

Spot-Ed: A Call for Reserved Spaces

BY ANU IYER '20
SPOTLIGHT INVESTIGATOR

The First-Year Parking Lot has been made into what seems to many an unnecessary and excessive tradition for incoming students ever since its construction wrapped up 21 years ago. In point of fact, its sole purpose has been to house the cars of freshmen residents and commuters at the furthest distance from the traffic at the center of campus whereas the lot across from Barret Library remains in the hands of visitors, faculty and all non-first year students.

The entire campus (excluding street-side parking) offers nearly 1,550 parking spaces, less than 330 of which can be found in the First-Year Lot. However, the "freshmen" lot is not exclusively set aside for first-years, resulting in a huge scarcity of parking available to first-years.

Aside from the numbers of students on campus daily, Rhodes could host anywhere from 25 to 250 visitors on any given day. With the shortage of spaces in the lot across from Barret due to staff, commuters of other grades are forced to scavenge for lone spaces in the far back rows of the first-year lot.

Currently, tradition sets the precedent for commuters to constantly be on the hunt for parking spaces. In addition, the size of Rhodes does not



"Parking Woes": Commuting students have known for years that parking is a problem. What can we do?

Photo by Sara Smith

necessitate the immediacy of changing the parking policy. No matter the parking location, a classroom or building can be reached in a matter of minutes. But why not strive for improvements wherever they can be made? The number of commuters, 600, versus residents, 1400, legitimizes making the argument for a reserved lot (preferably at Barrett with its nearly 400 spaces) for commuters, even if the numbers

don't easily divide between the two lots.

Furthermore, it cannot be denied that Rhodes has a growing population. In 2001, the college hosted 1500 students; now, we welcome 2,100. The first-year-lot would more successfully hold students' cars that do not enter or leave the campus on a daily basis, while the Barret lot could streamline the ease of access to the center of campus for commuters, fac-

ulty and staff members as well as visitors. Knowing that a reserved lot awaits at the heart of campus shaves off time that is wasted circling rows, lessening the risk of tardiness.

As such, the current parking free-for-all could benefit from a little more consideration. While the intimate size of the campus attracts an array of personalities, the winding streets and obscure parking policies lead many a visitor and

newcomer astray. The ease of entering and exiting campus would increase tenfold for faculty members and commuters as well if the Barret lot was reserved for their cars. Perhaps only time will tell whether or not the current policy will undergo revision in the years to come as the student population continues to grow.

A Note from Rhodes Student Government

Barret Library 24-hours for Final Exams begins Sunday, December 4, 2016 and ends Wednesday, December 14, 2016. To help keep your items safe, all materials left in carrels, on tables, and in study rooms will be picked up beginning Thursday, December 1, after 1:00 pm, and

all-day Friday, December 2. These items will be boxed and placed at the Checkout Desk.

If you are taking advantage of the Library's 24-hour Exam Hours, please consider the following suggestions:

-If you leave for more than

a bathroom break or a QUICK snack, take your stuff with you.

-If you haven't slept today, you really should try to work that into your schedule.

-If you don't shower for more than three days, please consider baby wipes or some Febreze.

-Be respectful of others:

-Silence your phone.

-Take conversations outside.

-Don't listen to music through your headphones too loudly or eat stinky food or leave your stuff everywhere to try to save a space.

-Pick up your empty energy drinks and fast food wrappers when you leave.

-Be kind to each other (and

the librarians, and the housekeepers and the nice people who are making your coffee)!

This is not a competition. Just because the library is open for 322 hours straight doesn't mean you always have to be there.

NEWS

Letter from the Editors

"I'm borderline happy and I'm borderline sad" by Tove Styrke from **Borderline**

Seriously, stop telling everyone how stressed you are about finals. According to the National Center for Educa-

tion Statistics, there are **20.5 million** students enrolled in college, which means there are over 20.5 million students now going through the exact same thing that you are. Nothing is exceptional about your academic situation or workload.

You're not doing anything more than anyone else. Remember, you signed up for these classes and convinced some poor soul to pay for them, so please do us all a favor and stop complaining. Your Spanish 201 final is not going to be that hard. The

more time you spend telling yourself that "life isn't fair," the less time you spend studying.

In fact, the average starting salary in America for last year's college graduate stands at **\$50,651**, and the average salary of those who made excuses

instead of studying for their finals is \$0 because they **failed**.

So hit the books,

The Shreditors

(You'll be fine, babes)

Letter from Another Editor

BY SAM CLARK '17 (FALL '16)
CHIEF DESIGN EDITOR

Hello! I'm not the same as the people writing just above me. But how did I know they would be right above me? Because I'm Sam Clark, I'm the Chief Design Editor¹ of the *Sou'wester*, and since this paper was rebooted back in Spring of 2015, I'm the person who designs and finishes the layout of every issue. You might have seen my name in the masthead below me, or on the couple of articles I've been wrangled into writing. They are letting me write this piece because I'm graduating after these upcoming exams², and I'll be leaving the paper at last. So I guess I can write about whatever? Cool, let's go.

