

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, September 24, 1997

## Rat Thefts Heighten Awareness

By Jeff Ehmsen  
Staff Writer

"There really isn't much to say," said Rhodes junior Nicole Albers. "I just put my bag in a cubby in the Rat on Wednesday at about 4:45. I went back to get it at 5:05, and it was gone. I have no idea where it went, and I have yet to receive any information regarding it."

Recent incidents involving stolen backpacks have given rise to doubts regarding the validity of the student Honor Code. Almost any guide to colleges will mention it as one of the defining and most unique characteristics of Rhodes. The annual ceremony at Evergreen Presbyterian Church designated for its recognition and continued fulfillment shows the solemnity of the occasion, and the depth of its significance to our community. "Within the honor system," the *Student Handbook* reads, "Rhodes students have found a moral ideal by which to guide their actions. This ideal is absolute honesty to oneself and to others in all aspects of life. It is not only a guide for college life; it is a principle which Rhodes students believe to be fundamental in ethical life, both during and after college."

Cautioning flyers have been posted on dormitory doorways and on the walls of the Rat, among other colorful flyers pleading for anyone who has stolen a violet backpack to replace it whether they keep the wallet or not, and memos requesting



Photo By Ladye Jane Vickers/Sou'wester

that a backpack "mistakenly taken" be returned. In the past ten days, Campus Safety has been notified of at least three incidents of stolen backpacks. Ironically, the example most frequently given in support of the Honor Code during this year's orientation was the fact that students could feel secure leaving their belongings unattended while eating meals, or take a break from their studies in the library and return to find their materials untouched.

According to Sherry Sasson, eight-year Campus Safety Sergeant and Crime Prevention Coordinator, Rhodes' historic Honor Code is still very effective. But being within the ivy-covered stone walls and gates of the campus does not separate us from "the real world." As a rule, no matter where one is, it is never wise to leave belongings unattended, cars

unlocked, or windows rolled down. Although it is comforting to think that the existence of an Honor Code ends the need to worry about such things, the truth is that temptation exists and crimes will occur.

Compared to other metropolitan colleges, Rhodes' statistics are still above average when it comes to issues of safety. Throughout 1996, thirty-six crimes were reported per every thousand students, most of them petty theft. So far this year, there have been no reported auto problems on campus.

Twelve officers, four on each of three daily shifts, work to ensure that things are running smoothly, sometimes pestering slightly offended students for ID, but doing a thorough job. The Campus Safety Building is open and staffed twenty-four hours

See Theft on Page 6

## Rhodes' Professors Rank Tenth In Princeton Review

By Seth Jones  
Staff Writer

When students across the country were asked the question, "Are your instructors good teachers?" Rhodes ranked tenth among U.S. colleges.

The survey was administered by the Princeton Review, one of the largest providers of SAT preparation courses to high school students. The results are published on the Princeton Review's web page ([www.review.com](http://www.review.com)), and in the books, *The Complete Book of Colleges* and *The Student Advantage Guide to the Best 311 Colleges*.

Commenting on the ranking, Dean of Admissions Dave Wottle said, "Students who look at Rhodes do use the guidebooks, so being ranked by the Princeton Review in such an important category is definitely to our advantage."

At the top of the "Professors Bring Material to Life" list is Deep Springs College. Before everyone starts filling out applications to transfer to Deep Springs, students should be aware that the college is all male, is located in the wilderness outside of Dyer, Nevada, and has a student population of twenty-five. Women, television, alcohol, and trips off-campus are

forbidden; students pass the time studying and working on the school's cattle and alfalfa ranch.

Second on the list was Carleton College, located in Northfield, Minnesota, about thirty-five miles south of Minneapolis. Sarah Lawrence College, a visual and performing arts school in Bronxville, New York, placed third. With only 438 students, St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland was ranked fourth, while the even smaller Marlboro College, population 260, in Marlboro, Vermont came in fifth.

Two women's colleges, Randolph-Macon Women's College in Ashland, Virginia and Agnes Scott in Decatur, Georgia placed sixth and seventh, respectively. Washington & Lee in Lexington, Virginia came in eighth, and another women's school, Mt. Holyoke College in Hadley, Maryland was ranked a notch above Rhodes at number nine.

