

V-Week by Rhodes College V-Day



BY KATIE BREWSTER '18
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rhodes College V-Day raised over \$800 last week for local Memphis organization CasaLuz, “the first and only non-profit organization in the Memphis/Shelby County area that serves exclusively Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other related crimes.” The V-Day committee’s annual V-Week celebration consisted of a string of events designed to raise money, raise awareness about violence toward women and empower both students and the community. Money was raised partially through merchandise sales, including buttons and themed sweets like vulva shaped chocolates. The main event, performances of “Pussy Power: Stories From Down There,” featured monologues from Eve Ensler’s episodic play “The Vagina Monologues” as well as student-written monologues and sold for \$5 a ticket.

The week began with a Monday “Body Positive Yoga” session, led by German professor Dr. Wonneken Wanske and attended by both students and other professors. Wanske has recently completed her requisite 200 hours to become a certified yoga instructor, although this was her first session of specifically “Body Positive” yoga. She traditionally teaches yoga in German in the Language Center. Wanske expressed

delight at the change as she was able to allow students to close their eyes and become more zen. Students attending her German yoga classes typically have to watch her every motion or listen as she makes animal noises to know to get on all fours. However, this was not the first year V-Week hosted yoga.

“Last year we had trauma-informed yoga, and we decided to do something similar this year because sometimes ‘the body can say what words cannot’” V-Day president Dominique DeFreece ’18 said, quoting dancer Martha Graham. “We partnered with Kinney Advocates for Women this year because their organization and ours share similar values.”

For DeFreece, the Tuesday “Speak Out Rally” was one of the most powerful moments of the week. The event in Hardie Auditorium was an opportunity for women to raise their voices as survivors.

“Because we were a small group we all sat in a circle as the main speaker told her story of domestic abuse and overcoming her experiences to be where she is today. Her story confirmed for me why V-Day is still important. As long as individuals experience sexual violence and attacks because of their gender, sexual orientation or expression, we will need to continue to expose these attacks (especially because this type of violence is seen in many communities as taboo to discuss) and advocate for survivors,”

DeFreece said.

On Wednesday, Valentine’s Day, they hosted a “Lunch and Learn” with the nonprofit organization SisterReach which offers women and girls in Memphis a framework of reproductive justice. SisterReach was founded to heighten awareness for not only the women of Tennessee but all those who influence the teaching and execution of reproductive health such as policy makers, medical providers, and educators.

According to SisterReach, “Our mission is to empower women and girls to lead healthy lives, raise healthy families and live in healthy communities. We provide comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education to women and teens, and advocate on local and state levels for public policies which support the reproductive health and rights of all women and youth.”

Along with pairing up with CasaLuz and members of the Memphis hispanic community, the V-Week committee this year made a concerted effort to step outside the constricting definition of womanhood often presented in “The Vagina Monologues.”

“Every year we try to make V-Week more inclusive and more relevant than the previous year. For example, the traditional Vagina Monologues are great but they mainly focus on white cis-gendered women. This year the monologues represented people from more diverse backgrounds. Also, we brought

in an ASL sign language interpreter so people who were deaf or hard of hearing could enjoy the show,” DeFreece said.

While the “Pussy Power” production put on by Rhodes students happened on-campus on Thursday and Friday, there were additional performances of “Los Monólogos de la Vagina” Saturday and Sunday. These weekend performances at Azul Tequila were performed by women of the Memphis hispanic community.

The performance garnered positive reviews by students who felt like the production resonated with their own personal experiences.

“[Pussy Power] was an emotional experience to see my friends get up and share some of their personal stories. I enjoyed the student-written pieces because they hit close to home” Chassidy Wallace ’18 said.

There are a variety of positions which have been integral to executing the week of events including Fundraising Coordinator Phoebe Sharp ’18, Director of Monologues Natalie Richmond ’18 and Assistant Director Amaree Austin ’20. Anyone passionate about reproductive justice who wants to be a part of next year’s leadership team has been encouraged to reach out to the current V-Day team as they search to fill leadership positions for the 2018-19 school year.

RSG

RSG Pursues Counseling Center Expansion with New Proposal for Bilingual & Bicultural Counselors



BY RYLAN LORANCE '21
STAFF WRITER

The stressors of exams, internships and perfectionism placed on modern-day college students has created an all-time high demand for competent mental health professionals who specialize in helping students work through these issues. Anxiety-related disorders and depression will often manifest during a student's college years. A recent RSG proposal will seek to increase the efficacy of Rhodes Student Health Services, offered in the Moore-Moore building, and to allow students more accessible

mental health options. Rhodes Student Government will be looking at ways to improve the counseling center as a whole but a recent piece of legislation focused mainly on the number of counselors who come from different backgrounds in order to accommodate a diverse campus of students.