My Biggest Pet Peeve about Rhodes

This one is personal. Alright, do you see the doors to Palmer? Aren't they nice? All wooden

and large and heavy and intimidating to open for any prospective students? I love them. But every single day (during the school year) they are being destroyed by students like you. Seriously. From late August to early May, the doors are constantly covered by posters, signs and advertisements for various events and clubs. All of these are affixed via tape. And the tape is doing a real doozy on the doors. When I was growing up, my parents yelled at me all the time for taping stupid little drawings and crap to the walls and my bedroom door. Why? Because it ruins the wood. You can't constantly rip on and off tape from the same door and expect it to last. "But Sam," you ask, "I looked at the door and it doesn't look that bad. Are you sure?" Yes, I'm sure. The doors have only survived because of the hard work and money of our school. The school has re-finished the doors of Palmer (and I'm assuming other buildings as well)

every other summer while the students continue to mercilessly and slowly destroy our beautiful school.

So, what is the solution? God forbid people don't share each and every one of their events. We need to set up and start using some type of outside notice board. It could go right between FJ and Palmer (that way, all you science nerds don't have to venture into Palmer to see the events). At the same time, we should ban the posting of announcements on all wooden doors throughout campus. I also believe this should be extended to the interior of Palmer. Those beautiful columns are not damaged by the tape, but all the posters reduce the impact of the chilling room, especially for pro-studs.

We have been voted as having an amazingly beautiful campus. Let's embrace that, and stop hiding our buildings behind poorly designed and short term posters³. If I ever have money to blow, I'm do-

nating to Rhodes College, on the express condition that they build an outdoor announcement board⁴.

Advice, I Guess?

Running out of space here so this will be a list.

- Live off campus. It's cheaper and more fun.
- Cook your own food. It's so much better than the Rat and cheaper than any restaurant.
- Enjoy the fall weather as much as you can. Winter in Memphis is wet and cold.
- Join extracurriculars. Greek Life, Newspapers, Student Government and sports can all make up for unimpressive GPAs (at least partially, I hope).
- Apply for RSAP. Fun, useful jobs and the pay is great.

Thank you Rhodes, for a

wonderful 3.5 years. Thank you Memphis, for being a second home and also being fun as f*ck. Finally, thank you Zoe and the *Sou'wester* for revitalizing my love for InDesign and newspapers.

¹The "Chief" title because it makes me feel more important without actually changing the structure of the *Sou'wester*

²Though Zoe has made me promise I'll still be on-call for any emergency and life threatening design problems

³I mean, half of the announcements at any time are for events that happened weeks, if not months ago. But everyone has been told many times that it is an honor code violation to take down posters, and therefore are scared of ripping off old and irrelevant paper.

⁴And that they replace some of the desks in the classrooms in Palmer with tables and chairs. I hate those desks with a burning, rolling passion.

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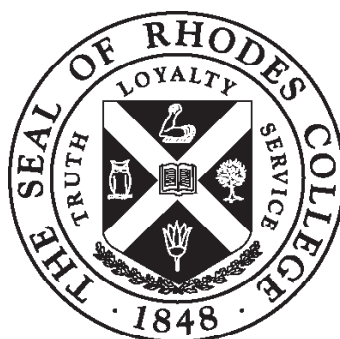
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WITHIN THE GATES

Following The Way

BY ANTONIN SCALIA '18
COLUMNIST

"Don't tell Jesus that you want consolation in prayer. If he gives it to you, thank him. Tell him always that you want perseverance." - Josmaria Escriva, The Way