The Princeton Review placed Rhodes at tenth, commenting that "Rhodes is one of the best kept secrets in higher education." Rhodes received an 89 percent rating in academics, and a 91 percent rating in quality of life.

## Safety Concerns Bring About Changes In Parking

By Angela Greeley  
Staff Writer

First-year students have a new incentive to bring cars on campus—they no longer have to launch expeditions to reach their cars. As the upperclassmen have probably noticed, the parking rules were altered.

First-years are now allowed to park in all "general parking" areas of the campus. These areas are, specifically, Phillips Lane, the

McCoy lot, the gym lot, and the area near Robinson & the Briggs Student Center.

The concept of changing the first-year parking privileges came from last year's Social Regulations Council, who brought the issue before Dean of Student Affairs Melody Hokanson Richey and Director of Campus Safety Ralph Hatley.

In the past, first-year students were required to walk from

Bellingrath, Glassel, and even Stewart to the opposite end of campus in order to reach their cars, and Campus Safety cannot be omnipresent to ensure their safety while travelling to their vehicle.

As a result of safety concerns from parents and students (including upperclassmen), this revision was implemented at the beginning of the fall semester.

The student body's reaction to

this change seems to vary. Some upperclassmen are quite upset—they were parking in the freshman lot as recently as last year, and moreover, this new system brings about greater competition for prime parking spaces. Others, however, are pleased with the new rule despite the fact that, as one student explained, "It seems to be creating a lot of chaos."

Naturally, it will take some time to adjust, but keep in mind

that the "red zones," those areas reserved for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, remain unchanged; they are the Trezvant, fraternity row, Glassell, and Stewart lots, as well as the northernmost half of the Buckman parking lot.

As a final note, Campus Safety performs daily parking audits. According to Hatley, there are about four legal parking spaces left vacant for each illegally parked car they find.



## Reclaiming Our Right To Be

NEETA  
VENEPELLI  
DOUBLETHINK



I think back to first year, and all I remember is sitting in Search class, utterly floored by the sheer volume of *everything* my teacher seemed to know and effortlessly recall. His language, his ideas, his experiences, his ready answers to questions we hadn't even asked ourselves yet...How could I possibly compete? What did I have to offer, excepting my own radically undeveloped, painfully incomplete thoughts and experiences? What would I have to offer *any* of my classes in any of my four years here?

As much as I learned and grew my first two years, both intellectually and experientially, my assumptions of legitimacy structured my personal development. How could I genuinely claim legitimacy for my own views when I still had so much more to experience, and read, and ask about?

I believe that this is the norm for many of us, as students. Who among us hasn't deferred their thoughts, their questions and answers to those with seemingly *more*? Who among us

hasn't answered questions posed in class because we think that there are others that know more and could say it better and our 'ignorance' would then be glaringly visible for all to discuss?

This seems justifiable with certain disciplines of academia, and compatible with an educational system that for the most part views students as 'incomplete', to 'be filled' with knowledge and experience by the professor.

For example, I believe the way in which most students learn organic chemistry is impacted less by what viewpoints and experience they bring to the class than by their ability to assimilate information.

But what about issues of faith or questions of belief that might not be as grounded in empirical truths? T.H. White writes "there was a time when each of us stood naked before the world, confronting life as a serious problem with which we were intimately and passionately involved...when we wondered with all our souls what the world was...what we were ourselves...".

As college students we are so often asked to place our personal beliefs, our innermost convictions to the 'test' by defending it to the class from a critical position. The strength of those convictions is then weighed against a

scale of logic and language sophistication often structured by those with more authority and 'knowledge' than us.

Though this method of 'critical thinking' is the essence of a liberal arts education, the positioning of students and professors in the classroom makes it easy and natural to assume the validity of the professor's authority at the cost of faith in our own beliefs and experiences. Though they are continuously developed through experience with new information, ultimately they cannot be disproven by an external source of authority with three degrees, more 'life' experience, and an incredible vocabulary.

On a more concrete level, can you count the number of times you've turned in a paper, knowing the hours you spent in conceiving and writing it, and still were not sure of how you 'did' until you received your grade? Or, how about the number of times you've had an incredible idea to present in class, but didn't, because you weren't sure if that was what the professor was 'looking' for, if it was 'phrased' right, if it was 'good' enough?

