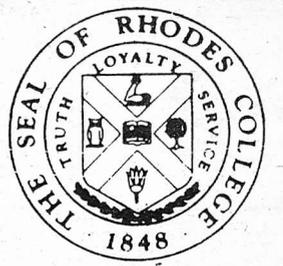


# The Sou'wester

Vol. 74 No. 21

Rhodes College

Thursday, April 21, 1988



Veteran newsman Marvin Kalb, currently a professor at Harvard, will speak at Commencement exercises May 7.

## Kalb to Deliver Commencement Address

This year's graduation at Rhodes College will occur with the usual pomp and circumstance but without the traditional June heat.

Thanks to a newly inaugurated two-semester calendar, the college will hold commencement in early May, a full month earlier than it has been for the past 19 years. With the previous 12-week/12-week/6-week calendar system, Rhodes seniors and their parents sweltered through proceedings in early June.

Veteran newsman Marvin Kalb, now a professor at Harvard, will be the speaker at this 139th commencement May 7. He and three others will receive honorary degrees as well.

Kalb, the Edward R. Murrow Professor of Press and Public Policy at Harvard, will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters (Litt. D.) degree. Ellen Davies-Rodgers, Shelby County historian of nearby Brunswick, Tenn., and Memphian P. K. Seidman, of the international accounting firm, will receive honorary Doctor of Humanities (H.H.D.) degrees. The Rev. James L. Carter, senior minister of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, La., will receive a Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree.

After a distinguished 30-year career as chief diplomatic correspondent for CBS News and NBC News and as moderator of "Meet the Press," Kalb is currently director of the Joan Shorestein Barone Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at the Kennedy School at Harvard. He has received numerous awards for excellence in diplomatic reporting, including two Peabody Prizes from the University of Georgia, Columbia University's DuPont Prize, and several overseas awards.

A graduate of the City College of New York, Kalb holds an M.A. degree from Harvard. He is author or co-author of five non-fiction books, including *Kissinger and Roots of Involvement: The U.S. and Asia*, and two best-selling novels.

Kalb's research and teaching interests include U.S.-Soviet relations, the presidency, and the increasingly close interaction between the press and government. Currently, he is exploring the modern-day ethical and political legacy of the Ten Commandments. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Kalb has taught and lectured at Georgetown University and the National War College, and is a passionate Washington Redskins fan.

Ellen Davies-Rodgers, widow of Hillman Philip Rodgers, is a descendant of several of the first families to settle Shelby County. Davies Manor, a two-story log colonial home built before 1807 by an Indian chief, is considered to be the oldest in the county. The surrounding land is a Tennessee Century Farm, one that has been owned, worked and lived on by the same family for 100 years. "Miss Ellen" has fostered the restoration and preservation of the property throughout the years. In cooperation with the Davies Manor As-

sociation, she offers the public a taste of living history by opening the manor for tours from May-October.

Mrs. Davies-Rodgers is a graduate of West Tennessee Normal School, now Memphis State University, and holds B.S. degree from Peabody College, M.A. from Columbia University and an honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree from the University of the South. She was professor of early elementary education and teacher of children's literature at Memphis State University for 10 years, and the first state elementary school supervisor in West Tennessee. Mrs. Davies-Rodgers is the author of six books on history and education.

A testament to her lifelong interest in education is the Davieshire Library, consecrated in 1973. It is an outgrowth of the Davies Memorial Library for Children, a small frame building which her mother, Mrs. Gillie M. Davies, constructed on Davies Plantation for neighborhood children. Ms. Davies-Rodgers recently gave 15 acres to St. Philip Episcopal Church, Davieshire, as the site for a school for nursery-age children through 12th grade. In 1974 she gave 10 acres for the church itself, which was completed in 1981. She is the recipient of numerous awards including Woman of the Year, Memphis Kiwanis Club, 1965; Most Distinguished Alumnus Award, Memphis State University, 1977 (the year it was first presented); the Martha Washington Award, Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution; and ex-president of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs.

P. K. Seidman, longtime friend of  
(Continued on Page Seven)

## Briefs

The Tennessee State Senate recently passed a resolution sponsored by Senator Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) inviting David Letterman to bring his show to Memphis in honor of his sixth anniversary on the air. The resolution contains a top ten list of reasons Letterman should come. Newspapers all over the country have covered this invitation and Cohen is now planning a letter writing campaign to encourage Letterman to come. Address your letters to Late Night with David Letterman; 30 Rockefeller Plaza; New York, NY 10112.

The Kinney Program will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary on Saturday, April 16. Details are provided on the Kinney Board in the Student Center.

Sunday, April 17 is the opening of the 1988 Student Art Exhibition in Clough-Hanson Gallery; a reception will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 honoring the students. The exhibition will be open on weekdays, 9:00 to 5:00, through April 26.

The Premises International Cinema Series will present *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears*, an Academy Award winning Russian film on April 24 at 8:00 in the Orgill Room.

## Kepple Responds to Catalogue

by Jason A. Parrish

On Wednesday, April 6, the students of Rhodes College presented the administration with a Catalogue of Concerns, which detailed what the students perceived as problems with Rhodes, and suggested possible solutions. Provost Kepple said after examining the Catalog, "obviously a lot of hard work went into it." He also commented that it tied in with Rhodes' Plan for Excellence. Provost Kepple also commented on parts of the various sections of the Catalog.

In the area on communication he commented on the concerns about an emphasis on statistics, and misleading admissions information. According to the Provost, so many statistics are being used because they answer the questions that parents and prospective students often ask. Also, statistics are necessary in the shorter informative material, such as "36 Facts About Rhodes." In the longer brochures he feels a more rounded view of Rhodes is presented. And as to questions pertaining to the student teacher-ratio, it is figured with the actual number of full-time or full-time equivalent professors divided by the actual number of students.

In the area of social life Provost Kepple was unsure if the Greek System was too heavily promoted here at Rhodes, but did recognize

that there were "too many Greek functions and not enough non-Greek social activities." He also feels that there is a need to attract the faculty back to the campus, but he feels that this can be left in the students' hands. The students should invite professors to after school activities. "In most cases," said the Provost, "they would be more than happy to attend." On the issue of a traditionally black fraternity and sorority, the Provost said the matter was being looked at, and that the President would respond to the issue in a few weeks.

As for academic development, the Provost, described himself as "bullish" on the idea for a Maymester, at least for certain special projects. He does not see a school wide Maymester in Rhodes' plans, however. On the issue of academic minors, he commented on the faculty's role, who ultimately make any such decision. It is being looked into. The same goes for relaxing degree requirements. He does, however, feel that the degree requirements are too stringent.

