

"Happy Holidays" Issue



Photo by Sam Clark / Photoshop by Swaneet Mand

"Home Alone 4: Palmer Cat Strikes Back": Merry Christmas, ya filthy animal.

Remembering Mark Behr

By SAM CLARK '17
DESIGN EDITOR

" I've taught on five continents. I'm going to destroy you. Everybody's a pervert. I will go for the jugular and shake gently. You must pass through the fingers of the King. This is the most important thing you will ever learn. You will all remember this moment. There is no singular narrative. I am going to fail you. Listen closely, this is brilliant. If you do not write every day you are worthless. You've all heard horror stories about me- they don't have to be true. If Toni Morrison had to revise and revise, you certainly have to. My aim is to disturb you and to make your lives richer. History is everything. I really believe that we are forgiving each other daily. Look at what we've created together. "

Photo by Beckie Hammer and Len DeWilde

Mark Behr passed away the morning of Nov. 27 in Johannesburg, South Africa. While internationally acclaimed for his works such as *The Smell of Apples* (1993) and *Embrace* (2001), he was so much more to the inhabitants of Rhodes College. He taught both Introductory and Advanced Fiction writing, imploring his students to abolish "crocodile sentences." He was a constant presence at the Vagina Monologues and challenged long-held beliefs in his Queer Theory course.

He inspired all of us and forced us to look at life, writing and humanity in a new light. He questioned stereotypes and influenced us mere students to stop hiding behind our own inadequacies. He believed in each and every one of us, as long as we actually, truly tried. Mark Behr was a writer, teacher, advisor and a friend.

Rhodes College will have a memorial service Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the McCallum Ballroom. All are welcome to share their thoughts, feelings and memories of Mark.

Turn to Page 8 to read Hayley Rosenfield '16's tribute to Mark Behr.

The State of the World

By WARNER RAULSTON '19
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of November 13, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, abbreviated ISIL by the U.S. government and commonly referred to as ISIS, launched a series of coordinated terrorist attacks against the people of Paris in retaliation for French participation in the American-led intervention in Iraq. 130 men and women representing 21 nations were killed as a result of the attacks, which included four suicide bombings, four mass shootings and an intense hostage situation in the historic Bataclan Theater. This attack has been one of many committed by ISIL over the past month, which have included bombings in Ankara, Turkey and Beirut, Lebanon as well as the downing of a Russian Metrojet flight from Egypt to Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The attacks have provoked a massive call for military retaliation against ISIL by France and her allies abroad as well as a huge display of solidarity by political leaders and individuals from around the globe for those who lost their lives in the attacks. But political and military analysts are asking why ISIL would carry out these attacks in the first place. As their name would suggest, ISIL's primary goal is the establishment of a medieval Islamic State in Iraq and present-day Syria, but they are beginning to engage in acts of terrorism against foreign nations. One theory explaining this shift in the group's actions, according to the Brookings Institution, is that they are trying to warn off their enemies abroad. "They want to deter further military action," said Brookings' own Will McCants. In essence, ISIL is attempting to send a message of consequence to the world, 'if you attack us, we will retaliate.' The group has good reasons to lash out against foreign enemies; since the coalition bombings against ISIL strongholds in Iraq and Syria began, the group has lost approximately 25% of its territory. ISIL's inability to hold its ground in Iraq is a direct result of its fighting style. The group wants to openly defend territory and that means putting their troops out in ways that make them vulnerable to airpower in conventional battles, which is why U.S. and coalition airstrikes have been so effective at disrupting their operations. In short, ISIL has a serious problem; it has major powers fighting against it, and it doesn't have an effective way to fight against them. So, when ISIL attacked Paris, it was not a sign of strength; rather, it was a sign of weakness.

NEWS

Letter from the Editors

“What do you mean?” -Justin Bieber

attractive individual's name flashes on phone, new message

“Hey you cutie, what's up?”

Middle school you know the conversation escalates to a movie with mutual friends; high school you realize dinner or a basketball game as a couple awaits in the near future; Rhodes College you have no clue what to think because the standards on this campus are a mixture of insanity and unfair realities...and

possibly chlamydia.

Why does it sometimes feel that navigating the social scene at Rhodes is more difficult than making an A in Search as a Christian? Forreal, can you even do that? It's a small campus; it is really easy to meet people - you have the library, Middle Ground, Rat, Lair, frat houses. People are basically living on top of each other. But maintaining a relationship with those people, not so simple. In fact, maintaining a long distance relationship with your high school leftovers proves more enduring and emotionally fulfilling (if not sexu-

ally #loveyourself).

Sure, conversations start, you might grab a meal together, but from then on it's platonic because your object of choice is in a long-distance relationship, or it's just a few drunken trysts that end in unanswered snapchats and self-hatred. Liberal Arts requires that we receive a whole person education, which means the intimate side of ourselves should be well-developed by the time hands touch diplomas. And let's face it, your mom wants grandchildren.

