johnny Depp fix from *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Autumn Brice

It's that time again...time for another rundown of upcoming Memphis events, that is. Here's a sampling of upcoming events around town:

IN MUSIC:

Lenahan, a Celtic rock band, performs at the Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center (part of St. Mary's Episcopal School) on Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Also on March 20, five-time Grammy winner and contemporary Christian vocalist Sandi Patty joins the Memphis Symphony Orchestra at the Cannon Center as part of the Bank of America Pops Series.

The music of Mozart and his librettist Lorenzo da Ponte will be performed at the new Clark Opera Memphis Center Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. Join Opera Memphis Artists in Residence for this special concert. Tickets are \$5.00.

IN THEATRE:

See *The Wizard of Oz* this week at Playhouse on the Square. The classic story has been adapted into a musical with music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg.

Jesus Christ Superstar will play until this Sunday, March 21, at the Orpheum Theater.

Voices of the South performs *Wilhelmina Millicent's World of Imagination* at TheatreWorks March 18-21.

A Streetcar Named Desire opens at Theatre Memphis March 19.

IN VISUAL ARTS:

New Visions: Contemporary Photography Exhibition will be on display at the Memphis College of Art until April 2.

Artist Christopher Cook displays his works until April 17 at the University of Memphis Art Museum.

Don't miss the opening of Big Love, directed by Tony Horne. Opening night is March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the McCoy Theatre. Rhodes cast includes: Laura Anderson, Anne Barenkamp, Blair Bice, Patrick Caldwell, Bradley Farris, Sophie Gatins, Amy Gray, Kyle Hatley, Matt Hoffberg, Erin McGhee, John Meier, Richard Pearson and Matt Reed.

For tickets, call the McCoy Box Office at 843-3838. Tickets are \$2 for Rhodes students.

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in the second floor of Briggs Student Center every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhode'ster*, opinion columns, and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

REACHING THE SOU'WESTER

Phone: (901) 843-3402
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-mail: sou'wester@rhodes.edu

Address: Rhodes Box 3010
The Sou'wester
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690



MONTHLY MIX TAPE

When I go driving I stay in my lane -by Leah Kaye

This is often the most random mix of genres, because the only requisite for driving music is that it has to pump you up. It's music that gets you leaning forward in the seat, windows rolled down, eyes scanning just above steering wheel, hands drumming on the dashboard.

Even as an emo kid, when I get in my truck sometimes I want to cheer up and dance. This tape requires that listeners sing horribly at the top of their lungs, attracting odd looks from the other cars waiting for the green light who only wished they could be as cool as you.

First up is "Hey Ya" by Outkast. Before you get ahead of me, I do know this song has been entirely overplayed; I think even my parents' soft rock station plays it every ten minutes to the hour. But all popularity aside, I can and do shake it for hours at a time to this song, especially in a car or a fraternity house.

"Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey; I should not even have to try to persuade. This one goes without saying and belongs on every mix tape ever made by anyone.

"I Believe in a Thing Called Love" by the Darkness. A visitation from hair bands of the past, this song and music video will keep you rocking, even on repeat. The appeal was unexpected, as my first glance fell upon the tight white spandex adorning the singer and a giant, rock-hurling crab.

"Sic Transit Gloria...Glory Fades" by Brand New; a little more mellow than the first three rock-your-face-off songs, strategically placed to keep drivers from getting speeding tickets. This newer song departs from the former punk style of Brand New. It is a stitch more mature and addictive.

Finally, we include the threads. Something Corporate: "Forget December"; Cover: "Everywhere" by Yellowcard; this is a better version of that annoying Michelle Branch song, which is even more annoying when you hear people try to sing along with the chorus. Yellowcard performs the song in a range that most people can actually sing. Random: "Beautiful Mess" by Diamond Rio.

Going to a show in
Memphis?

Write a review for the
Sou'wester! Contact
brian@rhodes.edu for submission
details and information.

