

The Weekly Student Newspaper of  
Rhodes College

# THE SOU' WESTER



VOL. XCI. NO. 19

4.20.05

## Review

Andrew O'Brien re-views Woody Allen's newest movie, *Melinda and Melinda*, starring Will Ferrel and Radha Mitchell.

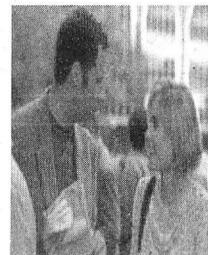


Photo courtesy of www.geocities.com

SeeScene

## Opinion

Jenna Sadar writes on the disappearance of the Briggs condom machines and discusses the conservatism involved in the removal.

SeeOpinion

## Rites to Play

Annual carnival brings local children to Rhodes for Rites weekend

By Jonathan Wigand

On Saturday, April 15, during the excitement of Rites of Spring, Rhodes hosted its 8th annual Rites to Play carnival in Oak Alley and on the Buckman lawn. "The carnival was a huge success," said Tiffany Merritt, who is the Community Service Coordinator for the Chaplain's Office. "We had close to 400 children in attendance and 26 students running booths."

The carnival is put on every year during Rites of Spring by the Kinney Program and the Chaplain's Office as an opportunity for Memphis children and the "big kids" who attend Rhodes to simply play and have fun.

Funding is provided by these offices as well as by the President's Office so that admission is free for all children who wish to attend.

Attendees of the carnival this year included children of faculty as well as children from elementary schools such as Springdale, Snowden, and Kipp Diamond Academy. But the majority of children came with agencies such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Memphis and the Boys and Girls Club of Memphis.

Many of the agencies were glad to have an event created specifically for the enjoyment of their clients - the children. "I had a lot of agency representatives come up to me to express

their delight in the carnival," said Merritt.

Each year, volunteers are provided to run the booths by various student organizations at Rhodes. This year's booths included favorites of past carnivals, including a bean bag toss sponsored by FOSTER and an AOPie toss, sponsored by the Rhodes chapter of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

There were also new additions, such as a coloring table sponsored by Le Club Cafe, Rhodes' French club, and boat races (consisting of a pool, two toy boats, and squirt guns with which to propel them) sponsored by the Chi Omega sorority. Each of the booths handed out toy prizes, and additional prizes were handed out at the end of the carnival. T-shirts carrying the theme of this year's carnival, "A World of Pure Imagination," were handed out at the entrance so that no child left empty-handed.

Alex Sedlander ('05) acted as the chair of the planning committee for Rites to Play this year. "The carnival games were great, and the booths that the Rhodes student organizations sponsored were creative and fun. It was so rewarding just to sit back and watch the children running, laughing, playing, and having a great time with Rhodes students."



Photo by Michelle Hope

### RHODES CELEBRATES RITES TO PLAY

The Rhodes chapter of Sigma Tau Delta participates in the Rhodes Rites to Play carnival. Jeta Donovan ('05) helps local children make masks.

## WWII author visits Rhodes to share experiences

By Caroline Bishop

On March 17, Rhodes hosted acclaimed author Emily Yellin, who was here to talk about her recent book, *Our Mother's War: American Women at Home and at the Front During World War II*. The talk was sponsored by the department of Women's Studies as a part of Women's Studies month.

Yellin, a native Memphian who received her M.S. in journalism from Northwestern University, began the book after finding a letter that her late mother had written during the wartime years. Yellin began to read her mother's wartime letters, fascinated by this opportunity to connect with her mother in a new way.

Her mother's experience led Yellin to research the experience of other women who participated in World War II—as nurses, factory workers, spies, and even prisoners in the Japanese internment camps. The book grew out of first-hand accounts of women's experiences, and contains previously unpublished diaries and personal letters.

When she realized the diverse experiences that these women had had, Yellin began to wonder why it was that veteran soldiers had always been allowed to tell their war stories and their wives and sisters had not. She decided that she wanted to break the myth that, as she says, "the greatest generation contained only men."

Students and faculty alike enjoyed Yellin's talk. Yellin began by sharing some of her mother's letters and stories of her life during

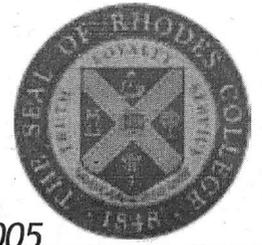
the war, then touched on other women's wartime experiences. She pointed out that in recent years women's huge involvement in WWII has been obscured, the focus being placed entirely on male soldiers. However, women were an important and vital force during the war, and, in many ways, worked harder than the men.

Present at the talk were several women who had served in various ways during the war. After Yellin's formal discussion ended, these veterans were invited to share their experiences. Several had been members of the female army corps called the WAVES. One had been a disc jockey during the war, and had been given the responsibility of announcing the victory of D-Day to the public.

Professor Judy Haas, who organized Yellin's visit, reported that she was pleased with the final result. "I thought the talk was a success," she said, adding, "I was especially happy that we had in the audience a number of women who shared their experiences serving in WWII."

Rhodes students also agreed that they enjoyed Yellin's decision to integrate the personal experiences of the veterans into her discussion. "Getting to hear these women share about their activities during the war really brought the message of her talk home and gave it a personal face," said Matt Lovett ('07).

Rites to Play, continued on Page 4



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 founded 1848

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## What about the condom machines?

By JENNA SADAR

When I first set out to write this article, my intention was to demonstrate the erroneous logic in taking down the condom machines on second floor Briggs. Removing them was concrete evidence that I had been right all along: Rhodes is too conservative. However, not far into my investigations, it became clear that the article would have to serve a different purpose; I was - for a brief moment - a detective on a case that no one could solve. That plan, too, was ruined this morning when I solved the case, resulting in a story that I expect will raise some suspicion about how things are accomplished on this campus.

As you may or may not know, several Rhodes students launched what I'm told was an arduous campaign to make condoms accessible to the student body twenty-four hours a day. Their campaign was met with support from some areas that would opt for safe sex rather than deny the existence of sexual activity on a college campus. However, there were other parties that worried about the placement of condom machines; they

should be strategically located in an area that would not be seen by either parents or trustees. After several months of discussions and deliberations, it was decided that the bathrooms on the second floor of Briggs Hall offered an acceptable solution to all parties. They are open all day, are centrally located, and are rarely visited by people who might object to the presence of condoms at Rhodes. So, just before Valentine's Day of 2004, condom machines were installed in Briggs.