Housing was the next concern addressed by Provost Kepple. He said Rhodes was "unique" in that it promised housing for all its students. This commitment to having students live on campus leads to problems. To

(Continued on Page Two)

## Briton To Be Rhodes Speaker

Briton Allan Chapman, a historian of science and frequent personality on BBC Radio and Television, will visit Rhodes next week and give two campus lectures. The first, on Tuesday, April 19, at 8 p.m., is entitled "England's Leonardo: Robert Hooke 1635-1703." The second is on Wednesday, April 20 at 8 p.m. and focuses on "Medicine and Mechanical Philosophy in 17th Century England." Both lectures are in Hardie Auditorium.

Chapman, familiar to many as a lecturer with the British Studies at Oxford program, is a renowned speaker whose television documentaries on science and history have amassed a loyal following. His early research had to do with the accuracy of Renaissance astronomical instruments.

## Inside . . .

Rites of Spring was a great success. See photos spread on pages 4-5, along with commentary from freshman Laurie Usery and Miscellany columnist F. Grant Whittle.

Robert Olmstead's *River Dogs* is reviewed. See page 6.

Controversy over the removal of the library reference room wall continued this week with the circulation of a petition by freshman Josh Drake — story on page 3.

Lynx Baseball won 2 of 3 this week. See story on page 7.

For a complete schedule of events on 1968 Day, see page 7.

Thursday, April 21, 1988

**"And Then There Were None"**

by Doug Halijan

In two weeks the last class with any real connection to a school called Southwestern at Memphis will be graduated. While the name was changed before they actually enrolled, the members of the class of 1988 visited, applied and were accepted to Southwestern. Four years after the College became Rhodes I still occasionally hear "Southwestern" mentioned around campus. In all honesty, few seniors can accurately comment on what the school was like before the name change, but once in a while — especially when someone is dissatisfied with something — people will bring up what it was like in the old, "pre-Rhodes" days.

The only connection the next group of seniors, the class of '89, will have with Southwestern is secondary, only having known some upperclassmen who were enrolled before the name change. All of this is leading me to say that next year I believe, the name Rhodes will have a much more permanent nature. Granted there will still be many faculty members here who taught at Southwestern, but students will no longer be able to reliably compare Southwestern with Rhodes.

This would seem to be a positive change for the College, but clearly not because one is/was better than the other. The real reason is that "Rhodes College" and the name change itself are associated with a problem many students, including myself, are concerned about: image consciousness. A common perception, touched on in the "Catalogue of Concerns" but rating even more investigation, is that those who run the College are more interested in circulating the name to prospective students and benefactors than they are about the concerns of students already here. The positive aspect of having a student body that has only dealt with Rhodes will hopefully be an increased effectiveness in communicating problems centered around an obsession with style over substance. A change in a college's name naturally gives rise to charges that the College is overly image-conscious. A student body that knows little about the name-change or transformations in the school since then can more effectively enunciate this problem. Seeing to it that every College administrator understands that image-consciousness has little to do with the name change should be a major goal next year.

Like other members of the class of '89, I cannot speak conclusively but by most reports, Rhodes is a different sort of place than Southwestern at Memphis. This is something we all should understand. Equally important, however, is understanding that college's continually go through the process of evolution. It is up to the student body to make sure that progression and not regression occurs. Next year I think things will continue to improve — and the College can be conscious of the kind of image we project without being obsessed by it.

\* \* \*

On a different subject, compliments are due Joy Banks, Kearsten Angel, and their entire staff for Rhodes' best yearbook in a long time. (Everyone should compare the '88 Links with past yearbooks in the library.) You have to have done it to realize what a difficult job editing any publication is, and few of us can imagine what a logistical nightmare that putting together a college yearbook is. Their year of hard work paid off, and I hope next year's staff can maintain this year's quality.

*The Sou'wester is a college-sponsored, student-run newspaper that is published weekly. Deadline for ALL copy and art work is 6:00 p.m. Monday. Staff meetings are held on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. All interested are invited to attend. The Sou'wester encourages readers to submit letters to the Editor for publication. All letters must be signed. Letters will be edited for space and clarity and the Editor reserves the right to reject letters due to length, available space or libelous content.*

## Present Your Views In A Letter To The Editor

# Letters

To the Editor:

Without completely slamming Cheryl Clark's article in last week's paper, I would say that her extremely negative views ruled out the possibility for other reasons for people sitting together. For instance, this "unbreachable identity" that all the groups have formed, even GDI athletes, the international house, and the theatre group, could that identity be, say, friendship? They spend their time together doing the same things, why wouldn't they want to eat together? There isn't enough time between classes and homework and anything else the students do to go out and meet a hundred new people every week. I don't think I could

name more than three hundred people here, but I'm not that worried about it (my memory's terrible, I admit it). Sure, students are going to sit with people they know, but those tables aren't exactly closed to a new face.

Also, I want to mention her "good examples." Strange, but I never thought of the KA table as a segregated bus. Being a KA myself, I'd like to say that I think anyone is welcome to sit at "our" table; we didn't claim rights to it, and neither did any other group to a table in the Rat. Cheryl used KA and Chi-O as examples rather than her personal experience, I think. I have never seen her sit at the KA table, though she al-

ways is welcome. At least, she was. Some of my brothers didn't like being labelled as snobs. Obviously she hasn't been over at the house during a party.

I understand her position, and I sympathize with anyone here who feels that way. I don't, however, think that I'm part of a snobby social scene. People sit with the ones they know and share a common interest. If you have this feeling that everyone is looking at you in the Rat or you will be out of place at a certain table, remember there's a few hundred others in there who feel the same way. Lighten up and sit down.

David Jones '90

## KEPPLE

(Continued from Page One)

deal with the issue of housing certain things have been done already, namely capping enrollment at 1320, for four or five years. He mentioned that plans call for an enrollment of 1450 by 1998, but concedes that more dorm space must be created before that goal can become a reality. As for the suggestions concerning carpeting, laundry, bathrooms, kitchens, etc. he said that "we need to look at all of them," but expressed concern over the cost of such renovations.

Provost Kepple also responded to the concerns about professor's salaries and about teaching evaluation. He feels that the salaries here at Rhodes for professors are not bad at all. But they could also be better. It will take increases in tuition, however, to make higher teacher salaries a reality.

On the topic of cultural and intellectual life, a major concern was for student body diversity. Provost Kepple agreed that this was an important facet of any school. However, he felt the students were overlooking some fundamental issues. One, for instance, was the fact that every institution of higher learning in the US, save for one exception, was biased regionally. Just as Rhodes has more students from the South, Harvard has more students from the Northeast. Another issue, he felt,

was that "students don't realize that the more that is known about Rhodes, the better chance we will have to attract students from other parts of the country." That is why they are sensitive about the Rhodes name, and that is why the admissions literature is so important.

The alternative meal plan proposal was looked at several years ago according to the Provost. The idea is "simply not as good as it sounds". He urged students to visit schools that use other kinds of systems for meals. He feels the system here at Rhodes is better. Under a system where students paid for only a certain number of meals "three fourths of the students would pay more."

