



Great ideas for a successful Valentine's Day.

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February 11, 2009

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

## Campus needs Assistant Dean Rhodes threatens to say "arvederci" to Italian program

By NeNe Bafford  
News Editor

In June of 2008, former Assistant Dean of Students for Multicultural Affairs, Cynthia Polk-Johnson, left Rhodes to accept the position of Director of Multicultural Services and Programs at University of Georgia.

Accordingly, the College has been in search of a new Assistant Dean since August 2008 and has faced multiple obstacles.

Eric Dailey, the RSAP (Rhodes Student Associate Program) for Multicultural Affairs and the Director of VOICES (Valuing Our Impact on the Cultural Experiences of Students), is one of the members of the search committee that is led by Dwaun Warmack, Associate Dean of Students.

The search team brought in three candidates to fill Polk-Johnson's position last semester. The can-

didate chosen for the position did not accept and by the time the search committee contacted their second choice, the candidate had already accepted another position.

"Around Christmas, we still did not have a Dean and then we were told that we had to put a freeze on the search because of the economy," said Dailey.

The Assistant Dean of Students for Multicultural Affairs is not the only position that has not been filled due to economical reasons. The Assistant Dean of Leadership is among one of the other positions that still has not been filled.

The absence of these positions has made it hard for many of the cultural leaders of campus.

"This past semester has been difficult for me,

*Assistant Dean, continued on Page 4*

By Anna Meyerrose  
Executive Assistant

Recently, the Modern Languages Department announced its decision to cancel the Italian program at Rhodes College. However, there was some opposition to this choice. In response, two students took the initiative to try to reverse the fate of the Italian department. Carolina Sanchez-Hervas and Jasmine Yohai, two Italian students at Rhodes, decided to circulate a petition in support of the program.

"The petition was a great way to get student support" said Sanchez-Hervas.

Italian has never been offered as either a major or a minor at Rhodes. Lack of interest was named as the leading reason for this, and is also a contributing factor to the decision to discontinue the program altogether. The only incentive to continue studies beyond Italian 201 (which would meet the language requirement) is for International Studies majors who needed to take

a language through the 202 level. This lack of incentive decreased the number of students who opted to study Italian.

"I think there is considerable interest, and, if given the chance, I think more people would choose to continue studying Italian past the 201 level if given the incentive of achieving a minor or major in Italian" said Sanchez-Hervas.

The petition circulated by Sanchez-Hervas and Yohai succeeded in generating over two hundred signatures; these supporters consisted of current, prospective, and former students of Italian, along with other, non-Italian students who were, nonetheless, reluctant to see the end of this program. This petition was presented to Dr. Drompp, Dean of Academic Affairs, for consideration.

"All of the professors I have spoken with that did not know the Italian program was in question

*Italian, continued on Page 4*

## Saxophonist Kirk Whalum on romance

Interview conducted by Daniel Jacobs  
Editor-in-Chief

Kirk Whalum is a Grammy award winning jazz saxophonist who has toured with Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Quincy Jones, and Whitney Houston, among others. He originally from Memphis, and he performed on Monday in the McCallum Ballroom.

Daniel Jacobs: I heard you moved back to Memphis. What is it like being back in Memphis?

Kirk Whalum: I love being back. Memphis is an inspirational city. It's a new birth of sorts for me to rediscover this incredible city and the soul of the city. I think when you compare Memphis to a place like New Orleans you get tension between greatness and problems. You find racism and all kinds of crazy stuff. That tension is what releases amazing art.

DJ: What makes a song romantic?

KW: I think I would approach that from the standpoint of passion. From the standpoint of inspiration when you're in love, you can really write a passionate love song so that is one way of going about it. And again, I am in love, and I'm in love with my childhood sweetheart, and so it's a whole different thing. Thirty-five years I've been in love with this woman, and that is through all kinds of challenges and ups and downs. So there is no romance like

that, as far as I'm concerned. You know, stick it out and hang in there. And that's a message I like talking about. And the other is from the standpoint of kind of the creative kind of. It's like a scenario that you envision and you are able to kind of put yourself in that scenario.

I think instrumental music is a little different from songs with lyrics because there is a certain intangible palette that you use. Certain chord progressions and certain melodic concepts lend themselves to that. It's almost like there is something you can use to guide a person's feelings in a certain way. And some people do it better than others. For me it comes out of the gospel tradition. Being passionately in love with the Savior, I have this love affair with God, with the Lord Jesus, where I spend time with Him and I might be on my face weeping thinking about how wonderful He is. So again, I'm able to inject that passion into even the romantic writing, where people say wow, I really feel that, that's romantic. Well, in a sense it is, because it's love, but it's not maybe the love you had in mind. So they're related.

DJ: Are there any of your songs in particular that you would recommend as a good love song?

KW: There's a song called "Waltz for David," this

*Whalum, continued on Page 4*



Daniel Jacobs/The Sou'wester

Whalum performs a BSA sponsored concert in celebration of Black History Month.

## Astronomy gets its year

By Matthew Childs

2009 has been designated the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). This is a global effort established by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Together, these organizations have launched an effort to help citizens around the world rediscover their place in the universe by observing the sky. In result, people from different cultures and nations may engage in learning and discovery.

The vision of IYA2009 is to allow everyone to realize the impact of astronomy on their daily lives and discover how scientific research has lead to more equal and peaceful societies. There are activities planned locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. These activities are planned with hopes to contribute to scientific knowledge and learning of astronomy to an extensive distribution of people. Throughout 2009, events will be planned to generate collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, professors and students, at various locations. 136 countries are already participating in events, while well over 140 are expected to eventually participate.

From Earth to the Universe is an organization joining up with IYA2009. This organization displays a collection of intriguing astronomical images of the most delicate and dramatic views of the universe. This program showcases these exhibits in diverse locations, from public parks to airports to art centers. Memphis is fortunate enough to be one of the many sites that is able to support one of these exhibits. From April 1-30, Memphis Central Library will display around 130 fascinating images of our sky and universe.