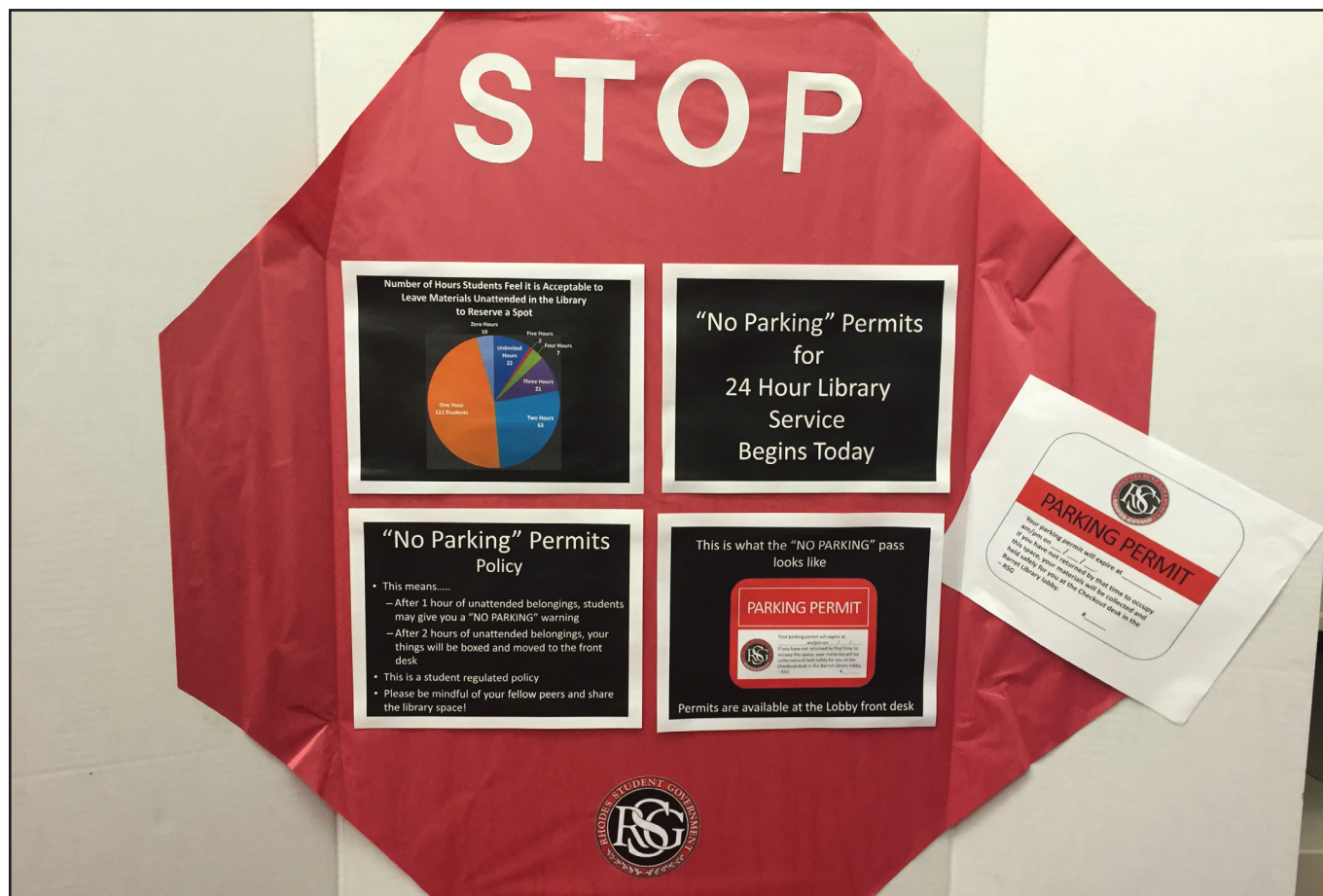
In this 100th reflection of The Way, Saint Josemaria provides some much needed guidance in what the true purpose of our prayer ought to be in times of hardship. How often, when confronted by some sort of hardship – whether it be academic, interpersonal, physical or even spiritual – do we come to Jesus in prayer and ask that this “cup be taken from us?” We ask that we be relieved of this hardship not by the will of God but because it is our own will, our own selfish will.

We ask for an end to the misfortune rather than for the fortitude to endure it. And yet, it seems we are not fully aware of that which we are asking. The Bible is brimming with reminders of the beauty of enduring hardships in the name of the Lord. This sentiment is expressed in James 1:12, where it is written, “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

These trials we endure are not meaningless nor should they be dismissed as mere misfortune; these trials are glorious opportunities, as bizarre as it may feel to think so. These trials present us with the opportunity to bear the cross of Christ on our own shoulders. Of course, it is a difficult thing to ask, that we might not be granted immediate release from suffering but rather be given the grace and fortitude to persevere.

However, there is great virtue to be had in suffering in the name of Christ. Rather than seeking to cast these trials aside in the name of comfort, let us cherish these opportunities in hardship as an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. Our Lord and Savior became man and was crucified under Pontius Pilate so that our sins might be forgiven. In remembering this sacrifice, how much more willing should we be to suffer momentarily in the name of our Savior? I can think of no greater honor.

First Year Exam Anxiety



BY SABRINA GANDY '20
STAFF WRITER

As a first year, we are experiencing everything about the college experience for the first time, and with that comes final exams! We all took exams in high school and hated them then, so I think it is safe to assume that we will all still hate exams now as college students. Even though we may have already conquered exams before, it becomes a lot more serious and increasingly difficult in college as we grow ever closer to “the real world.”

First year students have never experienced what exams are like in college and thus are ignorant of how to best prepare and study for them. Many students come from different high schools, some more serious about exams than others, so it is difficult for

everyone to know how to prepare for their first exams of their college career. I interviewed a couple of freshmen to gauge current attitudes among Rhodes's newest exam-takers.

Exams always cause everyone's anxiety to run high, but many students, including freshman Angelica Garza, are utilizing the resources that Rhodes offers to minimize exam stress: “My anxiety is not as bad as I expected it to be,” shared Garza, “because I have been preparing for them pretty well and going to my teacher's office hours. I also have been using the outlets that Rhodes offers to relieve a lot of my stress recently.”

“My final exams in high school were pretty easy and not that hard,” April Huntoon '20 expressed, “so I am really scared for final exams in college because I am really not sure what to

expect and how to prepare for them. I feel like final exams matter a lot more in college and they are a huge deal, when they weren't really in high school.”

Final exams can indeed be scary and nerve-wracking. You're not alone in your stress; most freshman are nervous about what to expect, and even seasoned upperclassmen get nervous around exam time. But take heart: with the right preparation and the utilization of professors that truly care about you, as well as the host of resources Rhodes offers, you're sure to surprise yourself and gain invaluable study skills in the process. Just think, first years: this is your last first exam season of college!

