



THE SOU'WESTER

THE WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION OF RHODES COLLEGE

Vol. 83, No. 22 • April 24, 1996

Inaugural Committee On Diversity Releases Report

By Erin Riches
Editor-in-Chief

Eight months after former RSG vice president senior Jacob Abraham created it, the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity released its first report on diversity at Rhodes at the weekly student government meeting April 15. RSG adopted the recommendations in the report during the meeting.

Current RSG vice president sophomore Damon Norcross, the outgoing chair of the first ever Committee on Diversity, presented the results of the committee's investigation of the status of diversity at Rhodes before the student senate and various other students and Committee on Diversity members in attendance. He ENDED with a rush of gratitude directed toward Abraham.

"All this would not have been possible if Jacob Abraham had not started the committee," Norcross said later in an interview. "He is the founding father of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity."

This latest product of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity includes the findings and proposals of the two subcommittees—campus community and admissions.

"Campus community focused on issues of diversity on campus—how we can utilize the current diversity to the fullest extent," Norcross said. "They researched what was actually taking place among students, the administration and student organizations."

One of the recommendations of the campus community subcommittee is the establishment of the Cultural Action Committee, which would bring together representatives from existing cultural student organizations for programming purposes.

"On campus, there are a lot of pockets of diversity, but there is not a lot of publicity or funding," First-year Neeta Venepalli, the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity for 1996-1997, said. "With more coprogramming, we can get these groups together and create a lot more student access."

"We examined these groups in such a way as to comment on what was already being done well and then commented on what could be done to improve diversity," she said. "We did not go over heads; [rather,] we conducted direct interviews with the organization heads."

"The Cultural Action Committee shows a lot of promise if it ever gets installed," she added. "In RSG there was criticism as to where exactly we would get the funding."

A bimonthly Leadership Table is another proposal of the campus community subcommittee.

This group which would include representatives from all student organizations on campus and would facilitate communication among student groups, presumably alleviating activity scheduling conflicts.

The admissions subcommittee concentrated its efforts upon the recruitment

of a diverse student body.

"The best thing the Committee [on Diversity] has done this year is bring diversity to the forefront of discussion among students, the administration and the faculty," Norcross said.

The committee's report completes a process initiated earlier this semester by RSG's passage of the Diversity Statement drafted by the committee and the original version of the Resolution Regarding Student Organization Registration.

"The diversity statement was the biggest thing we could have come up with," Norcross said. "It was adopted by RSG which really shows that it is a student concern on campus."

"In the introduction," he continued, "we define diversity and explain why diversity is important to Rhodes College. We clearly state that there is a clear commitment from individuals, that there needs to be a stronger commitment from the college, i.e. the Board of Trustees."

Although the original version of the student organization registration resolution, which granted sole responsibility for registration to RSG, was rejected by the administration (RSG subsequently passed a compromise proposal which is pending in the administration.), the administration has agreed to include the Diversity Statement in admissions material and the 1996-1997 student handbook.

"When the Diversity Statement goes before the Board of Trustees next fall, hopefully they will decide to include it in



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester
Junior Brooke Porter admires Hugh Shockey's paintings at the Senior Art Show opening March 19.

the catalogs," Norcross said.

"The report itself will be delivered to the administration before we leave for summer, so they will have a chance to look at it before next fall," Norcross added.

Rhodes Board of Trustees members discussed several components of the report in subcommittee meetings April 18 before their general session the next day; however, since the report has not yet been presented to the administration, the Board could not discuss the report in its entirety.

Two student townhouses for 1996-1997 will focus directly on issues pertaining to diversity. One townhouse, Diversity in Admissions, seeks to increase the enrollment of African American students at Rhodes.

To do this, junior Thomas Jackson, townhouse resident, said, "we will improve relations between Rhodes College and the African American community in

Memphis."

Another townhouse group, Bridges to Diversity, of which Venepalli is a member, will work further to improve diversity on campus in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity.

In her term as chair of the committee Venepalli wants to investigate diversity within the Rhodes curriculum, regarding not only the faculty but also the curriculum itself and student enrollment in classes.

She expects the first several years of the committee's existence to consist chiefly of in-depth evaluation of diversity at Rhodes as a prerequisite to change.

"One of the things that we did not really expect but received indirectly is the amount of student response," Venepalli said. "Students know that diversity is important. They don't know how to get there, yet, but they want to get there."

Bonner, Grisham Wait In Line To Receive Honorary Degrees

By Stephen Maloy Deuser
Associate Editor

For its 147th commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 11, 1996, Rhodes College will honor an esteemed philanthropist, a senior Presbyterian minister, bestselling author and a Broadway actor.

Receiving an honorary doctor of humanities degree is Corella Allen Bonner of Princeton, N.J. Ms. Bonner and her late husband, Bertram Bonner, founded the Bonner Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to 1600 students at various colleges and universities in need on the condition that they fulfill a certain amount of community service; also, the Bonner Foundation makes annual donations of over \$3.5 million dollars to more than 100 food banks, soup kitchens and church-based crisis ministry programs across the country. Also receiving their degrees are the first class of Rhodes College Bonner Scholars.

Of the four honorees, Ms. Bonner is special in that she is the only one who was petitioned by students to receive this honor. Two Bonner Scholars, Loretta Lambert and Jessica Rainey, both in this year's graduating class, saw Ms. Bonner's influence on the Rhodes community and the larger community outside and her influence on others as scholars. "Mrs. Bonner is a woman of creative and generous spirit who has had an important impact on the Rhodes and Memphis communities . . . [she is]

an ideal recipient of an honorary degree from Rhodes College . . ." they asserted in a letter to President Daughdrill and the Board of Trustees. Said Rainey, "I feel like the Bonner Foundation has had the single greatest influence on my college career and on my career choice overall."

The Rev. Howard Edington of Orlando, Fla., will receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree. He is senior minister at First Presbyterian Church in Orlando, which with over 5,000 members and involvement in over 150 areas of ministry, is one of the largest and fastest growing churches in the country. Edington has received an M. Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is chairman of the board of Montreat College. He was a contributor to the volume *Moving Beyond Belief* (Thomas Nelson) and his own book, *The Downtown Church: The Heart of the City*, will be published in late spring by Abingdon Press. He has a weekly television show called *The Certain Sound* that is seen in much of Florida and southern Georgia.

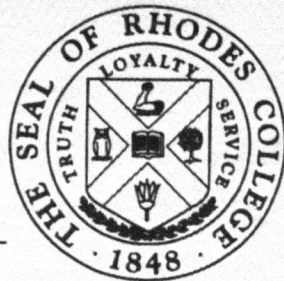
The most recognizable name among these four honorees is John Grisham, who is the author of six bestselling law thrillers: *A Time to Kill*, *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber* and *The Rainmaker*. Three of his books became major motion pictures, two of which were shot in Memphis: *The Firm*, starring Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman, and *The Client*, with Susan Sarandon and Tommy Lee Jones.

The commencement ceremonies will coincide with the release of his new book, *The Runaway Jury*.

Grisham was born in Jonesboro, Ark., and earned his undergraduate degree in accounting at Mississippi State University, and his law degree at the University of Mississippi. He practiced law in Southaven, Miss., and served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1983-90. Lately, he has been coaching his son's Little League baseball team. He will receive an honorary doctor of letters.

Featured in the Fall 1995 issue of the Rhodes alumni magazine, George Hearn, Class of 1950, will receive an honorary doctor of fine arts. Hearn, a native Memphian, received his first Tony Award in 1984 for his role as Albin, in *La Cage aux Folies*, and was nominated for *A Doll's House* and *Watch on the Rhine*. In 1982 he won an Emmy for *Sweeney Todd*, in which he played the lead role opposite Angela Lansbury. His films include *See You in the Morning*, *The Vanishing* and *Sneakers*. In 1995 he won a Tony for Best Featured Actor in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Sunset Boulevard*, in which he played Max von Mayerling, the servant of faded film star Norma Desmond.

Rhodes commencement will be held on Saturday, May 11, at 10 AM in the Rhodes Fisher Garden. In case of rain, ceremonies will be held at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, 70 North Bellevue.



THE SOU'WESTER OPINION

April 24, 1996

Taking The Feminist Side

MARY MCCOY

THE INAUGURAL COLUMN

There is a happy-go-lucky individual named Happy Medium who lives on Rhodes campus under the guise of a beaming adolescent boy with large ears and a beanie with a propeller on it. While not hellaciously interesting, intelligent, or innovative, everybody seems to like Happy Medium because he never seems to upset anybody. Perhaps I go against popular consensus, but unfortunately I have a significant problem with Mr. Happy Medium, and a few of the things that go along with attempting to please everybody. While Happy Medium and his friends would never go so far as to say anything blatantly discriminatory, they tend towards states of oblivion and little sneers of distaste towards anything reeking of activism, in my particular argument, feminist activism. Feminist activism has been under constant criticism this year at Rhodes, many of the arguments being that feminists at Rhodes are too abrasive, that activism won't convert the truly sexist, and even that the gender problem at Rhodes is a clever invention of the Bitch Slap! editors.



Women need to be activists in order to achieve understanding and development towards improved status, but what can be expected from the outcome if we still live in an environment where many individuals refuse to be happy with anything but the good ole' status quo. Hey, it keeps everyone happy in a relatively comatose way. These are the so-called "provincial" ideas about women, anyway. There are always going to be a few who are looking for Donna Reed or Lucille Ball, the unflinching woman whose domain is pot roast and baby-making or the pathetic puppy dog waiting for a pat on the head or a chance to sing at the club, just like her darling hubby. These are the sorts of men that women and men alike point to as the cause of female oppression. This, however, is a misguided tactic, throwing the blame onto a marginal group, which I believe is really too small, outdated, and ludicrous to pose any sort of threat. It's those chipper proponents

of the happy medium who cover their ears and keep any kind of real work from being done.

So women shouldn't rant and rave because no one wants to hear it, and people will just become unhappy. Bitch Slap! will show up on the tables in the Rat and Halliburton Tower will collapse, the triceratops in Frazier Jelke will come to life and crush three zoology students conducting experiments on the effects of smoking on lung capacity, and the framework of southern heritage will be burned on a marble altar to Tori Amos. I become thoroughly concerned about the role which Women's Forum and the Women's Studies program actually play at Rhodes. Yes, they are important and they stimulate the exchange of ideas, but only within a small group of Rhodes students. Again, only a ridiculously small group of students would advocate an elimination of these groups, but this is NOT where the danger of stagnation and complacency exists. Many choose to grudgingly acknowledge the existence of women at Rhodes who are concerned about their roles as women, and pat them on the head: the cute, angry, little feminists.