RHODES PUZZLER

#44 (March 17, 2004)

Last week's movie pass winner: *Caitlin Ulmer*

Some Rhodes faculty were out celebrating St. Patrick's Day a bit early last Friday. After the wingding got a bit out of control (who knew that chinchillas liked beer so much?) the bartender decided to calm them down by posing a problem.

The bartender started with a liter of water (in bottle *A*) and a liter of beer (in bottle *B*). He first poured 1/2 liter of water from *A* to *B*, mixed it thoroughly, and then poured 1/4 liter of the mixture from *B* back to *A*. After mixing again, he poured 1/4 liter of the liquid from *A* to *B*. He mixed the liquid one last time and poured 1/2 liter of the liquid from *B* to *A*.

The bartender then presented the two bottles to the professors and asked: Is there now more beer in *A* than there is water in *B*? That kept the troublemaking scholastics busy for the rest of the evening. What is the answer to the bartender's question?

The Rhodes Puzzler sponsored by the Math/CS Department of Rhodes College. Send your solution (with your name!) to shelton@rhodes.edu or turn in a hard copy to Kennan Shelton, 318 Ohlendorf. All solutions must be received by **5:00 p.m. Monday**. A weekly winner will be randomly chosen from all correct entries to receive two free movie passes donated by Malco Theatres. See the Rhodes Puzzler Page at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/Puzzler/puzzler.asp>.

Dr. Courtenay Harter to perform at Church of the Holy Communion

By Autumn Brice



Dr. Courtenay Harter, newly appointed full-time Professor of Music Theory at Rhodes, will be a soloist at the performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* next Sunday, March 28th at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Communion. Harter joins the Parish and Motet choirs of the Church of the Holy Communion for this event.

Rutter's *Requiem*, a stunning, moving work by

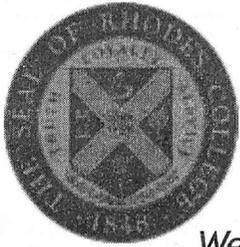
the contemporary English composer, will be performed with an alternate scoring written by Rutter for a smaller setting. In addition to the two choirs, a chamber group, organ and soloists, including Dr. Harter as oboe soloist, will perform the work, written in 1985 and dedicated to Rutter's recently deceased father.

Rutter's work is a poignant reflection on life, death, loss and hope. It begins and ends with the Latin invocation "Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis," ("Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them"). Rutter himself has spoken of the timelessness of these words and their emotional impact in these troubled times.

Unlike most settings of the Mass for the Dead, including Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, Rutter's main source of inspiration for the work, Rutter's *Requiem* incorporates settings of two Psalms, Psalm 130 and Psalm 23.

Rutter, born in 1945 in London, is mostly known for his choral music, including the *Requiem* and his *Magnificat*, written in 1990. Dr. Courtenay Harter recently received her Ph.D. in Music Theory and Music History from the University of Connecticut.

The Church of the Holy Communion is located at 4645 Walnut Grove in Memphis. Call 767-6987 for information about the event, which is free and open to the public. The website for the Church can be found at www.holycommunion.org.



Wednesday, March 17, 2004

PAGE 9 SPORTS

Crew team busy amidst spring season

By Mills Ramsay

The Rhodes crew team held its annual fundraiser, the Erg-a-thon at Saturday, March 21st. Members of the team took turns rowing four ergometers (ergs, or rowing machines) for six hours to make a grand total of twenty four hours of rowing. Prior to the day of the fundraiser, the team sends out requests for donors to friends and family members. People pledge money to the team payable upon completion of the Erg-a-thon. Pledges this year totaled more than \$1,100. The rowing was divided into half-hour time slots, of which each rower completed two or three slots. In addition to money earned by pledges, the team sold its T-shirts to passersby throughout the day.

The money raised by the team this year is the highest amount earned for this fundraising event to date. This money will be used to purchase needed equipment and help pay for travel expenses to races this spring.

Rhodes Crew Team will attend three regattas this spring in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Murray, Kentucky; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In each of these regattas, Rhodes will enter three events: Men's Novice 4, Women's Novice 4, and Men's Varsity 4. "Novice" indicates that it is the first year of rowing for all rowers in the boat, whereas "varsity" means that the rowers have had one year or more of experience. The number "4" simply signifies that the boat is a four-person boat.