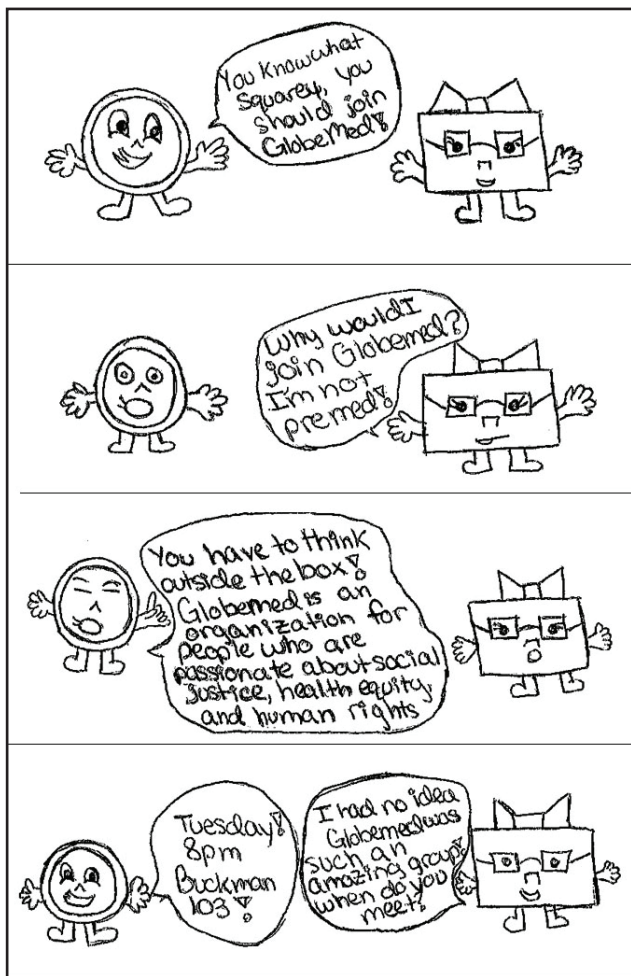
Others who read this article also searched: protection, what is a girl-

friend?, good places to eat out in Memphis.

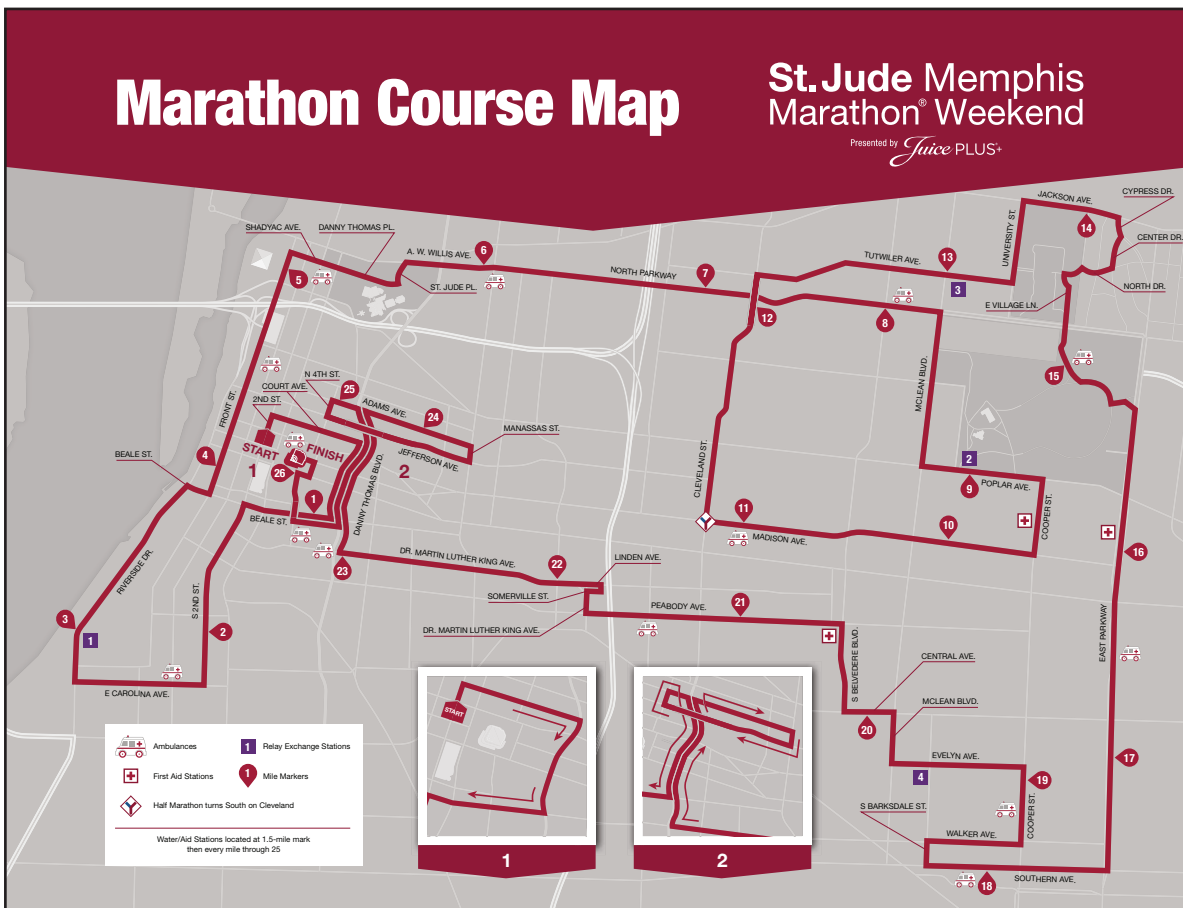
Our numbers are on the directory, Zoe&Ally&Doug

Feeling left empty by the hook-up culture at Rhodes?

Ally and Zoe recommend allowing Jesus to fill the void. Remember Romans 6:6 - "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." Be alive. Be FREE.



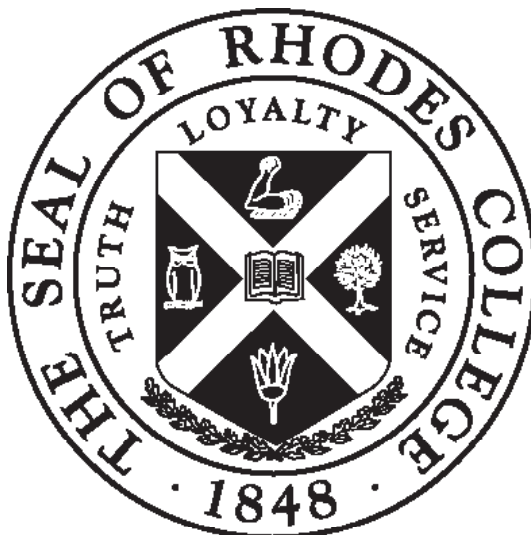
Comic by Natalie Scanlon



“Plan Accordingly”: On campus? Be prepared to cheer on the runners from Sorority Row. You'll be stuck at Rhodes. Off campus? Walk to the closest intersection of the race. You might not be able to get to Rhodes.

