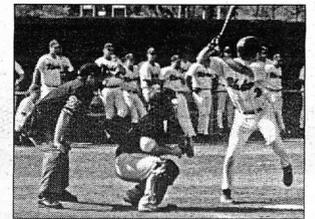


THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCII. NO. 19

April 5, 2006

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Baseball owns Pirates, taking third in SCAC standings

See Page 8

Rhodes hires new academic provost to follow Llewellyn

By AVERY PRIBILA
News Correspondent

Dr. Charlotte G. Borst has been appointed the new Provost of Rhodes College. Borst, of Union College in Schenectady, New York, replaces retiring Dean of the College, Robert Llewellyn. Borst will occupy the position at the beginning of July.

"My hope for Rhodes is to help implement the Rhodes vision and move the college forward in that vision," said Borst.

As Provost, Borst will be in charge of overseeing both aca-

demics and student affairs. She is passionate about integrating those two aspects of a liberal arts education to further enhance the quality of education at Rhodes.

"Liberal arts colleges are a uniquely American phenomenon. Both in and out of class issues matter," said Borst.

She will also collaborate with interdisciplinary program directors and academic department chairs to address curricular, personnel, and budgetary matters.

Borst has a B.A. in biology and a minor in history from Bos-

ton University. She also holds a M.A. in history from Tufts University, a M.A. in the history of science, and a PhD in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Borst previously served as the Chair of the History Department at St. Louis University, running a department of 18 full-time faculty and organizing two major national historic conferences. She also served as an Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Known for her research in the history of medicine, Borst has won numerous research awards and fellowships, and has written several articles and published a book on the history of women's health. She is presently in the process of publishing a second book.

Currently serving as Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Associate Professor of History at Union College, Borst's responsibilities as Dean include: faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation, academic staffing, and faculty research. She is also in charge of curriculum development and offerings, and played a large role in reworking the curriculum at Union.

Borst feels that her experience revising the curriculum will provide her with an advantage in completing a smooth transition to the new curriculum currently being implemented at Rhodes.

"It's a challenge, but I'm not worried. I think it's a tremendous opportunity," said Borst of the new curriculum.

Borst helped revise the residential life program at Union, working to better integrate Greek life. She was also in charge of overseeing three major building projects for science and engineering, music, and visual arts.

While Borst is open to mak-

Uncovered: How RAB selects Rites of Spring lineup

By JONATHAN WIGAND
News Editor

When the Rhodes Activities Board (RAB) announced who would be playing at the annual Rites of Spring Music Festival during Battle of the Bands a week and a half ago, most of the students in the Lair were excited to hear that The Bravery would be headlining.

Over the past week there have been mixed feelings expressed about the lineup, perhaps as is the case every year. Students who are already fans of The Dog and Everything, Murphy Lee, Ari Hest, and The Big Wu are of course happy that these groups will be performing this weekend in the amphitheater, but others question the logic of RAB's selection. Some students have never heard the groups and others complain that the genres chosen don't cater to their tastes. Other students are also concerned about money.

The *Sou'wester* decided to investigate the process of selecting bands to play at Rites for the purpose of enlightening the student body about the decisions made and limitations involved in bringing professional and sometimes nationally-recognized musicians to play for a quad full of Rhodes students.

The process begins in September each year during the Sack fair, during which time RAB begins to take suggestions for who should play at Rites the following spring. Throughout the fall, students can send band suggestions to RAB by email at rites@rhodes.edu, or they can post suggestions on the Facebook group "I want to know what the heck is going on at Rhodes" or the Rites of Spring Facebook profile.

"Many times, student suggestions are for bands far out of our financial reach, such as Dave Matthews Band or OAR, but we work with student suggestions to try to find bands within our budget," said Leslie Austin, president of RAB.

In November RAB compiles

a list of student suggestions and begins to research each band for price and availability. When they find a band that meets all the important criteria, meaning they are affordable and available the date of the festival, the board votes on whether or not to invite the band to come.

Each member has one equal



Courtesy of thedogandeverything.com

The Dog and Everything is one of the bands that will be playing at Rites.

vote, and the president and vice president do not vote. There are 13 active members, so there is never an even tie.

"In making the final decision, majority rules. Throughout the process, though, attention to student suggestions is stressed and we try to do whatever we can to get bands from that list," said Austin.

RAB is allocated \$65,000 to spend on Rites of Spring each year. They must spread this money out to pay for five bands - two on Friday night and three on Saturday. They spend about \$20,000 on production costs and about \$5,000 on security.

Even if RAB can afford to pay a certain band and that band is available for the specified dates, there is not always a guarantee that it will be possible to get the band to come to Rites. RAB sends out more offer letters than they expect to be accepted.

"Even though we send an offer letter to a band, there is no guarantee that they will accept the offer. We can have a perfect, ideal line up of bands who are

Rites, continued on Page 4



KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

As spring arrives, so does Rites of Spring. Read more about which bands will play at the festival on page 4.

Provost, continued on Page 5

United States' Freedom of Political and Cultural Self Determination

By LUKE ARCHER

I found, "A Discourse about Freedom in the US," the opinion piece in last week's issue, to be faulty in its argument. Though the piece may succeed in conjuring up concurring emotions within the reader, it fails to withstand an objective scrutiny—an objective scrutiny which is truly necessary in solving any complicated issue like the one presented: the condition of liberty in the United States.

The piece emphasizes freedom, defined by the author as "the ability to take into consideration as many different possibilities as possible, and choose from those options the best one," as one of the greatest goods of a civilization. The article contrasts American lifestyles with European lifestyles to imply that Americans, despite popular belief, are living in a freedom-deficient society. The author relies on evidence such as the presence of cultural taboos, spurned by religious groups, and large conglomerates like Wal-Mart to prove that America does not provide to its citizens as much liberty as Europeans enjoy. According to the piece, Europeans are presented with many more life style options and thus possess more freedom. They can freely choose their sexual orientation, political orientation, mode of transportation, or any other lifestyle. The author claims that certain forces in America seek to curtail such freedoms.