This piece of legislation came out after students noted the lack of different ethnicities on the staff, for instance there was no one to accommodate a student who may feel uncomfortable in their ability to speak English.

According to sponsor of the bill Ellie Johnson '20, "The resolution calls for

more bilingual and bicultural counselors to better accommodate all students. This is in no way an attack on the counseling center. They have been working very hard to make improvements within the center. So basically we are hoping that this resolution will give them even better resources."

This resolution passed with heavy consideration into the efficiency of the student center and how Rhodes can work to create a better atmosphere for students who require mental health services. Many of the RSG senators expressed a hope that this bill will also lead to better representation in the

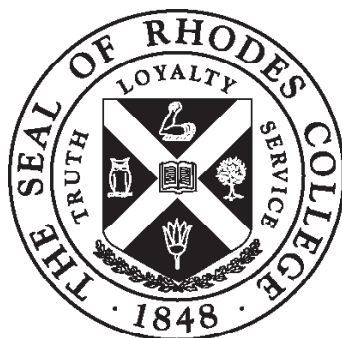
counseling center for LGBT+ students.

Although many of the problems they face have been budgetary restraints beyond their discretion, the counseling center has agreed to work alongside RSG to open its doors to more diverse counseling and health staff in order to be more receptive to people of different backgrounds. With numbers rising in the country for mental health disorders, it will remain the utmost priority for colleges to give support to students in some of the most stressful times of their lives.

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WITHIN THE GATES

SAMI Presents People of Rhodes: Jesse Kirtchuk

BY JULIET MACE '20
STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF MIXED
IDENTITIES PRESIDENT

The Student Association of Mixed Identities (SAMI) has decided to show Rhodes College what mixed identity is truly about. People are often caught up on the ethnic ambiguity and the otherness of mixed identities but is that all there is? We, as an organization, are trying to provide a platform to discuss the intricacies of mixed identity. Mixed identity discussions are not all about race. Things like interracial dating and adopted children of different races should also be a part of the conversation. So what does mixed identity look like?

For our first column, we talked to Jesse Kirtchuk about how his mixed identity has influenced him. Jesse is a senior from New York with a major in urban studies with a focus on community health. Long term, he hopes to incorporate physical therapy practice into community health initiatives. Be-

sides being the secretary for SAMI, he is a member of the Urban Studies Advisory Committee, works in the College Events office and is a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

According to Jesse, "I was initially attracted to SAMI because I saw it as a space for people with mixed races and identities to discuss issues affecting us. As a person from a biracial, two religion home I never felt like I could fit into one category or group so I appreciated SAMI's mission. Mixed identity for me is my personal identity. I cannot describe myself without referencing my Jewish, Israeli father or my Puerto Rican, Christian mother. I have grown up being exposed to vastly different cultures and for that reason I cannot say that I am just a part of one. Oftentimes people look at me and are confused as to what I am but my personal identity cannot be defined by one category or group. Sometimes that can be difficult when figuring out where you fit in but most times it's a blessing because you can relate to so many people."



“Supreme Being” Going Out, “The Collective Presents: Liberation” Coming In

BY WARREN SOCHER '19
CIRCULATION EDITOR

Distinguished artist Rashayla Marie Brown, in her installment “Supreme Being: The Symmetry of What You Saw and What You Say,” filled Rhodes’ Clough-Hanson Gallery with a spectrum of media. Photography, writing, red window coverings, red carpet, books and desks covered the room. The art synthesized several aesthetics: kitsch, communist art, high art and film. The exhibition was accompanied by a red booklet inspired by the artist’s career as a maker of diversity training manuals. In the same vein, the artist created a sound installation where she described images for people who could not see.

The purpose of this installment was to “question the coercive foundation of systems of display found in the desire to communicate a clear, moral message across various cultural contexts,”

Brown wrote. “With text, subtitles, and art history books dealing with themes of religion, ideology, and museology, the exhibition also reflects the distance between an object’s past meaning and personal meditation on its meaning in the present.”