*Astronomy, continued on Page 4*

# Search: The rotten cornerstone

By Daniel Jacobs  
Editor-in-Chief

Search is, according to the Foundation Requirements, supposed to help students "critically examine questions of meaning and value." It, along with the Life program, is a required program which is described as one of the cornerstones of a Rhodes education.

But the underlying structure of Search is rotten to the core, and this is hindering the effectiveness of the course while also directly contradicting the values which Rhodes, at least on paper (i.e. the website), holds to be important.

A variety of issues are at play in this situation, but the most critical is the disregard for genuine diversity in the first year Search curriculum. It is, after all, titled "The Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion." Where exactly in the Rhodes Vision does it mention confining our Search for values strictly to Western civilization? I realize that the gothic campus architecture tends to convey a certain sense of ethno-centrism, but the Rhodes vision says that Rhodes will engage students in an "inclusive and culturally-broadening college experience." The Search program directly contradicts this message with its almost entirely Western orientation.

Granted, there is some diversity in the first-year Search curriculum. There are a wide range of ideas in Western civilization, there is non-Western influence apparent in many of the readings, and the course spends three days studying the Qur'an. But a course that is designed to study the "ideas, beliefs and cultural developments that have formed western culture," inherently excludes other cultures. If Search is to conform to the Rhodes vision then it must be expanded to encompass a global mix of cultures, which will not be an easy task.

Broadening the scope of Search will mean a total overhaul of the course materials and readings. In a program where a committee of Search faculty members collectively decides on changes to the first year syllabus and the switch from assigning the Odyssey to the Iliad launched a heated debate, curricular overhaul will be wrenching.

Therefore, the Search program should launch an independent task force involving students and faculty to reform the curriculum. They should look at how to make Search as "culturally-broadening" as possible, through both the societies examined and the materials used. Search is currently based primarily on "Great Texts," which certainly have their strengths, but by including less prominent texts or non-textual sources such as art, music, architecture and dance, Search could address those members of society who are not represented in the "Great Texts."

Linking texts from many different sources would also be difficult, and there is the possibility that Search could simply turn into a disconnected, cafeteria-style overload of different readings. But there are solutions for this. In my conversations with Search faculty members two of them mentioned structuring Search around themes of human existence, such as justice or

love, rather than chronology. Expanding Search beyond the confines of chronology is an excellent idea, and there are certainly many ways to make a broadened Search work. But for change to succeed the Search program, and Rhodes, must be committed to change.

Ultimately the biggest obstacle preventing this change is the money that Rhodes receives every year from the Bellingrath-Morse Foundation.

Since 1950 Rhodes, along with two other southern colleges, has received money from the foundation, with the amount slowly increasing every year. In this fiscal year, Rhodes will receive about \$2 million from the foundation to support scholarships and financial aid. In return for this money, Rhodes must require that every graduating student has committed at least 12 credit hours to the study of the Holy Bible.

"A course that is designed to study the 'ideas, beliefs and cultural developments that have formed western culture,' inherently excludes other cultures"

Financial aid is a good thing, and \$2 million is not something that can easily be turned down, especially in these hard economic times. But it is tainted money, and Rhodes should take a hard look at the agreement with the Bellingrath-Morse Foundation, because it completely ignores the concept of academic freedom. As things currently stand, if there was a reform of the Search program, the range of possibilities would be limited by the agreement with the Bellingrath-Morse Foundation. It is impossible to carry out meaningful change in that kind of environment.

I am not arguing that the Search program should throw the bible out the window. As one of historically important documents in human history, the Christian Bible should be included in the curriculum. And even now, the Bible does not dominate the course. Bible-related seminars and common sessions currently only take up about 25% of the first two semesters.

However, I believe faculty members and students should be able to construct a new curriculum for Search without having to work within the mandates of the Bellingrath-Morse requirements. To have them do anything else would undermine the integrity of Rhodes and make a mockery of the values which Search examines.

## 10 Dating Tips from an Older Brother

By John Yacoubian  
Older Brother

1. Tabula Rasa – People can change (for the worse). Someone you knew in the past may be a different person now; so assume a blank slate. Additionally, check your own personal baggage at the gate. Avoid conversations about ex's and restraining orders.

2. Listen closely – On the first date, the other person may be quiet and reserved. Chances are, if they like you, they'll open up and reveal some of their insecurities. Ignore these telling prompts, or listen and make a sound judgment as to whether you want to devote your time, future and resources to this person. If the date drags, stay classy by feigning interest.

3. Drop a bomb – Launching a few vague statements (which can be interpreted in a multitude of ways) allows you to witness your date's natural personality tendencies. Learn whether he or she is easily offended, playful, or just plain naughty. If it backfires, you can always play it off as a joke.

4. Curb the lust – The best way to keep your mind out of the gutter on the date is to visit the gutter beforehand (no pun intended). Do you want them to find YOU irresistible? Wear tight

pants to let them know you mean business.

5. Explore comfort zones – Do you like the theater? Ballgames? Gentleman's Clubs? Take



Paul Yacoubian/The Sou'wester

Older brother offering worthwhile advice. Take it at your own risk.

your date somewhere where you like to go and see how they act outside of his or her comfort zone. The key is in exploring common interests and compatibility.

6. Don't jump – Committing too soon is

just as bad as coming too soon. Don't hesitate to make future plans without consideration for this person. Enjoy the moment as much as you can. We often gain as much personal insight from bad dates as we do from great ones.

7. Have a glass of wine – Or five. Doing what loosens you up can help set a mood of exploration. Avoid liquor which contains alcohol and beer which leads to conversations about beer.

8. Family Ties – Ask them about their family. If they use the term "crazy mom" or "psycho dad", watch out. This is especially true for Rhodes kids. You should love the people who broke the bank to send your slacker ass to this beautiful place so you can ride a statue and theorize about life's unanswerable questions. Like...