Or, most importantly, can you recall the number of times when you've given up on even asking the important questions, let alone finding the answers, because everyone else is

headed in a different direction?

It's taken me two years at Rhodes to realize how little I've been privileging my own experiences, my own education, and especially, my own beliefs that might run counter to class, two years of giving away my right 'to be' to others.

I've almost forgotten how and for whom I'm developing a personal comprehensive philosophy of life.

This means I only have two more years to reclaim my thoughts and beliefs and questions, as 'incomplete' as they might be, and passionately search out my own experiences and their intrinsic meaning.

Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote to a young poet: "You ask whether your verses are any good. You ask me. You have asked others before this... I beg you to stop doing that sort of thing. You are looking outside and that is what you should most avoid right now... here I feel that there is no one anywhere who can answer for you those questions and feelings which, in their depths, have a life of their own."

And it is this realization, of appropriating for ourselves the power to grant legitimacy to our beliefs, of reclaiming our right, as students, *to be*, that is the starting place for our true education from Rhodes College.

## Rhodes to Nowhere

by Justin Baker

"This is to remind you that you haven't received any mail in over two weeks and are, indeed, a loser."



Are you always right?

Would the world be a better place if we would all just listen to you?

Me too...and the Op/Ed page is the perfect place to prove it. The Sou'wester is looking for another Columnist. Interested parties, please Email Brady Potts at POTCB@rhodes.edu

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

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## Competition, Communication, and Community

HENRY MURPHY  
G.O.A.



You probably noticed the signs around campus that announced the inspiration and activation of an "alternative" newspaper, a project brought to public life by professor of economics Ben Bolch.

I don't want to write this column about Bolch or, for that matter, the newspaper. As the professor himself pointed out to me, the people *really* in charge of firing up another newspaper are the students he has managed to gather into a coherent group; according to Bolch, they've met twice already, and I am scheduled to meet with them, as a group, on Wednesday, so that they may speak for themselves.

In a related surprise, applica-

tion for student positions on the Chancellor's Roundtable were much higher than years past; twenty-eight people applied for sixteen openings. Student interest in public life appears to have increased dramatically. Similarly, Bolch's interest in starting the newspaper was to bring some students up to an active level in the public sphere of the campus, and an unprecedented level to boot.

He informed me that his interest was in promoting "competition," that key phrase for hard-core classical economists.

Admittedly, I am skeptical of the actual contemporary meaning of competition. However, this newspaper could be an invigorating element in the upcoming school year's public, social, and private discussions, thanks mainly to the atmosphere it will be breathing: the highly maintained academic culture of Rhodes.

When I write of the "academic culture" of Rhodes, however, I do

not mean the technical learning that we undergo at the hands of our professors and classes. I think that one of the great strengths of Rhodes, and college life in general (especially on such a small campus), is the many chances each student has to participate in a complex social unit, with its many different systems of knowledge, awareness, political practice, and interpretation.

At Rhodes, you can work on media and publications, while simultaneously assisting a recycling program and doing volunteer work for a church. The environment provided is such that those activities should be, if not actually are, encouraged and provided to students. What's more, such activities are provided in a culture which supports such testing of boundaries and interests.

Ultimately, I think, what the environment should make us most aware of is the need to form coherent and confident social bonds

in private and public life. You may not be involved in the Rhodes Student Government, but you know someone you can talk to who is.

The importance of these bonds lies in our motivation to spread and strengthen them. Students should inform and support other students: we should practice building up our own community before we present it to anyone else's. A show of confidence (I am intentionally avoiding the use of the word "strength") is an important aspect of public interaction.

For me, the term "public" means official channels of dialogue and discussion, such as Roundtable. Students should be able to formulate and communicate, primarily with each other and eventually to faculty and administration, arguments and considerations on whatever issues arise.

But public interaction should not be our only focus. We should also integrate, and at the same time maintain the independence

of, the social life of campus - the personal convictions that form and hold together groups such as RCF and Women's Forum.

Such student groups are symbols of solidarity and concern, and contribute a level of resistance to the hierarchical forces on campus, those which seem to descend from outside our community of students, faculty, and administration.

This resistance is highly pragmatic, because of the ultimate importance of student interpretation of overriding actions (such as the Board's vote on the amendment to the Mission Statement).

So Dr. Bolch is doing what is done best around here: providing well-informed guidance and admirable inspiration to those who wish to contribute to the campus community.