Some notable pieces in this collection which most visibly displayed Brown’s aesthetic and philosophical intent were “You Stand in Front of a Modern Masterpiece (Eiffel in Vegas),” “Every House is a Museum” and “It’s Your Louvre, Too.” In “Modern Masterpiece,” the indoor foreground where the photo was taken was darkened to illuminate the background of the replica Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas. In bold yellow capitalized text at the bottom of the photo, which resembles close captioning on a television, was the phrase “YOU STAND IN FRONT OF A MODERN MASTERPIECE.” The piece instilled a tone of awe within the viewer, as did “Dubai,

A City With No Past But God” which presented an expansive nighttime skyline view of Dubai with the same subtitled text. The art created both a silence and awe within the piece and focused the viewer on the text and its potential meaning.

With regards to the artist’s mission of conveying the reality of the changing meanings of certain works of art, “Modern Masterpiece” took the Eiffel Tower as a subject and visually explained its evolving meaning. Over time, it has transformed from a display of French glory and power at the 1889 World’s Fair to a symbol of the cosmopolitan pleasure desert in the western U.S. “It’s Your Louvre, Too” took a photo of the Greco-Roman sculpture and displayed it in a museum context. The acknowledgement of this context showed how the sculpture’s significance and meaning has changed over time. From perhaps a Roman bathhouse or forum to

a French art museum, museums have been tasked with preserving time. “Every House is a Museum” explained this concept similarly with the bookshelf full of family photographs. Each family artifact told a story, which could be significant depending on the person.

On Feb. 23, a new exhibit “The Collective Presents: Liberation,” curated by Lawrence Matthews and featuring Terry Lynn, Natalie Eddings, Nubia Yasin and Desmond Lewis will be on view. A panel discussion with the artists will take place on Mar. 13 at 6 p.m. in Blount Auditorium and a closing reception and performance will take place in the gallery on Mar. 23. In the meantime, the Clough-Hanson Gallery will be open until 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

WITHIN THE GATES

BSA Presents “Trap-ish”: A Trap Jazz Set ft. QUÉludes and DJ Tootz



BY KATIE BREWSTER '18
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In celebration of Black History Month, the Rhodes College Black Student Association (BSA) hosted a Trap Jazz set, titled “Trap-ish,” in the McCallum Ballroom. Chairs were set up flanking the stage in rows like every time a lecture has been given in the BCLC. This time, however, the bright overhead lights were turned down low and colorful party lights strobed across the room. The event was open to the Memphis community which helped fill the room and enhanced the lively atmosphere.

The night featured the Trap Jazz band QUÉludes. The relatively new music

genre of Trap Jazz has developed in response to modern music with heavy bass and electric beats. The band took this and mixed it with the sophisticated instruments of jazz, including a spectacular saxophonist that had the crowd on their feet nonstop. Popular songs like Bruno Mars’ “What I Like” were catapulted to a new level by the band.

Even when the band took a break, the music and dancing did not. DJ Tootz played contemporary rap, hip-hop and R&B music as students danced exuberantly up and down every aisle without hesitation. Lead singer of the QUÉludes got up on stage and worked the audience, building a rapport, urging everyone to go eat the abundant free Aramark catering and prompting

everyone to follow them on social media. He pointed to the projection screen on the far wall which had been displaying pictures from recent BSA events including their Black History Month door decorating contest. As the numerous Twitter and Instagram handles for the performers flashed on the screen, he promised free tickets to their next show to the first few people to follow each and every one of them. Typing fingers flew at breakneck speeds as he mocked the audience members who looked resigned to losing.

The night was a success with an electric energy and wide participation. It was especially important as a space for people to celebrate Black History with a “black-centric” set and extremely

talented black musicians. Rhodes parties have usually been centered around IFC fraternities and this event allowed an opportunity to step outside of that narrow category and flip the usual dynamic of a few students of color with a majority of white students.

As February draws to an end, BSA will commemorate the end of Black History Month with a formal dinner and ceremony on Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium. Themed “Our Past, Present, & Future,” the event will have community leaders with deep connections to Memphis speak about their experiences as it relates to Memphis’ history.

BEYOND THE GATES

MLK50: Where Do We Go from Here?

BY PRAMIKA SRIRAM '21
CITY EDITOR

The world's attention will turn to Memphis on April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. To commemorate Dr. King and the history of the Civil Rights Movement, the National Civil Rights Museum has developed a campaign titled "MLK50." The campaign's theme is "Where do we go from here?," the question that emerges from persisting inequalities despite decades of social activism and progress. In an attempt to answer this question, the National Civil Rights Museum and organizations across the country have been coordinating events that honor Dr. King's legacy and encourage activism.