9. To stalk or not to stalk? – Facebook or MySpace holds important clues into the social life of your date. Your concern should be social compatibility. Jealous types may want to steer clear from flirtatious types. Unsure about whether or not they like you? It never hurts to poke.

10. Taking the next step – When the date goes so well that you feel like you are floating, try something bold. But if asking for a kiss or a second date feels awkward, you probably shouldn't. Better off repeating #4...

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*The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Media Board, a consortium that includes the editors of all student media outlets, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in opinion columns and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

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ASSOCIATED  
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PRESS

# Right or Wrong: 5 lovely questions for Paul

By Paul Yacoubian  
Opinion Editor

Question: In the weeks following my breakup with my ex, I received emotional phone calls from her, giving me the opportunity to “realize my mistake” and come back to her. Through moral appeals, she tried to convince me how much of herself she poured into the relationship and how crushed she was that it was over. How should I feel about her being upset?

Answer: Presuming that you broke up with her, then you must accept the consequences of a non-mutual breakup. You have to clearly communicate why you decided the relationship was no longer viable. Obviously, you hurt her and should appreciate her feelings for you. While you might like to be friends with her, she will probably not be over you any time soon. So if you do happen to hang around her, try to cut the flirting short so as not to lead her on.

Whatever you do, do not let feelings of guilt absorb you back into the relationship. It is over and hopefully both of you have learned valuable lessons from the experience. To answer your question, no one can really tell you how to feel; that comes naturally. Always trust your intuition.

Question: I dated a girl for two years and decided that after forty plus trips to see her (5 hour round-trip), the relationship was over. I broke up with her in the only way could succinctly express my feelings; I told her that I did not love her anymore on Christmas. Was Christmas the right time to breakup?

Answer: If it is true that you no longer loved her, then the sooner you told her the better. You would not have wanted to wait until after Christmas and knowingly lie to her just for the sake of appeasement. If at all possible, you should try to avoid Christmas as a breakup date, because she will remember and tell everyone she knows about it. Presumably, you knew you did not love her before Christmas, so it could be construed as your fault for not taking swifter action.

Given the length of your relationship, I would assume that a breakup would be very difficult and probably did take an extraordinary situation to merit the courage to do it. Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, should remind us of how to treat people with respect. Telling her that you loved her when you did not would not have been respectful. In reality, you have a lose-lose situation, because whoever gets

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“I would be concerned as to why she wanted her fantasy to carryover to you by telling your friend, consequently crushing both your fantasy and ego in a single blow.”

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dumped will feel hurt regardless of the holiday.

Question: Should I date someone whom I *know* I will not marry?

Answer: This is a great question. On the one hand, an accepted principle of dating is to find the “right” person with whom you would like to spend the rest of your life. On the other hand, dating can be used as a tool to learn more about yourself as well as your compatibility in relationships with other people. Your question hinges around the wording. Whether or not you have commenced dating will change the answer. If you have not yet begun dating, I say go for it. You can never really know for certain where things will lead if you do not experiment with dating different types of people.

If you are already in the relationship, then you are faced

with two options. The first option is to break off the relationship if the circumstances of your marriage “standards” are not adequately met by your significant other. If this is the case, consider a second option. Explore what it is that you find disagreeable and try to see if you can discuss your marriage ideals with the other person. If you take this approach, be careful not to mention the word “marriage”. Given the nature of your emphasis on “know,” however, I am going to say you should not marry that person. Get to know him or her first before you jump to conclusions or into a relationship. If it’s a fling you are looking for, then let that person know on the front end if you decided to get involved. It is probably too soon to do any long term planning if you haven’t even dated the person yet.

Question: A few weeks ago, my girlfriend told me that she and one of her friends thought that a threesome would be a good idea. Their excitement permeated through the phone (long-distance relationship) and I was beside myself in anticipation. She begged me to tell my friends, so I happily obliged. The next day she called to say that she didn’t think it was a good idea anymore. I felt used and embarrassed. How should I have handled the situation?

Answer: If I were placed in that situation, I assure you I would also be upset. A threesome is something of masculine lore that no woman can understand. She made a fool out of you and you had a right to be upset. I would be concerned as to why she wanted her fantasy to carryover to you by telling your friend, consequently crushing both your fantasy and ego in a single blow (or lack thereof).

The same instincts that led to your fancies will also drive you to seek vengeance upon the spoiler of a transcendent erotic fantasy. While you were invariably let down, some of your anger can be displaced by a learned lesson. If you are promised a ménage à trios, do not tell your friends until it has been achieved. Even if she asks you to tell your friends, play to her imagination until it becomes a reality. If you believe in compensation, then allow her to trade favors for your troubles if the operation falls through.

## It’s official: Facebook needs to know

By Dean Galaro  
Staff Writer

Mid-February—thanks to the supernatural marketing forces of Hallmark—has become quite the romantic time of year due to your favorite holiday and mine: Valentine’s Day. This is the season for love, or at least chocolate, and is as good a time as any to reflect on what love and dating has become for Generation Y. Specifically, the impact of the social pandemic of Facebook has revolutionized the way people forge relationships and date. Even with all of this social adjustment, that Facebook gift of chocolate you sent her just isn’t going to cut it this year. Better go buy some real flowers.

When was the last time you courted someone? The term itself has become antiquated, but even the concept has fallen by the wayside in favor of more fast-and-loose dating that we have grown accustomed to. In the olden days, courting someone involved paying courteous attention to them in order to win their amorous favor (i.e. to woo them). It was a bit more cat-and-mouse than modern day relationships, which come and go on a whim with no shame and little reserve. Regardless of whether one finds this social shift a good or a bad thing, there is no denying that Facebook propagates this type of relationship.