The team continues to train and compete, despite the absence of a coaching staff. A few weeks ago, three team members, Brice Blanton, Andrew Romeo and Mills Ramsay attended a clinic given by the U.S. Rowing Association for Level 2 Coach's certification. At this clinic, held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, seminars were given on a range of subjects including training, conditioning, race tactics, equipment, psychological aspects, risk management and administration. The skills and knowledge obtained at the clinic will certainly benefit the team in its preparation for racing this spring.

The team has been training hard to get in peak physical condition for the upcoming races. Sprint races in-

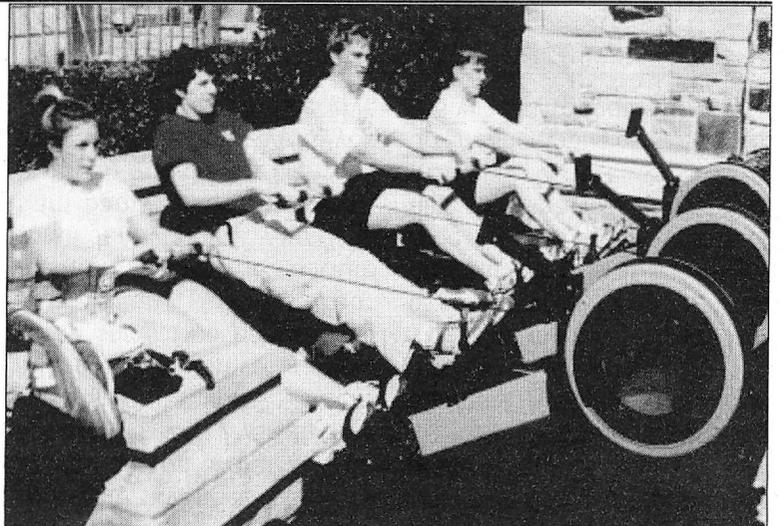


Photo by Mills Ramsay

Rhodes crew team members (L to R) Laura Beth Minnich ('07), Truett Horne ('07), Matt Cain ('07), and Ross Hilliard ('07) participate in its annual Erg-a-thon outside the BCLC on Saturday, March 21st. The team raised over \$1000 during the event, the highest amount raised during this event to date.

volve much faster rowing paces than the longer endurance races and require plenty of practice to learn the higher stroke ratings involved in sprinting. The stroke rating is the number of strokes

rowed per minute. The thrill of rowing becomes clear when attending a regatta and competing against other teams who have also been working hard to be their best.

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Wednesday, March 17, 2004

PAGE 10 RHODE'STER

'With Kenny' article neither 'Hip' nor 'With It'

Professor responds in own words, eye of the shark

Dear Rhode'ster,

I feel the need to correct a few inaccuracies that appeared in the article "Rhodes Reality Show 'I'm with Kenny' Debuts." Under normal circumstances, representatives from the production company would have contacted the Rhode'ster about correcting the record. However, they have been too busy creating bogus "news segments" and "story packages" for the Bush administration, so I am left with the regrettable task, which, I fear, will leave an impression of (fiery the angels fell) unbridled fastidiousness with our esteemed viewers. I have but two words to describe our producers: "wine sacks."

There are four items to which I must draw your attention. First, I have never at any time demanded that Mr. Ridley conquer his fear of "gerunds and gerundives," which as anyone with a lick of sense knows are features of Latin, a much inferior mode of poetic expression—despite the best efforts of a few excellent poets (Virgil, Horace, and Milton come to mind). I can only imagine that such a mistake arose in the process of translating the original soundtrack from Arabic to English.

Second, I was not playing Tetris. A close examination of the tape will reveal that I was engaged in a furious eBay auction for a reliquary, which I was led

to believe contained one of Achilles' molars and a splinter from the chariot he used to drag Hektor's corpse around the funeral pyre of Patroklos (deep thunder rode around their shores).