The National Civil Rights Museum's MLK50 initiative has been nurtured by the city of Memphis and embraced by its residents. In preparation for MLK50, the Memphis City Council approved \$100,000 in funding to facilitate events through the city. So far, the city has given thousands of dollars to support local activism and volunteerism. A MLK50 representative pointed out the city recently donated \$7,500 to the Mid-South Food Bank in order to establish mobile food pantries in Memphis' most food-insecure neighborhoods. Organizations with diverse causes—from environmental justice to correctional reform—have coalesced under the MLK50 movement. Fur-

thermore, MLK50 has already garnered significant national attention, especially as prominent figures will be visiting Memphis to pay homage to a city that profoundly influenced the Civil Rights Movement. Esteemed civil rights leaders, such as Congressman John Lewis, will be in Memphis to honor Dr. King's legacy. The first African-American Attorney General, the Honorable Eric Holder, Jr., will also be in attendance at the MLK50 events.

MLK50 has united the city of Memphis from its government to its residents to its sports teams. Countless local initiatives encouraging activism have emerged in solidarity with the National Civil Rights Museum's efforts. Among the most prominent of these initiatives has been MLK50: Justice Through Journalism. Wendi Thomas, founder and chief editor of the MLK50: Justice Through Journalism project, has partnered with the National Civil Rights Museum to create "a nonprofit news outlet focused on economic justice." Thomas has been focused on making the Justice Through Journalism project a reality for years, as she explained it "has been in the works since 2014." In fact, Thomas devised the "MLK50" name and engineered its platform before she approached the Civil Rights Museum and asked about partnering in 2016. Later, the museum requested to use the name of Thomas' project for their national campaign and she agreed. Even the Memphis Grizzlies have hon-

ored Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement as the team has designed a "MLK50" uniform in collaboration with Nike.

The Justice Through Journalism project have shed light on economic inequality across the country but also focuses specifically on issues in Memphis. In an interview with Harvard's Nieman Foundation, Thomas explained, "Memphis is a microcosm of what's going on in a lot of urban centers around the country. It's an extreme example of what happens when things go wrong and aren't fixed for a long time. It's the poorest large metro area in the nation."

MLK50: Justice Through Journalism has also focused extensively on local and national efforts to remove Confederate monuments. Justice Through Journalism was influential in causing the removal of Confederate statues in Health Sciences Park. The MLK50 movement has created a platform for individuals address issues not only within their own communities but also confront injustices across the country. MLK50: Justice Through Journalism has sparked discussions about injustice and inequality that is often overlooked in the Memphis community. Thomas' Justice Through Journalism project has given a voice to some of the most ignored and downtrodden members of society.

Many Memphis leaders have said the MLK50 movement has been reinvigorating the city and resulting in tangible

change. The MLK50 movement and the increasing focus on the history of the Civil Rights Movement has rejuvenated areas of Memphis that have been neglected for decades. The Clayborn Temple, a vital location in the 1968 sanitation strikes that brought Dr. King to Memphis, has been abandoned and dilapidated for years. However, as a result of the city's resurging commitment to the commemoration of the Civil Rights Movement, the Clayborn Temple will be restored. People involved with the restoration of the Clayborn Temple note that it has long been considered "one of Memphis' most important Civil Rights locations" and its restoration will impact how the country views the Civil Rights Movement. Furthermore, the city of Memphis has been working on two major construction projects. Located downtown, relatively close to the National Civil Rights Museum, will be the MLK reflection park and the "I am a Man" plaza. Both of these sites have been developed specifically for the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination and they have been scheduled to be completed by April 4, 2018.

As the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination grows closer, the National Civil Rights Museum and its partner organizations have increased their efforts to engage communities across the country. On April 4, the world will be watching as Memphis commemorates the history of the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. King's legacy.

MLK50 SYMPOSIUM

Where Do We Go From Here?