Imagine for a moment that you’re at a party and you spy a fine looking lady across the room. You think you’ve seen her before somewhere, maybe in a class last semester or at some other party last weekend, but it doesn’t really matter because your smooth self will find out all you need to know through conversation. The two of you seem to hit it off well, so what’s next? You become friends on Facebook to officiate the friendship. The next few weekends

roll by and you both go to the same parties. Is she girlfriend material? Seems like it, so ask her out and see how it goes. It didn’t fall apart into an awkward mess? Congratulations, you’ve got yourself another date. Give it some time and now you’ve run into another roadblock: do you let the whole world know you two are together on Facebook? Is it a complicated, open, or a solid relationship? Does she feel similarly? Do you initiate the request or does she? These are important steps because, remember: It’s not official unless it’s on Facebook.

While the above scenario is admittedly cheesy, it (or at least parts of it) is not exactly uncommon. In an attempt to ease the way in which people communicate and relate to each other, we have found ourselves in quite a complicated mess. Sure, you could decide not to let Facebook complicate your life, but where’s the fun in that? Part of the problem stems from the fact that today’s youth is so open about their lives and has seemingly no concern for privacy when detailing every part of their life to the world. Whether detailing favorite music, weekend activities, who they dislike, how they feel about God, and what they’re doing at this very moment, Facebook users have begun to deny the importance of anything not included on Facebook. Why create small-talk with someone you just met when you can just look at their Facebook for five minutes and gather any information you want?

Facebook relationships fall into a “maybe-too-much-information” category. Does it really matter if all of your friends know that you and your special someone are together? The current mindset is that all personal information can be displayed online and therefore it should be because, gosh, I’m your Facebook friend and therefore en-

titled to know what’s going on in your love life. That is why it is not “official” until it is on Facebook, because it is now expected that interpersonal changes be proclaimed for all to read about on their News Feed.

No longer is there terminology available for people to be “dating,” but rather the only word used is “relationship,” which, in an attempt to be ambiguous enough for millions of users, has christened couples with somewhat sterile terminology. What does being “in a relationship” even mean? Well, it’s up to the couple to decide, or for the Facebook community that can see their profiles to decide. In comparison to the ideals of courting, being “in a relationship” has no meaning or substance to it. This does not mean that Facebook should add an option for being “in a courtship,” but it does mean we should reconsider what we take for granted as the standard term for couples these days.

Whether we like it or not, Facebook affects a myriad of aspects of our daily lives because it is the way in which so many people communicate and relate to friends and family. It is the filter through which the online community flows, and there is no way for it not to change the way people share their stories. The dynamics of romantic relationships are complicated enough as it is, but the social reliance on Facebook adds another layer decisions and responsibilities. Granted, no one is required to use Facebook, but such a strong social reliance has been formed with it that it is unavoidable, and because of this romantic relationships have fallen into an ambiguous, fragmented, and drifting state. Don’t get me wrong, I enjoy Facebook as much as the next guy, but the damage has been done, and it is important that we realize it.

# Student Voice

What do you think about Valentine's Day?



"...don't put that shit, I have a girlfriend."  
-Mark Donnelly ('09)

"This year I like it because, when you have a "significant other", you get a chance to show them your love."

-Anna Clark ('12)



"It's fun when you have someone to be your valentine, but if you don't then the fact is just kind of thrown in your face."

-Rachel Hickey ('11)

"I think it's stupid because if you're with somebody you're with them every day of the year, and if you're single, then you're just lonely."

-Chad Chiddester ('11)



"Normally, it is singles awareness day for me. But this year is different—I've got a boyfriend!!"

-Elise Dudley ('09)

*Whalum, continued from Page 1*

song definitely fits in that category. It's a song that grew out of my passion for God. It manifests in a way that it's romantic.

I also did a record of covers, most of which are very romantic songs, which is called "For You." The idea being that these aren't really songs that I'm trying to play, but they're songs that I think you might want to hear in a romantic environment.

And then I did a whole CD of Babyface songs. Babyface is a great writer and producer, especially when it comes to love songs.

DJ: Do you have any new albums out?

KW: One, [kirkwhalum.com](http://kirkwhalum.com), I always appreciate it when people come by the website. [kirkwhalum.com](http://kirkwhalum.com), we are on twitter, we have a great blog, and a podcast called "bible in your ear" where I read the bible fourteen minutes a day, and you can download it to your iPod, and at the end of the year you've heard the whole Bible. Just fourteen minutes a day and you haven't even opened the Bible. That's my offering to people who are like, "the Bible is weird," but I think, yeah it is, but you should read it, because it's amazing.

And then I have a brand new DVD and CD that's not actually out yet, but it's available on the website. It's a live performance called "The Gospel according to Jazz,

Chapter 3" and it's incredible, but there's a lot of stuff on the site about that. But it features Georgia Duke, Layla Hathaway, Doc Powell, my brother Kevin, my uncle who is 81, a saxophone player, and my nephew, a saxophone player, who's twenty-five and plays in New York. That's the main thing right now, but I'm also touring with another saxophone player named Gerald Almondy, and we do a thing together called "Sax for Stax." Gerald has a record out called "Sax for Stax" and he does a lot of Stax songs, so I did a guest spot on his record, and we are very close and two of the guys considered to be soulful sax players. So we like to play on that. And this tour will tie in a little bit to Stax and the Stax academy, so that's something Memphis can get excited about, because we are going out like ambassadors for Stax.

## Kirk Whalum's top 5 love songs

Waltz For David - KW  
Don't Ask My Neighbors - The Emotions  
If I Should Die Tonight - Marvin Gaye  
Now Till Forever - KW  
Together - The Intruders

*Italian, continued from Page 1*

were very surprised; they immediately wanted to know the reasons why," says Sanchez-Hervas. "And the professors who already knew about the future of the program expressed disappointment and encouraged Jasmine and I to continue our efforts."

Currently, the only Italian professor at Rhodes is Professor Albertson.

"Professor Albertson is so passionate about what she does," said Sanchez-Hervas. "Her enthusiasm encourages students to have a love for the Italian language and culture, and her departure would be a great loss to the Rhodes community".

If this termination of the pro-

gram were to in fact be executed, Italian 201 alone would be offered for one more semester, so that students currently in Italian 102 would be able to fulfill the language requirement necessary for graduation; then, the program would cease to exist.