The building and maintenance of community is one of the most important sources for the tactics of living anywhere, at any time, with any strength.

### LETTER-TO-THE-EDITORS

To the Editors of the Sou'wester:

I am writing in response to assumptions implied about the Black Student Association (BSA) written last week in Matt Marcotte's column [A New Oath For The Rhodes Community].

The purpose of BSA is to promote unity within the African-American community and create harmonious relationships among people of different cultures and backgrounds.

Membership is open to all students of Rhodes College. BSA should not be dismissed as just a "faction" of black students. The membership of BSA represents several different ethnicities and cultures.

Also, the BSA co-sponsors events with other organizations on campus and by doing so actively participates in campus life.

BSA provides a service to Rhodes by exposing the campus community to the diversity that is present here. Events such as Gospel Extravaganza and the Kwanza Celebration allow all students to learn more about African-American culture.

All students should support and appreciate the tremendous effort BSA gives to Rhodes College. I invite all students to attend a BSA meeting to learn more about it and to eliminate any misconceptions.

Ebony Woods ('00)

### LETTER-FROM-THE-EDITOR

To the Rhodes Community:

As you will notice on the front page, we have included a story on the parking changes here at Rhodes. For various reasons, many of them valid, Campus Safety has decided to make some changes regarding their parking policy that most directly affect first-years, but filters down to all students, faculty, and staff here.

Two groups, however, seem to receive the least benefit from the new parking policy, the same two groups that usually escape notice or attention in many of Rhodes' decisions: commuters and faculty. Speaking as a commuter student myself, I believe that we as a group of students time and time again are not properly addressed when immediate and very relevant issues, such as parking guidelines or prices for meals in the Refectory, are raised. Faculty members are also marginalized in this decision-making progress.

The new parking policy privileges first-year students. While safety may be a concern, the commuter lot is also in a distant and un-monitored section of campus. While commuters are allowed general parking access, the reality of the situation is that, unless

a commuter arrives early in the morning or very late in the evening, resident students will have taken all the available general parking spaces on campus. Faculty and staff are equally disadvantaged, many having to park on the street, outside of the Rhodes perimeter which is infrequently patrolled by Campus Safety.

Retention of first-year students is a vested interest Rhodes is eager to maintain. The new room draw policy is a direct ploy in that regard, as is, partly, the new parking policy. However, faculty, staff, and commuter students, as well as the rest of the campus body, are just as important, if not more important, with more invested in Rhodes, than first-years.

This is not to say that the college should not do much in the way of retaining first-year students, but perhaps policies that aid all members of the community, or at least disadvantage all members equally, would be a more practical and conscientious move. However, parking is a misdirected action. Those that rely heavily on their cars-- staff, faculty, and commuters-- now have less chance of getting a convenient or, if safety should be a major concern to all members of the community, safe parking space. The parking policy did not address the section of people

at Rhodes College that use automobiles the most.

Perhaps a solution to the problem would be to restore the original commuter parking lot, between the Briggs Student Center and Robinson residence hall. If that is seen by the Administration as impractical then the narrow parking strip between the McCoy Theatre and Hassell Hall could be designated as commuter or faculty parking, with the larger lot adjacent to it remaining as general parking. Of course, asking for student and faculty input is never a bad idea, and at the very least a more detailed explanation would be helpful. Otherwise, the Administration risks further alienating groups on campus.

I do not assume voice for all commuter students or any faculty or staff, and wholeheartedly encourage other voices in these groups to speak out and address relevant concerns. *The Sou'wester* continues its policy of being a forum for those with a concern to address any and all members of the Community and welcomes letters-to-the-Editor.

Sincerely,

James Spears  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Improvements In Campus Security Are In The Works

By Steele Means  
Staff Writer

"Nobody wants to deal with Campus Safety unless they need them when there is a problem," said Ralph Hatley, Director of Campus Safety, as he summed up Campus Safety's image problem.

Most Rhodes students deal at some point (or many points) in their years at Rhodes with the annoyance of a parking ticket. If a student's sole interaction with Campus Safety is that of receiving and paying for parking tickets, then it seems understandable that a student could have an overall feeling of animosity towards Campus Safety, rather than gratitude for its

protective function. Students sometimes take the relative safety of the Rhodes campus for granted, and considering the number of illegal parkers on campus, it is easy to see how Campus Safety may not garner the greatest of images.