A Symposium and Luncheon Hosted by the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and the National Civil Rights Museum

Featured Keynote Speaker:
The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
82nd Attorney General of the United States (2009-2015); Partner, Covington & Burling LLP

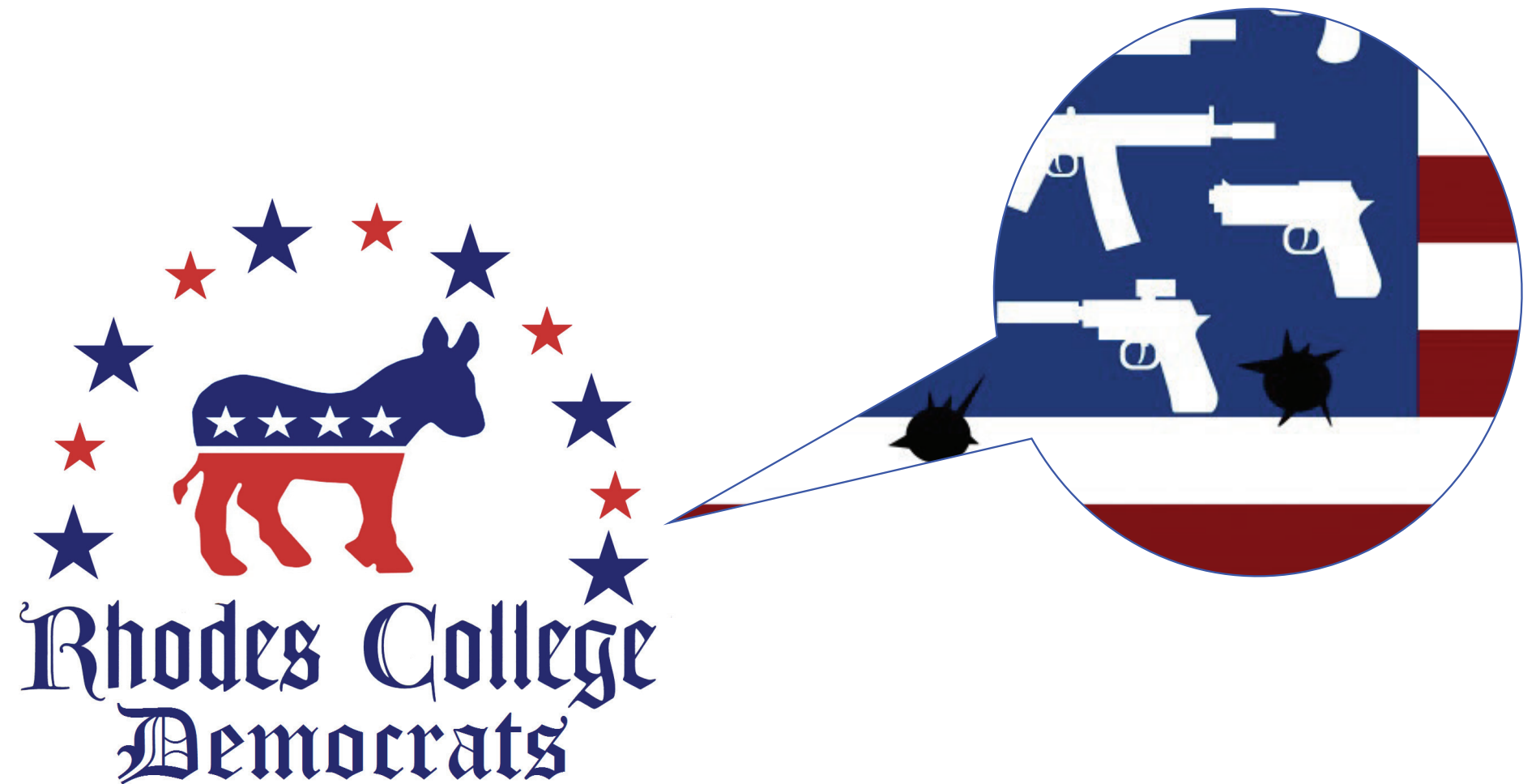
April 2, 2018 · University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
1 North Front Street · Memphis, TN 38103

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The opinions and views expressed in the content below are those solely of the writer and do not reflect the opinions and views of the Sou'wester or its staff. Additionally, the writer takes full responsibility for the accuracy of their work and its adherence to college policy. Letters to the editor are not edited.

The Numbers Behind Mass Shootings



BY BRANDON JOHNSON '19
RHODES COLLEGE DEMOCRATS
PRESIDENT

The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was difficult for everyone to see and read about. In America, we have an epidemic of gun violence. Far too many Americans die in suicides and far too many children are victims of gun violence. Similar to the shooting in Florida, mass shootings are the type of gun violence most covered by the media. Expert after expert discusses how the mass shooting occurred. We wonder how so many warning signs were missed. Congressmen after congressmen tweets thoughts and prayers for the victims and the first responders. Other Congressmen tweet

the need for new gun laws. However, as we reignite the debate regarding our culture of gun violence we typically are missing the numbers behind these fatal shootings.