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Interested in joining *The Sou'Wester*? Have any stories you think need a voice? Comments/concerns?

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WITHIN THE GATES

Athlete Spotlight: Brittany Alexander



Photo from Rhodes College

BY KATIE GABRICK '18
STAFF WRITER

When senior Brittany Alexander started high school, she did not imagine herself as a competitive runner, but as a cheerleader. Her grandmother, mother and sister had all been accomplished cheerleaders. The expectation was that Alexander would cheer in high school as well. When she did not make her high school's cheerleading team after her freshman year, Alexander was devastated. She thought she would never "be able to go out for a sport again." However, when her friend invited her to go out for the cross country team, Alexander found another activity to which she could devote her energies.

"Running started out a little more social for me," she shared. But as Alexander improved, she began to see her potential as a runner. "As I saw all these amazing runners and mentors ahead of me," she recalled, "I thought I could be like them one day." Certainly, Alexander has become a runner like those who inspired her in high school. She has become competitive and determined. "My dad has a quote he would always tell me," she recalled, "which is 'step on their necks, and rip their hearts out,' which is super overly aggressive, but he said it because I was so reserved... I really didn't become super competitive until I came to Rhodes."

Throughout her athletic career at Rhodes, she has achieved much success with first place finishes at the SAA Conference meet for cross country her sophomore and junior years. However, for Alexander, this season was more about team wins than individual wins. She missed about six months of training before this cross country season with an injury. Even though she was not able to complete her typical mileage and training, Alexander led her team at both Conference championships with a third place finish and at Regional championships with a 12th place finish to help the team qualify for the DIII National Championships. This season, she shared, "I wasn't doing as well as I wanted to [do] compared to my past performances. But all things considered, I felt that I was still able to contribute to the team goals [and] seeing us succeed together was really cool."

Alexander is looking forward to competing in the spring with the women's track team, and after she graduates, she hopes to continue running. She would like to run a marathon after she graduates and hopes to qualify for the Boston Marathon. Additionally, she will train for 5k and 10k road races. Outside of competing, Alexander knows that running will "always be a part of [her] lifestyle."

Multicultural Visit Program

BY TAYLOR BARKSDALE '18
STAFF WRITER

November 14-15, there were over 250 eager students hoping to become a Rhodent! The Admissions Open House was flooded with prospective students from around the country interested in the various programs that we have to offer here at the College. On Saturday, students enjoyed campus tours, Lynx football and a mock class to see how they could fit into our bubble.

One mentionable aspect of the weekend was the Multicultural Visit Program, an overnight program for and hosted by students of color to get first-hand experience as to what it's like to be a student of color at Rhodes. Pro-studs got to mingle with faculty and current students at a mixer where they were presented information on different resources on campus that could cater to their multicultural needs. Followed by an amazing Food Truck Rodeo dinner, students got a taste of some of the city's best food truck cuisine while getting more acquainted with their hosts and the many other new faces around campus.

Students were free after dinner to do anything they wanted with their host on campus or in the city. For example, my pro-studs and I went to a friend's room to play taboo/charades where the upperclassmen were defeated by our younger crowd. Other's enjoyed some of the fraternity lifestyle or took the time to appreciate the simple things the campus has to offer, like catching up on a common show in the OMA. Whatever was decided to be done, I enjoyed being a host and both of my pro-studs said that I made their Rhodes experience a lot of fun, just as my host did when I participated in the program. All-in-all, MVP weekend is the best weekend to host students hands down.

From the Commissioner...

Weekly Update: In total for the fall semester, the Allocations Board allocated \$87,610.77! We hope that you all were able to attend some of the events or participate in some of the organizations that we found to be well-organized and creative.

For the last letter of the semester, I want to put to bed one final misconception about the Allocations Board process: that when events or items are approved an organization receives that sum to spend simply toward the proposed end. In other words, if an organization requests

funds for an event totaling \$100 but only spends \$88 on the supplies listed on the budget, they still maintain \$12 of credit. By the same token, if an organization receives \$100 for an event but when they go to purchase the requested supplies they spend \$115, they must pay the extra \$15 out-of-pocket.

Both of these situations do not represent how the refunding process works once requests are approved by the Board. Rather, what the Allocations Board truly does is approve items. Sure, if we think that some-

thing here or there could be purchased more cheaply we will suggest that this be researched, but what we really aim to do is to be consistent in the items that we approve among and within organizations.

So don't think of it as if your organization has been approved for a dollar amount but a list of proposed supplies. If those supplies at the store end up costing slightly more or less than the submitted request, your organization will still be refunded. However, if items show up on a receipt that were not explicitly

approved by the Board, they will not be refunded, no matter the grand total.

I receive questions about this portion of the process at least once per week, so I hope that this explanation clears up how the College views your spending after it has passed through the Allocations Board! Do let me know if any questions remain.

Sincerely,
Ally Limmer
Allocations Board Commissioner

WITHIN THE GATES

Externships

BY KIM MACHARIA '18
STAFF WRITER

Winter break for college students, unlike the measly two weeks given to high schoolers, is usually about one month long. Career Services offers students the chance to take advantage of this long break through their Externship program! Tracy Gold explained that “the [externship] program pairs students with employers and alumni for shadowing, observing or an informational interview so that students can learn more about the designated industry and a typical ‘day on the job.’” An externship gives students the opportunity to explore a career path of their interest.