I might add that the distraction of reading Archilochus, running (longevity) downstairs for another Diet Coke and puzzling over the phrase "eye of the shark," when I much prefer "eye of the Cretan cuttlefish," caused me to flinch and lose out to a couple of dog-eyed shipping barons from Phthia.

Third, we do not recite "G-R-E-E-K" when ascending and descending the

stairs in Rhodes Tower. There are in fact, between the floors and landings exactly eight steps, which correspond to the letters in "hellenike," i.e., "eta-lambda-lambda-eta-nu-iota-kappa-eta." Those who require further elaboration as to the significance of "hellenike" must tune-in to episode seventeen, when Leon and Roy argue violently over a reference to the former's "mater."

Finally, the slide onto the floor of FJB was not really "home-run style," but rather more reminiscent of the way Diomedes' "vaulted to the ground from his shining chariot" after outracing a

reckless and stubborn Antilochus. How one could have confused (incept dates) it with a leisurely jaunt around the bases after smacking a four-bagger is even beyond the mantic insights of the Pythia. There you have it (burning with the fires of Orc). The trick, William Potter, is not minding that it hurts.

Shut up and get out; you not belong here,

Kenny Morrell

Dr. Morrell is a professor of Greek and Roman Studies and is also a supermodel in bow-tie fashion shows worldwide.

Let me give you a beef tender And maybe some spicy fries, too

Jamie Groover
Rhode'ster creep'ster

Hey, baby.

I see you standing there by the meal equivalency sign, trying to figure out what to order. What you ought to be looking at is a different equivalency. An equivalency of love.

Let me give you a beef tender. You might call it a beef finger. That's okay, too. I'll give it to you either way. But I will not stop with just the beef tender. I have many side items to offer you as well.

Let me give you fries. My fries are spicy, baby. Oh, so very spicy. You may also call them savory. I do not know exactly what savory means, but if it is like spicy, then, oh, baby, I am that. Do not be worried if my fries are too

salty, baby. I will gladly lend you some sugar.

You are on a diet and do not want fries? Even if they are spicy or savory? That is all right, too, baby. I understand some fine honeys like you are all, "Ooh Doctor Atkins," and want to take some "bam" out of your "sha bam bam!" But that is all right. If you do not want my fries, I will gladly give to you a tossed salad. Let me give

you a tossed salad. I make my own dressing that is like no other.

I will swipe my card twice for you. This beef tender is on me, baby.

If that makes you happy, let us get out of here and back into my own lair. I will put on my robe and wizard hat. With your high charisma and my dexterity modifier, I believe we can level up and shoot magic missile from the window to the wall.

WHY ARE THERE SUCH HUGE HEADLINES AND GRAPHICS? I BLAME ANDERS REYNOLDS AND JAMIE EUBANKS AS I LIE ON A BED OF BROKEN PROMISES. IF YOU'D LIKE TO UNBREAK MY HEART, SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO BISC@RHODES.EDU. AND IF YOU WANT TO AVOID PUBLIC HUMILIATION, DON'T PROMISE ME THINGS AND NOT FOLLOW THROUGH.

Infographic: Failed Rhodes Concept Albums

Ralph Hatley Battles the Pink Robots

Best of All-Sing 2002-2003

OK Computer Lab

RCF Def Jamz

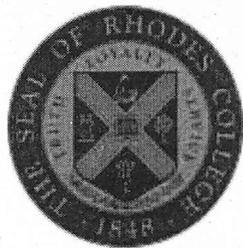
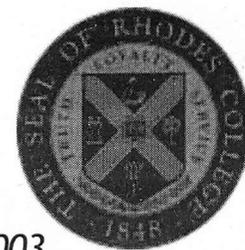
The Rise and Fall of Bill Troutt & The Spiders from Mars

Songs to Major in English by

It Takes a College of Fifteen Hundred to Hold Us Back

Wool Socks: Greatest Hits

infographic by Jamie Groover



THE RHODE'STER
Founded 753 B.C.