As for tuition and other costs, the students expressed concerns over the rising cost of both tuition and room and board. The Provost pointed out that many of the changes requested require money. Higher teacher salaries, more housing, improvements and renovations throughout the campus, and more funding for social events all require funds. Yet students don't want increases in tuition. "Seventy cents out of every dollar used comes from the students," he said. And students are not the only ones this issue deals with. "It is hard to justify to parents raising tuition so we can have more bands on campus," he said.

Provost Kepple feels that these are not issues that administration can solve alone. "Most," he said, "will take the faculty, administration, and students, and in some cases parents and alumni." He does see great things happening here on campus though. "What we have is not a catalogue of concerns, but a catalogue of opportunities; and with all of us working together we can make it what we all want."

## The Sou'wester

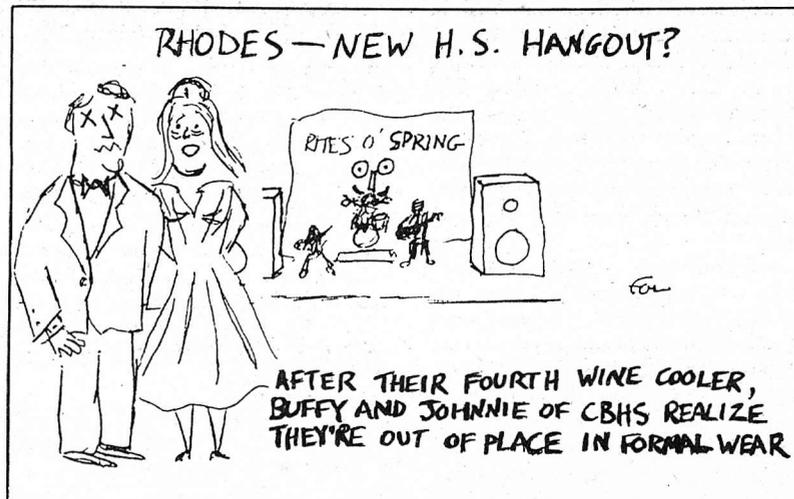
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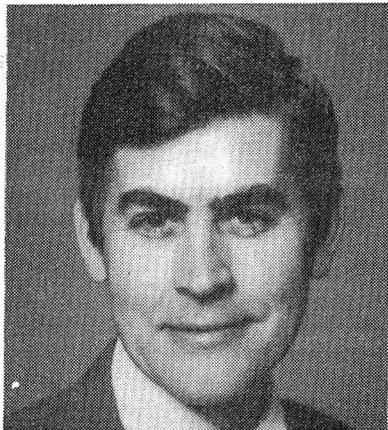
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Dr. James Carter, Ellen Davies-Rodgers and P. K. Seidman will receive honorary degrees at Graduation ceremonies to be held next month. See story on Page 1.

## Singers To Tour England, Scotland, Wales

By David Monroe

Having already had some Memphis concerts this term to prepare some of their material, the Rhodes Singers are now getting ready for the two most important concerts of the year: the domestic tour to Atlanta this weekend and the foreign tour to Great Britain in May.

Their program consists of music of many different styles and periods. Vincent Persichetti's *Mass* which was also part of last year's spring tour, will be featured.

They will also sing five spirituals from the Michael Tippett cantata *A Child of our Time* and some Broadway show tunes, including "Bonny Jean" and "Brigadoon" from *Brigadoon*, "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" from *Gyps and Dolls*, and "Miracle Song" from *Anyone Can Whistle*. Two of the highlights are very new pieces: one, Donald Freund's *From Harmony*, is being

commissioned and performed for the first time by the Singers this year; the other, *O Gracious Light* by Rhodes alumnus Hayes Biggs (class of '79), has only been performed once. Freund's *Lauda Anima Mea*, "Song With Chorale" from his *St. John Passion*, Lee Holby's *Let This Mind Be In You* and Elliott Carter's madrigal *Musicians Wrestle* are other twentieth-century pieces of the program.

After arriving in Atlanta Saturday afternoon, the choir will perform some selections from this group at Northwest Presbyterian Church there Sunday morning. They will then present the full program that night at First Presbyterian Church in nearby LaGrange. They will perform it again at their annual Memphis spring concert at Evergreen Presbyterian Church on April 26 at 8:00.

After classes end, the group will go on a foreign tour, which lasts from

May 11 to May 20. This will be their second trip to Great Britain. It will begin with a concert at Columbia University in New York on May 11. From there, the group will depart for a three-week tour of England, Scotland, and Wales, which will include some sightseeing as well as eight concerts.

The Singers will be performing with some prestigious choirs on the tour, including the Kevock Choir in Edinburgh, Scotland and the Pwllglas and District Choir in Pwllglas, Wales. Other performance venues include the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, the Bath College of Higher Education, the Holy Trinity Church in York, York Minster Cathedral, and the St. Paul's Covent Garden in London. The Singers performed at several of these places on their last tour of Great Britain and are excited about these opportunities.

## Library Wall Controversy Continues

By Dylan Lee

Early last week, one student decided to take action against the library's plans to remove the glass wall of the reference room. To voice his opinion, Josh Drake, a freshman, printed flyers and posted them around the library. He asked students to "HELPSAVE THE WALL - We Are Being Screwed Again!" He said in his flyer that the wall will be torn down and that there is enough time to get the plans changed. To change the plans, Drake requested that students sign a petition which he has posted on the wall. Drake remarked that, "It is up to us."

Acting on his own, he said, "The main reason I did this is to let the students know what is happening. I just wanted to show Mrs. Blair (the library director) that the students really wanted (the wall)."

Lynn Blair has no objections to the petition. "I don't mind it at all," she remarked, "I wish it had come a little sooner." Blair said that the renovations for the library, which include removing the glass wall of the reference room, were established two years ago, and that the planning began four years ago. Blair said that the students obviously feel strongly against the removal of the wall, and, "(I) want to do what's best for

them."

Drake agrees that Blair wants to work for the students, but, "the students almost insist on having it (the wall) . . . or at least want it." If the plans are enacted, he continued, they will destroy any study space on the first floor. Furthermore, Drake said, "It's a different sort of feeling when you can see everybody and it keeps things quiet." In the carrels, he said, "You are sort of in a box. They aren't in great shape either."

However, Blair noted that after the changes are made, one-third of the main floor will be designated for study space. To reduce the noise in the study space, the main floor will be carpeted and sound-absorbing ceiling tiles will be installed. Upgrading the stacks are also in the plans. Improvements will include better lighting, more comfortable chairs, carpeting, and improved heating and air-conditioning systems.

An additional argument Drake used was that if students were not allowed to study in the reference room, reference books would scatter throughout the library. Blair, though, commented that the glass wall is no barrier, and that she is hoping that the honor code and common sense will prevent refer-

ence books from disappearing. However, she added that there are some concerns about the problem of the books being scattered, for, "They already float around pretty well now."