Poo-pooing the importance of feminism and the existence of problems damages the credibility of women dissatisfied with the happy medium. "Hush now. What's the problem? Oh sweetie, that's all in your pretty little head..." Apathy and denial undermine women, and worse, they make women into Lucy, whining and punching the air with their fists.

The happy medium makes us comfortable, and moreover, it relieves us of responsibility by allowing us to live under the perpetual delusion that everything is fine and joyous. Important changes are made in the status quo because individuals voice the truth long enough and hard enough to scrub the delusion off of our faces. As was recently voiced in a Sou'wester editorial, change occurs with "time, intelligence, and pragmatism." Activism involves all three of these, and frankly, without activism nothing happens. Without activism there isn't going to be any great revolution, any combating of old, damaging ideas, or any improvement. So maybe I'm just the school bully beating up this Happy Medium guy that everybody likes, but maybe the idea that the status quo is a good idea needs to have his lunch money swiped.

Christian Ideals, Diversity NOT Mutually Exclusive

ROB MARUS

THE MOOSE IS LOOSE

The past issue of The Sou'wester contained a staff editorial, entitled "Christian Ideals Vs. Diversity," in which the idea was put forth that the two just might, maybe possibly, be to some extent in conflict with one another. Though the Editorial Board never came out directly and said that Rhodes' Christian affiliation and Rhodes' commitment to diversity were on opposite sides of the aisle and that never the twain shall meet, it was more or less implied in the course of the editorial.

Well, I am here to suggest that such a conception of the issue is just not the case. It is entirely possible—even desirable—for Rhodes to simultaneously honor its Presbyterian heri-

tage and its commitment to diversity in an age of radical pluralism. The question is whether or not Rhodes is doing enough justice to both.

The issues of Rhodes' "church-related" status and Rhodes' commitment to diversity have both been the focus of much campus attention this year. The Chancellor's Roundtable zeroed in on the issue in all of its 1995-96 meetings, and Professor Stephen Haynes of the Department of Religious Studies has begun an in-depth study of the issue of what, exactly, it means to be a "church-related" college of the liberal arts and sciences while simultaneously striving to be "one of the finest colleges of the liberal arts and sciences in the world," as the Board of Trustees put it (in their January meet-

ing this year). In an era when our peer institutions are constantly moving further and further away from any specific Christian affiliation, Rhodes has remained uniquely strong in our commitment to a set of Christian ideals. For example, Rhodes students are still required to take at least some classes in Bible and Christian thought (though in dialogue with many other perspectives and faith-traditions). This fits in with the character-building aspects at the core of the College's values. We have found a



niche as one of the few liberal-arts colleges in the top tier that (at least in rhetoric) upholds Christian values.

However, are we doing enough to uphold those values? Professor Haynes thinks, as do

College Must Act Expediently On Diversity Report

Rhodes Student Government's acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity's Report on Diversity at Rhodes symbolized a turning point in Rhodes history.

Diversity has been the buzzword on campus since last fall, and everyone was only too eager to look at one another knowingly and agree that, yes, diversity is at premium at Rhodes and, yes, someone should be doing something about it.

Now, finally, RSG has agreed to a set of recommendations from the Committee on Diversity which call for specific measures to improve the status of diversity at Rhodes.

Instead of attempting to coincide on some abstract principle of diversity, we now have a definition of diversity as it applies to Rhodes College, a Diversity Statement which communicates our unified stance and a set of proposals which will allow us to conceptualize the actions we can take right away to begin the diversifying process.

We can only hope the administration and Board of Trustees will approve this initial report of the first Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity with expediency so as to allow the committee to progress within its agenda, which is perhaps the most critical of

any committee agenda in recent Rhodes history.

It is disappointing that the Board of Trustees still has yet to act upon the Committee's dense but concise Statement on Diversity passed by RSG early this semester. While the statement will be included in admissions literature and in the student handbook, it is still not an official statement of the College and will therefore not be included in the catalog.

We could only speculate blindly as to why the Board would be so reluctant to affirm its commitment to diversity, but the fact is the Diversity Statement will still be waiting for them when they reconvene in the fall 1996 semester.

The Report on Diversity contains some excellent means for improving diversity on campus, but we fear that this high quality document could still be at the bottom of a stack of papers on some administrator's desk one year from now.

We do not anticipate such a scenario, for that would be quite a shame, given the current sentiments on campus. The students are, by every measure, ready to act on these initial recommendations now—we must not let this season of change sour.

many other members of the Rhodes community, that a major part of any Christian commitment (individual or corporate) involves being committed to bringing "justice issues" to the forefront—whether they be issues dealing with racial justice, economic justice, or sexual justice. As the Biblical imperative states it, "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God."

Naturally, this implicates all Christians and Christian organizations in pushing for tolerance of the great diversity that is God's creation. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has decided that this means acknowledgement of the fact that many people—all of them well-meaning Christians—have differing viewpoints on issues of sexuality, abortion, feminism, and other issues. Nevertheless, they are all recognized as being, in some way, "Christian."

Being Christian also means loving all of God's people, regardless of their religion or

ideology. We are enabled to do this by being well-educated about their cultures and beliefs so that we may understand them on a human level. This comes (and the College's Mission Statement acknowledges as much) through the free exchange of ideas and perspectives and the open dialogue of different ideological perspectives and faith traditions.

There is no question that Rhodes does a good job of integrating Christian values with quality education. However, can we do a better job? Perhaps if the College completely acknowledged its Presbyterian affiliation and fully affirmed the free exchange of ideas on campus (i.e., realized that officially recognizing groups such as the Gay-Straight Alliance and the Neopagan Student Union is not necessarily tantamount to endorsing their respective ideologies), then perhaps we would finally be taking our status as a Christian college to a level of praxis commensurate with such a designation.

THE SOU'WESTER



The Sou'wester is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. It is published 22 times yearly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and holidays.

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All Sou'wester meetings are open to the college community and take place every Monday evening in 103 Buckman Hall at 8:00 p.m.

All student publications at Rhodes College are governed by the Publications Board, composed of the editors of all campus publications, class representatives and at-large representatives of the student body.

RHODES'STER

Cowboy Mouth Gets Mad And Gets Even

By Rebecca Anderson
Rhode'ster Editor

This year at Rites of Spring, the rain on Friday night could not dampen the spirits of most in attendance. Bands moved to alternate locations, parties moved inside and retirees moved to Florida. However, not everyone maintained high spirits in the face of inclement weather. Upon being informed that they would not be able to play as scheduled on Friday night, a disgruntled Cowboy Mouth decided to retaliate. According to a spokesperson for the New Orleans-based band, "We just wanted to show those big old meanies what we think of their rain plans."

At around 9:00 p.m., it became apparent that rain would prevent the scheduled bands, Cowboy Mouth and Man...Or Astro-Man?, from performing in the amphitheatre as originally planned. Attempts to set up both bands in the newly constructed Campus Life Center were thwarted when it was discovered that the electrical outlets in the building had three holes while most of the plugs for the bands' equipment had two prongs. Due to

this design obstacle, the traditional rain out plan of moving to the gym had to be rethought. At that time, according to Activities Board member, Suchi Pakkala, a decision had to be made. "We knew that if we moved to the Pub, only one band could play" said Pakkala. "Since Man...Or Astro-Man? had cooler hats, we decided it should be them."

Cowboy Mouth was evidently angered by this decision and expressed their feelings with a series of disturbances across campus. "Yeah, sure, give in to those freaks and screw us over," said a spokesperson for Cowboy Mouth's management. "Just because Man...Or Astro-Man? looks like Devo on a bad acid trip. They do have a cooler name than we do, but whatever happened to good old rock and roll?"

A spokesperson for campus safety reports that the members of Cowboy Mouth "went on a mooning spree. We must have tapes of bare Louisiana butt on every security camera on campus." The spokesperson also revealed that the college plans to sell the security tapes at \$50 apiece. All profits from the sale will go to The Council for the

Most Solemn Exoneration of All Things Daughdrill, formerly known as the Board of Trustees.

Continuing their metaphorical nose-thumbing at Rhodes, Cowboy Mouth is also allegedly responsible for the distribution of an unidentified purple beverage to several residents and guests of second floor Ellett. The band members reportedly smuggled a garbage can full of the highly alcoholic drink into the residence hall past the attentive monitors by disguising it with a label identifying it as Kool-Aid. Assuming truth in advertising, several unsuspecting students consumed large quantities of the beverage. "We had no idea what it really was," claims one victim. "If we had known, we would have reported it. Some people who drank it were under 21, and underage drinking is just plain wrong."

In a statement pertaining to the event, issued by the administrative offices, "Rhodes College (tug, tug) does not officially sponsor, endorse or recognize anything at all. Therefore, we are not responsible or liable for anything at all and are involved with nothing. Except the Presbyterian Church."

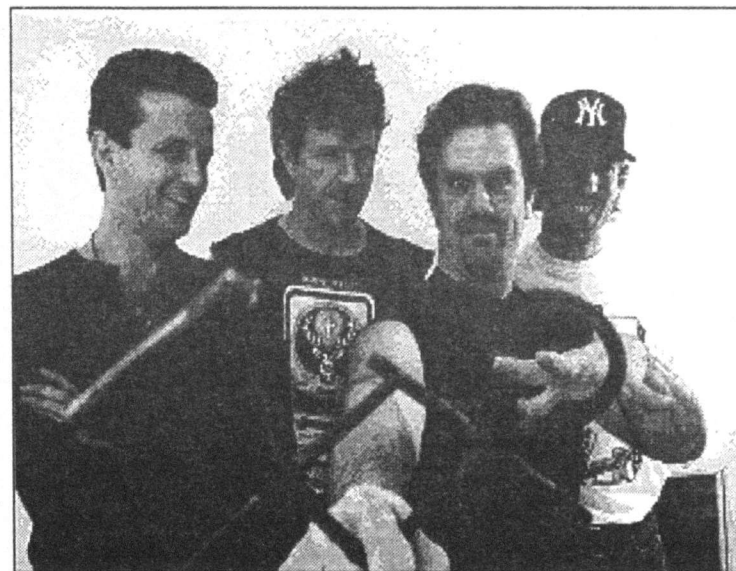


Photo via the Internet

New Orleans-based band Cowboy Mouth attempts to put a voodoo hex on the Rhodes Community in a strange ritual. The band expressed dissatisfaction with Rhodes when they were unable to play at Rites of Spring because of rain.

Rhodes Announces New Course Offerings For Fall

By Brady Potts
Rhode'ster Special Agent and
Rebecca Anderson
Rhode'ster Editor

The Rhodes Office of Academic affairs has recently proposed several new courses for the next school year, in an eleventh hour attempt to alleviate the crowded classrooms created by a quickly-hushed error in the infamous "tree system" of scheduling. The new courses will be implemented one per academic department, and registration will occur within the first week of the new year.