However, there is clearly a vital need for security at Rhodes. Recently, several warnings have been posted around campus, both cautioning students to watch their belongings and to beware of carjackers who are reportedly operating in the area. There have also been incidents where the physical safety of students while on campus, even within their own dorms, has been threatened. For example, Hatley related one recent incident

when a man attempted to assault a female student in Bellingrath. The student was successful in fighting him off, and Campus Safety apprehended him shortly thereafter.

The necessity of Campus Safety comes into focus sharply when these possible dangers are taken into consideration. However, Hatley does realize that security can become an annoyance in normal day-to-day life because it restricts people's freedom.

"Students view security as a necessary evil to fight a greater evil," said Hatley.

Some of the other complaints which students have voiced about Campus Safety are also areas of concern for Hatley.

"They seem understaffed," Josh Lawrence ('98) said. Mike Johnston ('99), cited another weakness.

"The security posts are not manned at times when they should be," Johnston said. Campus Safety plans to correct these, and other problems, over the next three years.

Hatley said that the administration has responded quickly to these concerns and has provided funding for a three year action plan. This plan consists of three phases; the first phase being scheduled for completion by the end of the 1997-98 academic year.

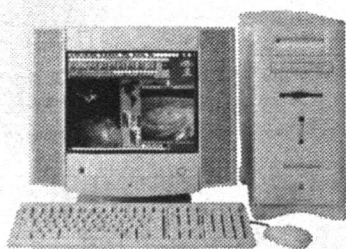
This first phase includes lighting upgrades for Stewart/Spinn, the Bellingrath quad, the McCoy Theatre, the gym lot, the former first-years

parking lot and the Townsend/Voorhies/Williford area. A new position — special event coordinator — has also been created and filled. This position will handle security concerns during campus events such as sports matches, allowing the other officers to continue with day-to-day security functions.

Phase one also includes 24-hour staffing of the security posts at the gates, a facet of the plan which should be in place before the end of the academic year. Other important parts of the three year plan include the creation of three new officer positions and the implementation of a card access system for the dorms.

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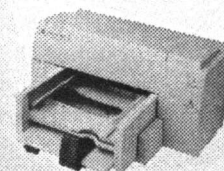
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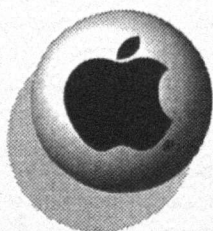


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# ROO: Outdoors or Outback?

By Ford Baxter  
Staff Writer

The Rhodes Outdoor Organization (ROO) is continuing its mission to fill the void left on the Rhodes naturalist scene by the demise of COMMUNE. ROO sees its purpose as providing the campus with an outdoor organization incorporating service and education into its activities. Rhodes students who want to enjoy the great outdoors and do something positive for the Memphis community will be thankful, but many will be wondering whatever happened to COMMUNE.

COMMUNE (Committee for the Organization of Mental and Metaphysical Unity in a Natural Environment) had been in existence since at least 1988, according to Director of Student Activities Cindy Pennington. Enrique Espinosa ('97), former COMMUNE president, said he had wished the club's name had been changed to Rhodes Outdoors to prevent any misconceptions.

COMMUNE existed as a purely recreational club for Rhodes students to hang out, relax, and see some scenery in the process. Their activities were limited by funding, which remained low even though the organization collected semester dues of \$10 per person. The RSG Allocations Board provided only \$400 per year, according to Espinosa.

"You'd be surprised how much a canoe costs," Espinosa said, adding that the RSG money only covered the cost of a sleeping bag.

At its peak, COMMUNE had 35 dues-paying members who went on 8 to 10 trips per year. Those trips included camping, mountain biking, rock climbing, and rappelling in Illinois, west Tennessee, and Mississippi. A few of these outings were day trips.

Espinosa is not against the new organization, but cautions that Rhodes students already have many service outlets, which, combined with their rigorous classwork, leaves them little time to simply enjoy life. Cautioning for "quality, not quantity," Espinosa thinks there should be a

minimum membership before any organization is recognized at Rhodes.

Pennington says that while the college recommends 5 to 10 members to get a club going, there is no set membership requirement.