Blair supported the decision to remove the wall with three major problems. The first reason is that the main floor lacks space for the circulation and information desks, and other library work. In addition, Blair said that the plans have already been made to remove the wall, which stands in the way of the planned ventilation system. Blair said that the system would have to be redesigned if the wall were to remain. Finally, and primarily, the wall seems to fail to meet the current fire standards test. "(To keep the wall), all the glass would need to be replaced by safety glass," Blair noted, "and if there were a fire, all the students would have to funnel out of one door. There are no, and cannot be, other exits." When asked about the chance of the wall remaining, Blair said, "I don't know. I'm getting an opinion from the fire marshal about the legality (of the wall)."

Considering all the factors, however, Josh Drake's efforts appear as if they will be unsuccessful.

## 1968 Class Concludes This Week

By Laura Blankenship

This term Rhodes offered a different kind of class — 1968: The Way We Were, a class which explores the events of the 1960s, particularly 1968, in depth. The class was organized by Professor Grant Hammond. He was very surprised by the number of people who signed up for the class and said that the large number was difficult to handle. To solve this problem, the class was split into two sections for lectures and smaller discussion groups of 12-20 students. The lectures consist mostly of video tapes of news events like civil rights marches.

Professor Hammond said he enjoyed doing the class, but was a little disappointed that, because of the size, he wasn't able to participate in the discussion groups. He especially enjoyed "the excuse to go back and review" an era in which he lived. It was, however, physically and emotionally draining. He would like to offer a similar class next year, but

more than likely it won't be possible. He hopes, though, that the year after next, the College will be able to offer another such class that focuses on the recent past, perhaps on Vietnam, and maybe it will become a regular course offering.

The students, Professor Hammond says, have enjoyed the class, but that at first, they were a little bit overwhelmed by the amount of reading. They have had the chance to talk to people they never would have before and that sort of education, he says, is rare. He thinks the video tapes were a good tactic, that the students were affected by hearing and seeing the civil rights marches and comments of Vietnam vets. "They never had to confront a life and death situation like the soldiers in Vietnam did before." Professor Hammond says, "They had no idea what it was like." April 15, designated '1968 Day', all of us will get a chance to see what these students have been learning about American history.

## Souper Contact Serves The Memphis Community

By Anneliese Singh

"A hungry man is not a free man."  
Adlai Stevenson

After attending a Food for Thought conference last October in Boston, Rhodes students Thorne Anderson and Ann Sartwell brought back much more than just ideas. They brought back a plan for action.

Considering that Memphis has the most threatening problem with poverty out of the 50 largest cities in the nation, they both felt they had to do something. They coordinated their ideas and created Souper Contact — a group of Rhodes students who are interested in starting a soup kitchen.

Ann Sartwell said, "I had lots of reasons why I wanted to start something like this at Rhodes. I have seen how easy it is for the people here to ignore the problem, because it does not touch our lives, and we live in such an isolated community." Souper Contact is all about getting in touch with the real hunger problem in Memphis. Every Tuesday at 5:00, a group of Rhodes volunteers serve dinner at St. John's Methodist Church, located on the corner of Peabody and Bellevue.

Sartwell and Anderson received strong support from Scott Owenby, ARA director, in the second phase of their plan. With almost 250 students pledging to eat soup, bread, and water every Wednesday night,

Owenby is able to help Souper Contact in two different ways: by buying food wholesale and supplementing the kitchen with utensils. Right now, the soup kitchen is funded by a \$300 grant from Food for Thought, and they use about \$50 to serve each dinner meal to 50-100 people.

Sartwell, a graduating senior from Oregon, will be working in Memphis this summer and will continue to run Souper Contact throughout the summer. Sartwell and Anderson hope to raise about a thousand dollars before the summer with the help of Rhodes faculty and students, in order to fund the summer kitchen.

Besides just getting the food to the hungry in Memphis, Anderson feels "... there is a whole real world outside the boundaries of this campus that students don't come into contact with, so mutual alienation occurs on both sides. We want to feed as many people as we can, and we also want good interaction between faculty and students in this organization." Souper Contact also serves as a forum where misconceptions about the poor are broken down. Through serving in the kitchen, Sartwell has had to confront the fact that it is not a truth that if you work hard, you will do well . . . many full-time workers just can't make ends meet for their families. If you would like to be part of it all, contact Ann Sartwell at 3641.

### ORIENTATION LEADER

(formerly new student counselors)

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Thursday, April 21, 1988

## Rites of Spring Brought Rhodes Alive

By Laurie K. Usery

It was an event that upperclassmen speak of all year long. "At Rites of Spring last year . . ." introduces many stories of revelry and amusement. It gives us a chance to completely relax and escape from the pressures of life at Rhodes College. This year's festivities did just that.

Five bands — Freeworld, Exodus, Beanland, Love Tractor, and Telluride, chosen by the student body and the Social Commission, provided the entertainment. So did the crowd, which consisted of not only Rhodes students, but those from Memphis State and the Memphis College of Art.

This unique combination created a very distinctive atmosphere, while each band did the same. Friday night's commencement of Rites of Spring with the performance of Freeworld was great. Saturday was by far the most colorful day of the weekend. It seemed to be divided into phases of reggae, by Exodus; of

"Dead-head" music, by Beanland; and of progressive rock, by the headliner act, Love Tractor. Telluride, who played on Sunday, seemed to please most Rhodes students more than any of the other bands.

Their performance received mixed reactions. Freshman Anneliese Singh commented, "I was really disappointed in Telluride . . . but they knew exactly what to play for the Rhodes crowd — Modern English and recent U2, give me a break. Beanland did a much better cover of 'Red Red Wine.'" They **did** make everyone dance, despite their Top-40 slant.