Unfortunately, after less than a year, the machines mysteriously disappeared and whoever took them down did so with such caution that the walls were patched so as to make it look like the machines had never existed. Patricia Sterba, director of campus health services, recalls stocking the machines at the end of the fall semester and says that when she attempted to do so again at the start of this semester, they were gone. And so began the afore mentioned private investigation.

Ms. Sterba, RSG, and the students who were instrumental in obtaining the con-

dom machines all set out to learn who had given the order to take them down. They asked Carol Casey for an explanation; she offered none. They questioned the physical plant worker who actually took the machines down and he claimed to be unaware of who gave the order to remove them. They contacted Brian Foshee and he too seemed to be unable to provide any information. Soon, however, a consensus was reached by all of the investigators involved: the condom machines were taken down because of fear that someone might be offended by seeing them.

Crazy, I know. This is the point in the story where I become involved. Determined to expose the absurdity of the idea that the college might be more influenced by a possible future problem than by the actual health and safety of the students, I too started asking questions and I got answers. This past Monday, Dean Stackman told me that the condom machines were removed in anticipation of renovation and construction on the second floor of Briggs Hall. He further assured me that they will be made available to the students by the start of next semester at the latest and that, along with the condom

Fear, continued on Page 3

## Letter to the Editor

Recently, the Social Regulations Council has noticed some misunderstanding about many aspects of our day-to-day functioning. In this article, our goal is to educate the student body about the Social Regulations Council as well as the standards of the Rhodes Community that the Council is responsible for upholding. As stated in Article I, Section 1 of our constitution, two essential aspects of our Council are "to promote responsible, sensitive, and mature conduct among students" as well as "to educate those who are a part of the Rhodes Community about its standards and to explain what constitutes a violation of those standards." Upon our arrival into this community, we collectively agree to hold ourselves to a higher standard, and when students violate this agreement, their cases are adjudicated by the appropriate student council (these standards can be found on the Rhodes website: <http://www.rhodes.edu/Rhodes/CampusCommunity/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentHandbook/StudentConduct/TheStandards-of-the-Rhodes-Community.cfm>). The following will be a brief overview of our procedure, both inside and outside of the hearing process.

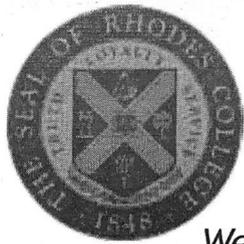
Cases are referred to us by concerned students, faculty, or administrators who feel they have witnessed a violation. Any student on the Council who reports a violation, or is unable to hold an unbiased opinion (i.e., is friends with the accused student(s)), will not be allowed to participate in the hearing. An Investigator is appointed by the President to interview all people involved in the incident and write up their statements to be presented to each individual in-

involved in the hearing. Before incidents come in front of the Council, the President, Investigator, and the Secretaries—all nonvoting members—meet in a pre-hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence for a hearing. These individuals discuss the incident without using the names of those involved to ensure objectivity

**The hearing itself will proceed until all Council members feel they can make a decision—based on the evidence presented—about the charges involved in the case.**

in the decision making process (an aspiration which the Council takes very seriously on all levels). Each accused student chooses a member from the council to act as their advisor through the entire process. The advisor does not advocate for the student in any way, but informs them about SRC procedure, what to expect in the hearing, and how to conduct themselves. Also, all relevant information is presented to the accused before the hearing so they can prepare any questions or comments. The hearing itself will proceed until all Council members feel they can make a decision—based on the evidence presented—about the charges involved in the case. When the hearing concludes, the Council begins deliberation.

Letter, continued on Page 3



Wednesday, April 22, 2005

PAGE 3  
**OPINION**

## You should say hello

By **PATRICK RHAMEY**

A dome of light and sound covered the amphitheater as I approached it Saturday night. The drink(s) I had just finished only enhanced the experience. There in the amphitheater was the Rhodes campus, together, enjoying music, and one another.

As I've seen over the past couple years, and particularly this year with the beautiful weather, Rites of Spring has some odd, inexplicable ability to unite us as students. I don't know, maybe it's the alcohol, but the community at Rites is always amazing to me.

I stand on the little wall that forms the flowerbed in the middle of the quad, the perfect spot to see everything. Off to my right a BSA member is dancing with one of the tri-delts. Dean Stackman, wearing baggy shorts and flip flops, walks around talking to various students (all of whose names he knows off the top of his head.) One of the condom fairies is laughing with an officer of RCF. To my left a group of republicans laughs with a group democrats, and of course, more condom fairies. Craig Cooper is talk-

ing to a large group of people, because obviously, Craig knows everyone. Below me the quad is filled with every Rhodes demographic imaginable. Every

*No more false divisions arbitrarily created by organizations and groups. We were all there, and we had a good time, together. The innate beauty of community lay there before me, put to music.*

religion, Greek affiliation, race, clique, and social status, all dancing together, moving to the rhythm of the music, in unison, without interruption, without acknowledgment of the other's difference; without judge-

student, actual and potential consequences, as well as a student's past record (if one exists). Keep in mind that a student's record is only divulged to the council once (s)he has been found in violation. All sanctions are imposed with the intent of educating the student while also taking into consideration the seriousness of the violation, what is best for the community, as well as any other circumstances surrounding the conduct. These circumstances are strictly confidential. Consequently, information from which the council bases its decisions is

ment. For once, we were all the same. No more formalities. No rat tables to divide us. No more false divisions arbitrarily created by organizations and groups. We were all there, and we had a good time, together. The innate beauty of community lay there before me, put to music.

I walked into the rat Monday for lunch, got my disturbingly moist pork loin, and walked out into the dining hall. We had gone back to the way we were. As I scanned the room, I first saw the ATOs, with their girlfriends. Next was a table of black students; then came the KDs. Next sat the Kappa Sigs, then the Pikes, with their respective groupies. Behind them sat the football players, awkwardly seated next to a group of math professors discussing a topic I will never understand. The Sigma Nus sat at the next table, laughing about something, while a group of gay and lesbian students sat at the opposite end of the table and did the same. The SAEs sat in the back. All were content at the seclusion they had created among themselves.

Obviously we each have friends of our own, but why are we so divided? Divided to the point where we absolutely cannot stand one another. Indeed, divided to

not available to the general student body. For good reason, this disparity of information will always exist. Council members, witnesses, and the accuser are all bound by the oath of privacy—that is, they cannot talk about the details of the case with anyone who was not present. The accused is not bound by such an oath, so (s)he is free to say anything (s)he wishes. Sometimes, their comments are a gross mischaracterization of our decision and the reasoning for it. As a result, students must be aware of these issues before coming to a hastily drawn conclusion about any of the Council's decisions. In other

the point that we apparently are unable to eat with one another.