Externships are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The process for participating in the program began earlier this week. This past Tuesday, students were emailed a list of tens of employers from an array of different industries and even states. The following day, a link was emailed out to students through which they could select their top interests. On average about 40 students participate in the program. However, this year 90 employers will be participating in the program which means even more students will be able to engage in this valuable program and possibly even add it to their resume.

An externship is a wonderful way for students to connect with alumni and employers local to their area. It gives students a chance to be productive over break and get a taste of an industry they would like to learn more about. If you have yet to submit your top choices to Career Services, contact their office immediately to see if any openings remain! This is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of one of the many wonderful services offered through Career Services.

Holiday Happiness!

BY SAVANNAH PATTON '19
STAFF WRITER

Twelve. We only have twelve more days of exhaustive studying, pathological coffee consumption and embittered envying of Palmer Cat's unjustly simple life before the semester is over. To get us through this final push toward the glory that is winter break, there are a number of delightful study breaks coming up that should bring a big Friday-sized-smile to your sleep-deprived faces. A week from today on December 11, look for RAB members with large – I repeat, large – boxes of free donuts for those slaving away in the library and middle ground. “Do-Nut Stress!” they will say cheerfully, smiling with donuts extended toward the zombies before them. Smile back. Take said donut. DoNut forget your manners. DoNut stress.

On December 12, there will be a “Positivi-Tea Party” with (again, free) tea, hot cocoa and positive notes of encouragement to be adorned upon the Middle Ground doors. To get through your endeavors on December 13, make sure to stop by the Rat for a pancake study break; if any food is capable of alleviating both mental and physical fatigue, it's pancakes. This is proven; trust me.

The final two study breaks consist of gRAB bags (think cotton candy and a popcorn machine) on December 14 and, wait for it, a game night on the eve of heck-yes-we're-finally-finished-let's-go-home. Be sure to look out for solidified times and details, as these breaks are subject to change.

If you need additional complementary therapy during this tough time (let's face it, we all do), don't forget that ABC Family's 25 Days of Christmas is in full swing! With multiple Christmas and holiday movies airing throughout each day, ABC Family has got us covered. Here are a few of the highlights during the next twelve days:

(All Times Central)

December 4: *Elf* at 8:30 p.m.

December 5: Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* at 11:30 a.m.

December 6: *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* at 10 p.m. ET

December 7: *The Santa Clause* at 7:45 p.m.

December 8: *The Polar Express* at 7:45 p.m.

December 9: *Mickey's Christmas Carol* at 5 p.m.

December 10: *The Year Without a Santa Clause* at 4:30 p.m.

December 11: *Fred Claus* at 3 p.m.

December 12: *Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas* 8:45 a.m.

December 13: *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas* 7:45 a.m.

December 14: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 10:30 a.m.

December 15: *Elf* (yes, again; it's that good) at 7:15 p.m.

Embrace the sappiness, eat lots of peppermint sticks and keep perspective: we're almost there, folks.

White, Upper-Middle Class College Student Rolls Eyes as Relatives Ask Sincere Questions About His Life

BY MEAGHAN PICKLES '19
SATIRE WRITER

Rhodes sophomore and man about town Danny Sledman was inconvenienced beyond belief on Thanksgiving Day when a network of loving extended family had the nerve to engage him in light conversational topics, ranging from college classes to asking “any girls in your life?” followed by a light-hearted wink.

Sledman, who has never experienced poverty, hunger or an inability to access his Netflix account, was positively blindsided on Thursday when asked, “So, how're you enjoying college?” a total of four times over the course of a seven-hour get-together surrounded by a host of caring relatives, including

a living great-grandparent.

“Aunt Tiffany keeps asking me about girls... woah there, let's slow down this crazy train before it arrives at it's next stop in Crazy Town,” exclaimed the perturbed 5'5” smooth operator who sporadically gives women the time of their lives for up to four minutes. “She acts like I'm looking for a girlfriend, when obviously I'm just a cool dude who's into casual hookups. As an old hag with the best years of her life far behind her, she wouldn't know that,” said Sledman, peering out a plated-glass window and lamenting how the whole world is against him.

Uncle Brian, a financial analyst and avid fan of the hit ABC reality television show “Shark Tank,” was opposed to the idea that he was attempting to

ruin his healthy, Caucasian, 19-year-old nephew's life by encouraging a casual dialogue between the blood relatives. “I am not hip to the streetwise lingo of kids these days,” he said, gingerly holding a football he had brought to the dinner to “just throw around.” “I don't know what a trap queen is. I don't even know if you can still call your friends ‘dawg’ or if that particular reference has been rendered obsolete by former American Idol judge and Type-II diabetes activist Randy Jackson. Thus, I am relegated to the tight range of topics that have held steadfast through time, which include the facts that college has classes and there are parties with beer.”

Sledman was downright appalled at the lengths his family members were

willing to go to get to know him. “Not only was I asked how school was going, I was asked what activities I had gotten involved in,” said a visibly perplexed and utterly bewildered Sledman. “I don't want to have to think about my privileged experiences at my expensive, comfortable college or the various opportunities I am provided at such an institution while I'm relaxing at home. Take a giant chill pill, grandpa.”

When pressed, Sledman was unable to give an example of a conversational topic that would not cause him to erupt in an exaggerated sigh. He was last seen hanging out alone in the garage with the extra bottle of wine Mrs. Sledman had saved for when the trigger words “Donald Trump” were brought up in dinnertime conversation.

EDITORIAL

Dear Professor...