Anthropology/Sociology 150: Damn the Man

When evaluating social ills and injustices, there is one important thing to remember: Damn the man! This class explores the Eurocentric nature of oppression, and the most effective ways of avenging your cultural anger against your repective oppressors. It's time to best the west, and there's no better place to start than with the Man himself.

Art 120: Phallic Representations in Rhodes Architecture, a Case Study of Halliburton Tower

This class will explore certain points of the larger structural units

on the Rhodes Campus. Working from a little known statute in Diehl's Architectural code, students will evaluate the significance of size as opposed to functionality in a bell tower, and the fact that the bell often chimes a few minutes too early.

Biology 110: Topics: The Ebola Virus and You

"Unclean! Unclean!" Recognizing symptoms of a flesh eating virus is not always as easy as it seems. For instance, severe acne is often mistaken for the ebola virus. It can never pay to be too paranoid when your health is concerned, and this class will help you in fostering hysteria and ostracising possible carriers. Includes a practical lab in the Health Center.

Chemistry 300: Modern Alchemy: The Financial Uses of Lysergic Acid Internship

Sometimes work study just isn't enough to pay those bills. This new internship works in tandem with the University of the South at Sewanee's course, "The Economics of Cannabis" in exploring Organic Chemistry and Perceptual Psychology.

Chemistry 400: The Unabomber's Handbook Explored

An in-depth analysis and hands on approach to understanding one of the

greatest criminal minds of the century. Lecture topics include pipe bombs, mailing tips, avoiding caller I.D., combustibles, and Casing -Materials-That-Don't-Set-Off-Any-Metal-Detectors.

Computer Science 110: Dirty Pictures on the 'Net

In order to keep Rhodes students abreast of the hottest new blondes, er, developments across the World Wide Web, this class will study ways to get around government sponsored shut downs of pornographic file archives throughout the U.S. This class will also tabulate new web smut sites as they pop up, creating a definitive directory for such material.

Economics 400: Endowments R' Us

Managing a small private college is no easy business. This class is designed to give tips on maintaining a student body that the Board of Trustees will not only approve of but which also considers getting one's name on a brick in the Palmer Cloister something other than self-serving egotism.

Education 350: Tenure and Brown-nosing

A must for any student considering the pursuit of teaching in higher education. Learn to suppress your own

opinions, spread rumours about your fellow faculty, fake SIRs, and bribe your students with grades for favorable evaluations. New this year, the class is also open only to non-tenured faculty.

Film Studies 452: Asian Male Romantic Leads in Film

A critical study of Bruce Lee and Pat Morita, as well as an assessment of movie industry hiring policies. Learn how to spot stereotyping and preferential hiring a mile away; films intended for study are Apocalypse Now, Rising Sun, Full Metal Jacket, The Seven Samurai, and Breakfast at Tiffany's.

Humanities 101: The True Meaning of Spartan Brotherhood

Were the Spartans glorious and noble warriors or merely suicidal hair-dressers with a taste for young boys? You be the judge in this class that evaluates the Spartan method for inspiring brotherhood in the Greek army and it's striking similarities to male Greek organizations at Rhodes.

Life 101: Justifying Jihads

Just because something is different doesn't make it right. Learn how to export your own religion at the expense of other nations! Lecture topics include, "Claiming Your Own

Holy Land", "Car Bombing", and "Cultivating Fanaticism." Suggested but not Required, Chemistry 400.

Philosophy 160: Spelunking in the Allegory of the Cave - Dating and Plato

"It's not every day you can start a conversation by toting a copy of Plato around, but every once in a while..." Jim Jobes returns for an encore course. How to impress Phi Beta Kappa Selection committees and students from Sarah Lawrence, Agnes Scott, Smith, and Bryn Mawr colleges.

Philosophy 200: Metaphysics is a Great Big Pile of Malarky

This course is not a course. **P.E.111: Escaping Campus Safety: If they can't catch you, they can't ask you.**

The Honor Code isn't much of an issue at a full gallop. Learn how to scale walls, climb trees and most importantly the techniques of ivy camouflage. Learn the various physical strengths and weaknesses of each individual campus safety officer, as well as the various routes that are accessible by go-cart through campus and the most direct route to Glassell from all points on campus. Taught by Ralph Hatley.

Another Obligatory Rites Of Spring Column

By Mary "Just one more round of Zima" McCoy
Rhode'ster Slave

I suppose some blissful, lucky individuals will remember Rites of Spring for the gloriously foul things they were able to pull off without consequences, waking up inexplicably nekked, for instance, or wallowing like a hog in the rain, and I'm sure they're very happy about these things. I, however, will have no such joy, being that I didn't see a damn band play at Rites of Spring, and I didn't participate in a damn activity at Rites of Spring. I missed everything, completely, totally, utterly, I don't know how it happened, but if school boards can ban books they haven't read, I can review music I never listened to based sheerly upon things I overheard and the rhythmically swaying pendulum of my mood at any given time. Some of the events about to be recorded are true. Some are extensions of truth. Some are blatant lies, which will serve my own twisted journalistic purposes.

I should have known my weekend was doomed. I think I woke up on Friday morning, and I think I went to class, and I think I gave some directions to a pro-stud and his mother, my unshowered, blithering self becoming their very first impression of Rhodes, but I could be wrong about all of this. I hope they found Palmer eventually. Then some other things happened, like it rained and then people went to the gym, and then they went to the Pub. Then I guess there was a band and they made lots of people very happy. I am all for things that make people happy, like condom fairies. I met a condom fairy right before Man or Astro-Man? played, and she was very nice. She was wearing a lovely flowing dress and a wreath of ivy in her hair, and I just felt like I was reading a Hans Christian Anderson book with pop-up dental dam illustrations. Plus, I also heard that the members of Man or Astro-Man? were relatively attractive, which also made lots of people very

happy, so in my book, Man or Astro-Man? are aces.

Having the token silly band behind us, we moved into Saturday, the day of bands-who-took-a-really-long-



time-to-set-up-and-could-not-be-appreciated-by-drunks. I watched actually two bands set up. There was a man in the Fred and Charlie Wood Quintet who had an absolutely beautiful saxophone and beard, and I was eating Chinese food while Cowboys and Indians played, leaving me with an impression of music which instantly renders you full and then leaves you empty just as quickly. Just like some people, right?

I have never seen the Stubborn All-Stars nor have I heard them nor smelt them, but I am convinced that I like them. First, they are fans of Lionel Ritchie AND Emily Passini, and it just so happens that the first tape I ever owned was *Can't Slow Down*, which is one hell of a tape... remember "Ballerina girl... you are so lovely" (sing with me now... and if you see Emily in her "Dancin' on the Ceiling" shirt, tell her how much you like it). Second, they possess the ability to get free beer at Midtown Mini-Mart, then to go back and get more. Third, I was

throwing up in a sink at that point in time, and I was very happy.

The aftermath of my evening somehow correlates to the music of Poi Dog Pondering. I'm going to make it correlate. If the music of Poi Dog Pondering were personified, I'm sure it would go to Kroger and buy you Drano and a 3 Musketeers and then break up with you. Then it would probably keep you up until five in the morning chain-smoking and realizing that you'd pissed away an entire weekend and dreading the dawning of the harsh reality called tomorrow. It just would.

Jackpierce may be likened to a Sunday afternoon if you use your imagination. Tom Robbins once said that the dullest, greyest Saturday afternoon is better than the sunniest, happiest Sunday afternoon. Sunday afternoons just leave you staring blankly, feeling slightly bloated in the waist and sunken in the eyes, getting sleepier and sleepier and sleepier... wandering aimlessly around Kroger picking up batteries and plastic measuring cups and other equally useful things though you have no intention of buying them, you just THINK about buying them and maybe someday you will. It's good to have dreams.

Dreams of Sundays that turn into Mondays, and class actually starts to look good again. Okay, classes and work have structure and rules and for an unnatural environment, an unnatural construction of time almost makes sense in a sick and twisted way. But throw structure and rules into music and drunkenness and condom fairies and a huge party, and a general breakdown of the Rhodes student collective psyche is bound to occur. This is probably the worst music review you ever read. This is a music review based upon nothing, but frankly, even though I didn't hear a band play Rites of Spring, I think I know exactly what I missed.

Condom Fairies: More Than Meets The Naked Eye

By Rebecca Anderson
Rhode'ster Editor

While most Rhodes students celebrated Rites of Spring by dancing to the bands in the amphitheatre, members of Gay Straight Alliance and Women's Forum were busy handing out safer sex kits to the largely unsuspecting crowd. Unbeknownst to the majority of recipients of the condoms, each contained a fiber-optic video camera fused to the latex. The cameras were part of an attempt by President James Daughdrill to provide proof of his repeated statements that, in accordance with universally held Presbyterian Values, Rhodes students do not have sex.

When Carrie O'Dell first proposed the Operation Latex '96 idea, she said she met with some resistance from the college. According to O'Dell, "At first, the idea was not well received. A few days after I proposed the distribution of condoms during Rites, I got a phone call." That call turned out to be a representative of the President's office who informed her of the camera plan. At this time, the name of the action changed from Operation Latex to Operation Proof That Daughdrill Is Always Right.

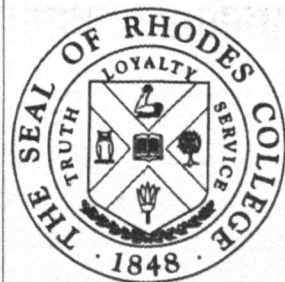
We were a bit skeptical at first. The whole idea of cameras in condoms did seem to be an invasion of privacy," said a spokesperson for Gay Straight Alliance. "But we decided that, in the interest of scientific

research, we could violate a few people. Hey the government does it, why can't we?"

The administrative offices had planned to publish the results of Operation P.T.D.I.A.R. in several college publications including the viewbook and other material sent to prospective students. Unfortunately, this plan was aborted when analysis of the collected videotapes proved the President's theory incorrect. "I just can't figure out what went wrong," reported a spokesperson for the President's office. "We all know that Jim is always right, we suspect that the tapes were somehow manipulated to tarnish the college's reputation. Well, nobody is going to get away with that kind of shenanigan, not while Jim is in the captain's chair."

According to the same spokesperson, an investigation into the matter is already in progress. All students who acted as "condom fairies" and distributed the audio visual laced prophylactics are currently being questioned by East European customs officers. Once it was established that the students, in fact, had nothing to declare, they were locked in a secret chamber under Palmer Hall for interrogation. The condom fairies are expected to be released sometime next week, when the GSA will be brought in.