The beauty of community displayed at Rites should not be exclusive to that sole weekend. Talk to one another. Eat with one another. Party with one another. With an exceptional, and praiseworthy few, we are all guilty of falling short of an appreciation for one another. So whether it is that person you think you despise, the person you don't know eating alone, the person who is in another fraternity, the girl you have a crush on, the guy who hooked up with that girl last weekend, the Dean of Students, that guy you think hates you for who you are, the Christian kid, the Muslim kid, the Atheist kid, or the kid that makes fun of all of you, in the words of Guster, "Don't be shy,

words, we can't control what the accused—or anyone else not involved in the hearing process—will say about our cases, but, unfortunately, we are unable to respond directly to even the harshest criticism of the council.

It is this issue that is our greatest concern. There must be a high degree of trust between the student body and the SRC so that the council can continue to uphold those standards that we—the Rhodes community—hold so dear. Please understand that the council is entirely composed of students and that, contrary to what some may believe, we are not out to get anybody. If you have any concerns or comments, feel free to contact any of the 19 members of the council. And, of course, if you have witnessed a violation—or what you think may be a violation—please contact the President, Ashley Carver. The SRC & Honor Council constitutions can be found on the Rhodes website at this link: <http://www.rhodes.edu/CampusCommunity/PoliciesandProcedures/Student-Handbook.cfm> under the heading: Constitutions.

-Social Regulations Council

*Condom machines, continued from Page 2*

machines, he hopes to provide twenty four hour access to basic over-the-counter drugs.

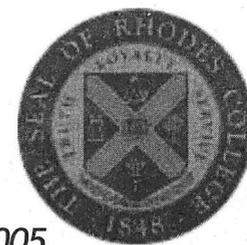
What do I think made it so very easy for me to obtain this very sensible information when others who had been trying to do so for months were unable? I had the distinct ability to make the administration look bad or good by writing either a nasty article or one full of praise. When I scheduled an appointment with Dean Stackman, I made it clear that I was planning to write an article on the removal of the condom machines from Briggs, and the evidence supports that theory that fear of the press was deciding factor in producing a reasonable explanation.

When Dean Stackman explained the new - and I will agree excellent - plan to me, he mentioned that he had been in contact with Ms. Patty Sterba and Carol Casey. However, when I spoke to Ms. Sterba only five days prior to my meeting with Dean Stackman, she remained in the dark to such a point that she declared what has happened to the machines "a puzzle to me." I also happen to know that the RSG senator who has been heading up the fight for the condom machines, Angela Kornman, has tried several times to contact Carol Casey for information and has yet to receive a response.

So, there is certainly a lesson to be learned here, and it is up to each of you to decide whether that lesson is a positive or negative one. There are apparently some situations on this campus that will not be addressed rationally; condom machines will not be provided as a health service to a sexually active student body. Rather, the looming threat of public embarrassment is sometimes a tool that we must use to achieve expeditious results. Thank goodness for *The Sou'wester*.

*SRC, continued from Page 2*

There are two sections of the deliberative process: (1) determining whether the accused student(s) are in violation or not in violation or the charges held against them, and (2) if we vote an accused student in violation, what sanctions are appropriate. Each stage involves lengthy and careful discussion considering all evidence presented. There are several factors that council members consider while developing an appropriate sanction. These factors include, but are not limited to, the intent of the



## Week in Review

### International

**Vatican city:** Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected the 265th pope of the Catholic Church on Tuesday and chose the name Benedict XVI. Ratzinger is Dean of the College of Cardinals and a high-profile conservative. The 78 year-old Cardinal, and one time member of the Hitler Youth, announced himself to the crowd at St. Peter's Basilica saying, "Dear brothers and sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the Cardinals have elected me."

**China:** Future Chinese retirees may face dire economic straits. The Chinese Government is hurdling toward a retirement crisis that makes American financial problems with social security look tame. 25 years ago, when China began abandoning its

central planning, it did more than just free its economy, shattering the country's traditional social welfare system. Government officials said last month that the nation lacks \$300 billion needed for current retirees.

**Afghanistan:** 17 Afghan men recently released from the US detention center for terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay were turned over to local authorities in Kabul on Tuesday with a warning not to discuss mistreatment at the facility. Nonetheless, one of the men accused the US military of abuse but gave no details. Afghan Chief Justice Fazil Hadi Shinwari urged the men not to complain about treatment, fearing it could jeopardize the chances for more releases. This was the largest release of prisoners since the war on terror began.

### National

**North Carolina:** Recreational divers will be permitted to explore near a wreck that some archeologists believe to be Blackbeard's pirate ship, Queen Anne's Revenge. The new state program will allow 320 divers a year to visit the wreckage of the ship which was sunk in 1718 off of Atlantic Beach. Trips can be arranged through local dive shops.

**Tennessee:** Governor Phil Bredesen announced plans on Monday to use surplus state revenues to increase the pay of state workers, including teachers and other higher education employees. The proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year will earmark 44 million dollars for a one percent pay rate for state em-

ployees as well as a for a one percent one time bonus.

**Kansas:** Dennis Rader, the man accused of the BTK serial killings, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Tuesday. The waiver was an acknowledgment that the state has enough evidence to go to trial. Rader's attorneys said after the hearing that he would plead not guilty at his arraignment.

**Oklahoma:** On Tuesday, in recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, children who lost parents recited the names of the dead while mourners laid bouquets on empty chairs to symbolize the victims. More than 1600 people gathered to remember the 168 people killed on April 19, 1995 by Timothy McVeigh.

*Rites to Play, continued from Page 1*

This year, the Rites to Play committee felt that it was very important to stress the fact that Rites to Play is designed not only for children, but also for Rhodes students. "Rites to Play is an important event because it gives Rhodes students the chance to interact with children from all over the Memphis community," said Sedlander. "It is a way for students to give back to our community while having a great time.

For this reason, students were not only asked to volunteer but also encouraged to attend Rites to Play for their own entertainment. There were more inflatables and the carnival was designed with both age groups in mind.

The Rites to Play committee worked with RAB to ensure that the time and location did not interfere with Rites to Play Harder, a more adult-sized carnival which was begun two years ago as an event to follow Rites to Play.