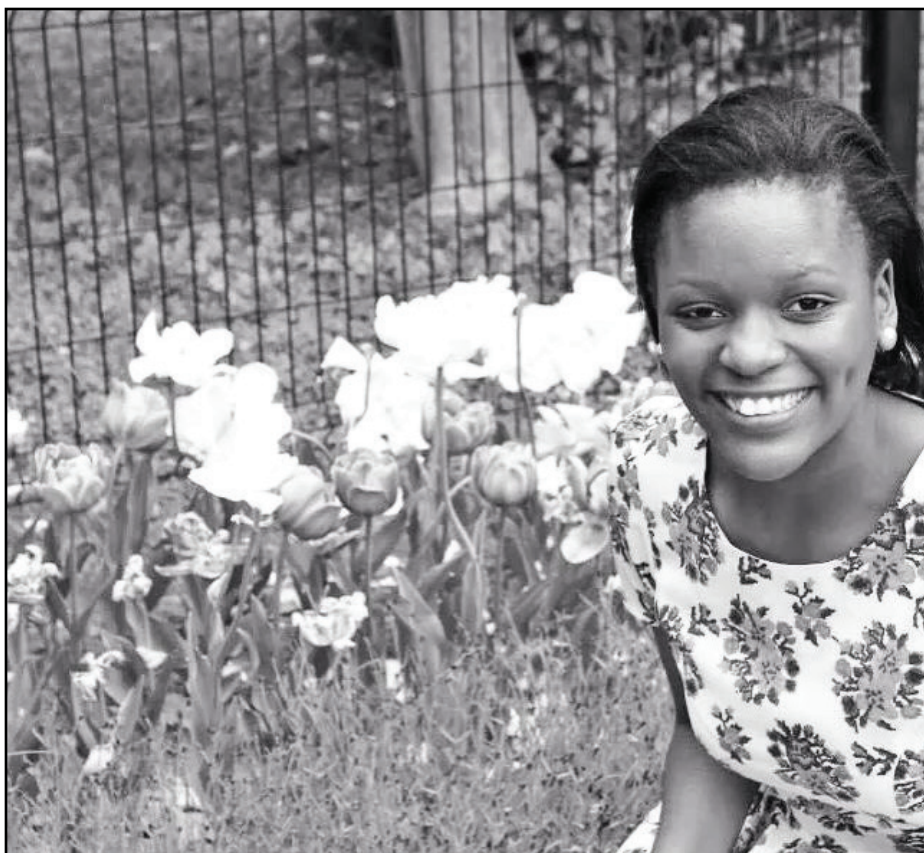


Photo from Nolu McIlraith

BY NOLU MCILRAITH '16
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dear Professor,

My sincerest apologies, but I cannot attend class today. The thing is, I am black in America, and today I am overwhelmed by having to struggle to validate my own existence. I'll be sure to get notes from someone.

Sincerely,
Nolu

This is the email that I wanted to send to my professors last week as Miz-zou and other colleges and universities around the country erupted once more in response to racial tensions. These events, coupled with conversations that happened on our very campus, triggered numerous memories that I had temporarily repressed - instances where I have encountered racism in my own life and have managed to tuck it away in a little box that was shoved behind all the academic worries that I currently felt. Last week I left class and proceeded to cry behind Buckman in response to the emotions that consumed me. I dried my tears and lowered my head as I walked back into class, with the hopes that no one would notice that

I had been crying. That week, for the hundredth time, I felt helpless, overwhelmed and alone.

See, I know what you may be thinking... something along the lines of "Nolu, you are loved by people on this campus. You are involved, in a sorority and Bonner. How in the world can you feel this way?" Well I am about to tell you. But first, here's a little bit about me. I am South African and moved to the States in the early 2000s. My mother, who is white, adopted me when I was nine months old. I lived in predominantly white neighborhoods and attended schools with mostly white children throughout my lifetime. Coming to Rhodes was not a culture shock but being awakened to a society at large that continually oppresses me was. While I have had numerous racist encounters throughout my youth, race relations became a huge factor in my life once I moved to Memphis.

This past summer I was left speechless when the daughter, age four, of a family that I babysit, stated, "You're disgusting; you're trash because your skin is brown and black." I left the house once the mother returned, hurt, ashamed and angered that such hatred could be ingrained in a little girl at such a young age. The mother promised to discipline her. However, she was not the disciplin-

ing type - I knew nothing would come from her empty words. This experience points to larger issues of racial tensions that are still present in today's society. This event reinforced a struggle that I, and many other minorities, are continually facing. We are constantly fighting in our society to be treated equally, to be given respect and to have our humanity validated.

I was in the sixth grade when I first realized that race matters. A boy on the playground told me to go shower and wash my knees because they "looked dirty"; he didn't understand that the coloring was just the pigmentation of my skin. In middle school, I became accustomed to employees following me around in their stores at the mall. I soon realized that if I dressed well and seemed "put together," they somehow trusted me more. I learned not to act surprised when I interacted with people with whom I had previously spoken on the phone... they continually stated things like "Wow, you speak really well" or "You're so eloquent." In high school, I hid my tears when my friends joked that they could not see me when it was dark outside - I learned to laugh along to their jokes because I was trying to fit in. People threw the N-word back and forth in my presence because they assumed that I would be okay with it. Coming back from Ecuador this summer, I was diverted to a line that was occupied by minorities and questioned excessively as my traveling companion was welcomed into the country with ease. He walked straight through Customs and waited for me on the other side. These are just a few of the negative experiences that have shaped my life thus far.