KYLE TOOK A BULLET FOR ME

Caroline Bishop

**KIELBASA
SAUSAGE**
Jack Leslie

Rock Your Socks
Kenny Morrell, PhD

EXPLOSIVO
Jamie Groover

ONE NOTE SONG
Meg Sizemore

FHG
Amber Shaw

Pop Star, continued from Page 12

boppers and bourgeois college students about the new pop sensation and so crowds began to form to watch Herbie work and listen to him hum. It was not long before all the commotion outside of the various Iowa Wal-Marts came to the attention of Hans Grübenn, Junior Vice President in charge of the advancement of Wal-Mart Brand American Values™ who saw the potential in Herbie.

"I really don't know why the crowd liked Herbie so much. I'm not even sure the crowd knew why they liked him, they just got caught up in the moment," Grübenn told *The Rhode'ster* as he sat in his office signing documents with the blood of young virgins. "But thanks to my Wal-Mart Boot Camp™ training, I knew how to spot opportunities such as this to exploit the wants and needs of the American public. If the public liked this guy, then Wal-Mart was going to be the huge heartless corporation that would sell it to them. And Herbie's charming small-town naivete really made it easy for us to tool him around for our own purposes."

Herbie was not so eager to become an international pop star, however he soon found this opportunity too good to pass up. "It took me a while to decide," commented

Herbie, "but I can honestly say that being a pop star is slightly better than sucking poo for a living. Well, it pays slightly better at least."

Despite not yet having performed or recorded any songs, he was propelled into stardom by his Wal-Mart promoters who had him appear numerous times on the Disney Channel, started his own line of fruit snacks and paid for a Grammy nomination in the "Best new male singer" category.

Although he did not win an award that night, Herbie still made headlines with his outrageous outfit and comments made on the red carpet.

"I wear the same thing everyday, whether I'm at the Grammys or I'm working on septic tanks," Herbie told Joan Crawford of E! Television. "My sweater was knitted by my dead grandmother, my jeans I stole from Wal-Mart during the septic overflow last year and since I don't believe in wearing shoes, I have grocery bags duct-taped to my feet.

Herbie is famous for such an enigmatic and humble attitude when speaking with the media.

"Who are you? Why am I here?" Herbie asked late night talk show host Carson Daly. "Believe me weenie, I wouldn't be here if they didn't pay me."

Something Fishy in Rhodent Sex Lives

The Rhode'ster Sex'ster Is Back Again

Meg Sizemore
Rhode'ster in the City

I don't know about everyone else, but I for one would like to sue the producers of Monday night's "Monday Night Sex Show" for false advertising. There was a distinct lack of porn, and instead of some sexy young thing answering our deepest, darkest questions about the kinkiest things we could think of, there was an old lady (who I deeply suspect was a cross-dressed student) answering ridiculous questions like, "Can I get STDs from a toilet seat?"

Frankly, I think that the Rhodes campus needs to be a lot more sex friendly. But at least it is well on its way to recognizing spring as the time of year when every living thing gets together and gets their groove on. A few illustrations: the health center tests for STDs and

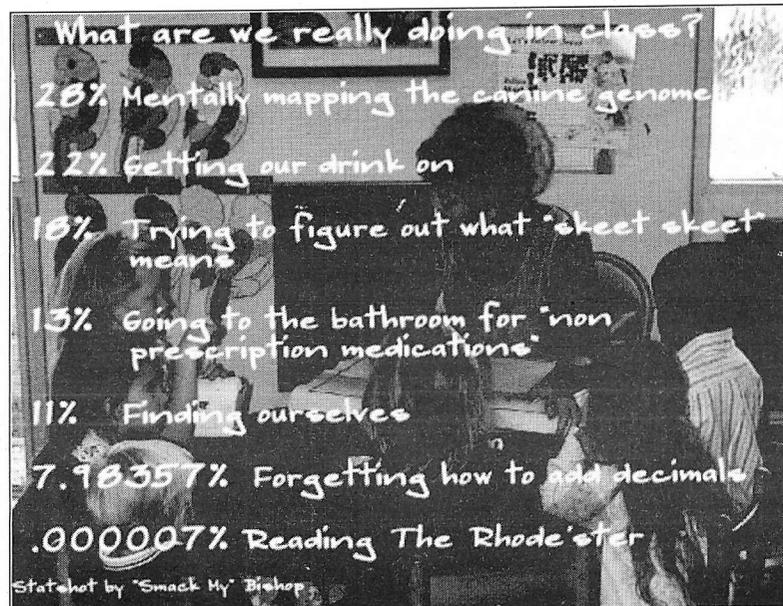
Planned Parenthood has had a field day strewing condoms about Java City. The Lynx got a Valentine's Day present of a card, a rose, and a condom (though it was quickly removed-but to what purpose?) and even the Campus Greens have gotten involved in promoting environmentally-safe sex.