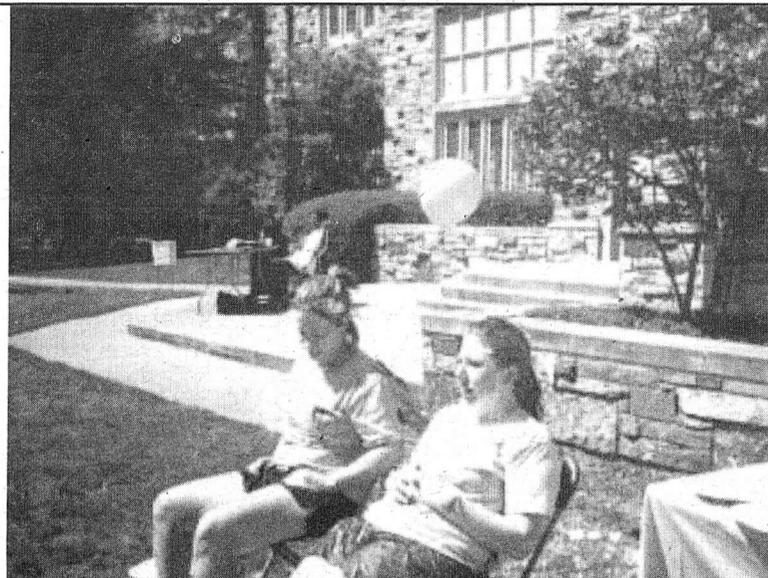


Photo by Michelle Hope

**ALPHA OMICRON PI SORORITY PARTICIPATES IN RITES TO PLAY**  
AOII President, Cathrine Scott ('06) and Krissy Eron ('08) allow pies to be thrown at their faces at the "AOPie toss" booth.

"We wanted students to feel welcome to attend both, and to have just as much fun at one carnival as they would at another," said Merritt.

Neither event suffered any loss of attendance or popularity. Rites

to Play was attended not only by children but also students, some of whom arrived out of curiosity at the chalk messages left outside their dorms. "It was so rewarding to see how much fun the kids and students were having on Saturday," said Sedlander. "Some students told me that they wished they had known about Rites to Play sooner because it was such a great event to attend and get involved in during Rites of Spring."

The Tau Sigma Chapter of the International English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta would like to announce the following new members:

Courtney Bollinger ('06)  
Warren Boone ('06)  
Elizabeth Brandon ('06)  
Sarah Cheon ('05)  
Will Corvey ('06)  
Tracey George ('06)  
Harris Golden ('06)  
Laura Hettinger ('06)  
Whitney Howell ('06)  
Erin Langston ('06)  
Nicole Lobdell ('05)  
Shelby Monning ('06)  
Andrew O'Brien ('05)  
Addie Peyronnin ('06)  
Emily Reynolds ('05)  
Laura Rigazzi ('07)  
Lucie Watkins ('05)  
Liz Wiedemann ('05)  
Cleve Wiese ('05)  
Matthew Writt ('06)

### Making Service Matter Day

April 23  
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Orgill Room

All are invited to engage in discussion about issues that affect you, those you serve, and your global neighbors.

11:00-11:15. Welcome  
11:20-12:00. Workshop I  
12:05-12:45. Workshop II  
12:45-1:15. Lunch  
2:00-2:30. Advocacy

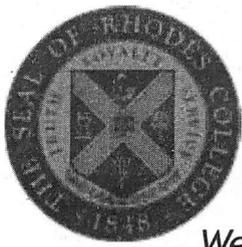
Please join us for one or all of the workshops.  
Lunch from Quizno's will be provided.

Contact Brenna Raghianti  
(ragbm@rhodes.edu)

### Graduation 2005

Baccalaureate:  
Friday, May 13  
at Mississippi  
Boulevard  
Church, 3 p.m.

Commencement:  
Saturday, May  
14 in Fisher  
Garden, 9:30  
a.m.  
Rain location:  
Mississippi  
Boulevard  
Church.



## Changes to Greek Life on campus

By Jennifer Hamblin

During the last two years, Elizabeth Berry, Director of Greek Life, has been making great strides to improve the Greek system at Rhodes. Rhodes fraternities and sororities comprise 51% of the student body, and these 13 organizations have been greatly influenced by Berry. Some changes include improvements with inter-Greek relations among the chapters, and making service, scholarship, and overall success a priority of each fraternity and sorority. Berry is also responsible for Greek Week, noting, "Before I got here, Rhodes didn't even have a Greek Week!"

As demonstrated this spring, Greek Week was filled with numerous activities available for all students. The focus of the week was to build relationships among the different organizations, and to encourage interaction between Greeks and non-Greeks (there is only one day exclusively reserved for Greeks). It also served the added bonus of providing alcohol-free entertainment for all members of Rhodes.

In addition to Greek Week, Berry has ushered in other changes since she began in 2003, including a new process of membership selection for sororities. "Rhodes was one of sixteen schools to participate in a pilot program for female recruitment member selection," says Berry.

The program is aimed at changing the method of new-member selection to allow for more flexibility during recruitment. For example, in the past Greek women were unable to socialize with potential new members outside of their sorority houses during recruitment. But, the new activity schedule allows the potential new members and members of sororities the oppor-

tunity to socialize outside of recruitment parties, making the rush process less stressful for all involved.

Greek Week and changes in recruitment rules are only two of the many ways Berry is influencing Greek life. Berry is very focused on helping each organization give back to the Memphis community through service opportunities. Each fraternity and sorority not only raises money for their chapter's national philanthropy, but also for other important causes such as the Tsunami Relief Fund, Target House, St. Jude, Habitat for Humanity, and local elementary students. Bringing the houses together to perform service projects gives the groups a chance to interact while providing much needed services for the Memphis community.

In order to recognize all of the hard work that the chapters are doing, Berry hopes to start a Greek Awards Ceremony. Awards for service, scholarship, new members, seniors, advisors, and other areas will be awarded to deserving members. Individual chapters are given the opportunity to nominate the members that best exhibit the characteristics each award acknowledges.

Lastly, Berry mentions the possibility of organizing a historically black fraternity, Alpha Chi Alpha. "There are three NPHC sororities on campus [and] this provides the men with a similar opportunity," says Berry.

In the past two years, Berry has produced a whirlwind of change for Rhodes' Greek community, and will continue to implement changes necessary to improve the Greek system.

Following are the results of the student elections which were conducted last Thursday, April 14.