THE
RHODE'STER
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Reaching the Rhode'ster

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Jackpierce Erin Riches

Poi Dog Pondering Rebecca Anderson

Cowboy Mouth Allen Boudreaux

Garrison Star Enrique Espinosa

Cowboys and Indians Nick Harris

Baby Arm Johnson James Spears

Hit Single "Shake Your Groove Thang"

Not Appearing ABBA

Pat Godwin Brendan Minihan

The Stubborn All-Stars

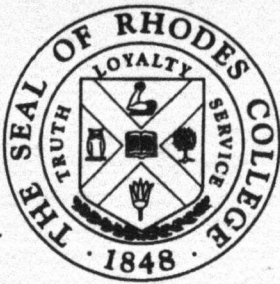
Mary McCoy, Brady Potts, Meghan O'Hara,
Stephen Deusner

Record Company Representatives (*Rhode'ster*
Layout) Rebecca Anderson

Head Roadie

Ryan "Tool Belt" Feeney

The Rhode'ster would like to accept this Grammy on behalf of all the little people who got this operation where it is today. *The Rhode'ster* would like to extend a special thank you to President James Daughdrill who has been an endless source of inspiration and story fodder. Thanks, Jim. Without you, *The Rhode'ster* wouldn't be where it is today.



THE SOUTHWESTER SCENE

April 24, 1996

Student Groups Speak Out On Christianity At Rhodes

By Clément Massé.
Staff Correspondent

In the previous issue of the Sou'wester, Melody Barnett addressed the issue of defining diversity at Rhodes in relation to the religious affiliation of the College. She stressed the importance of determining the extent of Rhodes' Christian connection and whether this connection was encouraging or discouraging to diversity at Rhodes.

This week, members of various student groups on campus were asked to express their feelings on the role they feel religion is playing within the Rhodes' community, and the impact of Rhodes' church affiliation on such issues as diversity.

Several of the student groups at Rhodes are church-related, drawing on the Christian faith of their members. Some of these groups include the Baptist Student Union (BSU), the Catholic Student Association (CSA), the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and the Rhodes Christian Fellowship (RCF).

Many students said they were aware that Rhodes was a church-related college when they decided to attend. They did not view Rhodes' Christian connection as a threat to their individual beliefs, but rather as an opportunity for increased awareness.

"The impact [of Christianity] has been significant," said Robert Record, a senior supporter

of both the FCA and the RCF. "It has been the compass for my journey away from home."

He said the College's Christian affiliation was important to him when he came to Rhodes. He believes that Rhodes "steers its force, its consistency from [its] church-related affiliation." According to Record, diversity benefits from Rhodes' Christian connection, because Christianity promotes tolerance and understanding.

Senior Jerry Harrington, coordinator of the CSA at Rhodes, feels that Christianity at Rhodes is "one of those things that stays in the background."

According to Harrington, Christianity does not play an "active role in the every day functioning of Rhodes."

As far as diversity is concerned, Harrington says that the College's Presbyterian affiliation played a significant role in his decision to attend Rhodes. Harrington attended a Catholic high school and felt Rhodes offered him a greater view on diversity because he was confronted with stu-

dents with different views on religion, whether or not those students were members of specific congregations.

Many Rhodes students are concerned that the college's Christian connection may be limiting to diversity on the Rhodes campus.

Several students still question the college's refusal to officially recognize the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), alleging religious reasons for

the denial. "[Rhodes'] Christian association becomes relevant when a specific element comes up, as with the GSA," Harrington

said. "My understanding of the GSA is that it is a forum of discussion, awareness, tolerance, and education, which I fully support. I would like to think that Christianity does not obscure any person's inclination."

Record says he feels that the GSA is "not tacitly condemned" by the Rhodes administration; "they are not excluded and I wouldn't see them differently." He explains that from his un-

derstanding, it is "the sin" represented by homosexuality which the church condemns, and "not the person."

"As far as I know, [the Presbyterian] stance on homosexuality is not that clear," said sophomore Jason Bishop, a member of the GSA. "It seems to vary from church to church."

Bishop feels that Rhodes "does not promote Presbyterianism, but when the GSA asked for recognition, the excuse used for denial was the Presbyterian stance on homosexuality." Bishop continues, "I rarely see the issue of religious affiliation cropping up with organizations being an issue. I don't hear about it often; the school doesn't talk about being Presbyterian often."

"Rhodes has a rather weak affiliation," said sophomore Adrienne Travis, a member of the Neo-Pagan Student Union.

She too feels that the college has used its Presbyterian affiliation as an excuse to discriminate against groups like the GSA.

"It's frustrating because the Presbyterian church has a history of tolerance and open-mindedness," Travis said

Overall, Rhodes' student groups appear to be fully aware of Rhodes' Christian connection, but many would like to gain a better understanding of what it actually means to study at a Presbyterian-affiliated school.

Students are concerned with what Rhodes' church affiliation implies, especially concerning controversial social issues.

"[Rhodes'] Christian association becomes relevant when a specific element comes up, as with the GSA."

-Jerry Harrington, Catholic Student Association-

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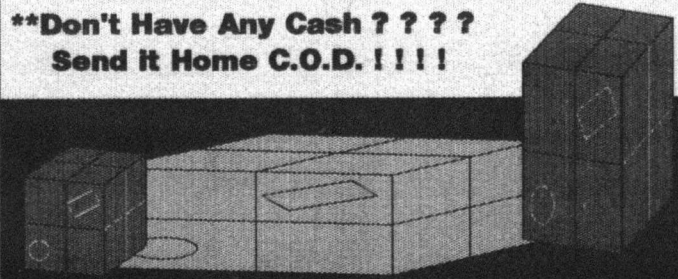
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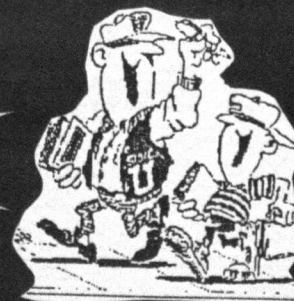
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Neoconservative Himmelfarb Says: Virtues over Values

By Henry Murphy
Associate Editor

Dr. Gertrude Himmelfarb, Professor Emerita of History at University City College in New York City, and one of the original and most admired members of the "neoconservative" movement taking place in American politics today, spoke on Tuesday, April 16, in Hardie Auditorium. The house was packed with students, professors, staff members, and community members for Dr. Himmelfarb, who was the last speaker of the annual Seidman Lecture series, which was devoted this year to studying the politics of late 20th century America.

Two of the speakers, Assistant Professor of Political Science Stephen Wirls and now Dr. Himmelfarb, have commented explicitly on the new buzzwords in politics. Wirls was concerned with the term "family values,"

commonly known to be used by Republicans when criticizing Democrats and, in a different sense, used by Democrats when criticizing Republicans. Dr. Himmelfarb's lecture was concerned primarily with the terms "civil society," "community," and "citizenship," as used in bipartisan discussion. Her concern lies with the rhetorical devaluation of these important sections of democratic existence.

A highly original and renowned historian of the Victorian era, Dr. Himmelfarb's area of expertise lies in comparing the social success of that time period to the social deconstruction, and disintegration, that is occurring in our country at the century's end. According to Dr. Himmelfarb, Victorian society possessed a guiding set of social principles that were accepted and enforced across the lines of social and economic class;

these principles governed, among other things, personal conduct, adult relationships, the role of civil government in society, and personal responsibility. In fact, in describing a social organization of that period, she noted how this group aimed to increase only the "political" equality of its members, as opposed to increasing economic success or equality. In other words, this organization was concerned with being an equally contributing part of society. Ostensibly, these principles, which Himmelfarb terms "virtues," are one of the most important reasons for the cohesive nature of the whole of Victorian society, from the lower class and up.

She contrasts the idea of such fixed, stable, and unyielding "virtues" with the more modern idea of "values," which are, according to her, personal beliefs about what is right and what is

not (to put it into the simplest terms). These "values" are supposedly not influenced by any universal or outside ideas, and are both unstable and detrimental to public community. She finds their ultimate outlet in what she terms "the narcissistic mantras of the 60s... 'be yourself'... 'do your own thing'..." and she traces these "values" into contemporary America, not only symptomatic of society's deterioration but also contributing to that deterioration.

Himmelfarb also revealed that she has a different attitude towards government in comparison to the current program slashers present in Congress today. Her interest lies in promoting a unity between personal action and governmental guidelines; she is openly opposed to what she calls "overweening government" and "overweening sense of individuality," but sees inter-

action between the state and the people as necessary for a stable society.

As our government faces populist politics aimed at returning almost all powers to state and local governments, such political schizophrenia may exacerbate the disintegration currently afflicting American society across all states. And though part of the answer may lie in establishing societal norms for behavior, it's a long way from the Victorian era to 20th-century America. Her point about the empty rhetoric of public discourse is an important one, and it is key that political discussion move beyond partisan politics.

The only question about Himmelfarb's "virtues" is their source. Is this the religious right in academic disguise? Or is she truly out to integrate society into a form that will bond on issues of agreed importance?

Campus Safety Activity Log Apr. 14-Apr. 20 1996

4/14	9:20am	Unauthorized discharge of fire extinguisher discovered by maintenance during normal rounds. CS replace extinguisher with squad room spare.			
	12:50pm	Incident FJ Amphitheatre. DOCS and CS officers responded. Report filed.			
4/15	8:40am	Power dip campus wide. Outage required alarm systems to be reset.			
	7:00pm	Accident on University, Rhodes student involved. MPD responded and filed report. No personal injuries.			
4/16	9:30pm	Traffic accident in front of Hassell Hall. No personal injuries involved. Report filed.			
4/17	4:15pm	Staff member treated at Health Center for allergic reaction to medication. Member taken from campus by spouse.			
	4:35pm	Theft of items from room in Glassell. Theft occurred in March. Delayed report filed.			
4/18	1:32am	Off-campus armed-robbery involving two Rhodes students. Incident occurred at intersection of Madison and Belvedere outside of the Old Zinnie bar. MPD called to campus and took report.			
4/19	4:15pm	Vandalism to student vehicle on University. Report filed.			
	6:45pm	Fire alarm at library. CS officers responded. Panel showing system problem AHU#8; system would not reset. Maintenance personnel called. System reset by 7:15pm.			
4/20	1:30am	Student reported loud noises from room in Glassell. CS officer responded. No report filed.			
	4:56am	Campus-wide power outage. Power restored by 6:20am.			
Access	143	Jumps	4	Traffic Citations	85
Propped Doors	0	Escorts	14	Traffic Warnings	0
Visitors	745	AV's	1	Cars Opened	1

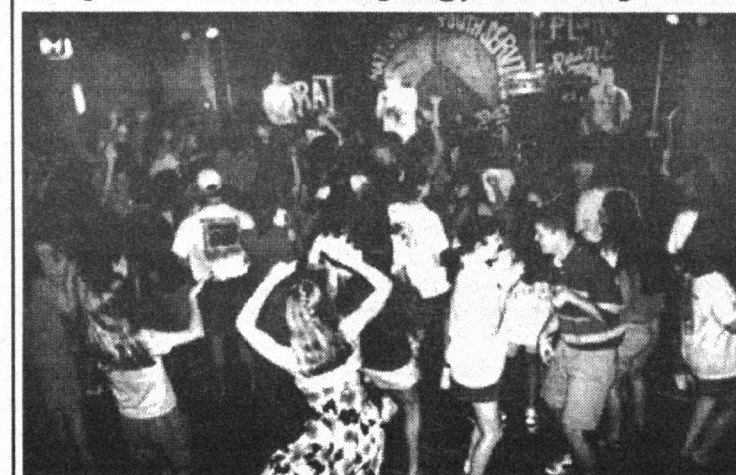
Rhodes to Hold Science Symposium

By Michael Alan Long
Staff Correspondent

On Friday, April 26, Rhodes will host the 1996 Undergraduate Science Symposium. The event is scheduled from 5 to 7 PM and will take place in the lobby area of Frazier-Jelke. Posters presenting the results of student research in multiple and diverse academic fields will line the hallways, and the students themselves will be present to answer questions about their work.