The irony of the entire argument, however, is that, contrary to the author's claim, America is just as "free" as Europe. This equity in freedom is largely due to the democratic nature of their governing institutions. The author uses an example of the proximity of a billboard of a topless women to the largest cathedral in Germany to prove the

high level of freedom in Europe, manifested in the destruction of taboos, but one does not have to look far to see the faulty reasoning in such a claim. The reason *why* there are not nude billboards in America is not because of limits on freedom but because of the presence of it. A majority of Americans

subsequently enforced his political desires for tolerance on Americans, how free would Americans truly be? Surely less free than they are now.

The difference between European and American values and lifestyles is not found in the level of their freedom of choice, but,

"The irony of the entire argument, however, is that, contrary to the author's claim, America is just as "free" as Europe."

freely choose to prohibit such billboards. Generally, freedom is as much a choice to limit exposure as it is to increase it. If a majority of Americans do not wish to see billboards of nude women, then freedom gives them the right to deny their presence.

A similar issue is the author's argument that American capitalism limits freedom of choice. Capitalism, however, is founded on the freedom of choice, specifically "the ability to take into consideration as many different possibilities as possible, and choose from those options the best one." Americans have chosen Wal-Mart, evident in its success, because they perceive it as their best economic option. One could easily make the argument that the higher tax rates and the more extensive social programs of Europe limit personal freedom rather than promote it. The ultimate contradiction in the author's claim can be easily proven by a simple hypothetical situation. If the author was made the dictator of America and

in what Europeans and Americans choose to do with their freedom of choice. Europeans use their freedom of choice to create a more open, tolerant society while Americans use their freedom to limit perceived threats to their personal values and culture. Such implementation of the freedom of choice accounts for the differences between America and Europe. I am not trying to determine which culture is better, for that would be arbitrary and ultimately impossible, but I am saying that freedom is not the defining difference between them. "Discourse about Freedom in the US" is then not about freedom at all but instead proves to be a familiar argument that the United States is too conservative compared to the liberalism of Europe. The author, however, can find comfort in the knowledge that one day, if most Americans feel the way he does, they will exercise their freedom of choice to choose a political ideology more like his own.

A Brief Commentary on *The Rhode'ster*

By COLIN STRICKLAND
and DAVID TYLER

Imagine that you walk into the RAT for lunch, grab a copy of the most recent edition of *The Rhode'ster* and, to your amazement, discover that you've actually published an article in that edition that you've never previously seen. Unfortunately, this is precisely what happened to us last Wednesday. In a petty attempt at "Rhode'ster humor," and without our consent or our knowledge, Laura Owensby decided to write fictitious opinion pieces under our supposed authorship. And the Rhode'ster's "editor," Chelsea Ashworth, allowed these articles to be published. These actions represented not only poor ethical judgment, but a complete disregard for the sort of journalistic integrity espoused by any respected student publication. Parody has its place, but to take a stab against particular students under the veil of those students' own pens is quite

another matter entirely. And let's not even talk about the practical implications of identity theft! (After all, unlike most parodies, these articles provided no obvious disclaimer).

Had these girls disagreed with any of our previous contributions to *The Sou'wester*, they could have easily challenged our ideas in the public forum provided by *The Sou'wester's* Opinion Section. But, then again, that would require one to possess some degree of mental fortitude. And, as this recent event plainly demonstrates, our friends at *The Rhode'ster* have neither the intellectual capability nor personal integrity to engage in a thoughtful scholarly debate (or even properly parody one). Having insulted everything from our families' supposed socio-economic status to our personal value systems and political comprehension, *The Rhode'ster* represents nothing more than a cheap attempt at insider humor that will continue to demean

the quality of *The Sou'wester* until the connection between the two publications is completely severed.

It is for these reasons that we move to promote *The Rhode'ster's* independence from *The Sou'wester*, or perhaps even better, to remove the student funding it receives out of *your pocket!* Next time you pick up a copy, ask yourself, "is there really anything meaningful being said here, or is the entire edition a clump of ridiculous articles written by several friends to further their own distorted conceptions of humor?" If you find yourself thinking the latter, and feel like you would like to refund the five minutes of your life that you spent sifting through its pages for something that even remotely resembled comedy, then perhaps you will support our argument. If you disagree with us, that's fine too. After all, we won't go through the trouble of submitting an article in your name (that you didn't write) in our next edition!

THE SOU'WESTER

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How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by 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.

The Sou'wester is a member of the Student Publications Board, a three-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, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

Staff meetings take place every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in Barret 214 and are open to the public.

Reaching *The Sou'wester*

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ASSOCIATED
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Coercion, Capitalism, and the Political System

By DANE WENDELL

After reading Paul Carls's article in the last issue of *The Sou'wester*, I began to think about my own understanding of freedom and liberty in the United States.

What is freedom? According to Hayek in *The Constitution of Liberty*, liberty is the absence of coercion. Liberty is freedom from the desires, demands, and oversights of another individual. Coercion, then, is the forcing of one's will upon another's actions or thoughts. Majorities, minorities, or individuals can either be coercive or coerced, as long as one will force itself upon another.

It is important to note that coercion is not simply a lack of an option. To use Hayek's example, a mountain climber with only one place to step has a very limited choice; however, she is not being coerced by another into taking that step. Someone who buys clothes from Wal-Mart because they are the cheapest in town is not being coerced into making the purchase - it's in their best interest to do so.

Confusion commonly surrounds the belief that liberty is the power to get what you want. In reality, a person can be free and unhappy, as long as the unhappiness is not a result of another individual's will. Receiving a handout of what we want or need is not necessarily freedom. Few would argue that Russia under Stalin was a place of liberty because education and medicine were provided without direct cost to those who had not offended Party Officials. Instead, Stalin is viewed today as a coercive dictator who forced his social preferences on the people of Russia without their consent. The people of Russia were left with no choices.