Sanchez-Hervas, Yohai, and other students who are passionate about Italian are still working toward saving this program at Rhodes by raising awareness and emphasizing the benefits derived from familiarity with the language.

"Italian language and culture are a very important part of our everyday lives, in restaurants, art, music, for example; it would benefit students to have the opportunity to study the language and culture of

Italy" said Sanchez-Hervas.

When contacted in an email about this decision, Professor Michelle Mattson, Chair of the Modern Language Department, responded that "the decision to phase out Italian was very difficult for the Department to make and involved many long discussions both internally and with the administration. We would ideally be able to offer Italian and any number of other languages, however, this decision will allow us to strengthen other components of the Department."

As of now, there is no final decision, or at least no verdict that has been made publically known, about the fate of the Italian program at Rhodes.

## Dismantling Race: A Legacy of Leadership Black History Month Calendar of Events

2/17 Guest Lecturer Michael K. Honey  
Blount Auditorium 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Curb Institute at Rhodes

2/18 Professor Annie Valk  
Clough 7:00 p.m.  
"From the Ground Up: African American Women and the Shaping of Modern Feminism"

2/19 Diversity Luncheon  
12-1:30 (Hyde Hall)  
Sponsored by Career Services

Career and Internship Expo  
McCallum Ballroom  
Sponsored By Career Services

Soul Food Night  
Trevant Conservatory 6:00 p.m.  
"Morning of Hope" by Jazmin Miller

2/21 Peace Jam  
Deadline to apply is February 6th.

2/23 Guest Speaker Reginald C. Brown  
McCoy Theater 7:00 PM  
Sponsored by Brothers with a Purpose (BWP)  
\*\*Discussion with performer immediately following the show

2/26 Shout It Out  
Lynx Lair at 7:30

# CAMPUS SAFETY

February 1-7

- 02/02  
12:25 pm: A large limb fell from a tree on Phillips Lane striking and busting the back windshield of a vehicle belonging to a student. A report has been filed and photos taken for insurance purposes.
- 02/03  
2:25 am: Campus Safety receive a call from a student who was locked in the Barret Library. Student accessed out; library re-secured.
- 02/04  
9:15 am: Trouble alarm Williford Hall; officer dispatched; problem requires maintenance. Alarm silenced; maintenance notified.  
3:05 pm: Campus Safety responded to a fire in Bellingrath/Ellett walkway. Campus Safety found a smoldering fire in a trash can; fire extinguished.  
6:57 pm: Report of a stolen wallet and cell phone from the Barret Library, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; report filed.
- 02/05  
3:14 pm: Two unauthorized pit bull dogs found wandering around campus; both dogs escorted off campus.
- 02/06  
3:48 pm: Calls from students regarding the sounds of a possibly injured animal in the area of Bellingrath; Campus Safety dispatched. The sound of a dog whining was heard briefly near Bellingrath, but the exact location could not be determined.
- 02/07  
8:30 am: Participants for the Mike Cody four mile run on Campus for the event.  
11:00 am: Four mile run event over; participants departed campus.  
12:09 pm: Student reported her wallet, keys and fob were stolen at the Poplar Plaza Kroger.  
1:10 pm: Student who reported the stolen wallet stated that she received her property from the Kroger store minus her money.

*Assistant Dean, continued from Page 1*

and other cultural organizations like BSA, ASIA, HOLA, and SOS Mentors. Many of these organizations have new leaders and it is difficult for them to learn when no one is there to teach them," said Dailey.

With an increase in minority application for the upcoming year, Dailey believes that the position needs to be filled because there is a need.

"Dwaun has stepped up and done the best he could. It has

been tough. Giving the numbers that have applied, it will be a struggle if we don't have a Dean. We need that professional help," said Dailey.

The search committee recently received information that confirmed that the position would be filled. The committee meets on Wednesday to discuss the new information.

"Hopefully and optimistically, we will have three candidates before we leave for the summer," said Dailey.

*Astronomy continued from Page 1*

IYA2009 has also touched the Rhodes community. Rhodes plans to host observatory open houses that will promote the study of astronomy and observing our sky. Once a month, these open houses will be held to foster IYA2009's efforts to connect astronomy with the Rhodes community.

Sophomore Joshua Fuchs, a major contributor, has helped Rhodes mobilize its involvement. In November of 2008, Joshua was selected as a NASA IYA

Student Ambassador. Accepting this role, Joshua participates in various events and promotes NASA's contribution to the study of astronomy. Ultimately, Joshua hopes to connect with many students and potential astronomers to create an overall appreciation for the stars and skies and their phenomenal effects on our cultures and lives today.

Rhodes' last observatory open house was held on February 6. The next open house will be held on March 7.

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# 14 best romantic movies to watch on Valentine's Day

By **Cristina Iskander and Janie Logan**  
Staff Writers

**An Affair to Remember-** One of the earliest models of true love for modern portrayals. Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr star as soulmates who overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to a life of happiness together. (Alert: Be sure to have tissues ready.)

**The African Queen-** A 1951 film featuring Humphrey Bogart (in his only Oscar-winning role) and Katherine Hepburn as a ship captain and a missionary who fall in love while traveling down a treacherous river in Africa in the middle of World War I.



**The American President-** One of our personal favorites—the charismatic President played

by Michael Douglas falls for a lobbyist with a fiery spirit, played by Annette Bening.



**Beauty and the Beast-** In falling in love with the Beast, independent and intelligent heroine Belle disregards brutish outer appearance in favor of inner beauty, breaks a curse, and wins our hearts. Plus, the Beast gives her a library. How cool is that?

**Bridget Jones' Diary-** Bridget Jones is a mess. The movie follows her thoughts as she has a relationship with a jerk, enters into a stage of depressed singledom, still has feelings for the jerk, and somehow manages to win the affections of a great guy—Colin Firth as Mark Darcy—who loves her just as she is. That is, in spite of all the

smoking, drinking, crazy family members, and inappropriate remarks. If only we all could have Hugh Grant and Colin Firth fight over us.