The purpose of this event is to provide Rhodes students a forum in which to present their scientific research in poster format. In addition to gaining experience in presenting their findings in a public forum, this symposium will permit the participants (both presenters and attendees) to gain a better understanding of the range of student research projects that are being carried out at Rhodes. The primary advantage of the poster format is the opportunity it provides the presenter to discuss in-depth his or her research with interested students and

Amphitheatre Partying, 80's Style...



Enrique Espinosa/Sou'wester

Rhodes students took a stroll down memory lane with some tunage from "Mel and the Party Hats," last Saturday's featured Amphitheatre party band.

faculty.

The idea for this event was originally suggested by Katie White '97 at a meeting of the Rhodes Psychology honor society, Psi Chi. With the efforts of White, as well as junior Michael Long and faculty members Dr. Natalie Person and Dr. Robert Strandburg, this idea has become a reality. Because of the time constraints involved in planning this event, this year the symposium will serve as a "demonstration," in the hopes that it will continue on a larger scale in the years to come. Additions such as prize

money for posters, an interdisciplinary team of judges, and an interactive web site have been proposed for next year.

An estimated 30+ contributions will be on display, including posters from chemistry, psychology, physics, economics, and biology. Both students and faculty are encouraged to circulate around the various exhibits and enjoy the refreshments that will be available.

To learn more about the various contributions available for viewing, check out the list of titles available on Rhodes Colossus.

An Evening In Jazz a Success: BSA Presents Sultry Sounds

By Adele Kelli Hines
Staff Correspondent

The Rhodes College Black Student Association held *An Evening In Jazz*, one of its annual programs, on April 18 in Hardie Auditorium.

The program treated the Rhodes students to a rare alterna-

tive to the recent popular bands offered: The Memphis Jazz Orchestra. This group is comprised of a total of eighteen pieces. Present at Thursday night's performance were 5 saxophones, 5 trumpets, 5 trombones, a guitar, a drum, and a piano.

Many performers who come to Memphis, including greats like Ray Charles, have used this classy orchestra for their shows. Legendary Beale Street vocalist Joyce Cobb crooned smooth accompanying melodies which were a nice complement to the Memphis Jazz

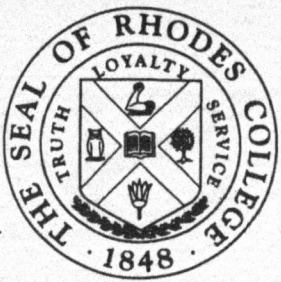
Orchestra's great sound. During a two-hour set, they gave the audience wonderful rendi legends as Pearl Bailey and Fats Waller.

The beautiful decorations and the soft lighting created a the feel of a real jazz club.

"This is one of the best pro-

grams around. I have been coming to this every year. I enjoy it more and more each time," said a member of the Midtown community.

Hopefully, *An Evening In Jazz* will continue to be one of the campus - and community - highlights for years to come.



THE SOUTHWESTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

April 24, 1996

Rhodes' Players triumph in *Eastern Standard*

By Brady Potts
Staff Correspondent

At first I was a little leery of *Eastern Standard*. It had the dubious distinction of being the first full-fledged performance by The Players, an independent student troupe in its first year of operation here at Rhodes, operating without official connection to the school and consequently without the monetary resources afforded to other productions. Further, the play leans decidedly to the left and I was curious to see how that would be treated and then go over in Rhodes' less than liberal climate.

I can admit when I'm wrong.

What went on Friday the 19th of April at Theatreworks was a good example of what can happen when theatre is forced to get back to basics. The lack of available money produced a set that was sparse and at the same time very realistic. The small scale of the production resulted in a very meticulous and personal production; it was like the difference between hearing Harry Chapin play in a small coffeehouse and seeing Jimmy Buffett in a stadium show. Being forced as they were to produce the entire show themselves, the Players had a great deal of personal investment in this play and it showed. There were a number of small glitches, but they were of the technical sort that would easily disappear in a longer running production, as *Eastern Standard* only ran for two nights.

The basic plot line consisted of two couples, Stephen (the liberal architect) and Phoebe (the mogul...well, not a mogul but not a peon...somewhere in-between) and Drew (the somewhat flamboyant artist) and Peter (the restrained television executive). Yes, for those of you who didn't see the play, Drew and Peter. And no, it was not as in "Drew Barrymore." That would have been boring. In each case the couple had a problem. In the first case it was Phoebe's attachment to an ex-lover and business partner that was being brought up on embezzlement charges. In the latter it was AIDS, for which Peter had tested positive but decided to keep a secret from everyone but Phoebe, his sister. The couples meet in a bizarre twist of fate involving a schizophrenic homeless woman and a starving actress at a restaurant. The setting then moves to Stephen's beach house where they start asking the "BIG" questions: life, love, death, career, dedication, guilt, etc.

However, unlike many plays that ask these questions, this one was actually very entertaining. Though a good deal of the credit should deservedly go to the script itself, it was carried off with style and the actors did more than their job. Brandon Barr, as Drew, easily had the best lines and delivered them with precise timing and attitude. Imagine Roseanne Barr and Denis Leary's love child in wing tips. Even the more serious characters like

Melissa Anderson's Phoebe and Cy Carter's Peter had moments of hilarity within their respective situations as the two characters who were the focus of the problems in each relationship. Croix Lazzara's Stephen was basically the straight man (no pun intended) who seemed sort of lost in the whirl of events, though he had his moments of both depth and humor, specifically after a goodly portion of ethanol in the latter. Rebecca Mahnken, as the homeless May, was at first reminiscent of Mama from "Mama's Family", with a bad hangover, but then unfortunately descended into a more typical portrayal of the "homeless, wise, saint of the world with a heart of gold" that is often seen, though she did offer a sudden reality check towards the end of the play. The one character that didn't hold my interest was Ellen, played by Kristen Richards. I never really got drawn into her situation in the way I did with the others, though I think perhaps that was intended in the script. Still, the cast meshed well as an ensemble and still had moments to shine as individuals.

The set design consisted of, for the most part, chairs. As the focus on the play was on the situation of the characters, I liked the more sparse set, set against the black background of the Theatreworks' wall. Maybe not having a large expense account isn't such a bad thing after all - the set pieces looked realistic and in a way, familiar.

(Probably because a number of the bottles used in the set were from my room.) The action remained focused on the characters, with the set being purely functional: chairs to sit on and a bar.

Amanda Sisk's direction was similarly functionalist. She avoided melodrama in a play that could have easily bred it. The play moved smoothly, especially considering the fact that the actors moved the scenery themselves onto the set. The motion moved back and forth across the stage for the majority of the action, coming forward in moments of conflict or release, and only slightly then. The one major instance of something other than lateral motion involved one of the happier moments in the plot, where two characters broke free of all the tangles on the stage.

Eastern Standard was an encouraging example of what talented theatre students can do when left to themselves. Hopefully we'll see more of this in the future. The play was admittedly not without it's faults. Some lines were flubbed or hard to hear and occasionally the acting quality slipped. But as a whole it was entertaining and enjoyable, and definitely the better of the plays I have seen in Rhodes' productions. In *Eastern Standard*, the Players have pulled off a production that matches the quality of other Rhodes' performances with a fraction of the budget and support afforded to the other plays, and I look forward to future shows.

Poetry Reading by Stuart Presents a Single Sight

By Melody Barnett
Scene Editor

As part of the celebration of National Poetry Month, Dabney Stuart, the S. Blount Mason Professor of English at Washington and Lee University and author of thirteen books, gave a reading of poems from his most recent book, *Second Sight*. The reading took place on Thursday, April 18, in Blount Lecture Hall, and featured slides of paintings from the book as well as Stuart's poetry.

Second Sight is a merging of visual and verbal art. It is composed of a set of paintings by Carroll Cloar, a well-known local artist and Rhodes alumnus, and a set of poems by Stuart, which serve as verbal responses to the paintings.

Stuart devoted the first half of his

presentation to the close examination of twelve of Cloar's paintings featured in *Second Sight*. His technical analysis of the paintings raised several interesting points, as Stuart stressed that Cloar's works are not as simplistic and obvious as they may sometimes appear to be on the surface. Stuart exhibited a keen perception of Cloar's use of manipulation of basic shapes, colors, and groupings to create tension and balance within the compositions.

"He does quiet, small things that participate centrally in the balance of the composition," Stuart said.

Stuart was able to explain Cloar's use of certain devices, such as the complication of vertical and horizontal planes, in each of Cloar's paintings featured at the reading. Beyond that, however, Stuart's analysis was some-

what superficial. Although Stuart was able to offer some personal insights that he has gained through his extensive studies of Cloar's life and works, it seemed unnecessary to describe and interpret twelve paintings to an audience that had come to hear a poetry reading. After his examination of three or four of the paintings, members of the audience had become sufficiently acquainted with Cloar's style to interpret the other pieces for themselves. The end result of the explanation, however, was beneficial: it helped the audience to become more closely acquainted with Cloar's work.

"I didn't want to become an art critic...but rather to approach the visual and spiritual center of the paintings," Stuart said.

When Stuart had finished his ex-

planation of the paintings, he returned to the beginning of the set of slides, and began to read the poetry that had been inspired by each painting. Unfortunately, most of this poetry seemed to be a re-phrasing of the first half of Stuart's presentation. The language of the poetry was precise and descriptive, but the poems themselves rarely took risks in exploring the action and inspiration of the paintings. Overall, the poems expressed those aspects of the paintings which Stuart found to be most significant to him. He distanced the audience from their personal experiences with the paintings and brought them into his own realm of inspiration.