### Class of 2006:

RSG: Philip Ruppel, Katie Ackerman, Katie Mullins, Caroline Ferrari, Angela Kornman

SRC: Justin Guthrie and Garrett Honea

RAB: Sarah Fairchild, Brandon Nugent, Marie Francis  
Honor Council: Ben Carroll, Paul Lewis, Danielle Mashburn, and Chasie Wallis

### Class of 2007:

RSG: Lori Dowell, Ashton Potter, Jake Sutherland, Jonathon Wright, and Ben Alexander

Honor Council: Nick Stutzman, Jon Snape, and Bethany Lindaman

RAB: Kate Adcock and Jessica Step

SRC: Kimberly Beydler, Anne Marie Crifasi, Jason Jordan, and Chase Williams

### Class of 2008:

RSG: Leah Hirsch, Miles Gariott, Colleen Bookter, Floyd Howard, Evie Plumb

SRC: Erica Aquadro, Sumati Jain, Tom Mudd and Michael Turco

Honor Council: Ellie Hahn, Liz Carlson, Drury Morris, and Mike Hathorn

RAB: Liv Brown, Alexander Heit, and Beau Gambold  
Publications Board: Ben Halbrooks

*The Sou'wester* would like to make the following correction: VOL. XCI. NO. 18. April 13. "Announcement." James Feuerbacher needs to be removed from the class of 2005 list.

## Spotlight on Community Service:

### Tiffany Merritt serves alma mater as Community Service Coordinator

By Jennifer Hamblin

Community service is a very strong part of the Rhodes culture, so to better understand service at Rhodes, one must first understand the Community Service Coordinator, Tiffany Merritt.

Merritt is a 2002 alumna of Rhodes, and after gaining a Master's degree from Harvard Divinity School, she has come back to help work with the Rhodes Service Scholar program and the many other service programs that Rhodes offers to students, such as the Rhodes Habitat chapter and the Kinney Service program.

"I am so glad that I was able to go to graduate school and gain a little bit of perspective, but I am absolutely thrilled to be back at my alma mater," says Merritt. "It is a joy to see the ways that the college and student body have progressed, even over only two years."

This has been a learning year for Merritt to gain a perspective of the administrative side of the service programs at Rhodes. Most of her learning has come from the students she works with. She also believes this is the most enjoyable part of her job.

"Helping students match their talents with community needs, watching students make connec-

tions between their courses and their service experiences, listening to someone speak with deep compassion, these are all moments of which I am privileged to be a part each and every day," says Merritt.

The Community Service Coordinator does a lot of the behind-the-scenes work to get Rhodes service programs running smoothly. Not only does Merritt work with the Bommer Foundation, but she also helps to establish partnerships with a number of non-profit organizations in the city. She also regularly speaks with prospective students and parents to help build the new generation of Rhodes service-oriented students.

"While I do spend a great deal of time working with and for service scholars, I am also here to be a resource for any student who wants to get involved in community service. I absolutely love meeting with students and helping them find the service site that is best for them."

Merritt is located directly above the mailroom and welcomes drop-ins and feedback from students. In her own words, her job is to "provide opportunities for those students interested in changing the world one step at a time."

### Bookstore announces funds raised

The Rhodes College Bookstore announced earlier this year that \$2,220 was collected in the bookstore for the Tsunami Relief Fund through the generosity of faculty, students, and community customers.

The relief initiative, which was part of an overall effort by the Follett Higher Education Group,

operator of the Rhodes College Bookstore, started on January 10, 2005 and ended on January 31, 2005. Totally, \$175,000 was raised in all Follett stores with 100% of all donations being forwarded to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to aid the people of South Asia and East Africa.



Wednesday, April 20, 2005

## THEATER REVIEW

*Metamorphoses* ~by Katie Bonds

*Metamorphoses* is about a series of intricate stories based on the myths of Ovid, mostly about love and its unpredictable nature. What makes the play so unique is that it is performed in and around a pool of water. The stage obviously took a lot of work because the actors and actresses can actually swim under the stage, allowing them to enter and exit in exceptional ways.

The play depicts several unusual tales with each of the actors and actresses playing many different parts. Although this might sound confusing, it usually isn't hard to follow because a narrator structures the action.

A good example of a complicated, yet easy to follow vignette

is that of Pomona, who loves flowers and trees more than men. She is pursued by Vertumnus, who cannot seem to win her love, and so tells

her the story of Myrrha, who also has no interest in men, and how she was cursed by Aphrodite to fall in love with

A few modern twists, including the actors and actresses suddenly donning sunglasses and breaking out into a hum of "Stand by Me," are also thrown into the play to add a bit of comic relief.

The Rhodes students are fabulous, as usual, but the Memphis students also blew the audience away with their superb acting. Rhodes cast members included Sophie Gatins ('06), Erin McGhee ('06), Jim Short ('08), Nate Smith ('08), and Andrew Whaley ('08). Professor Cookie Ewing of the Rhodes theater department is also taking part in the production as guest director.

Even if you do not like the ancient tales about Greek gods and goddesses, the play is still worth seeing for the force of the acting itself and the incredible set.

*Metamorphoses* will be playing April 20-23, with all performances beginning at 8 p.m. The show is located at the University of Memphis Main Stage.

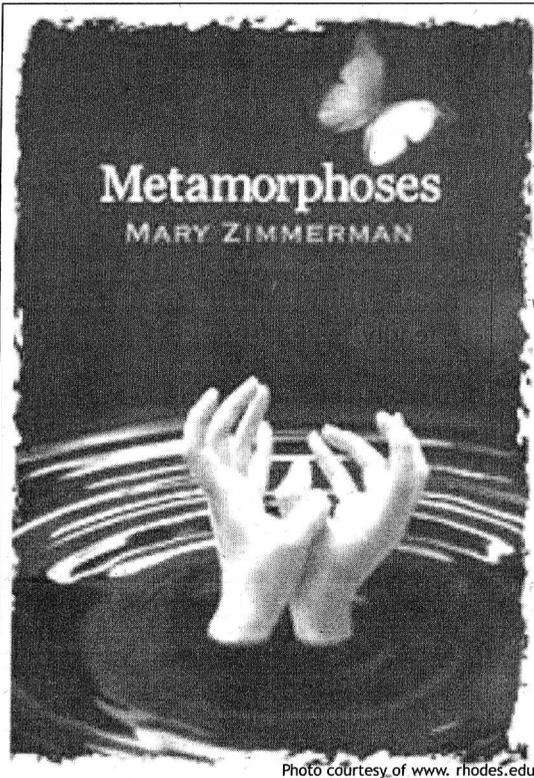


Photo courtesy of www.rhodes.edu

her father. This tale, in particular is a story, within a story, within a story, which also involves the help of the audience. Whew.