**Ever After-** A familiar story with a charming twist, Drew Barrymore's "Cinderella" is a 16<sup>th</sup> century girl with a 20<sup>th</sup> century approach to life. The film features several elements like an evil stepmother, a glass slipper, and a royal ball, that will please fans of the original fairytale, but addendums to the story make the viewing experience vastly more fulfilling.

**The Holiday-** Shakespeare said, "Journeys end in lovers meeting." But in this movie, journeys begin when L.A. film editor Amanda (Cameron Diaz) and London journalist Iris (Kate Winslet) swap houses for a winter vacation and find romance in their new environments—Amanda with widower Graham, and Iris with film score composer Miles. Corny? Yes. But we like corny. We're looking for corny in our lives.

**Jane Austen movies-** *Sense & Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice* (circa Colin Firth or Keira Knightley), *Emma*, *Persuasion*. Any and all of them. There's no better place to find romance than in the witty, tension-filled stories of Austen.

**Love Actually-** Whether your heart is breaking with Emma Thompson as Joni Mitchell plays in the background, or cheering with Colin Firth (in his 3<sup>rd</sup> appearance on this list) as he says,

"Beautiful Aurelia, I have come here with a view of asking you to marriage me," this film covers the wonderful and complicated emotional spectrum with some of the best actors alive.

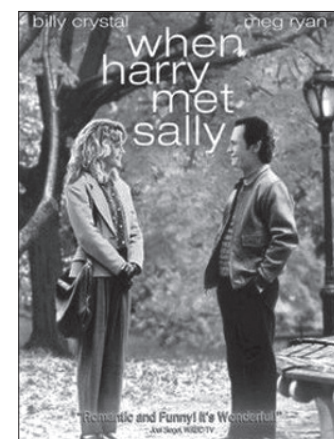
**Moonstruck-** Proof that love can form under the most unexpected circumstances. Let go of any preconceived notions you have about Cher—she won an Oscar for her performance as Loretta who is caught off guard by the strong connection she feels for her fiancé's brother, Ronny (played by Nicolas Cage).

**The Princess Bride-** "This is true love—do you think this happens every day?" Princess Buttercup and her beloved farmboy, Westley, are the subjects of this whimsical and hilarious romance about pirates, giants, six-fingered men, Billy Crystal as Miracle Max, and, above all, true love that conquers all.



**Say Anything-** With a boombox playing Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes," Lloyd Dobler wins us over every time.

**When Harry Met Sally-** The sweet relationship between Harry (Billy Crystal) and Sally (Meg Ryan) evolves over the years from annoyed acquaintance to friendship to love, showing what happens when two people know each other so well, quirks and all, that they can't live without each other. Boys, take note of Harry's speech at the end: "I love that you're the last person I want to talk to before I go to sleep at night... When you realize that you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible."



**You've Got Mail-** While Kathleen (Meg Ryan) and Joe (Tom Hanks) are butting heads in the New York book business, their online alter-egos Shopgirl and NY152 are falling in love one email at a time. Chosen over its predecessor, *Sleepless in Seattle*, because of pure enjoyment—of the engaging script and the warm, lovable characters.

## Ralph's Valentine's Day picks

Valentine's Day can be a stressful experience for the unprepared. The night belongs to the girl, and excuses like "Baby I didn't know the ant farm would break" just will not do the trick if you botch her special day. Fortunately for you, you have a chronically single guy to give you advice.

1. Candlelight dinner at the Lair. Nothing says I love you like a romantic candlelight dinner. Having said dinner in the Lair allows you to both charge the dinner to your Lynx card and get in a quick game of table tennis in before she rushes you off to give you your well-earned Valentine's Day nookie.



<http://images.google.com>

2. Matching tattoos. Don't settle for the cliché, heart-framed names, nothing says "I love you" like a little originality. If you are having some trouble thinking outside the box, consider these fine ideas: Favorite sports-team logos, the heads of your favorite Grey's Anatomy characters, or your Favorite Soulja Boy lyric.



<http://images.google.com>

3. Horse-carriage ride downtown. Hand-warmers, cigarettes, and manure, this is how babies get made.



<http://images.google.com>



<http://images.google.com>

4. Bowling. How better to show your girlfriend how beautiful she is than by taking her to a place that consistently draws unattractive people? Not only will she feel like a queen, but she will be oh-so-grateful for you when she lays eyes on the morbidly obese men who roll 240's while swallowing their food whole.



<http://images.google.com>

5. A trip to the Paris Theatre. Be sure to wear your matching raincoats and galoshes and bring home some new ideas for Valentines night. Make sure you both stretch first though.



<http://images.google.com>

6. A trip to Tunica. Make sure she brings her rent money, after all, you are a roulette pro.

# History Boys features Rhodes students, faculty, alumnus

By **Cristina Iskander**  
Staff Writer

Be mindful not to compare *History Boys*, winner of the 2006 Tony Award for Best Play, with other sentimental, treacherously schoolboy fare like the 1967 film *To Sir, With Love* or the 1989 film *Dead Poet's Society*. *The History Boys* seeks not to romanticize education, but humanize it, asking questions not only about the nature of education, but also the workings of the human heart, and the goals we choose to pursue.

Playwright Alan Bennett uses an English grammar school (the equivalent of an American high school) as the backdrop for his tale about differing views regarding education. While preparing for university entrance exams that will ideally gain them admission to prestigious Oxford or Cambridge University, eight foul-mouthed and sharp-tongued boys find themselves at the center of an ongoing educational debate. Their current teacher, Hector (Dave Landis), perceives education as something intended for the heart, his curriculum consisting of memorizing the poetry of W.H. Auden and Stevie Smith, the performing of classic film scenes, singing, and promoting fluency in French, which in one hilarious scene, he has them utilize by acting out a scene in a brothel.