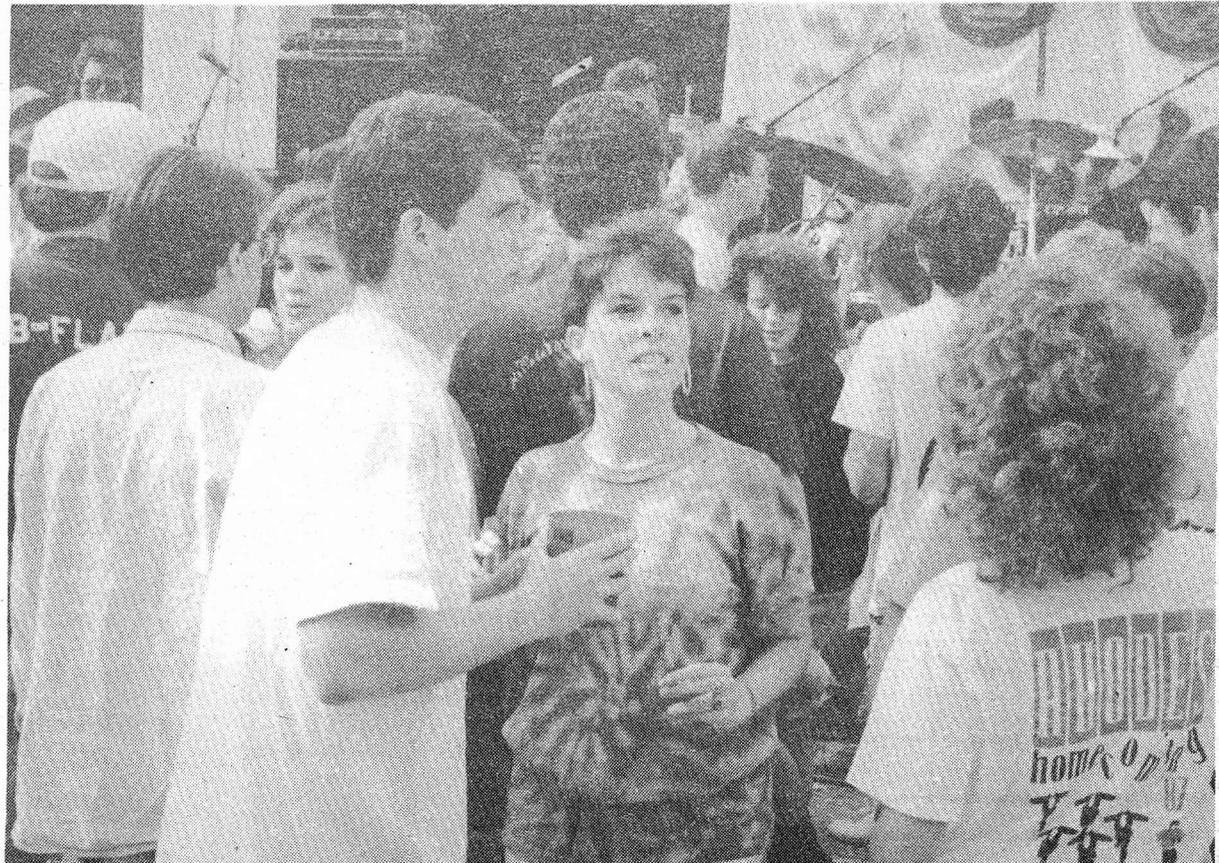
In essence, Rites of Spring provided something for everybody. Sophomore Jamie Zanone reflected on it by saying, "Exodus was rather groovy, but Beanland was the best band that played." So, another Rites of Spring weekend has passed and another class has stories to tell and memories of a college experience like no other.



*" . . . and almost no "work" was done."*



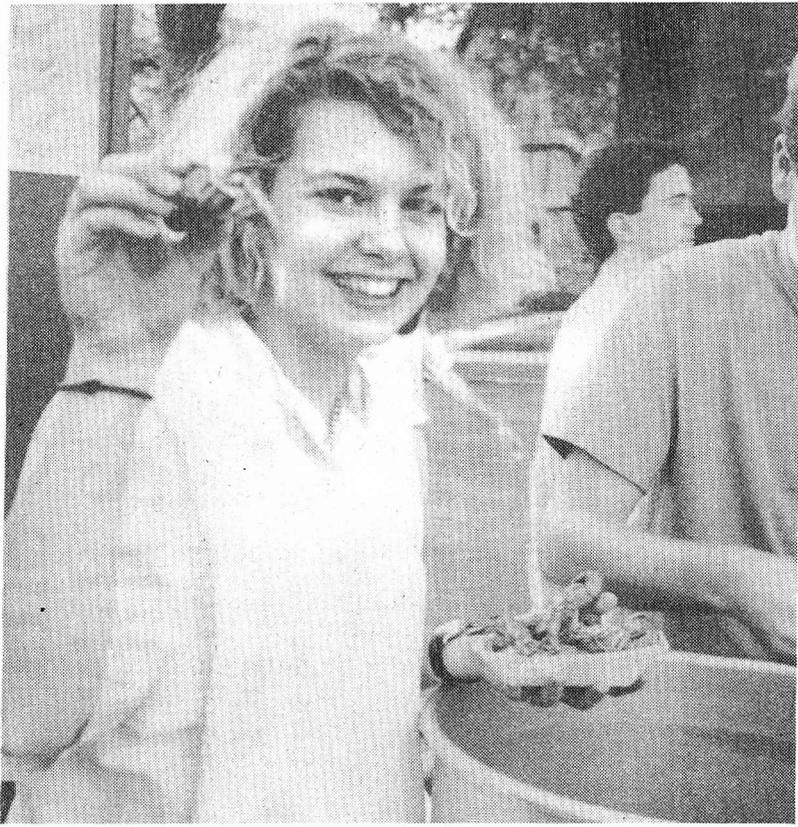
*" . . . somebody say jalepeño."*



# Rites of Spring

Thursday, April 21, 1988

5



**Rhodes  
College**  
**April 8 - 10**  
**1988**

The Social Commission thanks BACCHUS, the new R.A.s, SAE fraternity, Pan, the BSA, Campus Green, Scott Owenby and the folks at the Rat, and Mother Nature.



## Miscellany The Obligatory Rites of Spring Article

Dance Dance Dance. Drink and fall down and litter (well, there wasn't a whole lot of the former, at least), a splendid time was guaranteed for all (to borrow a phrase). Picnic out on the lawn and play volleyball and show off your tie dies and beach towels.

Frisbee and football tossing. Cow patty extravaganza with the added sidelight of being able to throw mud at a wide range of victims (including yours truly). Getting glassy-eyed at mid-night and still being able to dance as if it was programmed into you as instinctive from birth.

Hanging around with people you've never seen before in your entire life. Not remembering what you did the night before. Lugging around that forty-seven-pound cooler and lawn chair. Telling stories under the light of a bizarre candle. Ears ringing as you stand in the shower. Eating is secondary, and sleep is even further down.

And this was Rites of Spring.

For some of us (I include myself half the time) the only reason we can endure the mounting workload of dear Rhodes College Life is the Springtime Bachannal that is dropped in our entertainment-starved laps when it starts to get warm.

Freshmen hear about it from the minute they set foot on campus. It is battered into their brains day in and day out — Rites of Spring, Rites of Spring, Rites of Spring. What more could any college student ask — wine, women, song, and downright festive forgetfulness! Packaged into three days of out and out pleasure.

Of course, this is not to say that Rites of Spring is perfect (nearly so — I know I had more fun than I've had in recent memory). There were some problems, like our innumerable guests. Friday night I walked up above the amphitheatre on my way to the student center (you'd think they'd have opened Frazier Jelke so we wouldn't have to walk all the way to Briggs to go the bathroom) and behold, all around were people I'd never seen before.