There are also some very blatant examples: Rites of Spring, the annual music festival, is obviously a time for drunken orgies and procreation-after all, we are the smart school, why not breed more smart people? And now I've come to my main point. We really need to stop and wonder if this is just the administration being supportive of student's choices or if they're secretly trying to breed an army of incredibly smart people.

I mean, really, think about it folks- you have some of the brightest minds in the Southeast

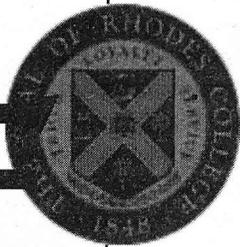
and President Troutt *does* have that Civil War fetish... if you ask me, I think that we're primed for an Old South revival. By the time the new library is built, we'll have enough brilliant Southern minds to fill the old library which will, of course, be turned into a nursery for the best of the best to be. If my theory is correct—and I think you'll find that it is—all of us will soon know something about birthin' some babies.

Just to keep this short and sweet, I urge you all to pay attention to the cross dressing old lady (Anders) and to keep your sex lives kinky and unprocreative...otherwise Rhodes College will be "Southbestern" before we know it. In the meantime, President Troutt would like the person that stole his cavalry bugle to please return it before the battle recreation; if he doesn't polish it to a shine, the missus won't let him go out.



The Parody Student Newspaper of
Rhodes College

THE RHODE STER



VOL. CIL

NO. 53

Research

Advanced DNA testing conclusively proves that Paris Hilton really is a skanky hoe and the "kind you wouldn't take home to your momma".

SeeScience



Review

Steve Wright critiques that really annoying, glass-shattering, obnoxiously high-pitched singing coming from "somewhere over near Hassell".

SeeMusic

Superfluous architectural detail saves lives of thousands

Caroline Bishop
Rhode'ster all a-quiver

An unnecessary addendum to the Rhodes architectural scheme saved the welfare of the college last Thursday afternoon. The college's Gothic décor, while lovely, was deemed largely decorative and impractical by many. And yet, when it all hit the fan, it proved to be more important than anyone could have ever believed.

It all began around three p.m., when an army of marauding Visigoths rode to Memphis from their native Dacia and decided that they wanted to seize control of the Rhodes College community.

"You see, things just haven't been the same since the death of King Wamba thirteen hundred years ago," confessed one of the Visigoths, whose hilariously for-

eign name could not be pronounced by the reporter. "We were tired of things in the Old World and thought we would try our luck in America. And when we think of America, we think of Rhodes College."

The Visigoths left a trail of destruction in their wake, raping and pillaging as they went. Initial efforts to halt them, though they were valiant, failed miserably. First, the two remaining members of the Goth club on campus tried to reason with the invaders, Goth to Goth. They were then tortured and forced to dress in preppy clothes by the malicious horde. A brief foray led by campus safety officers was similarly unsuccessful when they were faced with the prospect of the Visigoths' long-range catapults.

For a short time, chaos reigned on campus. Rumor had

it that President Bill Troutt fiddled in his office while Buckman burned, and attempts by the head of the Catholic Student Organization, Karol "JP2" Wojtyla ('07), to convert the souls of the heathen host in a brave outing to their camp ended in tragedy for all concerned.