Career Services: All About Winter Externships

Winter Break Externships are coming up! The Externship Program gives students the opportunity to meet an employer in a career field they are considering by shadowing, observing and/or participating in a typical “day on the job.” An externship is a brief (one day to one week) experience designed to provide a realistic view of a career field and help participants clarify career interests. These opportunities, which can potentially be included on a resume, will facilitate career exploration and the development of networking contacts. Externships are not paid, and students are responsible for any travel or lodging costs.

Be sure to check the Career Services Newsletters for the link to sign up.

Registration closes Dec. 5.

For more information, email careers@rhodes.edu

WITHIN THE GATES

Annual Fund Concert

BY MEG JERIT '20
STAFF WRITER

The Lair was awash with grooves and melodies on Monday Nov. 21 due to the Annual Fund Concert showcasing the band "V Slick." You could not tell the difference between the supporters and the stumblers-inners, as every person's head nodded to the beat, and bodies swayed in their seats or in the strides to and from food stations.

The band of five (though missing its rapper, senior Roc Sherrel), featuring Cullen Williams '17 on bass and vocals, Brad McCullough '17 on guitar and vocals, Ladd Caballero on keys and Jay Clinton '19 on drums, did covers of songs such as Allen Iverson's "White Iverson" and Childish Gambino's "Sober." When White Iverson trickled off, Cullen spoke into the microphone: "We would tell you about writing that song, but we didn't

write it; that's Post Malone's."

Mellow tones enveloped these grade-A songs and invoked the crowd to follow along. The gentle, lush sound of "Sober" segued into a solid crescendo that turned electric with an instrumental trailing that stretched its dynamic teal tones into a rawer sound, made thicker with drums and electrified by the amped-up guitar.

A "V Slick" original was next. "Stay" can only be described as "super chill," with lyrics like,

"Love is on its way, and I need you to stay." At the conclusion of these melodies, Cullen told the crowd, "If you haven't caught on by now, we're a ska-punk band."

A phenomenal croon wrapped up one of their songs in a converging, "You don't know me like I know you." At this half-way point in the concert, the members all stood up as the songs turned rock and roll. The first rock song was also original but by a former band member, Buckwheat; the band considers

it to be "an oldie but a goodie." With an interchangeable title of "Uncle Greg" or "Greg's Uncle," the song was powerful and included some yelling toward the end that was then followed by the quote, "we were noticeably more rock and roll - we used to be wild."

A couple bouncier songs with a slight polka undercurrent and strong yet playful vocals wrapped up this stellar concert. It was a truly enjoyable performance by "V Slick," a gripping band to see in action.

BSA and ASA Presents: The Complicated Relationship Between Africans' and African-Americans' Success

BY FARAH IBRAHIM '20
STAFF WRITER

On Monday night Nov. 21, the African Student Association (ASA) and the Black Student Association (BSA) co-hosted a discussion in FJ on the topic of relations between African Americans and Black Americans. It should be noted that for the purpose of clarity within this article, the term "African American" will be used for those of immediate African descent, while "Black American" will be used for those of enslaved African de-

scend.

The discussion, led by Grace Akangbe '17 of the ASA and Jada Myricks '19 of the BSA, garnered many students of different backgrounds eager to part in the event and voice their opinions on many different related subjects. Topics like the tensions present between the two groups to the appropriation of African cultural items like the dashiki were thoroughly discussed with a wide range of opinions, creating a stimulating dialogue not generally heard in the mainstream of American life.

What I appreciated the most was the passion that everyone showed during the discussion, adding weight to their words and their arguments and giving everyone else perspectives they might not have ever considered or heard before. During the course of the event, the topic that was most discussed was that of identity. The argument centered on whether one must identify as African-American or Black American. As with other discussions regarding identity, it became a strong point of contention. Some argued that for those of the

Black American community, the term Black is more appropriate since they have no real connection to the African continent and are thus alluding to a culture in which they have no part. Others argued that the term "African-American" celebrates the African heritage of the Black American community, a heritage that was systematically wiped out during the days of slavery.

Outside of those two camps, others argued that both can be used interchangeably and that it didn't bother them to be called one term over the oth-

er. Even though some people had strong disagreements over certain issues, the discussion remained respectful and completely inclusive of everyone's ideas.

After enjoying a few sambusas, a popular Somali dish served at the event, I left feeling contented that my opinions were heard and that I had heard many different perspectives on what may appear at first-glance like a two-sided argument; I believe this takeaway was shared by everyone who participated in the discussion.

Tips on How You Can Hide Your Hijab!

BY SANEELA TAMEEZ '20
SATIRE WRITER

The year of 2016 has brought on some of the darndest surprises, including a Donald Trump presidency. Donald Trump has been very clear on how he feels about our land of the free, brave and very diverse, so I have devised some tips for Muslim women who wear the hijab on how to hide their towels, headpieces or whatever it is they call those do-wraps.

Wear Goofy Headpieces Like Cat Ears!

No one will think you are hiding anything dangerous under that scarf while you're wearing adorable cat ears. Wait, but that is not all you have to do! To get the full effect, you need

to go full immersion! Start purring like your life depends on it, and find a tree to climb. Hang around Palmer cat for a while to best adapt yourself to cat-like mannerisms. She is truly a pro at this. Don't worry, there is no way Donald Trump can ban you and your muslim family when you are a cat. I mean, we all know how much he loves pussy.