### Rhodes hosts two upcoming events on the A&E calendar

By Leah Kaye and Erin Kitchell

This Thursday night in the Blount Auditorium, Center Stage will be performing this semester's play, entitled, *Got Independence?* "Cause there's a whole lot of livin' goin' on." The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

If you have never seen one of Mary Claire Giffin's ('05) Center Stage plays before, you had better catch this one before she graduates. Center Stage is a theater troupe for people with disabilities. It is connected with the Memphis Center for Independent Living and the Independent Living division of the Kinney Community Service Program on campus.

This semester's play is a continuation of the theme of advo-

cacy for equal rights for those with disabilities. In addition, the play promotes an equalized social perception of those with disabilities and raises general awareness in the community.

The troupe has been performing plays on Rhodes campus every semester since 2001, and this one promises to be no different. It will undoubtedly cause audience members to shed a tear of pride and admiration, as it has for me every semester.

Come especially to check out the new ramp that Rhodes has purchased, giving wheelchairs access to stages all over campus.

If you have time for arts and entertainment with a powerful message, here is your outlet.

This Saturday, April 23, the first ever Rhodes Fine Arts Festival

is being held in the McCoy Theatre from 1-4 p.m. The brain child of a dedicated group of Rhodes students and faculty members in the theatre department, the Fine Arts Festival is an opportunity to support the arts and encourage on-campus participation in them. The festival has three main performances. Jim Short ('08) and Emily Popp ('08) will present a short scene from the one act play "All in the Family," beginning at 1:15. Their performance will be followed by concerts by the Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz String Project from 1:45-2:45 p.m. Finally, Contents Under Pressure will put on an improv show from 3-4 p.m.

Students hoping to contribute to making the event an an-

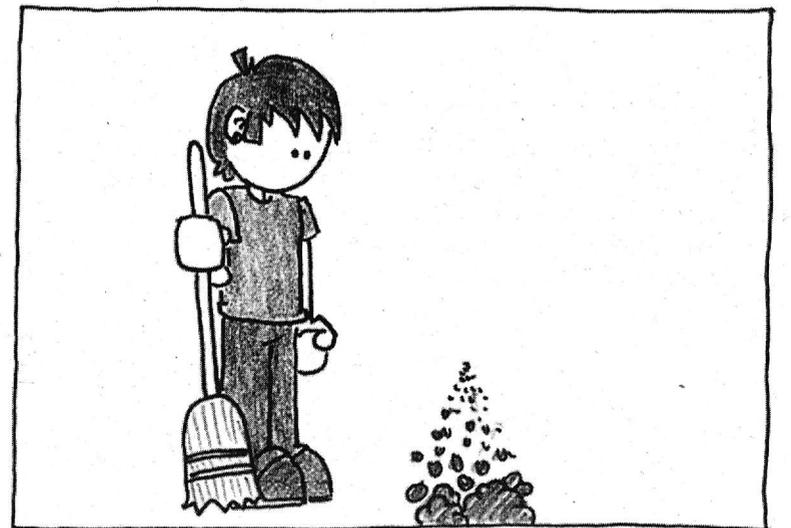
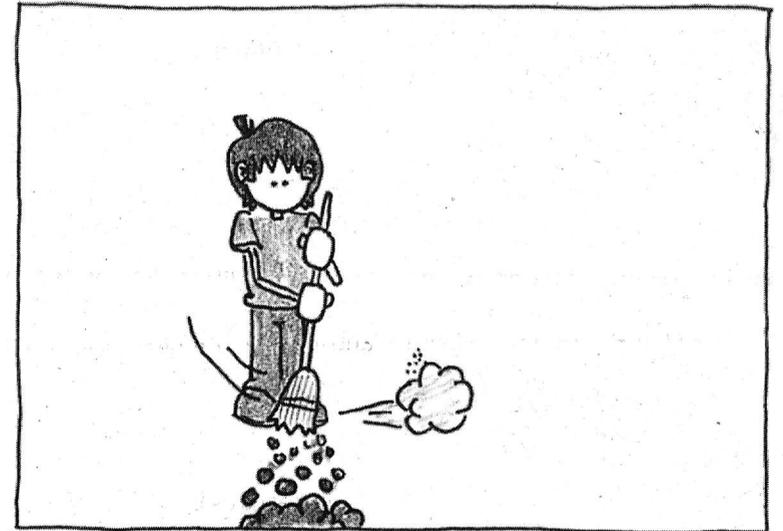
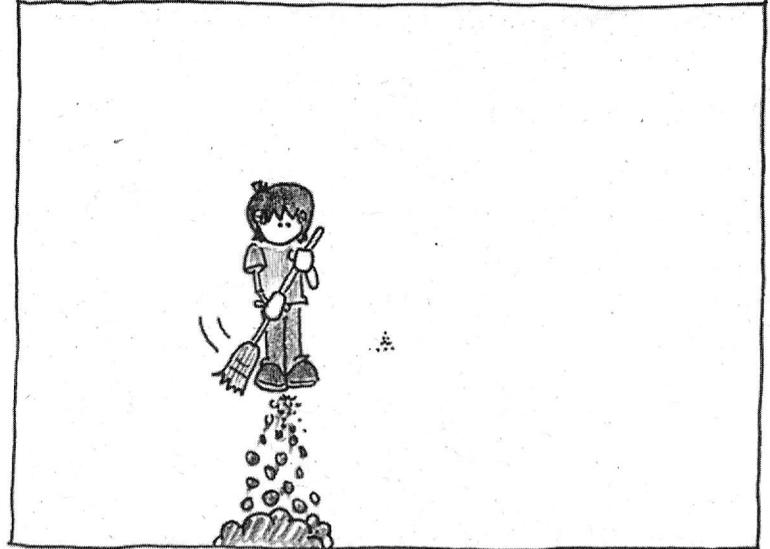
nual feature of campus life will sell their artwork with the profits going to next year's festival. In addition to these fun-filled creative ventures, the festival will feature face-painting, henna demonstrations, balloon art, and a costume sale. This event promises to allow you to get in touch with the creative side that you may

be losing touch with as finals roll around.

Please come support this no-budget, volunteer-run effort to highlight the arts at Rhodes. Here's to hoping that the coordinators reach their goal of expanding the festival into a day-long event of performances and exhibits!

THIS WEEKEND

by LOGAN WHEELER





Wednesday, April 20, 2005

# Dinner & a Movie

This week, Charles White reviews the authentic Ethiopian experience at Abyssinia, and Andrew O'Brien reviews the Woody Allen movie Melinda and Melinda.