Government has traditionally been the primary source of coercion because it is the only human institution endowed with police powers. The large corporations of America want you to buy their products, and government wants you to pay your taxes. The obvious difference is that a refusal to pay the State of Tennessee results in a jail sentence, while a refusal to shop at Wal-Mart means that you won't be greeted by a smiling Wal-Mart employee. The people of Russia obeyed Stalin's will

because it was backed by an army and a secret police force. No one is required to obey Wal-Mart because the "greeters" are basically just trying to help you find the

same. That's why government control is so appealing to him—government has the power to force his choices on others. I have no doubt that Mr. Carls

force their desires on everyone else. Certain groups lobby, the government to force communities to outlaw abortion rights, give tax dollars to particular churches, outlaw gay marriage, create a mandatory national healthcare plan, and criminalize the use of marijuana. Paul Carls believes that America's poor choices should be corrected. I believe that government should leave choices and responsibilities to private citizens.

Who is right, Mr. Carls or me? Neither. Thankfully, neither of us have the capacity to hijack the government as a tool to force our own beliefs upon everyone else. In America, we can join the political process by voicing our opinions. If Mr. Carls wants to protest the "Christian totalitarian society" of the United States, he can easily do so; and, unlike in France, over here he won't get hosed down in the streets.

"Paul Carls believes that America's poor choices should be corrected. I believe that government should leave choices and responsibility to private citizens."

soap.

The America that Paul Carls described is certainly not what he wants our country to be. It is true that people who "do not believe in cars" are probably going to have difficulty getting around. It's also true that Bill O'Reilly has a right to state his political beliefs to his viewers. And yes, our police don't force us to recycle. Mr. Carls describes America as a place without freedom, which leads one to the conclusion that America is a land of coercion where people lack choices. Paul Carls wants America to conform to certain European norms. But the reality is that the America he desires is anything but free.

In essence, Mr. Carls describes freedom as governmentally coerced choices. The government should silence conservative television hosts so that they stop criticizing "bad" ideas. The government should force all taxpayers to fund public mass transit systems because not every citizen has a car. The government should criminalize the public failure to recycle. The government should punish Wal-Mart, because it offers lower prices for similar goods. The government should force citizens to study "good" subject material because, on their own, some people might choose not to read Nietzsche.

Is freedom what Mr. Carls desires? All of the above mandates are nothing short of coercion, designed to force personal preferences upon all citizens. In a way, Mr. Carls believes America isn't free because he does not have the power to force his own vi-

has good intentions. He truly believes that if America implemented his suggestions, we all would be better off. Mr. Carls isn't alone. Most citizens in America ask that government use its police powers to

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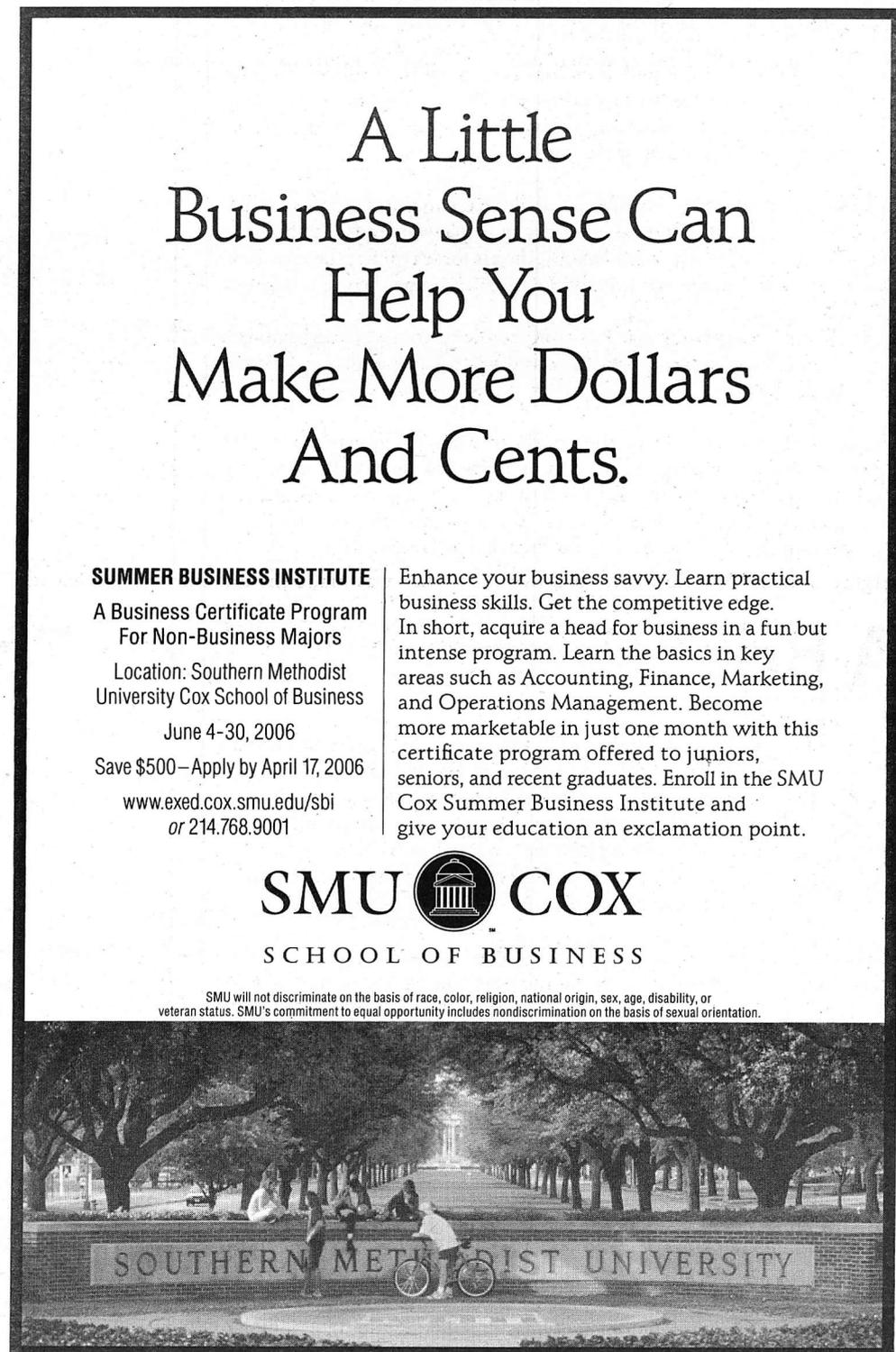
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The staff of *The Sou'wester* wish to express their dismay at last week's *Rhodester* editorials, printed by Laura Owensby, entitled "Samuel Alito" and "Residence Assistants Are Scum." While *The Sou'wester* recognizes *The Rhodester's* role as a parody newspaper, the article represents both a breach of ethics and journalistic integrity. *The Sou'wester* exists as a forum for student thought; ostensibly, *The Rhodester* exists as a humorous extension of this forum. However, the article in last week's issue merely served to alienate two *Sou'wester* staff writers by attributing the articles, which they did not write, to them without their consent. *The Sou'wester* was unaware that prior consent had not been obtained, and will continue to strive for the highest ideals of journalistic integrity.