Wear A Wig Over Your Scarf

Now this tip may seem a bit excessive, but when the man leading the free world has said things like, "Islam hates us," then there is probably some stigma that will be created around your muslim community. Just go to your local Party City and buy the plainest, most mundane wig you can

find so that no attention will be drawn to your head. The best tip is to watch interviews about how Donald Trump keeps his own majestic wig intact because there is no way that orange puff pastry on his head is real, actual hair.

Wear A Beanie Over Your Head

This tip is actual very much in style. Just buy a beanie from your local Target, Walmart or any online store. What is even better is if you buy a beanie with some famous band logo on it. So, now, when people look at you, they will not think, "oppressed" or "foreign." Now people will just think, "hey, you like that band too?!" Oh my goodness, we have so much in common!"

Of course, we live in a society with so much diversity that we should just teach our kids to accept and converse with people of different backgrounds from the get-go, but President Trump believes you are not worth the time unless you are a hot model from Slovenia. But, hey, don't dismay, my hijabis (women who wear hijabs); at least no one will keep asking you if you are "hot under there" or if you "shower with that thing on."

Make Up Excuses

My final tip is for a circumstance in which a man or woman approaches you and threateningly demands, "Are you one of those mooslims?" Here, just start making up excuses for why you are wearing that scarf over your head. Say things like, "It's pretty cold outside today,"

or, "I am very insecure about my ears." If the man or woman does not believe your excuses, then run the heck away, and yell, "My name is Becky!" Once you've got them thinking about how white and adorable the name Becky is, they probably won't threaten you. Or they may still end up hating you if they are a Beyonce fan. I hope these tips have been helpful, but, on a serious note, you can decide to keep wearing your hijab with courage and resilience. I know it is hard during times like these, but we need minorities, like hijabis, to be the pioneers in our society. Never forget that there are so many people in the world who love you and support you. Keep being the pioneers, and we will get through the next four years together.

WITHIN THE GATES

Post-Thanksgiving Reflections: Family Can't Agree on Politics, Can Agree on Obama/Biden Memes

BY SAVANNAH PATTON '19
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Although finals week is still yet to come, I feel certain that it will be pleasant in comparison to election week. I won't attempt to rehash the shock, disappointment, anger, despair and dissent that flooded our nation and our campus. Many of us feel entirely talked-out. We have coped together and separately in various ways since that fateful Tuesday night. But what about Thanksgiving?

I talked to a handful of Rhodes students about their experiences during the Thanksgiving holiday in regards to political discussions had throughout their breaks. Though some students agree politically with their families, many of us have strayed from our "political up-bringsings" towards beliefs of our own. From what I have observed, it appears that this shift is most commonly from conservative to liberal.

Hence the familial tension that was bound to accompany the stuffing and prying personal questions that characterize Thanksgiving. In my case, I was raised in a conservative household and now find myself disagreeing with my parents on several issues that I previously did not. After a couple years of debates-turned-arguments-turned-yelling-matches, I find myself often repeating the refrain of, "I don't want to discuss politics." Hard-headedness runs in the family, so it is rare that anyone budes on their position. With this particular election, I accepted months ago that my parents and I were voting differently. We each attempted to respect one another's differing position, though usually that façade cracked at some point during one of our discussions, and thus commenced the litany of grievances we each had with the other's candidate of

choice.

After the election, my parents and I, who generally speak daily, didn't speak until the following weekend. I did not want to engage in another futile debate, and, besides, the week had been far more emotionally taxing than I had anticipated, and I feared exposing myself to the pain of misunderstanding or even callousness. The silence, unfortunately, was broken by a telephone call that quickly turned ugly. Tears were shed, voices were raised and we reached a resolute agreement to cease all political discussions – just in time for Thanksgiving.

I think we both knew that wasn't going to happen – and it didn't. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that we did indeed engage in civil discourse regarding Mr. Trump's advisees. Granted, this may be due to the fact that we were almost comically restrained, offering up non-inflammatory clichés like, "Well, I guess we'll just have to see," and the ever eloquent, "I mean, I don't know about that," to express vague, understated disagreement without setting the house ablaze.