## Allen combines humor and drama in Melinda and Melinda

By Andrew O'Brien

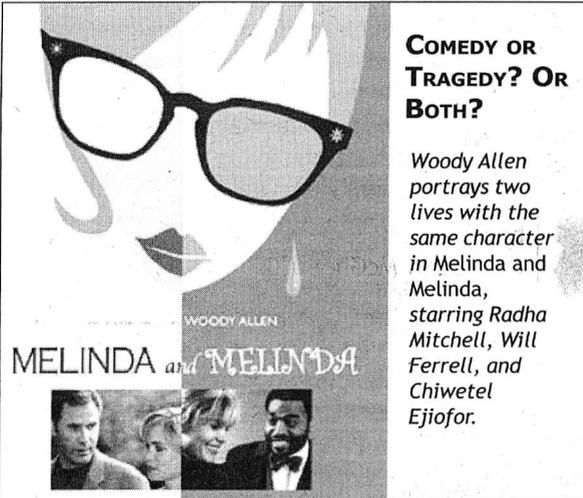
Woody Allen's new film *Melinda and Melinda* is a thoughtful exercise in the subtle differences between comedy and tragedy. The movie is actually two separate storylines, one dramatic and one funny, both involving a character named Melinda (Radha Mitchell) who unexpectedly barges into the lives of a New York couple. Radha's Melinda is the only common factor in the two storylines, which otherwise feature only similar situations and characters. In the comedic portion of the film, Melinda's intrusion into the lives of film director Susan (Amanda Peet) and her hapless husband Hobie (Will Ferrell) sets off a funny story about unrequited love and the comedy of errors in which young lovers find themselves. The Melinda in the dramatic section of the film is a much darker figure, and her impact on the lives of Lee (Johnny Lee Miller) and Laurel (Chloë Sevigny) is virulent and grave.

This is a powerful movie that is vintage Woody Allen. Allen has been waffling between comedy and drama throughout his career, putting out his slapstick faces like *Sleeper* and *Bananas*, thoughtful comedies like *Manhattan* and *Annie Hall*, serious dramas like *Interiors*, and even musicals in *Everyone Says I Love You* and *Sweet and Lowdown*. This film is more along the lines of his great *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, another movie that, like *Melinda and Melinda*, marries tragedy and comedy. The film therefore works as a distillation of Allen's film career and perhaps the filmmaker's own outlook on life, struggling to understand whether the world is an inherently comic or tragic place. The actors all do fine work, es-

pecially Mitchell herself, who holds the film together with her thoughtful interpretation of the two Melindas.

The film is not without its faults. First of all, Allen introduces the film's conceit with a self-conscious discussion between playwrights, one of comedies and one of dramas. They then propose a game in which they each take the same characters and similar plot elements and fashion a comedy and a drama, which leads us into the two separate stories. Although I suppose Allen thought he needed some way of introducing his concept, his use of this device is too labored and awkward. I think Allen should have been more ambitious and taken out these scenes altogether, allowing the viewer to put the pieces together for himself.

Also, Allen usually plays the leading man in his own films, but lately, in his old age, Allen has opted to hire younger comics for roles that he probably would have himself played twenty years ago. In these cases, his leading men sometimes have the annoying tendency to deliver unoriginal performances more like impersonations of Woody Allen. Therefore, what we frequently have is not a new interpretation of a character but a strange ersatz Woody Allen on stage with all of the mannerisms and intonations of the real thing. Kenneth Branagh was particularly guilty of this in *Celebrity*,



COMEDY OR TRAGEDY? OR BOTH?

Woody Allen portrays two lives with the same character in *Melinda and Melinda*, starring Radha Mitchell, Will Ferrell, and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

and here Will Ferrell is perhaps a little too much like the director's persona than I would like. I concede that perhaps Allen's characters are so anal and dopey that Allen himself set a high bar by playing his own characters so well. However, it still is strange to see Will Ferrell doing a bizarre sort of Woody Allen imitation, but these are minor quibbles.

For the newcomer to Woody Allen, this movie is a good crash course. It has all of the filmmaker's trademarks: New Orleans jazz, neurotic heroes, intriguing women, wit, soulful insight, and nobody shoots Manhattan like Woody Allen. For the viewer who knows Woody Allen's work, this movie is a refreshing exercise and, one must admit, a bit of a relief. His last few efforts like *Hollywood Ending* and *The Curse of the Jade Scorpion* were amusing little things, but nothing on the order of *Crimes and Misdemeanors* or *Sweet and Lowdown*. However, with this movie, Woody Allen confounds his critics and shows that he is still a filmmaker who knows his stuff and can make a movie both funny and thoughtful. At a time when most movies aren't either, this one is a treasure.

## Abyssinia offers excellent service and ideal sampling at the lunch buffet

By Charles White

Are you tired of the same old restaurant scene? Are you looking to expose your palette to new and interesting flavors? Then sample fine Ethiopian cuisine at Abyssinia.

Locally owned and operated, Abyssinia is a unique dining experience at a reasonable price. Their lunch buffet is easy on the pocket book at \$7.99 with their menu entrées ranging from \$7.99 to \$14.99.

The menu, especially the buffet, is very vegetarian-friendly. Most dishes are meat with sides of Ethiopian cabbage and green beans with pan fried baby carrots or a bean paste. If you do venture to Abyssinia I recommend the stir fried lamb; it packs a little heat and is an excellent dish. Many items on the menu are spicy, but the spicing can be catered to suit personal taste.

Although the meals on the whole are very tasty, the thing that makes Ethiopian dining unique is the bread that is served with it. Resembling a large pancake with a hint of

sourdough flavor, the bread serves as silverware (though silverware is provided for us Westerners averse to eating with our fingers).

Each entrée ordered from the menu comes with a complementary desert, and their chocolate rum cake is the best chocolate cake I have ever eaten - no lie. Chocoholics beware: it is to die for.

Even given the excellent and exotic cuisine, the best part of the Abyssinia dining experience is the friendly, personal service.

The restaurant is located at 2600 Poplar just before Union Extended. It can be hard to find as there are no large signs, but look for a building with multiple blue awnings.

Overall, Abyssinia comes highly recommended by many adventurous Rhodes students. While a voyage to Africa may not be in the cards for many of us anytime soon, Abyssinia offers the next best thing: a unique and foreign dining experience.



Photo courtesy of www.memphismenusonline.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Closed Sun. Buffet hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Coupons available at memphismenusonline.com

### 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 Sou'wester*, 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.

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Wednesday, April 20, 2005

## Lynx sweep Hendrix to finish season

By Evan Elliott

Rhodes baseball traveled to Hendrix last weekend for a three game series to round out the season. Following consecutive conference losses to Trinity last week and a wrenching loss to Harding University, the Lynx exploded in Conway - the site of this year's conference tournament - to beat the Warriors 9-5 and 11-8 on Saturday and 13-0 on Sunday.