Rites, continued from Page 1

available and in our price range, but for one reason or another, many of them do not accept the offer. A large part of the process is out of our control, as the final decision of whether or not a band will actually come to Rhodes to play depends entirely on the band and their agent," said Austin.

In making their decisions about who to invite, RAB tries to choose musicians who will appeal to the majority of Rhodes

students.

"As far as genre quotas, mostly we just realize that not everyone at Rhodes listens to the same type of music, and we try to cater to the diversity of tastes. This year we have a rap act, two rock bands, a jam band, and an acoustic duo - a little bit of everything," said Beau Gambold, who served as a voting member of RAB this year.

WEEK IN REVIEW

International

Thailand - A day after claiming victory in a national election, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has announced that he will resign amid mass protests and a political crisis that has thrown the future of the government into question. He called the election three years early in response to demonstrations calling for his removal from office. Thaksin said he would step aside because of his party's poor showing in Sunday's election, keeping a pre-election promise to leave his post if his party received less than 50 percent of the vote.

Iran - Iran successfully test-fired a missile that can avoid radar as well as hit several targets simultaneously using multiple warheads, the military said Friday. General Hosseim Salami, the air force chief of the elite Revolutionary Guards, did not specify the missile's range, saying it depends on the weight of its warheads. State-run television went on to describe it as "ballistic," suggesting that it is comparable to Iran's existing ballistic rocket, which can travel 1,250 miles and reach Israel and U.S. bases in the Middle East.

France - Protesters took to the streets of France Tuesday for a fifth "day of action," hoping to kill a new labor law that will allow employers to more easily hire and fire first time workers 26 years old and younger. French President Jacques Chirac signed the proposal into law on Sunday, but has asked the French Parliament to amend it in order to soften its effects in two ways. He wants Parliament to cut the term when employers can hire and fire workers from two years to one year, and wants workers to be given a reason for the firing.

National

California - California Highway Patrol are facing a growing number of 911 calls every day that have nothing to do with emergencies, and authorities worry that this trend could be a problem when there is an actual need for aid. The agency's Bay Area switchboard handles about 6,000 calls a day, with around 800 calls related to trivial matters, such as people being locked out of their apartments, asking for restaurant recommendations, and ordering pizzas.

Texas - Hundreds of students from El Paso schools marched off their campuses Friday morning and onto the streets in protest of Immigration Reform, many chanting, "Mexico, Mexico!" The demonstrations occurred at the same time as the Cesar Chavez March, which also focused on disapproval of proposed immigration legislation.

Ohio - Three people face charges after allegedly blackmailing a priest in Cleveland. The Reverend Tom Carolan resigned from St. Jude Parish last week, after being asked by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese to step down. This request by the Diocese came after they learned he had slept with a woman. The woman is one of the three people accused of blackmailing Carolan.

Reports were collected by Matthew Marker from CNN.com, KTVU.com, KFOXTV.com, and NewsNet5.com.



Rites of Spring 2006

Friday Night

The Miner 49ers and Their Soul Concoction at 7 p.m.

The Dog and Everything at 8:30 p.m.

www.thedogandeverything.com

Murphy Lee at 10:30 p.m.

www.murphyleemusic.com

Saturday

Rites to Play 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Oak Alley

Rites to Play Harder 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BCLC Lawn

Saturday Night

Heacock and the Alcoholics at 5:30 p.m.

Ari Hest at 6:30 p.m.

www.arihest.com

The Big Wu at 8:30 p.m.

www.thebigwu.com

The Bravery at 10:30 p.m.

www.thebravery.com

Wristbands will be available Tuesday, April 4 through Thursday, April 6 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Lair. Guest wristbands will be available for \$30. T-shirts will be available for \$10



photo courtesy of www.thebigwu.com

The Big Wu is playing on Sat. at 8:30 p.m.

CAMPUS SAFETY

3.26.06 - 4.1.06

3/26	2:25 p.m.	Unknown persons took all the laundry soap out of the Bellingrath laundry room (about 75 bottles) and placed them in the 1st floor hallway; ADRL notified.
	8:23 p.m.	Call from the BCLC concerning seven non-members playing in the multi sports forum. All claimed to be visitors. Host was not present. All individuals asked to leave; all complied.
3/27	6:05 p.m.	Report of a theft from the BCLC. Officer dispatched to take report.
3/28	10:31 p.m.	Student reported the smell of smoke in Voorhies Hall. Officer dispatched. Campus Safety searched the building; nothing located.
3/29	8:18 a.m.	Accident in the Mallory parking lot; accident report filed.
3/30	12:26 a.m.	Several calls from students stating that their cable television was out. Possible glitch.
	1 a.m.	Cable service restored.
	10:45 a.m.	Vehicle accident in the Mallory lot. Campus Safety responded; report filed.
3/31	11:45 p.m.	Confrontation in the East Village parking lot. Campus Safety responded; situation resolved.
	9 p.m.	Registered party until 1 a.m., at the ATO house. Officer posted for ID and arm band distribution.
4/01	2:47 a.m.	Fire door breached; reset by Campus Safety.
	7:30 p.m.	Vehicle accident on University St. and North Parkway. MPD and MFD ambulance called to the location.; reports filed.
	9 p.m.	Busses on campus to transport students to and from formals. Trash cans placed at both locations for party goers.