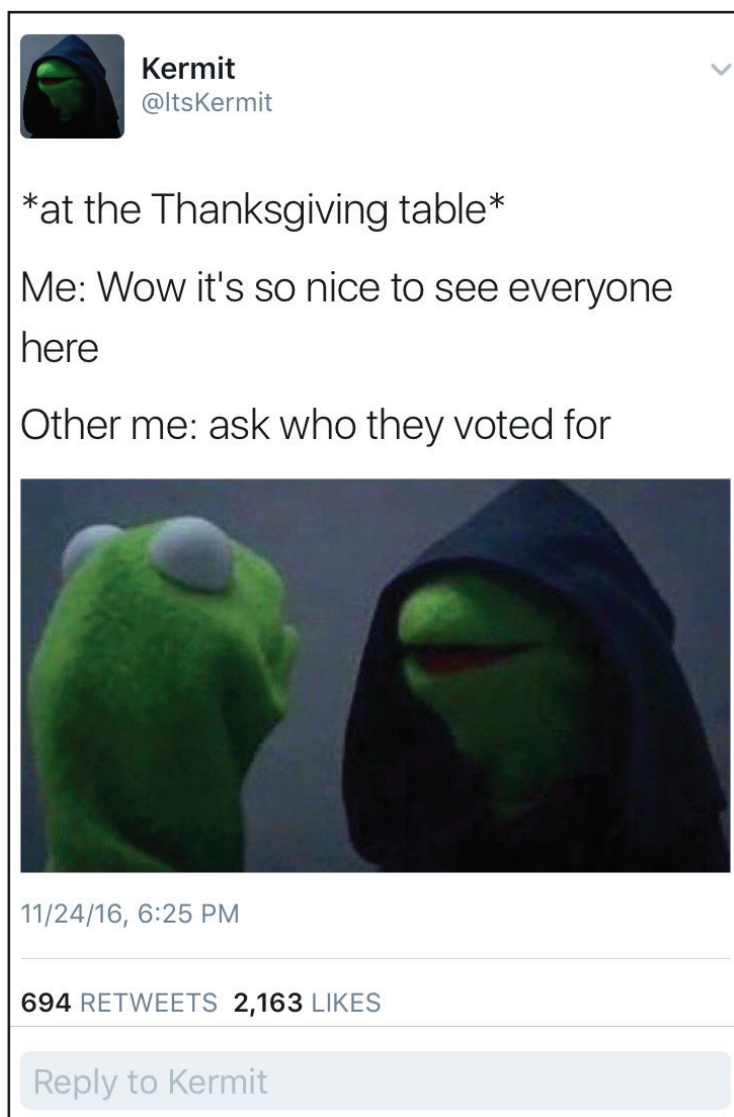
Ultimately, I am thankful that throughout the past few weeks my father has indeed heard my tear struck pleas for him to recognize and validate the despair, anger and fear felt by many marginalized and disenfranchised groups across the country. It's likewise important that I understand why he voted the way he voted. Though in my mind he may not see the implications of his vote, I believe I can play my role in maintaining our good relationship by seeing that he is indeed not lying to me when he says he is "for" these marginalized groups of people – even if I find it problematic that his candidate has proved himself not to be. I'm no psychologist, and I'm no political scientist,

but people are complicated, and politics are likewise complicated. Progress is progress, and I, too, am growing in my capacity to engage in civil discourse, even when I haven't felt very civil throughout this particular election process.

Thomas Mitchell '18 cited the rare occurrence of his family all agreeing on the candidate for this election. His expectations of not discussing the election were met: "I think we'd long passed the point of wanting to discuss the results," he shared, "because we'd talked about [it] so heavily" beforehand and immediately afterwards.

Anna Wohlbold '18, who "leans more democratically," went home to her conservative family and generally managed to avoid political discussions. However, in a one-on-one conversation with her aunt, Anna expressed her political leanings and was met with shock and dismay: her aunt gasped before semi-playfully retorting, "You have time to wise up," to which Anna smiled and shot back, "Well, I hope y'all wise up."

Such half-playful bantering seemed to be a common thread in combatting familial tension. One of junior Elizabeth Hale's cousins sent out a concerned email to the whole family to avoid firearm-accidents among the children. In response to her cousin's statement of, "I know there are some proud gun owners among you," Elizabeth replied-all with a photo of her flexing her biceps before sarcastically warning: "I will be carrying two guns on my person at all times." All found it funny – aside from her allegedly offended grandmother. To add to the humor, Elizabeth's five-year-old cousin had all the Trump voters (of which there happened to be none in that particular group) raise their hands. When one of his aunts jokingly raised her hand, the boy shouted, "but you're a



womens!"

One sophomore, who prefers to remain anonymous and whose political opinions differ from those of his parents, shared that it felt like his family was "testing the waters" to gauge one another's attitudes and positions. They evidently talked less about the election than they did the Dakota Access Pipeline protests at Standing Rock, an issue especially close to this student's heart. Upon abandoning prior caution and threatening to go join the peaceful protests, said student's parents warned him not to.

Spencer Beckman '19 and his granddad, the only non-Trump voters in the family, were teased "for a short few minutes" but experienced "nothing bad by any means. For the most part, the election wasn't really discussed," said Beckman, "and I

would venture to say that was pretty intentional of the Beckman family. We didn't really want to be divided or upset over something where no one's opinion was going to change during the course of a meal."

As for me, my proudest political achievement of the break lies in exposing my parents to the treasure-trove that is the Obama/Biden meme collection. For once, unity – however inconsequential – abounded. There's nothing like letting the Internet's most recent meme-harvest dissipate enduring political tensions in the home. Surely that's one Band-Aid fix we can all get behind.

BEYOND THE GATES

Cafe 1912 Review



BY DAVID MORAR '19
STROPS EDITOR

As you probably know by now, the Cooper-Young district is our preferred place for restaurants. It's vibrant, artistic and constantly changing. To have these characteristics, a place must boast diverse options, exemplified by a palatable variety between fancier restaurants and more casual options. Cooper-Young has a number of casual restaurants like Young Avenue and Stone

Soup, which are balanced out by restaurants like Mulan and Cafe 1912, the latter being our sampled restaurant for this week.