My move to Memphis has made my world even more racial. I have become conscious of the struggles that I, and many other minorities, will have to face in the future. I am more aware of the ways in which the color of my skin is like shackles on my feet. I did not choose it and I cannot escape it - we are all just trying to survive. I listen to my peers' struggles about being a minority on this campus, and I feel their pain. At times, I do feel isolated and unheard, but I am also aware that being a part of Greek Life has also made my adjustment to Rhodes significantly easier. I

have, in a sense, an "in" to the Rhodes culture. Yet, I do not remain unscathed. I am writing about my experience to enlighten you. As my friend, you should support me, love me and also share my struggles and pain. You cannot claim to know me without knowing how race affects my everyday experience. From employment opportunities, to navigating new environments, making connections and even entering the dating scene - my race can and does affect the opportunities that I will have.

Most of all I am tired. I am tired of crying and being overwhelmed by a society that does not love me. I am tired of breaking down in front of the few friends who have cared enough to listen to my worries. I am tired of having to be "strong" when talking about race on this campus in order to make others feel comfortable; I am, after all, just masking that pain that I feel. I am tired of trying to explain to you that race does affect my very existence... I should not have to prove this to you, please take me by my word. I am also scared. I am scared of the future and what it might hold. I am scared that everyday I may be the next person of color who is unnecessarily stopped by the police and incarcerated or killed. I fear that my name could be just another addition to a list that only people of color care to read. Still, I cannot imagine what it must be like to be a black man in this country - I simply do not know how they do it.

I write to this article honestly and with hope. I worry how some might react to this article, but if it sparks a conversation then my goal has been reached. We talk about solidarity, being allies on this campus, which I am thankful for, but at each Townhall Meeting the same faculty and students attend. How can we change this? We need to change this.

So Professor, are you listening? Can you finally comprehend my struggle? Students, will you support me? Do you care enough about me to educate yourself and inspire positive change? Friends, will you take the time to be more than an ally? Will you go forth and spread the knowledge of what you have learned? Other minorities and I are calling out to you. Please don't ignore us... We need your help.

BEYOND THE GATES

Star Wars: Another Prequel Disaster?



Photo from ABC News

"Adult Toys": Middle-aged man excited for Star Wars.

BY BEN LAVIANA '18
COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

Wassup [sic] my nerf-herders? As of publication, Star Wars: The Force Awakens is only fourteen lonely, lonely days away from official theatrical release! To celebrate, here is The Sou'wester's list of what it—the paper and all those associated, not a lone writer for said paper—hopes to see in the new installment of everyone's favorite capitalist's wet dream franchised space-epic! The Return of Fan Favorite Willow Hood:

Ever since his first theatrical appearance in *The Empire Strikes Back*, albeit however brief, (though true fans know he actually appeared first in the much-panned *Star Wars: Holiday Special*) Willow Hood has infatuated fans with his seemingly natural screen pres-

ence that, despite next to no dialogue, communicates a deeply mysterious past—one whose story has since been expanded upon on behalf of fans' demands, though us fans are still cravin' some more Willow!

The Entire Cast Replaced by an Aging Billy Dee Williams:

Hamill, Fisher and Ford have all been confirmed, but all the true fans have one question on their mind: Where's Lando? It can't be too hard to get Williams, he can't be doing too much nowadays. C'mon Abrams, where the true star of *Star Wars*:

A Trained Dog:

Sure, why not?

An End to the Marketing Blitzkrieg:

Just kidding, we all need our officially licensed C-3PO Campbell's Condensed Soup (—available for a limited time only).

Chewbacca's Hat:

Can you imagine if Abrams brought back the beloved Chewbacca, only to forget Chewy's iconic hat?

Scenes Where J.J. Abrams Forgot to Take Off the Lens Cap:

Directing one of the most anticipated movie sequels of all time must be stressful—everyone is expecting perfection. We should all lower our expectations now and cut J.J. (affectionately dubbed "Jar Jar") Abrams some slack; he's only human, too! If he were to leave the lens cap on for a few scenes, (nothing vital though!), it would serve as a helpful existential reminder of how inherently flawed we all are as a member of this human species. We'll still love you, J.J., nonetheless!

Han Solo Coming to Terms with his Jewish Heritage and Gaining the Approval of His Father, the orthodox and very much revered Rabbi Haluk Solo:

It would be foolish of the screenwriters to leave this crucial, unfulfilled plot point from *Return of the Jedi* unnoticed—it was all that was talked about following the movie's '83 release, and the fans have yet to stop talking about it, with fan theories and general speculation aplenty online! Given newcomer Adam Driver's similar facial features to that of Ford's, could it be possible Rabbi Solo's appearance is more than just a fan theory?

Overt Political Messages:

This naturally seems like the next evolutionary step for a cultural institution as grounded in the public con-

science as the *Star Wars* saga, and any screenwriter worth his or her weight realizes this! Think of the possibilities: Will Han Solo disclose who he thinks is the best Republican front-runner for the 2016 election? Will Peter Mayhew break character and recite an anti-war soliloquy directly toward the camera? The fans demand answers, because sometimes, even if it may seem sanctimonious, escapism can be the fun and meaningful route for dealing with the difficult issues of our time.

Asian Actors:

The diversity of the *Star Wars* films is fairly obvious: spanning multiple characters, each of truly unique alien races; also a few black actors, too—even the rare female one—but it still seems odd that there has yet to be any Asian actors in *Star Wars*, even though the series has had its share of Asian caricatures.

Insufferable Fans:

(Already met, please ignore.)

Lightsabers and Poorly Written Dialogue:

These have become staples of the *Star Wars* universe, and the teaser trailers for the film seem to indicate they will be delivered in full force! Get ready, fanboys (and let's be real...it's fanboys) 'cause here are some of the juiciest: "Hope is not lost today...it is found"; Luke's lightsaber; "The stories about what happened." "It's all true. All of it. The Dark Side, the Jedi. They're real"; Rylo Ken's new funky lightsaber; and "Chewie, we're home."