Provost, continued from Page 1

ing changes at Rhodes, she wants to spend some time observing and understanding the community before making any drastic changes. According to Borst, "for the first few months I want to listen and talk with people and get a sense of the community."

Borst was nominated for the position of provost and notified by a recruiter of the College's interest. She looks forward to liv-

ing in a larger city and leaving the cold climate of the northeast. She is eager to get to know the faculty and students at Rhodes, and hopes to be accessible to everyone at Rhodes.

"I was an open-door dean at Union, and I want to be an open-door dean at Rhodes. I want to get to know the Rhodes community," said Borst.

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- First-generation college students with demonstrated financial need
- Members of ethnic groups Under-represented in graduate education

SAMPLE AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Health Science Administration
- Dental Science
- Nursing
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Social Work [limited]

Visit the College of Graduate Health Sciences link on the UTHSC homepage [www.utmem.edu]. This institution is an academic health science center, thus research is not available in all majors.

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? The Puzzler ?

If it were two hours later, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later. What time is it?

Send your answers to LAPSE@rhodes.edu. Responses are due Monday at 1 p.m. In the case of multiple winners, a drawing will be held for the week's movie tickets. You can find answers to this week's puzzler in next week's issue of *The Sou'wester*.

Answer to last week's Puzzler:

You can have \$1.19 without having change for a dollar. There are multiple combinations such as 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies.

Be sure to congratulate Callie Brooks, last week's winner!

The McCoy's *Ubu Roi* is an irreverent political satire

By **MATHEW MARKER**
Executive Assistant

The McCoy Theatre's latest production, *Ubu Roi*, is radically different from the previous outing—the brooding, psychological drama *Tongue of a Bird*. *Ubu Roi* just might be one of the silliest, most ridiculous satires in existence. The play revolves around a character named Papa Ubu, played by Jim Short ('08). As one of the king's many nobles, Papa Ubu becomes increasingly dissatisfied with his position in the kingdom. He resents having to answer to someone else, and with the help of his wife, Mama Ubu, played by Amy Gray ('06), formulates a plan to usurp the throne. Upon successfully reaching his goal, Papa Ubu is still not satisfied and desires something more; the resulting fallout composes the rest of the play.

The humor in *Ubu Roi* is most definitely not for those with more refined tastes, or for anyone under the age of seventeen. Many of the jokes can be classified as 'toilet humor,' since they often refer to reproductive organs or to various sexual acts, not all of which are legal in every state in America. The humor is definitely raunchy when you count farting as one of the cleaner bodily functions portrayed. At times, this rampant sophomoric humor caused some of the actors to come dangerously close to fits of laughter.

Despite this light-hearted attitude, not everything is fun and games. For one, there are some veiled Shakespearean references, including the parallels between Mama Ubu and Lady Macbeth as women who goad their husbands to action. The ineptitude of Papa Ubu and the other political figures may cause some viewers to begin making connections between the characters and real figures—this is where the satire comes in. Papa Ubu is determined to build up and strengthen his finances; although how he goes about pursuing that goal is hilarious, ridiculous, and vaguely thought-provoking.

The politics of this play are definitely not for everyone; the Ubus consider war as a solution to their problems, and Mama Ubu comments, "The Americans do it all the time." When Papa Ubu mulls over a decision, he consults his "most trusted advisors"—sock puppets. The list of comparisons that beg to be made goes on and on.

Papa Ubu is played to perfection by Short, who deserves some type of award for wearing a fat suit for the duration of the play. He effectively portrays a man who is inept, incompetent, vainglorious, and power hungry, but doggedly sure of himself. Amy Gray has proven that she is an actress of remarkable versatility; her role as Mama Ubu is on the opposite end of the spectrum from her role as Zofia in *Tongue of a Bird*. In *Ubu Roi*, Gray's character is comically hypersexualized, with certain parts of her anatomy accentuated through creative costume design. Her character constantly makes sexual advances toward her husband and other individuals, touching herself in lewd ways, and generally being, as called by her husband, a "slut." This is worlds away from the grandmother with no visible traces of sexuality that Gray portrayed in *Tongue of a Bird*. Gray should also be commended for portraying the most memorable orgasm since Meg Ryan's feigned display in *When Harry Met Sally*.

Despite their lesser roles, several other actors give similarly memorable performances, including Nate Smith ('08) as Bordure, a captain whose actions parallel that of Papa Ubu. Even actors with minimal amounts of lines leave indelible impressions on the audience. Thomas Kelly ('07), who plays Rensky and a few other characters, ranging from a horse to the figurehead of a ship, makes up for his deficiency of lines with a range of expressions and physical gestures. Almost as important as the actors is the set, which is aesthetically striking. A giant, slanted multi-colored spiral makes up the main stage, which is evidently meant to parallel the surreal and ludicrous nature of the play.

Ultimately, *Ubu Roi* is worth checking out. Even those who may not agree with its politics or are just not in the mood to consider the social and political implications will enjoy it entirely for its laugh-out-loud stupidity and outrageousness. Translated by Barbara Wright from the original work by Alfred Jarry, and directed by Chris Davis ('89), the play will be at the McCoy Theatre through April 9; the price of admission is \$2 for Rhodes students, \$5 for students from other universities, and \$10 for the general public. Showtimes for Thursday through Saturday evenings are at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday matinee starts at 2 p.m. To reserve tickets, contact Kevin Collier at 843-3839.