"The organizations themselves don't benefit," Espinosa said. "With students stretching themselves to the limit, they end up giving a little to each

**"Students don't have to go on every trip. We expect each activity to be a high quality event that people plan for."**

**—W.T. Johnson ('99), founding member of Rhodes Outdoor Organization**

organization and accomplishing very little in the end."

ROO is seeking to fill the gap that COMMUNE left, but it is also adding some of the service substance to which Espinosa thinks students are likely to overcommit. W.T. Johnson, a ROO founder, says he disagrees with Espinosa and is committed to diverse means of service involvement for the Rhodes campus, adding that never in Rhodes' past has it had an outdoor service organization.

ROO founders Bonner Scholar Cory Perrin ('98), Birch Scholar Jeremy Boyd ('01), and Resident Assistant W.T. Johnson ('99), are committed, according to Perrin, to giving Rhodes "more than a recreational club." Johnson notes that ROO will not have many meetings, but will instead be centered around its activities.

"Students don't have to go on every trip," Johnson said. "We expect each activity to be a high quality event that people plan for."

The group's goals include running a program that will bring Memphis youth outdoors, providing them environmental information without skimping on the fun. Johnson, a Sierra Club member, hopes the organization can associate with the Sierra Club for environmental programs, and with Inner City Outings for ROO's youth outreach.

Perrin notes that COMMUNE's activities centered around rock climb-

ing and rappelling, whereas ROO plans to incorporate more canoeing, camping, and hiking in conjunction with rock climbing. If the CLC installs a climbing wall next year, ROO will take full advantage of it.

Furthermore, ROO plans to offer educational programs in leadership development and basic naturalist skills such as tent set-up, packing and fire starting. ROO will publish a booklet containing basic outdoor information along with required insurance forms for trip-takers.

As their first order of business, ROO will have to tackle the same dilemma that discouraged COMMUNE members enough to disband -- a lack of equipment. Espinosa reports that over the years COMMUNE collected a healthy inventory of equipment, including tents, sleeping bags, and rock climbing gear. As the only campus organization that was not given storage space in Tuthill, COMMUNE suffered the consequences in the summer of 1996 when Robb, White, and Ellett were wired for the internet. The equipment may have been misplaced during the renovation period. According to Allocations

Board Chair David Wells, Rhodes has no insurance policy for the materials of campus groups stored in dormitories.

ROO has rummaged through storage spaces in Robb, White, and Ellett, uncovering empty gear boxes, broken backpacks, and ripped tents. Perrin has requested help from any faculty or staff who may have a lead on the whereabouts of COMMUNE's gear.

The group's funding plans center on securing an RSG Allocations Board grant, which should come soon after their constitution is submitted to the Board at the end of this month.

Johnson recognizes that equipment is very expensive, and he knows he cannot count on a lot of funding from the allocations process. However, ROO, unlike COMMUNE, has a faculty advisor. Satisfying this Board stipulation should guarantee more funding than COMMUNE received. Perrin hopes that ROO can coordinate a successful fund-raising program this fall if necessary.

Already eliciting support from the faculty, ROO has had at least 12 requests from faculty members wishing to be added to the organization's e-mail distribution

list.

ROO's first campus-wide meeting will be next week. Johnson says that the meeting is essential to gauge the direction in which students want to take the organization.

"We will start out focusing on recreational activities," Johnson said. According to Johnson, ROO will then "branch off" into the organization's other two commitments, service and education.

The founders' plans for this year include Ocoee River rafting, hiking in the Ozarks, and Appalachian Trail blazing. The first trip, tentatively planned for fall break, will probably have to be inexpensive, requiring only tents and backpacks.

For an organization that was founded the week after Orientation, ROO founders have done a lot. They have divided their efforts, Perrin focusing on the equipment problem, Johnson securing the organization's club sport status, and Boyd working on the constitution.