The headmaster (Stephen Huff) does not agree with this approach; instead, he wants something quantifiable. He brings in Irwin (Eric Duhon) who, denouncing "sheer competence," encourages the boys to differentiate themselves from other potential applicants by presenting alternative, controversial interpretations of historical events. "Truth," he argues, "is no more an issue in an examination than thirst at a wine tasting or fashion at a strip tease".

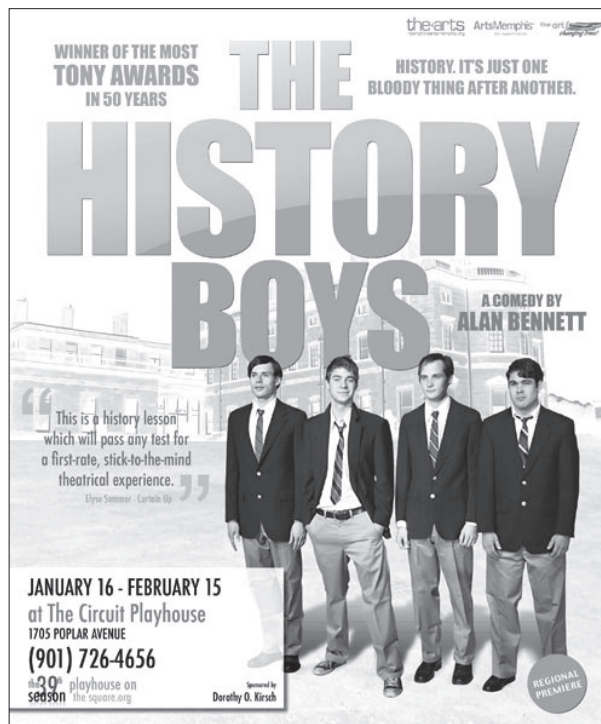


photo courtesy of [www.playhouseonthesquare.org](http://www.playhouseonthesquare.org)

Hector complains that Irwin's flashy approach to exam preparation is not history; it's journalism. Hector and Irwin cannot see eye to eye regarding the purpose of education. Is education valued for its own sake or is it valued as an avenue to achieving success? Irwin says, "Education isn't something for when they're old and grey

and sitting by the fire. It's for now. The exam is next month." Hector retorts, "What happens after the exam? Life goes on." The play, however, wisely avoids casting either as the good guy/bad guy. Both teachers have their convictions, and more importantly, both have their imperfections.

The play also addresses homosexual relationships among students and between students and teachers. However, this is not a morality play, and the subject is treated less controversially than it might have been were this an American play.

The cast is anchored by strong performances by Landis and Duhon. Of the boys' standouts include DJ Hill, as Scripps, the moral compass of the group; Joe McDaniel as charismatic Dakin, the object of so many characters' affections; and Ed Porter as the passionate Posner, whose emerging homosexuality and youth make him feel isolated from his peers and whose rendition of Lorenz Hart's "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered" and scene with Hector is heartbreakingly poignant.

Walking away from *History Boys*, you may not have any answers, but it's worth the price of admission to be asked the questions.

*History Boys*, directed by Rhodes professor Cookie Ewing with assistance by junior Mallory Primm, features performances by sophomores Omair Khattak and Ed Porter and alumnus Michael Towle (2008). The show concludes its run at Circuit Playhouse February 15.

This article also appears on the Rhodes Codetta blog ([rhodescodetta.blogspot.com](http://rhodescodetta.blogspot.com)). In addition to theatre coverage, Codetta features coverage on music and art both at Rhodes and in the Memphis community.

**THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SEE AND DO AROUND MEMPHIS, AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING ON CAMPUS.**

**FACT: 3 out of 4 Rhodes students drink once a week or less**

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, Fall 2007 n=554

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# Baseball Stadium gets a makeover

By Gordon Chadwick

Since Rhodes Baseball has improved drastically in the recent years, it was only fitting that the field the Lynx compete on should see some upgrades as well. Over the summer and through the fall semester, Stauffer Field has undergone some major renovations.

Costing about \$750,000, the renovations were funded entirely through donations secured by the hard work of Jenna Goodlow Wade, Vice President of Development, and Head Baseball Coach Jeff Cleanthes. Additionally, Brian Foshee, Director of Physical Plant, and Athletic Director Mike Clary were instrumental in carrying out the plans.

The new renovations are the product of a long process, which began two years ago when Coach Cleanthes and Assistant Coach Rob Schrier had the field surveyed. From there, plans were made and construction finally began in the summer of 2008.

The most noticeable addition is the grandstand—holding 240 backed seats. On top of the grandstand is a heated press box where the announcer, scoreboard operator, and stat keeper will now sit. Between the fans and the field stands a new 40 foot net and brick

backstop, looking decidedly classier than the old chain link fence.

On the field there are fewer changes. Of these, the new dug-outs stand out the most, but other changes include moving the bullpens off the field and adding a warning track along the outfield fence. Also, the backstop is slightly closer to home plate giving the fielders less foul territory to work with.

Though the majority of the work is done, Coach Cleanthes did express the desire to potentially add a few more features in the future. Possibilities include a concession stand and more seats—although, at the moment, there are no concrete plans for these additions.

Regardless, the field looks crisper and the seats are much more comfortable; the renovations as a whole offer a much nicer place to see a game than ever before.

While Rhodes broke in the renovated field with an 11-2 win over CBU on Feb. 3, the official opening ceremony will not be held until Feb. 28 when the Lynx face Emory at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will feature President Troutt tossing the first pitch.

# Major MLB off-season

By Ralph MacDonald  
Associate Editor

Alex Rodriguez is an asshole. He plays for the team formerly known as “The Evil Empire,” he is a horrendous clutch hitter, he cheats on his wife with strippers and geriatrics, and, like many of the women he hooks up with, his services blatantly go to the highest bidder.

But Rodriguez’s philandering, annoying behavior, and cheese-dick haircut all take a backseat to his confirmation that he took illegal performance enhancers from 2001-2003. Fans have always been able to turn a blind eye to superstars with flawed personal lives, but Rodriguez’s steroid use is indisputably bad for the game.