No, I don't mean a statistical breakdown of gun violence. I'm not talking about the chart that compares our gun violence to the rest of the world (which is disproportionately high). I'm not talking about the number of mass shootings. I'm not talking about the number of guns per capita or the number of gun crimes in states with strict or loose gun laws. I'm actually referring to the large amounts of money that politicians receive in campaign contributions from the pro-gun advocacy group, the National Rifle Association. Bill Cassidy, Republican Senator from Louisiana tweeted out his condolences

yesterday, saying "Praying for the students, teachers and first responders affected by the tragic shooting in Florida. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families." While the sympathy is much needed to the victims of this horrible shooting, it is important to look at the numbers behind Senator Cassidy. The NRA spent \$2.8 million on Senator Cassidy throughout his tenure in the U.S. Senate including advertisement and campaign contribution. Rob Portman, Republican Senator from Ohio tweeted "Heartbreaking news out of Florida. Jane and I send out prayers to the school, the community, and the victims of this tragedy." Senator Portman, however, has received \$3 million in campaign funding from the NRA. And Florida's own Senator Marco Rubio tweeted "Just spoke to Broward

School Superintendent. Today is that terrible day you pray never comes." Senator Rubio has received \$3.3 million in campaign funding throughout his career, among the most in the Senate Chamber.

While I'm not suggesting that these elected officials are directly responsible for these mass shootings and the culture of gun violence in this country, I am suggesting that this campaign funding and these mass shootings are not a coincidence. Our elected officials are not responsible for pulling the trigger but the funding they receive from the National Rifle Association in exchange for their inaction on gun control laws makes them responsible for not doing enough to prevent the gun violence that plagues our nation everyday.

Hello there!

For the rest of the academic year you will notice some political discourse in our Letters to the Editor section of the paper. Each month, Rhodes College Republicans and Rhodes College Democrats will select a topic to discuss for the entire month. They will take turns and write into the paper every other week—responding to what the other organization had written the week prior. We encourage you to respond to their discourse in a letter as well. Letters can be submitted to rhodescnews@gmail.com.

-The Editors

SPORTS

Senior Night for Both the Women's and Men's Basketball Teams

BY JACK PATTON '18
SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhodes men's and women's basketball teams have officially played their last regular season game against Hendrix, filling Mallory Gymnasium with peers, family and Rhodes staff who all came out to celebrate "Senior Day." Although the games were tight until the end, both Rhodes teams came out on top during the Feb. 17 game.

Starting in the fourth quarter, Hendrix led the Rhodes women's basketball team by four points. The Lynx came out hot in the final quarter, however, going on a 9-0 run and never looking back. The team clinched the win 67-57 over Hendrix. Jessie Ustick '18 had 12 points and six rebounds on the day for the Lynx. Post-game the Rhodes women's basketball seniors, Ustick from Houston, Texas and Erin Deery '18 from Winter Park, Fla., were recognized. The win improved Rhodes' record to 17-8 on the season and 9-5 in SAA play. Now that the regular season has ended, the post-season will begin as they head into the upcoming SAA conference tournament at Oglethorpe University as the #2 seed. The Rhodes women's basketball team will play #7 seeded Sewanee on Friday, March 23 at noon.

In an up-and-down game, the men's team also defeated Hendrix and won a narrow 115-112. With 2:31 left to play, the men were down by five points to Hendrix. The Lynx came back and Preston Giroux '20 scored the game-winning goal on an assist from Anesu Nyawata '18. The win gave the men a winning regular season record of 13-12. The Rhodes men's basketball seniors were also honored before the game. Graduating in May are Price Dalton '18 from Houston, Texas, Ian Harrison '18 from Nashville, Tenn. and Anesu Nyawata '18 from Rockville, Md. Despite celebrating the culmination of a sports career, the seniors are not yet finished; Rhodes will next play in the SAA tournament at Centre College. The #4 seeded Lynx will take on #5 seeded Birmingham-Southern on Friday, Mar. 23 at 2 p.m.



Erin Deery '18 (center, in red) and Jessie Ustick '18 (second from the right) pose with their families during the ceremony honoring the Rhodes women's basketball seniors.