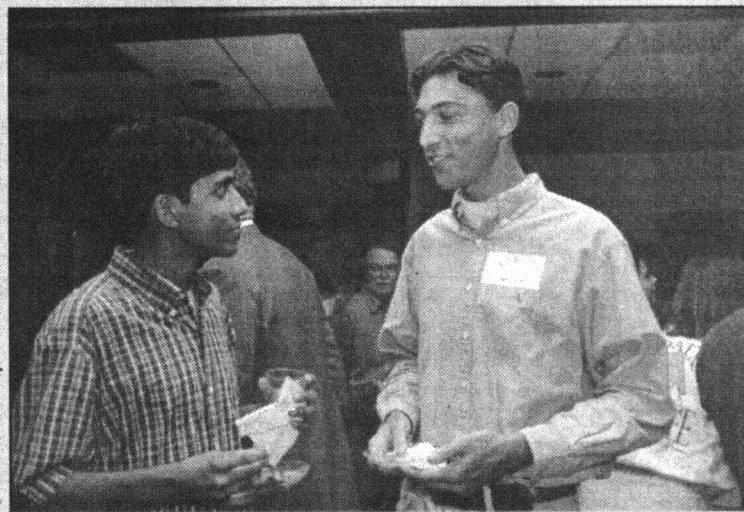
Discovering that COMMUNE's equipment would not be available to them was a great blow, but ROO founders are not letting it set them back, focusing instead on their excitement about giving Rhodes something unique and much needed.

## Reception Held For New International Students

By Matthew Shipe  
Staff Writer

Rhodes' new international students were given an opportunity to meet the faculty at a reception held September 17. The reception was held in the lobby area of Buckman Hall at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the reception was to give this year's international students an opportunity to mingle with the faculty of the college, as well as some of their fellow students and members of the administration who were also in attendance.

The reception gave professors



Ashok Jayashankar ('99) and Tom Cornelis (UC) converse at the International Students Reception on September 17.

Photo By Amy Lawrence/Sou'wester

stated that the reception was "part of a continuing effort for internationalization of Rhodes."

The reception was just one example of how the college has welcomed its new foreign students with open arms.

Vincent Gullembert, a new international student from France, was quite complimentary of programs, like the reception,

that made him feel more at home. "I like the way people take care of me here," Gullembert said, "It's different from Paris or Europe where they don't do as much to make you feel welcome."

and the international students a chance to get to know each other before the school year got too far underway.

Katherine Owen Richardson, Director of International Programs,

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# People You Should Know: RSG First Year Senators

By Jennifer Durovchic  
Staff Writer

Many of the new freshman RSG senators are interested in the recycling program, laundry facilities, food at the Rat, and making sure students have a voice.

"I want other students to come up to me at any time to tell me what they want to see changed, what they'd like to see more of, or any other ideas they have," RSG Senator Adam White of Memphis said. White also stated he will have a notebook with him at all times to write down any ideas he has or any other students have.

"My main goal this year is to be the senator that the freshman class knows. As the year goes on, I want to be there for the students to talk to when they have conflicts," Senator Tara Parchman of Jackson, TN said. "I would like to see change machines in the laundry room, and more computer help for first years."

Jeremy Boyd is also interested in

change machines in the laundry room and having "fruit juice available at all meals in the Rat." Boyd, who is from Memphis, said, "I have also met a student who is very interested in developing a student radio station. I'm interested in helping that to develop."

Both senators Amy Tidwell of Atlanta and Alison Lundergan of Lexington are interested in improving the food at the Rat. Tidwell would also like "to incorporate the freshmen into the rest of the school and get them involved in the activities going on especially with RSG."

Lundergan is also interested in "upgrading the laundry facilities, and looking into retreat programs for the freshman class."

Lundergan summed up the feelings of most of the freshman senators. "All the freshman RSG senators are elated to be elected as officers. We still want to hear the freshman student voices about concerns that they have. We are always here to listen," Lundergan said.



**So Who Are They?**

Top Row:  
Jeremy Boyd  
Alison Lundergan  
Tara Parchman

Bottom Row:  
Amy Tidwell  
Adam White



## Thefts

Continued from Page 1

a day, seven days a week, available to provide escorts if requested or look into suspicious incidents.

The fence containing the Rhodes community was completed in 1991, in order to control who could have access to the campus and making surveillance easier for those in charge of campus safety.

"Students complained about the screening [at the gatehouses] at first, but now they like to see us monitoring who comes through," Sasson said. However, it is evident that the consistency with which the gatehouses are tended is somewhat sporadic, and the thoroughness of the keepers sometimes questionable. Returning from the opera late one evening, Jennifer Dickerson ('99) said, "he didn't even look at my decal - he just saw me wave." But students can rest

assured that gatehouses are generally staffed at least 85% of the time, and efforts are being focused to keep the Snowden Entrance gatehouse occupied at all hours. Plans are being made to hire one more officer to serve on a 10 am-6 pm shift, to overlap and provide backups.