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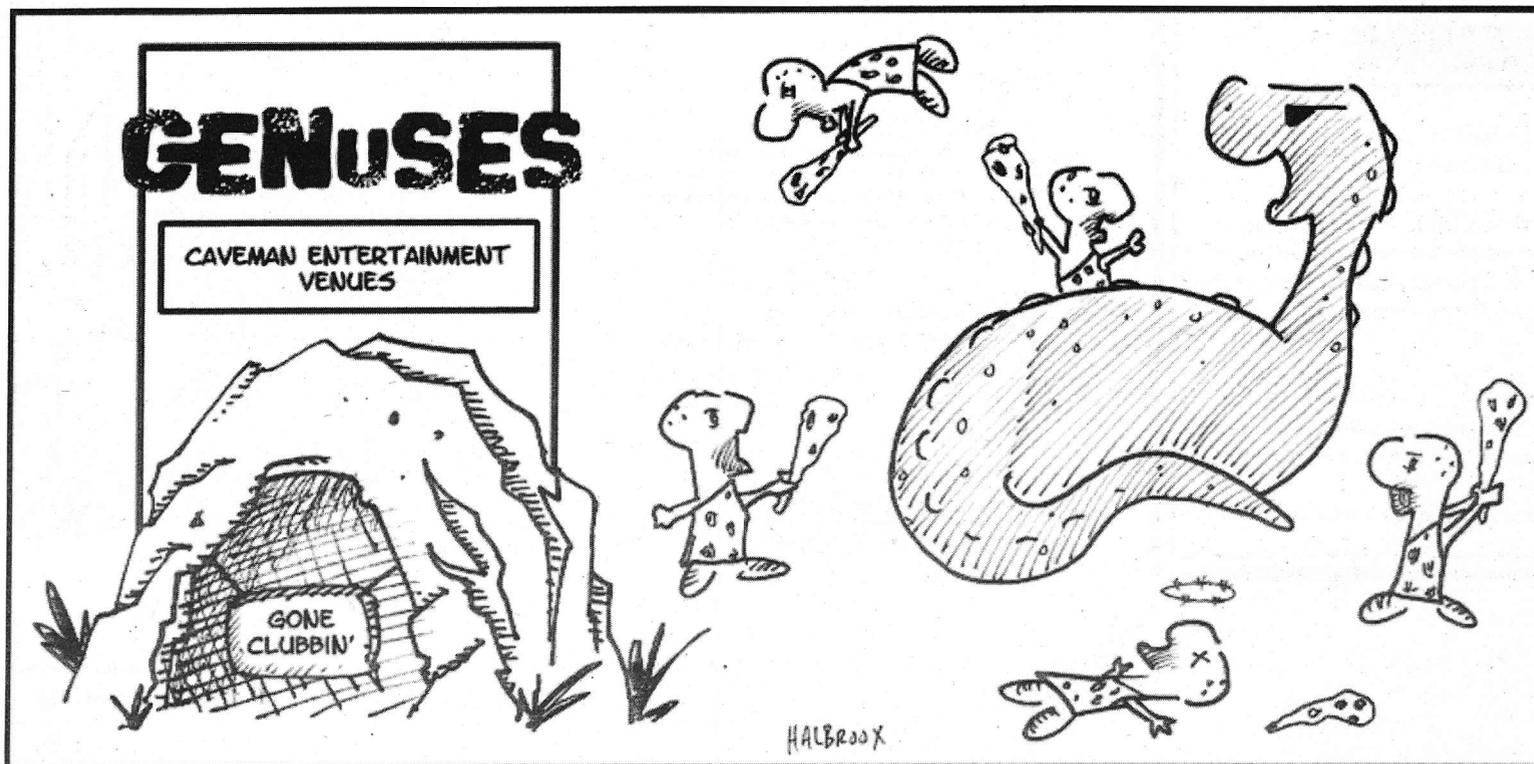
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SCENE **LIGHTNING 100**

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



Dinner & a Movie

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

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V for Vendetta: comic books go dark

By ELYSE MEENA

"Remember, remember, the fifth of November."

V for Vendetta, the latest comic book flick, is a thrilling ride as the audience is swooped into the world of a totalitarian England in the near future. With a certain *Sin City* grittiness to it, *V for Vendetta* is a rich message film that keeps audiences enthralled until the very end. The script leaves little room for downtime; each frame is of high importance to the fast-paced plot. In short, it will leave you breathless.

The Wachowski Brothers' newest flick literally begins with a bang. England has a terrorist on the loose: a man in a vaudevillian mask known only as V. V saves a young television studio secretary, Evey Hammond (Natalie Portman), from an alleyway attack and shows her his dream of England as he destroys an important government building. The high chancellor of England charges his chief of police, Commissioner Finch (Stephen Rea), with hunting down the terrorist. As Finch begins his investigation, V strikes again, taking over Evey's TV station and broadcasting to London his view of achieving a non-tyrannical England through his acts of terrorism. He ends his message with a call to anyone in London who agrees with his views to meet him at Parliament a year from that day, the fifth of November. The film occurs over the year that follows the first act and V's message. During that year, V carries

out other acts of terrorism on a less grandiose scale as more of his mysterious character is revealed to Evey.

In the role of the impressionable young secretary Evey Hammond, Natalie Portman, most recently seen in *Closer* (for which she earned a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination), gives one of the greatest performances of her career. She portrays the innocent Evey's evolution into a woman who is hardened and knows no fear. Along with conquering her highly complicated and beautiful character, we must give props to Portman for having to act against a man in a mask for most of the film. The character of Evey would have been difficult to play with all the transformations she goes through without the masked presence of V. Adding the vaudevillian mask gives Portman a harder actor to play against, as she can only feed off of his vocal and physical performance. She is stunning.