The experience of identifying with visual art is a very personal one. It creates, in a sense, a "poetry" within

each individual, if the term "poetry" can be applied to that emotion which rises within us when we are "moved" by a work of art. The significance of a painting can be discussed, dissected, and debated, but it will be perceived differently by each individual who experiences it.

The poems of *Second Sight* have been described by Stuart as "verbal analogues to the visual art... another version of what is there." The reading allowed the audience to connect with this other "version of what is there" in Cloar's paintings. But Stuart's version was the only version made available to the audience. He said everything that could be said about his perception of the paintings. I left the reading with the feeling that some things are best left unsaid.

Renowned Peruvian Artist Mixes Art, Culture and Politics

By Henry Murphy
Associate Editor

On Wednesday, April 17, under the cooperation of the Art and History departments and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, world-famous Peruvian artist Nicario Jimenez, who has works on display at the Smithsonian Institute, spoke to a full house of faculty, students and interested community members about the history and role of his own chosen medium of expression: *los retablos*. Interpreted with the casual New York accents of Assistant Professor of History Michael LaRosa, whose specialty is in Latin American studies, Jimenez packed a lot of information into a short time.

He described how he began carving the wooden sculptures called *retablos*, which are a traditional Andean art form, when he was age seven. *Retablos* are composed of two dis-

tinct levels, populated with carved figures of people in everyday situations: trying to catch a bus, waiting in an airport, sitting at a streetside cafe. Two intriguing aspects of his artwork are the influence of history and politics on his subject matter (he says that Peruvian history is "inescapable" in his works), and the generational, ancient mythology that is preserved in the subjects and the forms of the *retablos* themselves.

The mythology represented in his *retablos* tells the story of Peruvian duality: heaven and earth. The *retablos* have two sections, above and below; their form itself represents this duality. Jimenez extends this duality into the contrasts between country and city in contemporary Peru. A principal representation in the country scenes is the image of cattle, whose fertility in milk and calves is central to a coun-

try farm's survival.

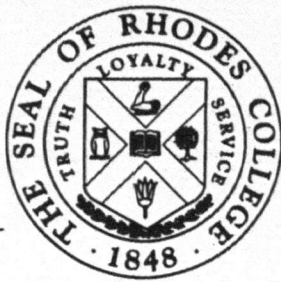
Another important image is that of the *curandero*, a folk healer, who Jimenez sees as representing the contrast between the Western influences in the city and the ancient traditions in the mountains.

His more contemporary representations juxtapose chaotic scenes of violence and frenzied activity; it's easy to see that his sympathies lie with the simple rusticism of country life. The colors in modern scenes are more threatening; there are dense patches of red and green, larger backgrounds looming over the battling figures. Jimenez mentioned that his mythical landscapes have attracted the revolutionary organization the Shining Path, who fight for a return to the pre-modern age, using guerilla tactics and terrorism.

Ironically, Jimenez believes that politicians

in Peru pay little attention to his folk art; according to him, "To the politicians, Peru is Lima." As a result, his protests against widespread violence (since President Fujimori adopted the plan of arming country peasants to combat terrorists) have apparently attracted little controversy. But since the politics are part of the art, and not the other way around, he will continue his practices. His son has been making *los retablos* for years, and has even started the practice of signing his works, which was unprecedented in the art's history.

The practices of ancient Peru have survived into the present age not only because of family traditions, but because of their natural isolation from danger. The sculptures are beautiful, passionate and painstakingly crafted — an astonishing mix of what Jimenez knows and what he has known.



THE SOUTHWESTER SPORTS

April 24, 1996

Will Student Center Be All It is Cracked Up to Be?

An Interview With Facility Director Matt Dean

by Brendan Minihan
Staff Editor

"Gym? What gym?," a group of students respond when asked a question about the Mallory gym, currently in renovation. For over a year the student body has not had access to an on-campus sports and recreation facility. For Seniors it seems to have been a complete loss, while undergrads alike have suffered the major inconvenience of renovations.

While conditions have been substandard this year, the students, faculty and staff of Rhodes have been promised a top-notch sports and recreations center by the Fall of 1996. Conditions are improving at a steady rate in the original structure, and the exteriors of the additional structures are being completed, but once the facility is complete, will the Rhodes community appreciate it?

Matt Dean, the newly appointed facility director is optimistic about the Bryan Student Life Center.

He affirms, "We hope to have most of the center functioning by the October or November. We know that the weight room, the fitness rooms, the training room, and staff offices will be completed and functioning by the beginning of the school year."

Dean believes that the center will be "great for programming."

Intramurals should improve as a direct result of the new facility. More open court space, means more student participation. In the past, varsity teams would monopolize the court space, because they were allowed primary access, and there was a limited amount of space. The situation meant that the recreational student body was left without space to play.

In the new gym, there will be ample space for both teams and students. The gym will also host the intramural league games.

Dean also believes that this project is a strong strategic move for the college.

"This project is huge," Dean says, "For us to grow as an institution, and compete with other schools in the conference [such as Trinity and Sewanee,

who have both added new sports facilities to their campuses] we need a student life facility that is attractive, and that demonstrates the strength of the school to the prospective student athlete." With a brand new facility, recruiting for varsity sports is expected to improve.

One challenge Dean faces is winning the confidence of the student body back. This year many students have acquired memberships at local gyms, such as the YMCA, Gold's, and The Q. Students cite reasons for this in complaints about the present situation of the gym; the poor quality of the weight room, and the restriction of access to the student body.

"I know it has been frustrating," Dean says, "but this new center will make up for the inconveniences of the

past. We appreciate the patience of the athletes this past year. We know how the students feel- it has been a trying experience working out of the trailers, and we are anxious to move into real offices."

Dean is positive that students will come back to Rhodes to use the facility for common sense reasons such as convenience, and the availability of a common meeting place for peers.

Weight Lifting instructor Scott Srnka has been planning the new weight room, complete with free weights, and four televisions.

There will be a separate area for cardiovascular machines.

The outdoor pool will also open in the Fall. The pool will be heated, and, according to Dean, "the landscaping will make for a more attractive recreational area."

he will be assisted by John Langdon and Glenn Schwab as sports administrators.

Dean is presently in charge of a work-study crew, who perform chores for the facility, and will play a major role in the management of the facility once it opens.

Out of 90 to 100 expected work-study positions that will be available, 20 to 30 will be devoted to intramurals, while the remainder will work in specialized areas. For instance, supervisor positions will be available, as well as access positions at the main entrances.

"Access is a big concern for us," says Dean, "Running an operation like this is a huge liability.

"That is why we have to implement the student identification access card."

They have not decided on a final system yet, but they are looking for a bar code oriented card that the student may present upon entrance, thus making access into the facility strict.

"Students will just have to adjust to this system," Dean says, "and they have to realize that it is for their best safety interests."

Outside memberships are not being considered at the moment, though the facility will be open to alumni and spouses of students, faculty and staff.

"Rhodes students, faculty, and staff come first; the problem with opening up the facility to the public is that it takes away from the students."

Beginning in the Fall the Bryan Student Life Center is tentatively scheduled to be open from 7am until 10pm, throughout the week.

"This will be one of the best facilities in the Memphis area."

- Matt Dean -

Once it is finished, "This will be one of the best facilities in the Memphis area," asserts Dean. According to Dean, the school is excited about the new facility. President Daughdrill has expressed specific interest in the facility in the hope that it will improve social life on campus. The school will have to put forth a strong advertising campaign if it wishes to effectively bring back campus life.

Dean is hoping certain new facilities will attract the student body on a regular basis.

The 6900 square foot weight room will incorporate current equipment with state of the art Cybex machines.

The "Lynx Lair" will offer food and refreshments, and a place for students to meet and relax.

New programs will be offered as well, such as Aerobics, instructed by Kari Duncan. Duncan has already begun some aerobics classes this year with substantial success, and the course is expected to grow next year.

Physical education classes such as Karate and Tai Chi will be offered also. Dean is most excited about intramurals, and especially indoor soccer, which he started at Rhodes several years ago.

Currently Dean is heading up the whole project by himself. In the Fall

Besides sports facilities, a Grand Ballroom is being built for special student activities, lectures, and events such as the Athletics Banquet in the Spring.

ATTENTION!

RHODES STUDENTS ESPECIALLY SENIORS

The Rhodes Student Publications Board regrets to announce that due to circumstances beyond our control, the Lynx yearbook will be unavailable until the fall term.

In order to facilitate mailing of yearbooks, seniors who wish to receive a yearbook must send a note indicating their mailing address after graduation to the Lynx' Campus Mail Box 2252 or by E-Mail to BOUAI by graduation.

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Daughdrill Possessed By BOB

by Rensued Nehpets
 Rotide Etaicossa
 and Nosredna Acceber
 Rotide Retse'dohr

A very serious, very disturbing conspiracy regarding the executive figure of this academic institution has been uncovered by The Society for the Continuing Worship of Lynch, a student established think tank composed of theorists who base all findings on the collected films of David Lynch. The theory leading to investigation and verification was postulated at 2:00 AM Sunday morning after 30+ near-continuous hours of *Twin Peaks*. During this time, none of the members of the SCWL slept (much — one member of the think tank napped for an hour during the Harold Smith part and there was a mass hourlong black-out in the wee hours of Saturday morning) and none kept up the very basics of personal hygiene — showering, for instance. Group members claim that these variables are of the utmost importance to the scientific and theoretical veracity of any findings. Furthermore, the theorists were confined to Rhea Lounge, which is believed to be an extension of Hell, with its busted television, its blood red couches, its drab curtains, and those bizarre lights. In a preliminary document stating the group's expected findings, Rhea Lounge is described by the SCWL. "Like The Black Lodge, it is a waiting room, albeit a waiting room to Hell, but that's another story." The carefully monitored scientific conditions also necessitated the consumption of roughly 1 and 1/2 dozen caramel donuts from Howard's on Union (plug, plug), one glazed, and approximately 7 cups of what was believed to be Maxwell House Engine Sludge, but according to the same preliminary report, "thank the gods it was caffeinated."

All members of the think tank report in the soon to be published analysis of their findings tentatively titled *Jim or BOB?: The question answered* that the group's collective mental condition was, at the time, best described as "on edge."

Think tank chair Stephen Deusner wrote in the preamble to the report, "*Twin Peaks* theorizes that evil and evil beings come from The Black Lodge, the waiting room for the after-life, which lies in the forest in Washington state. One such evil spirit, BOB, escapes and possesses people, making them commit murders and causing them to talk funny. I think it is more than theory, however, especially since I think I know where BOB is now. BOB inhabits the body of our own mild-mannered, alter-ego-having



Photo via Internet

According to a recent study by The Society for the Continuing Worship of David Lynch, Rhodes President James Daughdrill is possessed by the spirit of killer Bob.

president Jim Daughdrill."