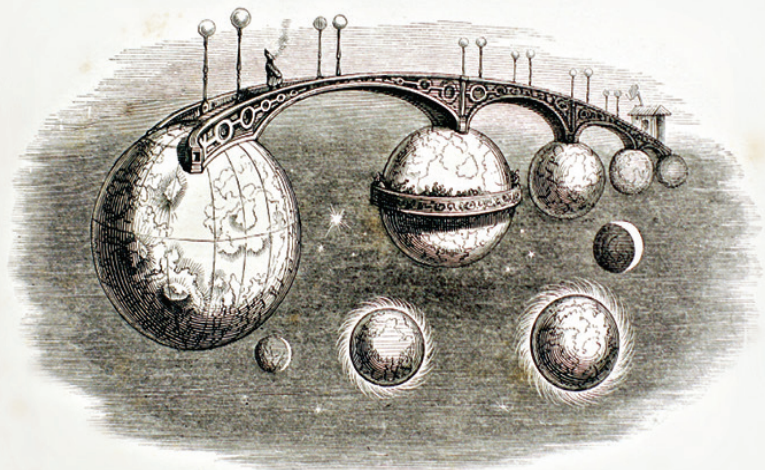
The pre-game ceremony honoring the men's basketball seniors and their families.

ADS & SATIRE

THE PEARCE SHAKESPEARE ENDOWMENT
presents

ISLANDOLOGY

A LECTURE BY MACARTHUR FELLOW MARC SHELL



Thursday, March 15, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.
Blount Auditorium, Buckman Hall

“No man is an island” — but what is an island? And why might you set a poem, a novel, a philosophical utopia there? Marc Shell explores the geography, rhetoric, and politics of islands, from the mythical Atlantis to contemporary environmental disasters. *Islandology* offers not only new ways to think about islands, but also why and how we think by means of them.

MARC SHELL is the Irving Babbitt Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, where he also serves as Faculty Associate at the Center for the Environment. He is the author of a dozen books, on topics ranging from nationalism and economics to multilingualism and disability studies.

This event is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by: The Departments of English and Modern Languages & Literatures, the Environmental Studies & Sciences Program, Latin American and Latinx Studies Program, Political Economy Program, the Project for the Study of Liberal Democracy, and Phi Beta Kappa



Rhodes College

rhodes.edu/shakespeare

Black Student Association Annual
Convocation
Our Past. Our Present. Our Future.

Friday, February 23, 2018
Hardie Auditorium, 5 pm

A.S.I.A.
LUNAR NEW YEAR

Come celebrate the Lunar New Year!

- Food catered by Pho Binh
- Performances by UofM cultural groups, K-pop dance team, ORIGIN, and more!

BCLC Ballroom
Wednesday, Feb. 28

Salty Singles Rejoice that Rhodes College is as Awkward as They Are

BY ROHAN KAZA '21
SATIRE WRITER

St. Valentine's Day has come and gone again, having graced us with yet another year of chocolates and red roses. The aura of affection flourished, passion filled the air and the ripe fruits of love bloomed throughout this dreary orchard of life. Allegedly. Luckily for those of us left alone to do homework and cry in our dorm rooms, Rhodes College posted a video to bring a different sort of tear to our eyes.

With his signature unblinking stare and provocatively naked body, Leroy the Lynx draws back an arrow in his plastic heart shaped “bow.” James Cameron-esque special effects prompt the arrow to soar through the air at lightning speed and, with a double “thwack” worthy of 80's cartoons, hit students in the arm as Leroy the “Peeping Tom” Lynx watches from the bushes. In a progressive twist, “cupid's arrows” have hit two female students sitting side-by-side on the bench. They chuck their cellphones in the air with

wide eyes and caress each other's faces. Then, they exchange a hug as awkward as only seated hugs can be.

While the video lasts but 51 precious seconds, Rhodes' replacement for the chubby love-inducing baby of old continues to cause mischief around campus. Horrified viewers got to watch as students in committed relationships were forced to fall in love by Leroy's sinful arrow.

Comments under the video included such accolades as “Oscar-worthy” and “wtf did I just watch?,” a nod to some

of the more avant-garde aspects of the short film. So if this week you're feeling less like Saint Valentine and more like the crotchety third-century emperor he defied (who thought single men were better off as soldiers than married men,) step back and at least appreciate that this video has garnered 3.8 thousand views.