Cafe 1912 is a relatively upscale bistro-style restaurant located right next to our old-time favorite, Barksdale, on Cooper Ave, just a minute south of Midtown. Its menu is notably French-influenced and boasts high-brow options like seared scallops and delicately grilled Filet Mignon, items you won't find in other restaurants

in the area. That being said, there are also more cost-effective meals on the menu, most of them seemingly prepared well and with a slight twist, exemplifying the Cafe 1912 culinary style.

I ordered the Sea Scallops, and they came in a group of three spread evenly across the canvas of a large white porcelain plate. The scallops were connected by paths of a pesto aioli and a butter reduction sauce and were accompanied by a small crostini topped with

shaved parmesan cheese and a splash of olive oil.

This restaurant embodied an understated yet relatively upper-scale sophistication that many of the other Midtown/Cooper-Young restaurants seem to shy away from in favor of a more whimsical or casual vibe. While Cafe 1912 could have easily fallen short due to an overstretch of stylistic compartmentalization, it surpassed my expectations. It's a great place to go if your parents happen to visit, but Cafe 1912 is

also a great spot for a date with that spicy someone. On second thought, spicy might be a weird adjective for a date.

Anyways, do try this restaurant if you're looking for something approximately 2.5 times as good as the Rat, but, please, don't expect it to be 3.1 times as good as the Rat. Only Teddis's turkey sandwiches can reach that coveted level of excellence.

Thanksgiving Politics (Or Lack Thereof)

BY JACK PATTON '18
STAFF WRITER

This Thanksgiving Eve, also known as Blackout Wednesday, I asked my grandmother if our family could talk politics at dinner the next day, especially given that much of my extended family was coming into town for the holiday. My grandmother responded quickly with an emphatic "no."

When I complained, she

sighed and said, "Jack, I'm so over it. It has all been so messy. If you want to talk politics, then you better go do it somewhere else. I want to have a nice family meal without any fights." I gave in, and we did not discuss politics at all during our holiday meal. In the end, it turned out to be nice - probably better that way. Thomas, my eleven-year-old brother, enjoyed some rolls and turkey (we are still working on getting

him to expand his palate) without having to endure the adults arguing over the results of the election. The rest of my family drank wine and sampled more of the spread, which included all of your classic thanksgiving dishes - stuffing, my Great Aunt Betty Sue's homemade sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce and my grandmother's Publix pumpkin pie: no drama.

Upon my return to school,

I asked around to see whether others had discussed politics with their families on Thanksgiving. Everyone I spoke with likewise said no. Senior Lee Sands said that it was possible to talk politics with his immediate family because they are all a "bunch of South Park watching liberals," but the subject was not broached during the holiday meal with his extended family, for the sake of keeping the peace.

After so much media hype about the expected difficulty of Thanksgiving dinner discussions, it seems that many people opted to steer clear of politics and focus instead on enjoying turkey and each other's company. After such a particularly contentious election, it is encouraging that many tried to keep things peaceful on our national day of thanks.

SPORTS

Rhodes Crew Sets Sights on Seasons to Come



Photo courtesy of Rhodes Crew

BY ELLIE JOHNSON '20
STAFF WRITER

As the fall rowing season comes to a close, the Rhodes crew team is assuredly pleased with their performance and improvement. Although they only had one regatta (or crew meet) this past season, the team proved themselves to be strong competitors amongst many tough teams. At the Head of the Hooch regatta, which took place on Nov. 4 and 5 in Chattanooga, Tenn., the women's

A boat finished 25th overall out of over 50 boats, giving Rhodes Crew hope in becoming a higher placer next year.

In order to prepare for this regatta, the team trained endlessly to get themselves in shape and to master their rowing skills. "We spent all semester training on land and on water. We definitely had plenty of 5:45 a.m. water practices and tough night workouts on land to get in shape for the race," junior Olivia Thomas '18 said.

Since the team is completely

student-run, the responsibility to make sure that they are adequately prepared for regattas rests solely upon themselves. As for the upcoming spring season, many of the team members agree that they are hopeful to receive more funding and coaching support.

"Right now, our team is very large, and we don't have as many resources as we would in an ideal world, but that's just the reality of club sports. And since we are student-run, we have to divvy up the jobs

that a coach would typically have, which adds a ton of responsibility to every crew member," Anya Tipton '18 remarked. "However, I think that just makes everyone more motivated to pull their weight so they're not letting anyone down."

Heading into the spring season, the team has set many goals for itself. In terms of training, the team members want to work to improve their speed and physical power. Other members look forward

to hopefully utilizing Memphis as home turf for competitions. "My goals for the team moving forward include hosting Memphis's first ever rowing competition this coming spring, winning that competition and also further reinforcing our team's organizational structure to make it more efficient," junior Caleb Fowler '18 shared.

Be sure to encourage any rowers you see around campus this coming spring! They're bound for greatness!