The report also contains a point by point argument in support of this theory, excerpts of which appear below in their original form.

- If Daughdrill grew his hair out long and didn't shave for a week and wore denim, he would look almost exactly like BOB.

- Daughdrill has an office on the third floor of PALMER Hall, Palmer being the last name of one of BOB's murder victims, Laura Palmer (This is the strongest point of the argument).

- If Dean of Academic Affairs Mark McMahon shaved his beard and had black hair, he would almost look exactly like United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Dale Cooper.

- The man who portrayed BOB in the pilot, the series, and the film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* was Frank Silva, who was the propertary manager on the set until uber-director David Lynch put him into a scene. Jim Daughdrill owns property (scary, isn't it?).

- BOB spelled backwards is BOB; James H. Daughdrill backwards is Llihdguad .H Semaj. This sounds rather foreign, perhaps Norwegian or Icelandic.

- Daughdrill is the president of Rhodes. Where does the most powerful president live? Washington, DC. Where does *Twin Peaks* take place? Washington state. (This the argument's weakest point.)

- Some people have accused Mr.

Lynch of being misogynist. Daughdrill's cabinet only has one woman on it — Mel Hokanson — and she has a man's name. Wait, we forgot Helen Norman. Scratch that.

- There are many phallic images in *Twin Peaks*, especially the characters' guns, which are mainstays of the two genres Lynch is combining, namely the soap opera and the detective story. President Daughdrill's office is located in Halliburton Tower, which is phallus-shaped.

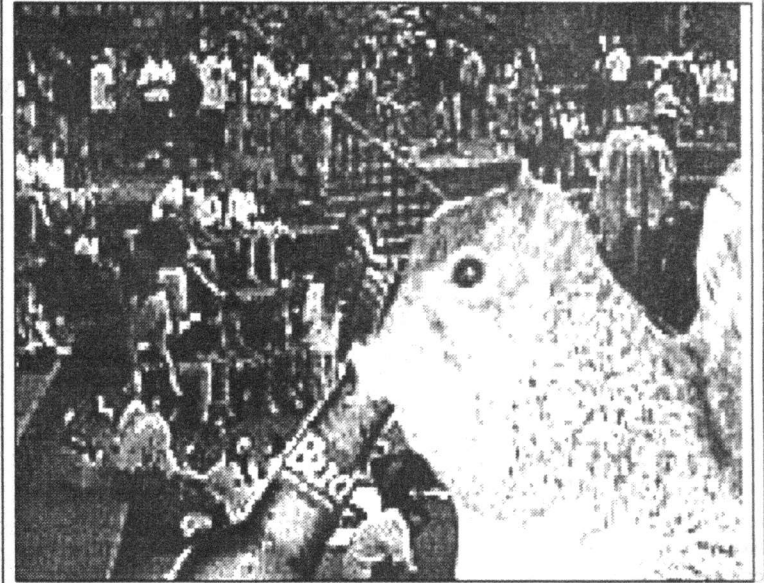
- James is Daughdrill's first name. James is the first name of James Hurley, who was Laura's secret boyfriend. James Hurley was played by James Marshall.

- Nancy Turner in the Admissions Office looks a lot like Lara Flynn Boyle.

- In one scene, Laura's cousin, Maddy Ferguson, sees a blood stain form on the carpet. Hey, wasn't Daughdrill once in the carpet business?

In the conclusion of the report, Deusner writes, "I think this is conclusive evidence; it all points to Daughdrill. I would have him arrested, but how can you arrest an evil spirit? He'd slip through the handcuffs. My advice to you: steer clear of the man from here on out, especially if you are Miss Rhodes (watch out, Loretta: you may think him insane, but he will kill again). Be very careful and cautious. Don't make any sudden movements. Don't get him near any mirrors. And if he starts talking backwards, run for your lives."

Squirrels Demand Equal Rights as Students



By Meghan O'Hara
 Squirrel Bureau Correspondent

On Sunday, April 9th, three unnamed Rhodes Students were kidnapped by a band of rogue squirrels, who tackled them on their way to the Rat and carried them, Lilliputian-like, back to their secret hideout. The students were interrogated for several hours by the tiny mammals on school policies. Finally a ransom note was sent to President Daughdrill with a list of demands. The squirrels stated outrage at their second-class citizenship on the Rhodes campus, and demanded the priveleges given to other Rhodes Students.

"I'm 2 years old," a spokesrodent for the group said Monday. "That's nearly 27 in people years. Where's my blue wristband?"

The group also demanded the death of Mike Wottle along with the other cross-country members who enjoy chasing and taunting squirrels.

Daughdrill, upon determining that the kidnapped students had already paid all of their deposits for next year, went to play golf. Negotiations were finally handled by Martha, the nice Rat lady, who talked the squirrels down and took them on a tour of the Rat to show them just what being a full-fledged Rhodes Student would entail.

"I thought I wanted to be a student," one squirrel sobbed after her tour around the facilities. "But then I saw the Chuckwagon Stew. I always wondered what happened to Cousin Bernie."

After fleeing in terror from the Rat, the squirrels reduced their terms, saying that they would release the students in exchange for the yearly right to participate in Rites of Spring and the promise that they would no longer be used as Rat ingredients. After it was explained to the squirrels that it would

be too great a monetary expense for the school to purchase meat, a compromise was reached. The Rat staff agreed to purchase the squirrels as much alcohol as they wished for their Rites of Spring revelry, and to shoot off a warning round so as to give the squirrels a head start.

"We are very pleased with the arrangements," Rat Man Tim Vandermersch said Tuesday. "Somehow it never seemed very sportsman-like to just blast them out of the trees. Now it's like a big game of Hide and Seek, and the staff and I are looking forward to the added challenge."

"We are disappointed, of course, that Wottle will not die," a squirrel told reporters after the negotiations. "But we're looking into other options. I'd say a Chuckwagon Stew made from cute fluffy squirrel would probably taste fairly close to, say, Chuckwagon Stew made from sinewy cross-country runner. But the important thing is that we're going to Rites of Spring... it's time to party!"

The three students were released, and immediately sent to the Health Center. The students were told that their foaming and delerium could be as a result of a fatal case of rabies, but was probably just stress. The students were then sent back to their rooms, where they incurred \$52,678 in dorm damage after one of them chewed off a corner of one of the plastic "fire exit" signs.

Sadly to say, the squirrels ended up not enjoying Rites as much as they thought. Tragedy hit the squirrel community when their beloved leader died of alcohol poisoning after breathing the fumes coming out of one Freshman's "can of Mello Yello".

"No, man, I swear! I'm a jobber as a sudge," the Freshman said in a public apology following an arrest by Campus Safety.

RITES OF SPRING

1996



Photo by Enrique Espinosa

Cynthia Stephens claims to have spoken directly to God at Rites of Spiring this year. Here, she appears to be attempting communication through an ancient Mayan dance said to facilitate contact with the divine.

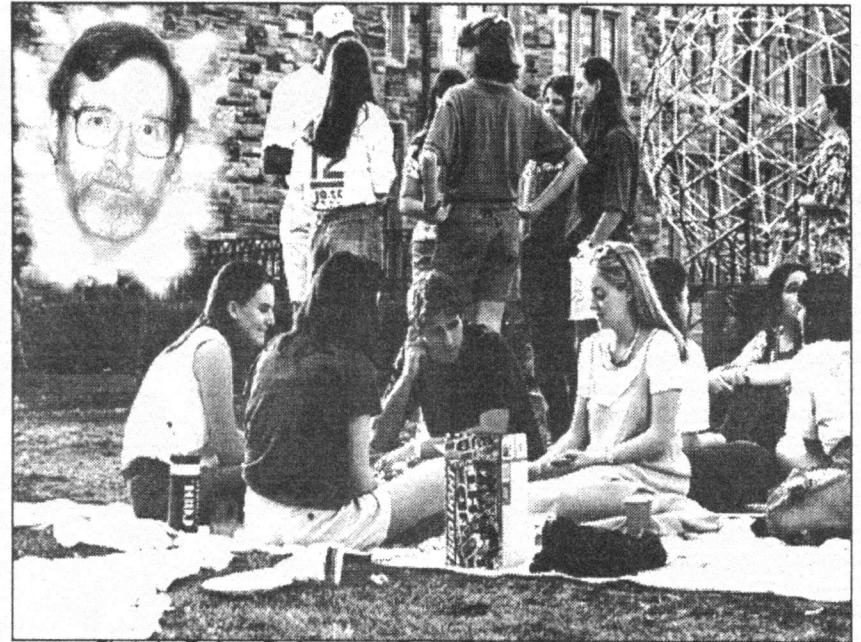


Photo by Enrique Espinosa and Faces Online. Manipulated by Allen Boudreaux.

Even when he's not actually on campus, Professor James Jobes' presence continues to illuminate the skies over Rhodes. Students claim to have seen his glowing countenance hovering above the drunken bruhaha of Rites.

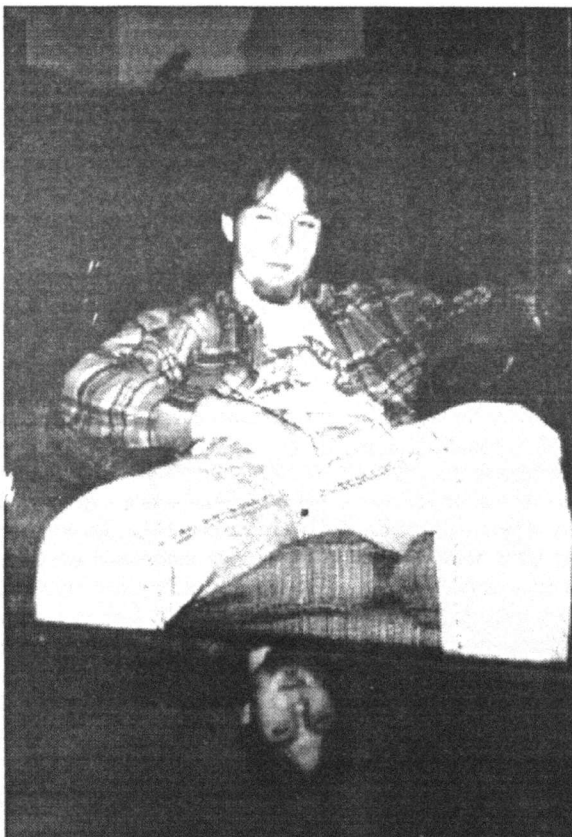


Photo by Enrique Espinosa

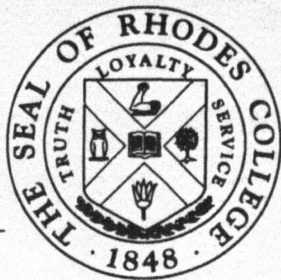
James Spears demonstrates the prize-winning form that landed him first place in the annual Al Bundy impersonator contest.