A Reason Not To Grow-Up:

'nuff said!

Hillary Clinton Comes to Memphis

BY WARNER RAULSTON '19
STAFF WRITER

Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton made a campaign stop in Memphis and gave a speech at LeMoyne-Owen College on November 20. She began the speech with a short biography of herself, tying her personal narrative with the narrative of the region. She shared stories of her work with her husband when they lived across the Mississippi River in the state of Arkansas and made references to the successes of Bill Clinton during his time in the White House, all with the slight hint of a southern accent.

Secretary Clinton's speech focused on two major campaign pledges: the issue of college affordability for young Americans and the need to strengthen and expand the Affordable Care Act. Like a true politician, Clinton played to her audience, paying credit to LeMoyne-Owen and its effort to educate its students, preparing them for their future careers.

She spoke of her "New College Compact," which promises that students "do not have to borrow money to pay tuition when you go to college." Her plan would also allow for college graduates to refinance their student loan debt at a lower interest rate, reducing the overall

financial burden of those who have already graduated.

Clinton then turned to the issue of healthcare, talked of ways to lower the cost of prescription drugs and criticized her Republican opponents for their repeated attempts to repeal Obamacare. "I am proposing a new tax credit of up to five thousand dollars to help families that have excessive healthcare costs." She put emphasis on the need for governors to expand Medicaid under the terms of the Affordable Care Act as well, even challenging Tennessee governor Bill Haslam to expand Medicaid - "I'm going to try to convince more governors, like your governor here in

Tennessee, to expand Medicaid so that more people can get their healthcare needs...I'm hoping Tennessee will do that."

Before ending her speech, Clinton talked a bit more about the needs for criminal justice reform and increased gun control. She promised to campaign vigorously in Tennessee in an attempt to make the state blue in the general election, opening up the possibility of future visits.

She ended her speech like all candidates do - thanking those in attendance for their support, "Let's go win for America! Thank you, all!"

#MEMPHIS

Stumbles and Corrections



Photo by Zoe Laulederkind
 "Ups and Downs": The Grizzlies beat the Portland Trailblazers 100-101 on Nov. 13. But they have faltered against the Warriors and Spurs. What is this season gonna be?

BY DAVIS HOWE '19
 STAFF WRITER

Recently, the Grizzlies have gone through a very tough stretch of losses. When the Grizzlies lost to the Golden State Warriors for the second time, they were on a four-game losing streak and hadn't won against any playoff teams yet. In fact, the Grizzlies have had two head-scratching losses to Portland and the Jazz, two teams whose place in the Western playoffs is anything but guaranteed. Grizzlies fans were scrambling, wondering whether it was time to give

up on the Grit and Grind style, if it was time to trade core players like Zach Randolph and other overreactions. The front office of the Grizzlies was a bit more measured in their response, but the Grizzlies did make a change. Trading Beno Udrih and Jarnell Stokes, a backup point guard with a killer mid-range game and not much else and a rebounding big riding the bench, for Mario Chalmers and James Ennis, a backup point guard with hit or miss offensive efficiency and a big riding the bench. At the time, it seemed like a knee jerk reaction move that wouldn't change much.

Since then, however, Chalmers (or Rio, a great nickname) has been such a valuable boost off the bench, near single-handedly securing the win against OKC for the Grizzlies. Early in the fourth quarter vs. the rivals from Oklahoma, Russell Westbrook led OKC on a run to turn a ten-point Grizz lead into a one-point Thunder lead. Chalmers proceeded to rattle off eight straight points and turn the game's momentum around completely. Every game is not going to include a 29-point performance from Mario Chalmers, but the presence of an offensive-minded point guard that can run the floor certainly has added to the energy and effectiveness of the Grizzlies as a whole.

Another change allowing for this three-game win streak for the Grizzlies

is the rise of Marc Gasol as an offensive option again. Gasol had a slow start to this year, and although he is still not at 100% due to a neck strain injury, in the last three games he tallied up 31 points in the close match vs. Portland and over 15 points in each of the two games since. Marc's presence both offensively and defensively are essential for the Grizzlies' success, and the fact that he's finally playing like Big Spain again is no small factor in the Grizzlies' recent win streak. Shots that just wouldn't fall for Gasol early in the season, his signature driving sky hook and beautiful mid-range wing jumper, are starting to add up to valuable points.

Other notable performances in the last three games include Jeff Green, whose athletic ability to make quick cuts to the basket led to him scoring 21 points in the win against Minnesota, a team-high. Mike Conley is also playing well, scoring over 20 points in the last two games on very efficient shooting, making 4/6 three-point shots vs. Minnesota and 4/5 vs. OKC. Essentially, when one player starts to do well, it helps the entire team with spacing and energy. The Grizzlies have begun to look like themselves again, although there's still the worry that the only win against a truly playoff-caliber team came from an OKC team playing without Kevin Durant.

These three games were a perfect

time to start getting hot. With a tough schedule coming up against playoff-caliber teams, including facing the impressive Spurs on the second night of a back-to-back, the Grizzlies need to be prepared to fight for every W. The Houston Rockets are a team also in the Grizzlies' Southwest division that has looked mediocre, but they are looking to reclaim their elite status after firing their head coach Kevin McHale. Houston comes up twice in the Grizzlies' next three games, and the results will go a long way in the fight for relevance in a very stacked Western conference.

The Grizzlies currently stand at an even 6-6, and the next five games are important for determining how the rest of the season will go. If the Grizzlies can sweep the two Houston games and beat a Mavericks team that's proving to be much better than expected, then they can accept the likely losses to the Spurs and Hawks, who have proved difficult for the Grit and Grinders to deal with. If not, the Grizzlies will have to keep trying to prove that they're not as bad as their record implies.