Now, it's my opinion that we should open up our little affair for the benefit of invited guests, and maybe even some people from around the neighborhood, but there were all these obnoxious high school students standing around getting drunk. Not that I blame them too much, but I was accosted by several. Suppose one of them were hurt at Rites of Spring — the liabilities would be unimaginable.

And it really got a bit ridiculous when the prom people appeared on Saturday. They stuck out like a pink dove on a scaffold in their rented tuxedos and ridiculous grins. And when they started to throw bottles and fight with each other — it all shows their lack of maturity.

Maybe some barbed wire and cattle prods would solve this problem.

From what I hear now that everyone is sober and we're not all caught up in the excitement, Love Tractor was not entirely at fault for closing down at twelve o'clock (Tel-luride, by the way, played nearly a full hour longer than what it said on the program). Whoever's fault it

was, and now I don't think it even matters, the fact is we all expected them to play until one and they didn't. I still had fun yelling "Love Tractor Sucks."

Then there were those special moments that we all have at Rites of Spring. For me, and for a number of other people, getting pelted with mud was cathartic. I promise you all there was very little of me that wasn't covered in mud. It cooled me off and helped my suntan, though. I still haven't gotten it all out of my right ear.

And Love Tractor was calling my name: F. Grant Whittle report to Studio B — what did it mean? God only knows. And I wasn't the only one who heard it either. And thanks to Kim Chickey for letting me make my announcement Saturday Night. (If anyone remembers the full text of what I said, I'd appreciate it if they'd tell me — I don't remember talking about jalapenos.) Thanks to Joy for that lovely yearbook. Thanks to Bacchus for the mockaritas, even though they tasted a lot like lemonade slush.

Well, now that finals are coming and we're all getting ready to leave this place once more, I suppose Rites of Spring will fade into a pleasant memory. By the time we're forty, Rites of Spring will blend into every other party and we won't be able to tell it from any of the other things we did. But I suppose that's as it should be. So let's all sit back and savour Rites of Spring once more. And remember, there's always 1968 day right around the corner.

Peace.



Thursday, April 21, 1988



Junior Dawnita Wilson receives her '88 *Links* yearbook from Editor Joy Banks and Asst. Editor Kearsten Angel Saturday afternoon at Rites of Spring.

## This Week In Memphis

### Thursday, April 14:

Dolan Wilson at Circle Cafe

### Friday, April 15:

Memphis Symphony Orchestra at de Frank Music Hall

Think as Incas at The Antenna

Rhythm Hounds at the South End

Soul Capitalists at Court Square Cafe

Elmo & The Shades at Circle Cafe

### Saturday, April 16:

Memphis Symphony Orchestra at de Frank Music Hall

Beanland at The South End

The Rainmakers at The Antenna

The Dig Mandrakes at The Antenna

Soul Capitalists at Court Square Cafe

Elmo & The Shades at Circle Cafe

### Sunday, April 17:

Music Academy Suzuki String Spring Concert at Hardie

Sarah Bomar Harp Recital at Payne

Memphis Music Association Show at The Antenna - 7 p.m.

The Original Resisters at The Antenna

Kaya & The Welders at The South End

Lance & Strobe at Varsity Inn

Icebreakers at Alex's Tavern

### Tuesday, April 14:

Richard Cushing at The South End

### Wednesday, April 20:

Dolan Wilson at Circle Cafe

The Refugees at Varsity Inn

Video Night/Beer Bust at The Antenna

## Coming Soon:

\* Rin Tin Horn, w/The Leisure Kings on  
April 30 at 14-Karat (380 Beale St.)

## BOOK REVIEW

## *River Dogs*

(240 pages)

by Robert Olmstead

Reviewed by Scott Naugler

Olmstead's first collection of short stories, *River Dogs*, is a welcome respite from the usual contemporary big city setting. "A Good Cow", "Onions", and "How to Bury a Dog" give the reader some idea of the rural setting Olmstead centers his stories around. Indeed, a large part of the book's appeal comes from its down home New Hampshire farm imagery. Much like some of the famous southern authors, Olmstead often uses bitter irony to bring out the humanity in his characters. Perhaps the best thing about *River Dogs* is that one can read it purely for its humor and description. However, there is a raw, humanistic side to the writing which, even if not looked for, will contribute to the tone through the reader's subconscious.

Like Flannery O'Connor, Olmstead uses a kind of psychologi-

cal narration in most of his stories. The reader is given access to the character's minds, and therefore becomes perhaps more involved with the stories than if the reader saw the story from an objective third person point of view. Olmstead uses this type of narration to bring humor into his stories, by contrasting the character's thoughts and subjective descriptions with flashes of reality (within the story), usually through dialogue. The dichotomy between the character's subjectivity and the stories' objectivity brings out interesting quirks in behavior, and often works to ridicule a character or situation. The reader is often at odds with the character from whose point the story is being narrated in trying to figure out just how colored the point of view is.

The psychological narration lends

itself to showing insights into human nature. The characters are always very complex, usually trying to deal with three or four conflicting emotions. An excellent example is in the title story, "River Dogs," in which a young boy struggles with self deception, his own apathy, and (of course), a kind of noble virtue of trying to do "the right thing," even though he doesn't know what it is. As is usually true in life, most of Olmstead's stories do not end up with virtue winning, something true to humanity, which the majority of people refuse to acknowledge. Olmstead places his characters face to face with their moral downfalls, and then sees how they react.

Although the dialogue in itself is excellent, it is sometimes meaningless, not contributing anything important to the thematic development. This is not, of course, necessary to a good short story, but when there is a limited amount of space to develop the story, added baggage tends to slow the reader down. Usually Olmstead is justified in his dialogue, though, because it is so humorous.

In a few of Olmstead's stories, the conflict is not clearly resolved, leaving an ambiguity of feeling in the reader. In one way this can be frustrating to the reader, if a clear resolution is expected. But much like every day conflicts, there is no satisfying resolution. Olmstead, in doing this, allows the reader to make up his/her own mind, another device for increasing the involvement of the reader in the story.

Novel setting, humanistic undercurrent, and ironic humor are *River Dogs* best attributes. The raw wisdom of Olmstead's characters should interest most readers.

## McCOY CORNER

Are you frightened of opera? Are you one of those who thinks of a fat woman with braids and a horned hat when someone mentions O-P-E-R-A? Do you suddenly envision a night of boredom as people sing loudly at you in some language you have no chance of understanding?

Then you are in luck! Because over at the McCoy Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15 there are two short operas being performed . . . minus the horns and braids — and they are even in English! The first is *THE TELEPHONE*, a one-act opera which takes place in the 1960s. It is a comedy which revolves around the character Lucy's obsession with — what else — the telephone. While you're laughing you might consider how attached we in the '80s have become to television, VCRs, and answering machines. The second part of the evening will send you

home looking over your shoulder. *THE MEDIUM* is a riveting and haunting short opera about Madame Flora, her daughter, Monica; the mute boy, Toby, and those who seek her services. It is a piece with seances and spirits, a touching romance, and a chilling ending; take a friend with you for this one.