Rodriguez was the clean superstar of the steroid era, assuming the mantle due to Ken Griffey Jr.’s horrible luck with injuries. There was hope that he would beat Bonds’s home run record and remove the taint from baseball’s most hallowed milestone. Furthermore, it is depressing to watch the stars of my childhood: McGwire, Sosa, Giambi, Palmeiro, Conesco, Bonds, Clemens, Pettite, and many others, both unnamed or undiscovered, tainted by steroids.

But I always believed that Alex Rodriguez was clean.

Alex Rodriguez is an asshole. He is forcing me to write depressing stories when the MLB is going through one of its most interesting off-seasons—to the comfort of the ordered list:

1. The economy’s collapse has radically altered the free agent market. Remember when Carlos Silva could get four years and \$40 million and nobody was overly surprised? Well folks, them days are over. Manny Ramirez, Bobby Abreu, Adam Dunn, Ben Sheets (albeit injured), Ken Griffey Jr., and a bunch of other quality veteran players are all sitting at home, waiting for the best 1-2 year offer to come forward. Very few teams seem willing to sign free agents at all, and the ones getting signed are not making nearly what they would command in years past. While unfortunate for the free agents, it is forcing fiscal responsibility in a way that will be positive for baseball in the long haul. Hopefully, the days of mediocre veterans receiving huge contracts have come to a close—and Scott Boras can cry on his dark throne.

2. The Yankees are back. They will still be “the team formerly known as the Evil Empire” to me until they win a World Series, but the Yankees’ off-season was spectacular. While it isn’t the first time the Yankees have written big checks to big-time free agents, this year is unique. In the past, the Yankees signed players like Gary Sheffield, Johnny Damon, Randy Johnson, Kevin Brown, Carl Pavano, and Jaret Wright. The common denominator, you might notice, is that all of these players were aging, injury-prone, or just coming off a fluke year. But C.C. Sabathia and Mark Teixeira are legit superstars in their primes; and A.J. Burnett and the re-signed Andy Pettite give the Yankees a spectacular rotation. The only question mark is the outfield—Melky Cabrera, Johnny Damon, Xavier Nady, Hideki Matsui, and Nick Swisher form a confederacy of mediocrity.

3. Where are the Angels? You miss out on re-signing Teixeira and K-Rod and then find no money in the budget for Manny Ramirez, Bobby Abreu, Adam Dunn, or any other kind of quality free agent? I have no idea what Bill Stoneman is smoking, but I want some.

# Roller Derby brings new sporting experience

By Onalee Carson  
Sports Editor

When the Big Diehl advertised free tickets to the Memphis Roller Derby this past week, my curiosity about the sport commonly misconstrued as “wrestling on skates” was finally satisfied. Even though I have a cousin who is greatly involved in roller derby in Kansas City, I’ll admit that I didn’t know anything about the sport and was a proponent of the surrounding stigma—that is until last week.

I sat down with the captain of the PrissKilla Prezleys, Bella Trixx, last Thursday to get a handle on—and educate myself—on this growing sport. Bella and her teammates welcomed me into their weekly practice and let me see the raw passion and enthusiasm they had for the sport.

Memphis Roller Derby is affiliated with the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) which was founded in 2004 and is governed by the philosophy: “by the skaters, for the skaters.” MRD, itself, was founded in February 2006 and is the region’s only all-female, flat-track derby league. In fact, this weekend, Feb. 14, the women celebrate the leagues third birthday.

While the league started with four separate teams, plus an additional travel team, MRD now consists of three inter-league teams—Angles of Death, PrissKilla Prezleys, and Women of Mass Destruction—and an undefeated traveling team—Memphis Hustlin’ Rollers—that consist of members from all three inter-league teams. There are approximately 40 women currently competing in the league, ranging from ages 21-47, and varying in non-derby lives from nurses, teachers, bar tenders, lawyers and more.

So what is it about roller derby that attracts so many women from so many walks of life?

“There is a stigma associated with roller



Onalee Carson/The Sou'Wester

**The PrissKilla Prezleys take on the Women of Mass Destruction during the Memphis Roller Derby double-header on Saturday. The Prezleys fell to the WMD by a score of 99-68.**

derby that we are all foul-mouthed, sailor type of girls, but there is real diversity here,” Bella Trixx, a former competitive cheerleader, said. “Part of [draw to the sport] is the ability to adapt a personality that is more fearless.”

Just look around the track and you see personas such as “Susan For A Bruisin’,” “Sheila Kill ‘Em,” or “Rollanya Asse.” “The personas started because women didn’t want people in their real life, mainly employers or professors, to know they played derby...because of the stigma associated with it,” Trixx said.

Now, not all of my thoughts about roller derby were proven wrong—women who play roller derby are some of the toughest athletes

I have ever been around. They take hit after hit, fall after fall, and teammates scream for their hurt players to drag themselves off of the track in order to avoid more injuries (time isn’t stopped every time a player goes down). That sounds pretty brutal—but it is all part of the game.

“Girls who are good at derby have to have a certain warrior mentality,” Trixx said. “There is a certain ferocity to them.

“I broke a girl’s leg last week,” Trixx admitted. “Not on purpose...she probably just fell wrong.”

There is no doubt about the level of respect I have for these women after observing their practice last Thursday and then seeing them compete in the bout one Saturday. The game is a sport—athleticism is important (even though the majority of the women have never played a sport before), there is strategy, there is grit. These women, as much as we might mistake them for tatted-up, rough and tumble girls, they are athletes.

If you are interested in finding out more about Memphis Roller Derby you can visit their website [www.memphisrollerderby.com](http://www.memphisrollerderby.com).

## Upcoming Sporting Events on Campus

Tuesday, February 17th  
Baseball vs. Rust College-2:00 p.m.

Check the Athletics website for the many Rhodes competitions happening off campus this week!