But all was not lost. The courageous leader of the Rhodes College joint archery-karate team, Terese Holm ('05), looked up into the sky for answers.

"At first, I was just thinking about pleading with God for deliverance," she confessed. "Then I realized, 'Hey, who needs that schmuck? We have fricking arrow slots at the top of all the buildings!'"

Armed with a volley of arrows, Holm and her comrades made short work of the marauders, whose secret weakness



Photo by Men In Tights Inc.

WITH KARATE ARROWS SHE'LL KICK YOUR ASS

Master archer Terese Holm displays her bow-wielding prowess as... oh please don't kick my ass, Terese!!!

proved to be getting shot with arrows. For her services to the campus, Holm was rewarded by an honorary plaque bearing her name which was hoisted to the top beam of the Barrett Library, for which more vantage points for obsolete weaponry are now being designed.

"We never thought that such an obviously pointless ar-

chitectural detail could be so instrumental, and yet Ms. Holm proved us wrong," announced President Troutt, putting aside his fiddle. "We commemorate her now, and she will be forever remembered by the three people who actually came to this ceremony and the guy who has to haul that plaque all the way to the top."

Interview with a Pop Star

A Scintillating Tale of Fame and Glory

Jack Leslie
Rhode'ster failed attempt at humor

Herbie-mania is sweeping the nation. Like the Beatles, Madonna, Vanilla Ice and Britney before him, Herbert Parfait has taken the country by storm, becoming a familiar face among the pantheon of American pop music deities. Although once a small-town boy with big-city dreams, Herbie became an international star figuratively overnight. *The Rhode'ster* caught up with Herbie

on the grounds of his US \$67,000 estate in his home town of Everstone, Iowa. In our exclusive interview, Herbie talks about love, family problems and his recent success.

Born and raised in Everstone, Herbie worked to support his mother Valerie, a stay-at-home welfare beneficiary, as a septic tank evacuator for a few area Wal-Mart stores. Then, in an instant, his whole world began to slowly change.

"I had just finished rinsing poo—that's what we in the industry call septic-tank waste—from my hair in the Wal-Mart parking lot when I was bum-rushed by a gaggle of pre-teen girls," explained Herbie. "It seems as though they thought I was some sort of MTV singer because of my greasy hair, poo-splatter goggles, neon-orange jumpsuit and off-key humming."

After a few weeks, word had spread among local teenie-

Pop star, continued on Page 11

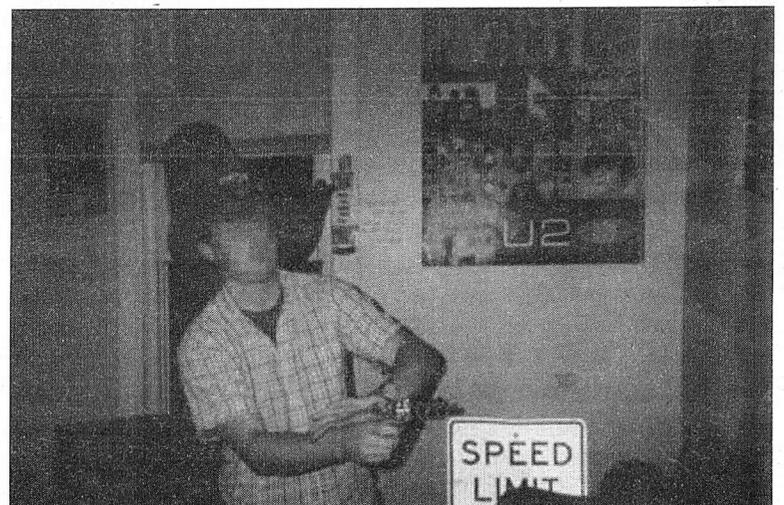


Photo by Peter Igoe

HE DID IT, DO YOU THINK HE'S GONE TOO FAR?

This student, kept anonymous for his own protection, was black-balled from his fraternity last week when he made the daring statement, "U2 totally rocks more than Dave Matthews." He has since received approximately 1,499 death threats promising to "crash...into him."