So, in these times of stress and due-tomorrow term papers, take a break and come be entertained with an evening of Menotti. Yes, it's opera but what a great chance to give it a try — they were written for Broadway, they're short, they're in English, they're exciting . . . and these people are performing: Leigh Ann Vaughn, John Buchanan, Desiree Earl, Joe Tamborello, Erica Yoder, and Diane Clark. Performances are at 8 p.m. both nights, and tickets are only \$4.00. Call 726-3838 for reservations.

## Shakespeare Festival Next Week

If you're out walking during the week of April 17-22, watch out for women in low-cut dresses and men in tights. But don't run away; it's just the Spring Shakespeare Festival.

The festival is the brainchild of senior theatre major Anne-Marie Akin, who said: "I just feel like we don't get enough opportunities to perform Shakespeare around here. A lot of people are put off by the idea of seeing a Shakespearean play because they have only been exposed to stereotypical holier-than-thou productions in the past. They may not realize that Shakespeare wrote for

the masses; his works are often very funny or very tragic, and always very human."

The festival will present a number of scenes both directed and acted by students. One or two scenes are to be presented each afternoon, in various spots around the campus. "The idea is to be very informal and to have a lot of fun," said Akin. Scenes have been slated from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Titus Andronicus*, *King Lear*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Richard III*. Precise locations and times for each of the scenes will be posted.

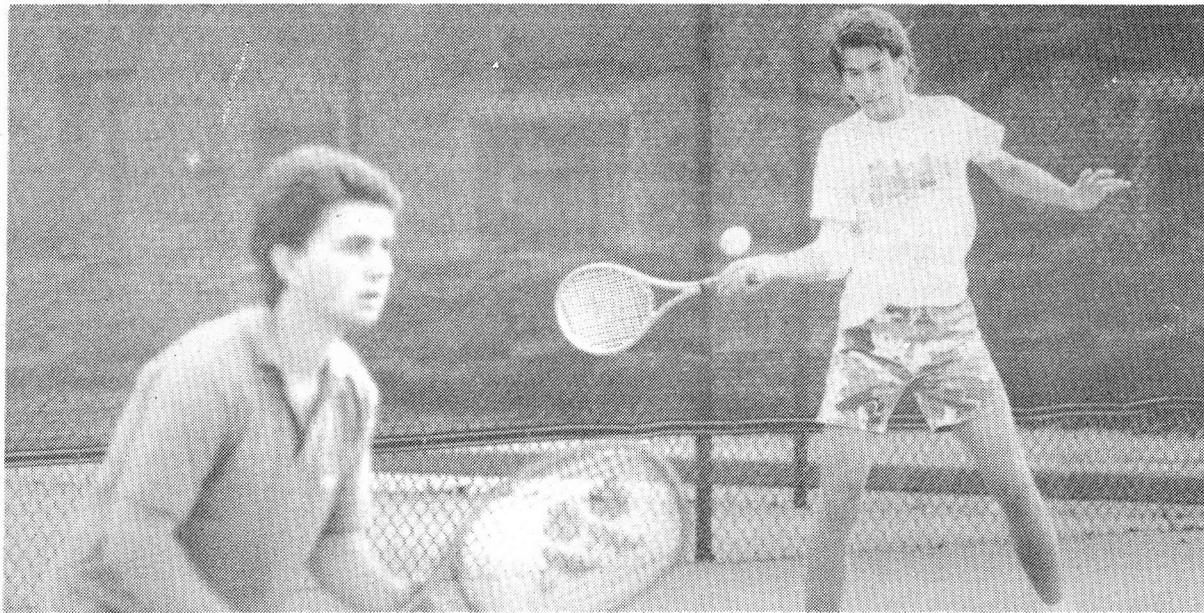
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Marc Rose returns a serve as teammate Jon Perry stands by at Lynx tennis practice this week.

## Lynx Win 2 of 3 This Week

By Patti Marshall

The Rhodes College baseball team defeated Christian Brothers on Tuesday, April 5, 9-8 in a nine-inning game. Pitching for Rhodes, senior Jeff Calvert threw six strikeouts and gave up only five earned runs before being relieved in the ninth by Marcus Stamps who finished the game.

Although CBC dominated Rhodes in hitting, chalking up 15 hits to the Lynx's 10, Rhodes came up with the crucial runs to win the game. CBC took an early lead and by the fifth inning the Bucs were up 5 to 3. The Lynx then rallied in the sixth to score four runs and lead the game 7 to 6. The Bucs then scored again in the seventh to tie the game, but the Lynx wouldn't give up. Colin Johnson, running for catcher Andy Pierce, scored on a double by Steve Heinz,

who also scored on a hit by Darol Timberlake.

On Saturday, the baseball team took on Millsaps and split the two game series. In the first game senior pitcher Marcus Stamps upped his record to 2-2 when Rhodes pulled out a close game 4-3. With only five hits in the game, Rhodes was able to capitalize on Millsaps fielding errors and wild pitching.

In the second game, Rhodes took an early lead in the first, 2-1, and managed to hold Millsaps for the next two innings, but Millsaps rallied in the fourth and scored four runs off pitcher Bob Coleman, who was then relieved by Wes Williams. Unable to score, the Lynx dropped the game to Millsaps 5-2 to bring their record to 8-15-1.

## 1968 DAY

APRIL 15, 1988 - IN THE AMPHITHEATRE

- 10:00** Vietnam Veterans - What was it really like to go half way around the world to a place with names you'd never heard of (Da Nang, Hue, Quang Tri) but would never forget?
- 11:00** Rabbi Wax - Part of an interfaith organization for civil rights in Memphis.
- 11:30** Professor Chen - Student movements.
- 12:00** Dean Jones - A dean here at Rhodes in 1968. Dean Jones will tell us what it was like to be at SAM in '68.
- 1:00** City council members of 1968 - Members of the Memphis City Council of 1968 will be available to discuss the Sanitation Workers Strike and other key events that took place in Memphis.
- 2:00** Professor Hammond - Poverty in the U.S. in '68.
- 2:30** Professor Orvis - The economic issues of '68.
- 3:00** Doc Wood - The way it was.
- 4:00** "Who Slew the Dreamer?" - Find out the story behind the assassination and investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. (an audio-visual presentation)

\*Location to be announced.

### 1988 Summer Employment Admissions Office

The Admissions Office is seeking students for full-time employment during the summer months. The week will be Monday through Friday, 40 hours a week, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Responsibilities, varying among students, include receptionist duties of answering the phones and making appointments, general office work and giving tours to prospective students and their parents.