Photo by Enrique Espinosa and Faces Online. Manipulation by Rhode'ster Staff.

President Daughdrill and Chancellor Harlow show everyone that they really know how to party. "Just because we're administrators doesn't mean we're not really swell guys," said Harlow who was later asked to leave for not wearing his blue wristband.

A RHODE'STER PHOTO ESSAY



THE SOUTHWESTER SPORTS

April 24, 1996

Lynx Teams Gearing Up For Spring Sports Festival

-----Conference Titles On the Line-----

By Dave Speas
Staff Correspondent

Several of Rhodes' athletic teams will compete in the Spring Sports Festival this weekend, hosted by the University of the South - Sewanee. The tournaments, held on April 26th and 27th, will decide the Conference Championships for the following teams:

WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team is only in their second year at Rhodes, but they are very excited about their chances of winning the SCAC. Coach Matt Dean feels that Trinity is the team to beat. Rhodes top four score averages compare closely to Trinity's top four; in a dual tournament Rhodes would win by a score of 434-436. Sewanee can't be counted out as it is on their home course.

Stephanie Boyd ('99) says of their chances, "We have a really good chance if we stick together as a team, focus, and play well".

Not only does the team have a chance at top honors, Coach Dean feels Boyd could win the individual title. "Stephanie had an outstanding

regular season. She should compete with Trinity's Stacey Nicholson for individual honors", says Dean.

MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team possesses a lot of talent. If it all comes together on the right day then they could win the SCAC golf championship. It will be hard to defeat Sewanee, the defending champions, and Trinity is also looking very tough this year.

"We are as good as any team in the conference if we play well", says Jeff Lekarzyk ('97).

The men look to Chris Johnson ('99) as their top hope of winning the individual title. Johnson has been shooting in the mid 70's this year.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's team is the strongest that it has been in recent years. The strength of the team is due to their depth. They go into the SCAC Tournament with confidence, but are not taking anything for granted. They are seeded #3 which means they will probably see Sewanee in the second round.

Their matches with Sewanee have been tight all year.

Individuals to watch include Estes Tarver ('96) and Brad Gilbert ('97). Both of these fine players have enjoyed strong seasons and are hoping to qualify for the national tournament.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's team is also seeded #3 and expect to run into Sewanee if they win their first round matches. During the regular season, Rhodes split with Sewanee. The team knows that Sewanee will be tough to beat at home, but they will be prepared for them. They are also expecting the level of play to elevate for the Conference Championship.

The women are led by defending NCAA Division III Champion Nao Kinoshita ('97) and Taylor Tarver ('98). Kinoshita should qualify for nationals again and Tarver is in a strong position to join her.

Coach Sarah Hatgas says of both teams, "If we get past Sewanee, we have a pretty good chance of going to Nationals."

MEN'S TRACK

The men's track team has won three consecutive SCAC Championships and are trying for a fourth. They are facing their strongest challenge in four years, as Centre is the team to beat.

The team is anchored by its distance runners, such as Senior Myles Bogner. He believes that "It is going to be a very exciting and extremely close meet." In order to beat Centre and Trinity the throwers, vaulters, and hurdlers must score crucial points.

Grant Gandy ('99) comments, "We look forward to seeing some SCAC rivals we haven't seen since Cross Country, and we intend to win".

There are several strong possibilities of individual winners on the team, such as Dave Thomasson ('99), Dave Osler ('97), Jimmie Glorioso ('97), Hank Marchal ('96), and Mike Wottle ('99) who all go into the meet seeded #1 in their events.

WOMEN'S TRACK

The women's track team narrowly missed winning the conference last

year, losing to Trinity in the final event. This year they return poised to knock off the defending champions. The women will be expecting big things from the distance core, which won their first SCAC Cross Country title this past fall. Not to be outdone, the sprinters feature two very strong relay teams and new faces who should bolster last year's team.

Anne Hardwick ('97) comments, "We have a strong distance team, our throwers have improved, and our sprinters are ready to step up to the challenge."

Possible individual winners include Nicole Horvath ('97), Erin Riches ('99), Jenny Gorman ('99), and Megan Emery ('99).

Coach Robert Shankman says of both teams, "We know what other teams have done throughout the season and we know what we have done, but the only thing that matters is how we run, jump, and throw on the two days of the meet. I think that, for the first time in Rhodes history, we have a excellent chance of winning two track championships."

Spring Soccer Closes -

Team Prepares For Europe

By Alan Barrett
Staff Correspondent

After nine weeks of training, the men's and women's soccer teams are about to wrap up their spring seasons.

The women took advantage of the season as a good opportunity for players to develop. They practiced three times a week, and scheduled several scrimmages. Unfortunately, due to weather and other factors, they have only been able to get in one game this spring; their 2-1 victory over division I opponent University of Memphis. They have another game scheduled on Tuesday night against Ole Miss.

The men finished a fruitful season on Wednesday at Christian Brothers University.

Their spring has been a bit different due to the installation of a new defensive set. The old defense, which used a sweeper, proved effective, but Coach Marcinko feels that his players have the talent to move to a flat back-four defense. Marcinko, as well as the players feel as though this transition is "frustrating" but necessary.

Charlie Brightwell speaks for the team in saying that they will not be fully comfortable with the new defense until well into the Fall season.

Tanner Neidhardt comments, "if everyone's not on the same wave length and thinking the whole time, then it can definitely be frustrating- the whole system can be fouled up by one person." He went on to preach that the key to the whole defense is "communication."

Thus far the team has executed the defense successfully against opponents C.B.U. and Lambuth in which the team won 1-0, and 3-0, respectively. The lone loss of the season came against U. of Memphis in a 3-2 final.

Brightwell comments, "it has also been hard to play against opponents such as Memphis who have a deeper bench than our own. It is at times like these that conditioning and fitness plays a large role."

The men typically played with 11, and suffered from inability to rest and rotate fresh player in, as compared to Memphis who had 20 players.

The team will rest for the Summer, and will pick up again before the Fall semester, when they will embark on an eleven day tour through Europe.

The team will train in Kerkrade, Holland at the Bleyerheide Sports Center from August 2nd through the 12th.

They are scheduled to play games against Dutch, German, and Belgian club teams.

The trip also consists of sightseeing in Amsterdam, Maastricht, Colongne, Aachen, and Liege.

Upon returning in the Fall, the men's team expect to gain two recruits, while the women will only gain one.

Marcinko says that the low numbers of recruits are due to the government shutdown which inadvertently slows down the financial aid packages, and delays decisions of prospective students.

"It is still too early to determine how many new members of the team we will pick up," says Marcinko. Marcinko has been successful with past recruiting seasons.

As it is said, "if you build it, they will come," and Marcinko has built a strong soccer organization which should attract many prospective student athletes.

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-Memphis magazine

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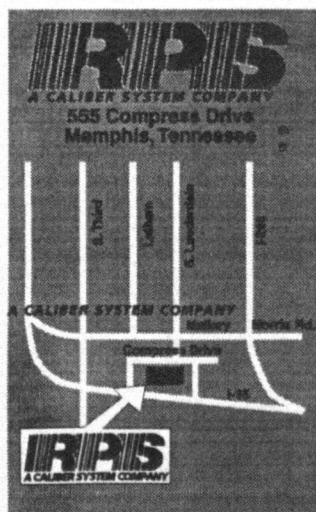
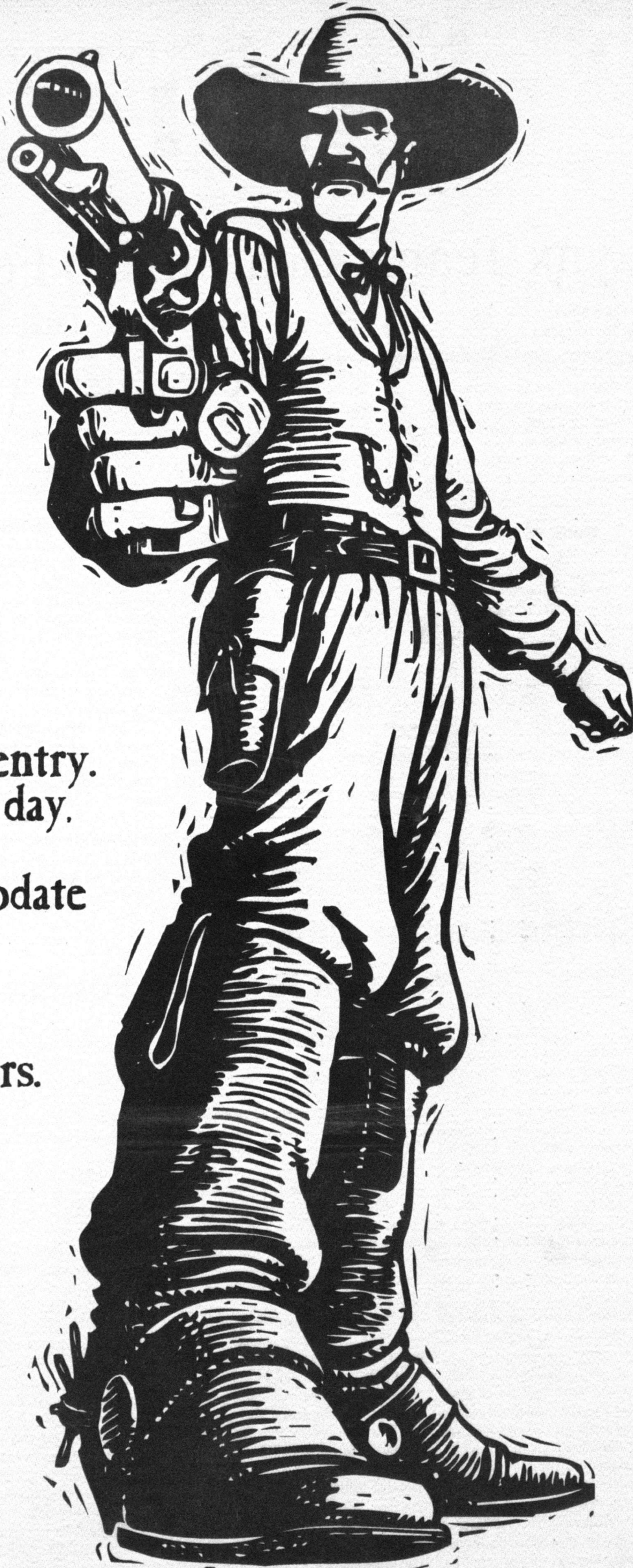
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