The message of *V for Vendetta* can be understood and somewhat questioned by our generation. By making the terrorist the sympathetic character, our views on terrorism can fluctuate and be challenged. However, what makes *V for Vendetta* different from other message films that have been made recently is its cleverly written script. The dialogue is very revealing and does not become trite or predictable. V's opening monologue is the best example of this creative dialogue, as every other word begins with a "v," and



Photo courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Hugo Weaving stars in the film as the masked anarchist named simply V.

yet no word is repeated.

One of the most important pieces of this film is the violence. In some action flicks, the violence can simply be too much, too bloody and pointless. The violence in *V for Vendetta*, however, consists of exploding buildings, murdering people in the night and glorious knife fights that advance the plot and are well choreographed to boot, making it a heart-pounding thriller.

V for Vendetta is a great triumph for comic book and message films, as it does not attempt to beat you over the head with its opinion. It simply presents itself for what it is and allows you to make the ultimate decision. This is accomplished through the clever and creatively written script, enthralling fight sequences, fantastic cinematography, and memorable performances.

Eat the food of the gods, or at least of young monks

By HALEY FULTS
Staff Writer

I love everything about Sawaddi. It's a restaurant that is just a little different (Thai food) than my usual fare, but still familiar enough to be comfortable. The atmosphere, the menu selection, the presentation, the value, are all so wonderful that every time I go, I want to go back immediately.

One of my all-time favorite dishes is the beef masaman, listed under "curries" on the menu. It's called "A classic Thai curry dish," described as a "mild curry with onions, coconut cream, cashews and slices of avocado." Masaman can also be made with chicken but I love the original too much to change. The taste of the sauce somehow registers as "absolute happiness" in my mind. I don't know what I'll do when I graduate, but I know that I'll somehow have to come back to Memphis if just for this one dish.

The story is that masaman is served to honor young monks about to enter the priesthood in Thailand at their celebratory dinner. Now, I'm not saying I want to become a monk, but if that was the only

way I could get some masaman, I'd think about it.

If all this talk about monks kind of freaks you out or (Heaven forbid) you don't like masaman, stick with the pad Thai. An entrée of sautéed Thai rice noodles with chicken, egg, bean sprouts, scallions, and roasted ground peanuts, pad Thai is a fun dish to eat and even more fun to watch a friend eat. If they are using chopsticks, the visual effect is especially striking—imagine eating spaghetti and meatballs with chopsticks! Pad Thai at Sawaddi sticks closest to my personal idea of what pad Thai really is.

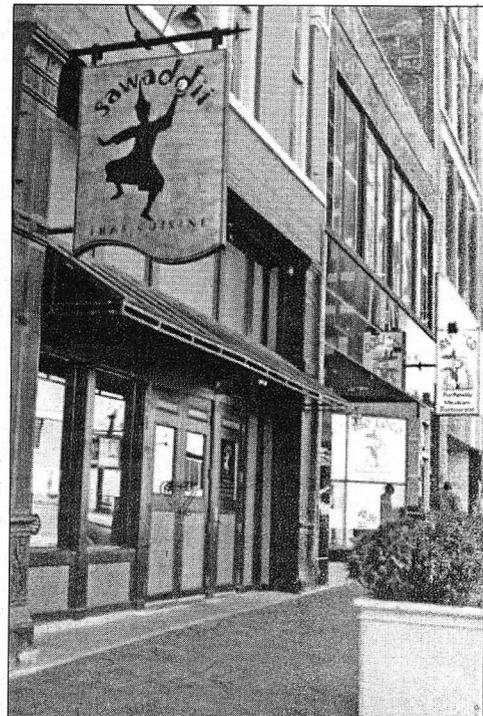
These are my two favorite dishes, but if you want to try something a little (or a lot) spicier, the menu allows you to gauge your spiciness tolerance, using asterisks next to the "Spicy" dishes and two asterisks next to the "Hot" dishes. Be forewarned that the "Hot" dishes are "stuff-some-rice-in-your-mouth-quick" hot.

If you are sticking to non-alcoholic beverages, please, please, please have the Thai tea or Thai coffee either with your meal or afterward. But don't order them right away—they're so good that they'll be

long gone by the time your food arrives. These are iced and made with condensed milk. You have never had anything quite like them. They still have that Thai flavor and are sweet and delicious. I like to have a Thai coffee at the end of the meal when I'm thinking of what to do or where to go next.

The prices are very reasonable for what you get. The pad Thai is \$9 and the masaman is \$12. The whole experience is worth the price. The atmosphere is soothing and very adult. When I walk into Sawaddi, the color of the walls somehow always surprises me. The red wine color lets me know that I am in for something different. You will have a different sort of experience there, featuring relaxing, enjoyable dining. It's difficult to describe how calm I feel eating at Sawaddi. Try it out and you'll see what I mean.

Sawaddi is located at 121 Union Ave., one block west of the Peabody Hotel. It is open Monday through Friday for lunch and dinner and Saturday and Sunday for dinner only.



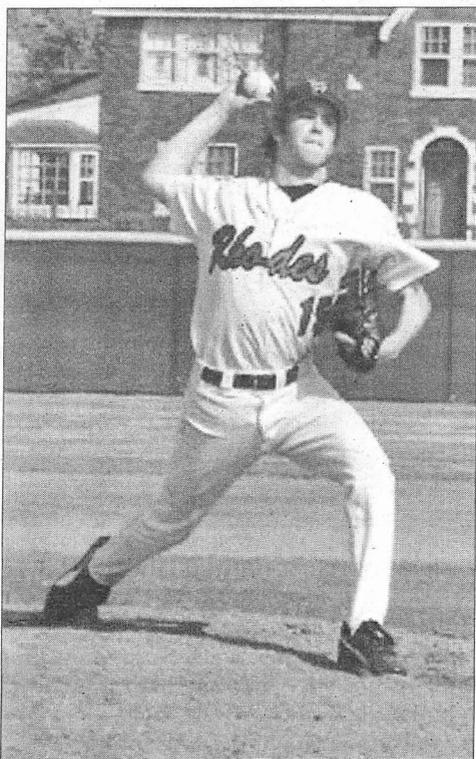
KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

Sawaddii offers an excellent variety of Thai food.