If you are interested, please contact Dorothy Brownyard in the Admissions Office (102 Palmer, #3700). Interviews will be scheduled during week of April 11.

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## COMMENCEMENT

(Continued from Page One)

the college, is the founder of the Seidman Trophy in Athletics at Rhodes and the M. L. Seidman Town Hall Lecture series and the Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Award in Political Economy, named in memory of his brothers and administered by the college.

Seidman is a founder of the Economic Club of Memphis, co-author of the four-volume *Seidman Legislative History of Federal Income and Excess Profits Tax Laws* as well as

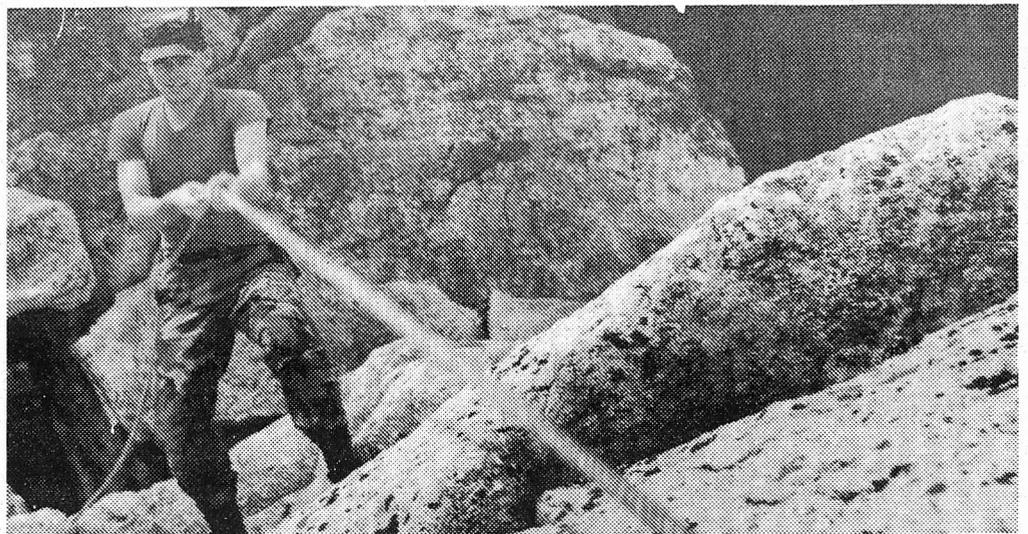
*A Realistic Answer to the Energy Problem*, and author of *The Man Who Likes Memphis*. He attended Columbia University and earned his certification in public accounting while working at the Seidman & Seidman branch in Grand Rapids, Mich. In the 1930s he moved to Memphis to open a branch of the firm and earned his law degree at the University of Memphis Law School.

Dr. James Carter, a Missouri na-

tive, served churches in Pennsylvania before coming to Memphis in 1972. At that time he and his wife Marty helped design and implement a residential treatment center for adolescents and their families.

Dr. Carter holds B.A. degree from Westminster College, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

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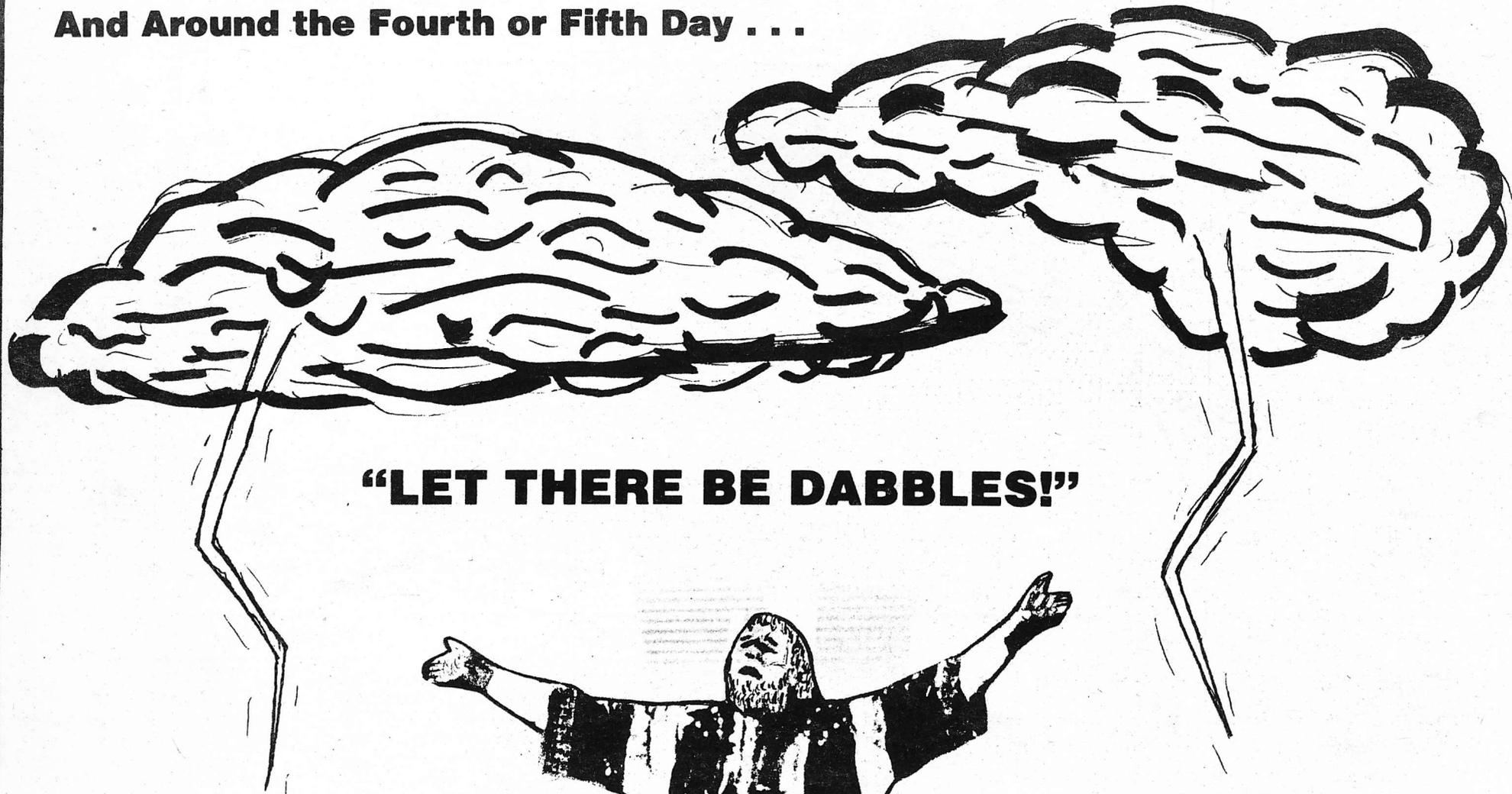
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