This article was submitted on November 19, 2015 following contests between the Memphis Grizzlies and the Portland Trail Blazers, Minnesota Timberwolves and Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Holiday Guide to Memphis, as Told by a Memphian

BY EMILY FABER '19
 STAFF WRITER

Orion Starry Nights: Shelby Farms, Nov. 26 - Jan. 2, \$20 per car

Seek out that friend with a car and head over to Shelby Farms for Memphis' biggest annual holiday light show, featuring 1.5 million environmentally friendly LED lights. Midway through your light-show cruise, stop at Mistletoe Village to sip hot chocolate, ride a camel, feed animals at the petting zoo, buy last-minute holiday gifts and take a picture with Santa Claus.

Memphis Zoo on Ice: Memphis Zoo, Nov. 20 - Jan. 30, \$6 (in addition to regular admission)

Nothing says "cute holiday date" like falling into the arms of your Christmas cutie while ice skating. Come make

your dreams come true at the Memphis Zoo's temporary 60x90-foot ice rink kept cool by giant coolers and covered by a tent. Rental skates are available, and there's plenty of space for chilling (get it?).

Snowy Nights in My Big Backyard: Memphis Botanic Gardens, Nov. 26 - Dec. 18, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., \$7

White Christmases in Memphis may be rare, but you can experience the next best thing! Visit the Memphis Botanic Gardens to play in the "snow" and enjoy winter treats every Friday and Saturday night until Christmas.

Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees: Pink Palace Museum, Nov. 20 - Dec. 31, \$5 for adults

Get lost in the Enchanted Forest, a winter wonderland populated by vintage animatronic critters. While these

little creatures are admittedly creepy, it's worth the visit to see the festival of trees designed by local organizations as well as the elaborate gingerbread village. All proceeds benefit Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

Christmas at Graceland: Nov. 19 - Jan. 9, free to see the lights / normal prices for house tours

If you haven't already made the pilgrimage to Memphis' beloved shrine to Elvis, why not visit when it's completely decked out in Christmas lights and holiday decorations? It's free to see the lawn (a sight in and of itself), but tours inside of the mansion are normally-priced.



"Holiday Fun": Not gonna lie, Zoo Lights is a pretty fun date night

Screenshot from Zoo Lights

MEMORIAL

Grief on Five Continents: Remembering The Behroness



Photo from Leigh M. Johnson

BY HAYLEY ROSENFELD '16
TRIBUTE WRITER

Language feels completely and infuriatingly insufficient standing before a monument of a man like Professor Behr, trying to describe his radiance, his energy, and the many things he taught us about writing and life. I mean really – he was very tall, and figuratively larger than life. So words are insufficient, but it would be criminal to not try at all.

Like with so many of my classmates, Professor Behr was the one to help me find my voice. It was something he did gently and kindly – provided he was convinced you'd done “the work.” Put in “the hours.” (It's impossible for me to read those without hearing his voice in my head, but if Behr becomes one of my permanent little voices I will be very fortunate.) If he wasn't convinced, then that's another story.

There was no tolerance for bullshit, and that was made crystal clear on the first day of class every semester. “If you don't do the work, you're going to fucking fail the course. Drop the course right now if you're not going to do the work.” Later on in the semester this

would become “you're all getting F's!” Behr would not hesitate to call any of us out when he suspected we hadn't read, hadn't prepared adequately for class, hadn't spent the hours. His wrath was unparalleled when he was forced to wrestle a crocodile sentence out of our stories (a sentence so incoherent, he had to heroically battle it in the marshes of the Amazon in order to understand it). And if you dared put a writer's moral in your story, he would not be shy with suggestions for improvement (note: dramatic flair and gesticulations varied from performance to performance): “Go to the stove and turn it on high. Allow it to heat up for a while. Then, once it's white hot, place your hands on the stove and hold them there for a few seconds. Then see if you still want to write your writer's message.” As Behr taught us, there's power in understatement (and in performance).

A classmate of mine once compared Behr's classes to therapy, and I think that's really accurate. This feeling in part must've had something to do with the way no lesson in his class happened in a vacuum. A lecture about a workshop character's one-dimensionality

would spring into a life-lesson about the harmfulness of unrealistic expectations and the importance of contentedness in the blink of an eye. Maybe best of all, insights were always delivered with a lightness and playfulness – serene, but capable of cracking up and threatening “defenestration” at any given second. (In this vein, one of my favorite Behr-isms is “if it's good, and it's enough, then it's good enough.” Always a great one to remember when you're starting to complicate happiness.)

Above all, there was a whole lot of love. Love for his students, love for language, love for honesty, for kindness, for loudly telling graphic sexual stories with the classroom door wide open, for the world, for justice, and for life. I think everyone who knew Behr could feel this love. He embraced the world and all its complexity, confusion, pain, suffering, joy, pleasure, and hurt fully and shamelessly, and he made it feel like we could, too.

Truthfully, I don't think any number of writing classes, even with Professor Behr, could ever make me feel qualified to take on something like this. But like so many of my classmates, I felt strong-

ly that I needed to pay some tribute to the man who had a huge, irreversible, everlasting impact on my life. I've tried to make this as honest as possible in his honor. And not overly sentimental (though dammit I am chomping at the bit!), because he always got on me for that.

It's been widely circulated on social media already, but I'm going to share it again. It's a passage from Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* that Professor Behr often recited to students and friends alike. It seems especially poignant with his passing; in a way, it feels like even in his death, he's teaching this to us all: “I remember one morning getting up at dawn. There was such a sense of possibility. You know, that feeling. And I...remember thinking of myself: So this is the beginning of happiness, this is where it starts. And of course there will always be more...never occurred to me it wasn't the beginning. It was happiness. It was the moment, right then.”

Thank you, Professor Behr, for all the happiness.