The Rhodes Cheer Team's Formative Fall Semester

BY ELLIE JOHNSON '20
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Rhodes cheer team has accomplished some big things. The team was headed by a coach for the first time in decades, which allowed them to receive more guidance and gave them the ability to work on more serious and showstopping stunts. Head Coach Kristie Hayes joined the Rhodes community from Pittsburgh with previous ex-

perience from two collegiate cheer and dance teams, as well as previously holding the position of Head Instructor at the Universal Cheerleaders Association for 11 years.

Although Coach Hayes has only been with Rhodes for a semester, the cheer team has already shown progress under her leadership. "I believe that we have improved immensely within a short period of time, especially with a small group of athletes," Coach Hayes said.

As for the future of the team, Coach Hayes still has big hopes to build upon their skills and hopefully recruit more cheerleaders. "The goal is to work toward competing at the national level, in addition to gaining more athletes and a bigger roster."

Despite their vast improvements, many team members believe that they still have things to work on in order to prove themselves as a competitive squad. "I would like the

team to gain more confidence in their abilities. The team has made significant progress in the past year," shared senior Allie Baldassaro. "Once the members realize how far they have come, they will see that they have the potential to progress even further."

With the strong improvements to the program and the acquisition of new coaching, one of the biggest aspirations of the cheer team is to receive more recognition and support

for their hard work. "We've worked hard this past semester in acquiring new stunt skills, and we're excited to show everyone. I'd love to see the Rhodes community recognize cheerleading as a sport," expressed sophomore Gustavo Mireles. "We are working hard to re-establish the new cheer program."

THE BACK PAGE

RHODES COLLEGE DANCE COMPANY WINTER SHOWCASE



Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Ewing Studio (McCoy Theater)



Important: Shacket Awareness

BY WARREN SOCHER '19
 STAFF WRITER

Ever wanted to impersonate an urban lumberjack and an amateur skateboarder at the same time? Do you constantly whine about being born in the wrong generation and mope in black Doc Martens around your suburban home, looking back at the “golden days” of Seattle Sound which you, of course, did not personally experience? Or maybe you are revered within the exclusive circle of Q-Graders in the Port-

land, Ore. coffee culture. Keep this image in mind, because, this frigid winter season, you can replicate this hybrid character cross with a hybrid piece of style: a “shacket.”

Externally, it appears to be a normal, washed-out plaid button-down flannel. Nothing crazy. However, on the inside, thick plush fabric allows the shirt to double as a jacket and protect the wearer from the devastating onslaught of winter frost. Basically, it enables you to augment your angsty subculture expression, two dif-

ferent times, in two different ways.

There are many ways to wear a shacket. You can fasten every button to secure all body heat emitted from the torso region. Unbutton the top two buttons to experience a gentle caress of the neck from a nippy breeze. Unbutton all the way to catch a full-torso ice blast but still retain heat in your arms and back. Thrilling!

Still don't buy into the sales pitch? Well, here's a testimonial from Kurt, a flannel fanatic who recently purchased

a shacket: “Usually, when I need a creative streak, I stand over my fireplace and tear individual pages out of newspapers and magazines to burn them amongst other capitalist bullshit I find laying around. I tore out a page from the winter 1993 catalog of Vans Off The Wall, but I noticed a ‘new, super rad and sick double insulated flannel shacket’ being advertised on the page. I couldn't bring myself to toss this intriguing product into the flames.”

“Since purchasing it,” Kent

shared, “I've never felt warmer, more aesthetically angsty and more addicted to brown Heroin in my life!”

So, as we approach the winter holidays and heightened exam anxiety, bundle yourself and your angst up in a cozy and reasonably priced shacket, ranging in price from \$40-\$60. To quote everyone's boy-hero Timmy Turner, look no further than “the Internet” to find an invigorating variety of this cozy closet staple.

Riveting: Rhodes Students' Thanksgiving Breaks Particularly Average This Year

BY WARREN SOCHER '19 AND
 WILL MORROW '19
 SATIRE WRITERS

In a recent conversation that occurred between two students regarding their Thanksgiving break, Student A asked Student B, “how was your Thanksgiving break?” which subsequently prompted Student B to reply, “oh, it was great, dude.”

This subtle yet beautiful interaction between two Rhodes students is a refreshing reminder that members of the Rhodes community really do care about each other's well-being. Even the Palmer Cat listens to what concerned students have to say:

“Hey lil cutie palmie-kittie-poo! I have a cost accounting test that I half-assed studying for, so I'm gonna kiss your

wittle head for good luck.” Palmer cat endures, weary of its own existence, and nonverbally replies: “I will send you to the fucking sun.”

While we're on this tangential delusion, let's make a succinct list of public figures to deport to our central astral body:

1. Jerry Springer and Dr. Phil
2. Rob Schneider
3. The Borgia Popes
4. Christopher Columbus

5. My high school economics teacher who was in the Electoral College
6. Really just anyone affiliated with the Electoral College
7. Tom DeLonge
8. Big Sean
9. Anne Coulter and her progeny, Tomi Lahren
10. Beans from Even Stevens
11. Daisy from The Great Gatsby

So, remember, when someone asks you how your break was, give them the dullest and most superficial answer possible. Acceptable answers include: “it was good,” “I ate a lot of food,” “it was too short,” or, if you're feeling extra conversational, perhaps something along the lines of, “my uncle just got out of jail after a 10 year crack sentence thanks to the War on Drugs.”