Veteran leadership and flourishing freshman talent were again the story of Lynx success. Adam Keckler ('06) went six for 11 on the weekend to total three runs, six hits, and six RBIs. His performance pushed him passed freshman Vanaman to lead the team with a batting average of .378. Vanaman follows in a close second with a .371 average, lowered slightly after this weekend, but not without his 4 RBI contribution. Daniel leads all Lynx with a .436 on base percentage and 29 RBIs, while second in runs scored (28) and hits, with 53. His outstanding play has earned him SCAC Player of the Week honors, as well as Rhodes' Student Athlete of the Month recognition.

Center fielder Richard Hurd ('08) posted equally impressive numbers, going nine for 16, scoring five runs, and driving in five more. Hurd leads the team in five statistical categories: slugging percentage (.523), runs scored (30), which he shares with senior Derek Rabe, hits (55), home runs (3), and total bases (80). Additionally, Richard ranks second among his teammates in another five categories with two triples, 12 doubles, 26 RBIs, 16 walks, and seven stolen bases. Hurd was also the only Lynx to play every inning this spring.

Matt Beesley ('08) has established himself as a solid leader behind the plate, start-

ing all 39 games this season. Beesley caught one Warrior stealing last weekend to add to his league-leading total in assists, finishing the season with 27. "He's got one of the better arms in the conference," Cleanthes noted. Matt has responded exceptionally to the leadership position he inherited this season and will be one to watch for tremendous growth in his coming seasons as a Lynx.

Last weekend's series also featured a notable performance from freshman pitcher Robert Flanagan, who allowed only six hits in seven shutout innings in Sunday's 13-0 route. Flanagan, like Beesley, has shown much maturity this season, as he was asked to anchor the Lynx pitching staff with Colin Schultenover ('05), who has been a cornerstone of the staff throughout his career. In this, his rookie season, Flanagan pitched 74 innings, only two fewer than his veteran counterpart. This season, both Flanagan and Schultenover finished the season with 3-10 records, a career high in wins for Schultenover, and ERAs hovering around the 5.75 mark. Flanagan has shown exceptional discipline while maintaining dominance over batters as a first year starter; he walked only 19 batters in his 74 innings while striking out 54. Veteran outfielder Travis Cox ('05) bragged of Flanagan, "He gets nastier with every start." With that type of compliment, look for the lefty to continue to cause problems for SCAC hitters.

The conclusion of the season brought some of the best play out of several team members. Eben Cathey ('06) piled up seven hits in the series against Hendrix, and shortstop Daniel Killary ('07) rebounded from a broken hand that kept

him on the bench for the first half of the season to bolster the strength of the middle infield. Travis Cox provided a formidable threat in the bottom half of the lineup, capitalizing on the opportunity to generate welcomed RBIs. Cox should also be noted for his contribution as a relief pitcher, a capacity he was not expected to fill, but has done so quite well, picking up 2 wins and a save. "[James] Leffler, [David] Welch, and [David] Badham stepped up in some key situations to give us some key hits," Cleanthes said, recognizing the freshmen's contributions, particularly noting Leffler's work ethic.

Also returning, and with much anticipated success, are relievers Jeff France ('06) and Chris Catalanotto ('08), who picked up his first win against Hendrix last weekend. Sophomore Robby Piper will be called upon as a closer next season, a role he filled well last weekend as he shut down the Warriors' offense, striking out two in as many innings. Patrick Tolivar ('07), who missed much of the season due to a hamstring injury, will return as a top outfielder next year.

As previously noted, this years rookies have flourished, but the team's senior leadership cannot be overlooked. The consistent and disciplined play of second baseman Derek Rabe ('05) has been invaluable to this Lynx ball club. Rabe played all but five games this season, largely an effort by Coach Cleanthes to get rookie middle infielders Matt Jack and Jeff Mueller some much-needed playing time. In those 34 games, Rabe's consistent play afforded him some impressive statistics. He led the team with 30 runs scored (tied with Hurd) and hit for 13 doubles. He also led the team with 20 walks, had a .375 on base percentage, stole 14 of 16 bases, which also led the team, and can boast an impressive .924 fielding percentage. Though this is his last year as a Rhodes athlete, Rabe

plans to continue his baseball career in the front office of the Chicago Cubs. He will undoubtedly be missed.

The Lynx finished the season with an 11-28 record, 5-15 in SCAC play. Evidenced by the large presence of freshman athletes, Coach Cleanthes is doing exactly what he was

hired to do, that is to turn this program around. With eight games decided by two or fewer runs, a little experience quickly makes this a .500 season. That said, the team posses great potential for success next season and the seasons to come as a young team continues to mature athletically.

## Tennis teams split at Sewanee

By Hennessy Howell

Rhodes men and women's tennis teams traveled to Sewanee this weekend for a long-awaited match-up to determine seedings at this weekend's SCAC tournament. The rivalry had a sweet ending for the Women's Team as the four seniors closed out their regular season play each with a win over tightly matched Sewanee. By capturing both the number one and two doubles points with teams of Hennessy Howell ('05) and Colleen Forsyth ('06) at one and Stephanie Gong ('05) and Laura Hoffmeister ('05) at two, the Lynx went into singles with a 2-1 lead over Sewanee. Following freshman Margaret Tufton's win at the number six singles position, the Lynx needed two more wins for the match. Stephanie Gong, Laura Hoffmeister, Hennessy Howell, and Krista Dewitt ('05) each remained on the court in tight battles. One by one, each of these seniors pulled out their final matches against Sewanee, giving Rhodes a 7-2 victory.

The Rhodes men got off to a great start against Sewanee as the number two doubles team of Scott Bayer ('07) and Alex Gates ('08) as well as the number three team of Adam Bohnert ('07) and John Ciarleglio ('06) secured wins, scoring the men the doubles point. Bohnert and Gates followed their streak into singles as each rolled over their opponents, leaving the Lynx short just one point for the match. Kareem Mansur ('08), Daniel Hammond ('07), and Bayer were all edged out of victories at positions 1-3 while Ciarleglio fell at spot 6. While losing 4-3, the Lynx felt strong at their doubles, and await a possible rematch at SCAC this weekend.

This match marked the end of regular-season play for both teams.

The teams will travel to Little Rock, Arkansas this weekend for the SCAC Championships, where the women's team is seeded number three behind Trinity and DePauw.

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