Lynx sweep Pirates; on another 5 game tear

By KEVIN COMER

The Rhodes baseball team is on another winning streak after defeating Southwestern University in all three games this weekend. The Lynx outscored the Pirates by a total of 22 runs and improved to 22-7 overall and 8-5 in the SCAC. Southwestern is now a distant fourth place in the Western Division of the SCAC, as the Lynx's three-game sweep gave them a substan-



EVAN ELLIOTT/The Sou'wester

Right-handed hurler Andy Holt ('09) delivers a pitch in Sunday's 11-3 Lynx triumph.

tial third place lead over both the Pirates and the Hendrix Warriors. Rhodes has ten contests left, with seven of those being conference games, where they will face Trinity, Hendrix, and Millsaps, before the SCAC tournament at Sewanee.

In order to qualify for the SCAC tournament, the Lynx must finish within the top three teams of the Western Division where they will likely contend with Millsaps (11-4, 20-8) and Trinity (10-4, 22-8). With their dominant performance over the Pirates this weekend, the Lynx promise to be contenders in the conference tournament.

Robert Flanagan ('08) (7-1) surrendered just two runs on seven hits in the seven inning game one of Saturday's double-header, as Rhodes' batters lit up the score board in the 13-2 win. The Lynx posted four runs in the top of the fourth and continued their offensive onslaught when they scored twice in both the fourth and fifth, and tacked on five runs in the sixth.

Rhodes continued a string dominant pitching performances in the following game, with Andy Holt ('09) (3-4) yielding only 2 runs on 8 hits in 7 innings. Lynx batters provided run support with a four run output in the bottom of the sixth to give them a 6-2 lead. Paul Schneider ('06) tripled to lead off the inning; he scored on a Sac fly to right by Daniel Killary ('07). Southwestern scored only one more run to give the Lynx a 6-3 victory over the SCAC rival. Richard Hurd ('08) went 3 for 5. Daniel Vanaman ('08) went 2 for 3.

In game three, Schneider took the mound and yielded only 2 runs on 7 hits in 6 innings of work, as the Lynx domi-



EVAN ELLIOTT/The Sou'wester

Richard Hurd ('08) was a combined 6 for 15 with 5 RBIs this weekend against Southwestern and was named the SCAC Player of the Week.

nated Southwestern 11-3. Matt Beasley ('08) went 4 for 5, while J.R. Bizzell ('09) went 2 for 4 and scored three runs. Richard Hurd had 3 RBIs.

The Lynx travel to Jackson, Mississippi this Wednesday to compete against Mississippi College and are scheduled to play the Trinity Tigers on Friday night. Last weekend's sweep puts the Lynx within 2 wins of the number two slot in the

Western Division of the SCAC, which is currently held by Trinity.

With the momentum of a five game win streak, the Lynx will attempt to take another game from the Tigers. The Lynx's stellar performance this weekend positions them for an SCAC tournament appearance, where they will be a powerful opponent.

Womens Soccer Hopes to Build on Spring Preparation

By ED LANE
Staff Writer

Having practiced all spring, with only intra-squad scrimmages as a means to gauge improvement, the Rhodes ladies soccer team had started to turn against each other. Ok, so the female Terrell Owens never showed up to destroy the Lady Lynx chemistry, but the team was getting tired of competing against itself. That frustration was eased over the weekend, as Coach Bobby Lessentine's team played a pair of scrimmages.

Saturday's contest against the Rhodes alumni served as a nice tune-up for the Sunday exhibition game against the University of Central Arkansas. On Saturday, the underclassmen played against current seniors and former Lady Lynx players. Playing against some new faces gave the 2006 squad an opportunity to demonstrate some of the skills they had learned in spring practice.

"We've been working hard on the practice field, trying to develop the skills and soccer minds of the girls," noted Lessentine. "They continue to impress me each day, and I'm proud of how far they've come."

On Sunday afternoon, the Lady Lynx capitalized on that opportunity to hone some new skills, as they defeated the University of Central Arkansas, 2-1. A Division II school that will move to Division I in the fall, the Lady Bears served as a measure of where Rhodes stands against stout competition.

Playing without injured central midfielders, Katy Buckner ('07) and Kara Purdy ('09), Rhodes was forced to experiment by playing some players at different positions. After a

deflection from a corner kick resulted in an early UCA goal, the Lady Lynx could have folded. Instead, less than a minute later, sophomore central midfielder Caroline Voelkel ('08) capitalized on an error by a Lady Bear defender and knotted the contest at a goal apiece.

That tie held into the second half, until forward Jessie Cassidy ('09) took a midfield pass and put it in the net, scoring what would prove to be the game-winning goal. A lethal combination of windy conditions and stifling Lynx defense thwarted UCA's comeback aspirations, as the Lady Bears remained pinned in their own territory for the last twenty minutes of the contest.

The 2-1 victory over UCA was only a scrimmage, but it provided Rhodes a much-needed opportunity to compete against another squad. More importantly, any win against a school that large gives confidence to a program still seeking their first NCAA tournament berth.

"I think the girls handled it well and have truly progressed beyond an already stellar fall," exclaimed Coach Lessentine in his evaluation of the spring preparation. "I'm really excited, and I'll be counting the days until I can coach the team in preparation for a run at the SCAC Championship and an NCAA tournament berth."

And why not? They finished second in the SCAC last fall and only lost four starters from that squad. If the 2006 team steps up, the Lady Lynx could be on their way to a conference title and that inaugural NCAA tournament appearance.



Photo courtesy of Kara Purdy

Katie Jones ('08) tackles the ball away from two UCA players in Rhodes' 2-1 win.