The Campus Safety office receives calls regarding suspicious persons almost every day. However, monitoring and screening is a big deterrent, with gatehouse control and technology contributing significantly to a reduction in problems. Cameras now exist in the well-lit parking lots, making it possible to view various parts of the campus from the safety center. Student awareness, according to Sasson, is one of the key factors in maintaining a safe environment at Rhodes.

"By all means," Sasson said, "if you think a person seems suspicious, call our office. We would

rather take ten calls and have them turn out to be all right than to have one that does turn out to be a problem not phoned in."

Returning to the issue of backpacks, Sgt. Sasson offered some valuable advice that cannot be taken lightly. The problems are still under investigation, but the safest bet would be to simply take responsibility for one's belongings and be conscious of what is going on.

"I really rely on students to be aware," Sasson said. "It helps the department as a whole to get student feedback, and is really your best defense to avoid becoming a victim."

## Improvements

continued from Page 4

Hatley said he "couldn't be more pleased with the attentiveness of the administration" with regard to security matters, and added that he is very grateful since other colleges of comparable size have scant security resources.

Those students who have heard of the three year plan are very pleased. Kate Bishop ('99)

said that she had "no complaints about Campus Safety now that their three year plan is up and running."

"Security is a 50/50 relationship," Hatley said. "Students have to take some responsibility for their safety." He said that remembering to lock one's car doors and room doors is a good example of this kind of responsibility.

*If you know of a story that you feel could use highlighting contact Brandon Barr by e-mail at [barbt@rhodes.edu](mailto:barbt@rhodes.edu).*

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## Opera Memphis Presents An Emotional *Madame Butterfly*

By Kate McWhorter  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Over 100 Rhodes students attended the opera *Madame Butterfly* at the Orpheum Theatre Saturday, September 20, and a fair number of those 100 left teary-eyed. From the beginning of the story, the tragic ending could easily be predicted, but was painfully drawn out through the next two acts and two intermissions, leaving the audience to wonder if a turn of events would somehow lead to a happy ending.

The story began with the joyous wedding festivities of Benjamin F. Pinkerton, played by Adam Klein, and his Japanese bride Cio-Cio-San, known as Madame Butterfly, played by Marie Plette. At this point, the music was lighthearted and fluttery, but almost overpowered the singers. The most distinguishable voice was that of Pinkerton. His clear, robust sound carried easily to the balcony. The character of Goro, the marriage broker, played by Dean Anthony, added spice to the performance as he wove back and forth across the stage

trying to persuade Pinkerton that Butterfly was the perfect bride.

The most moving part of the first act came when Butterfly was renounced for denying her religion in order to marry Pinkerton. A chorus of wedding guests mercilessly condemned her with shrill, piercing voices.

The audience also learned early on that Pinkerton did not intend to honor his marriage vows and planned to leave Butterfly to find a "real" American wife. Nevertheless, the act concluded with an emotional duet in which both Pinkerton and Butterfly professed their love to one another. The duet almost succeeded in fooling the audience into believing that both were genuinely in love; but the recollection of Pinkerton's unfaithful heart prevented a genuine celebration of the union.

In the second act, Butterfly's attempts to explain her husband's three-year absence added a humorous element to the heartbreaking story. Since Pinkerton said he would return "when the robin builds its nest," But-

terfly justified his extended absence by proposing that "robins nest less often in America." More comic relief came as Butterfly refused the proposal of Prince Yamadori, who tried to convince her to remarry. Butterfly replied wittily, "The only problem is I don't want to [marry you]."

The lighting throughout the production was superb. It faded gradually to create a sunset effect and increased gradually for the sunrise. The changes were so slow and smooth that even small changes in brightness could not be detected.

Though the singers were not Japanese, their makeup and hairstyles succeeded in making the Japanese characters believable. The costumes, though brilliantly colored and authentic-looking, seemed very heavy. Madame Butterfly's red costume struck me as too flashy for her innocent character. But the slightly questionable costuming did not detract from the overall effect or authenticity of the characters.

By far the most dramatic scene came in the final act when Butterfly

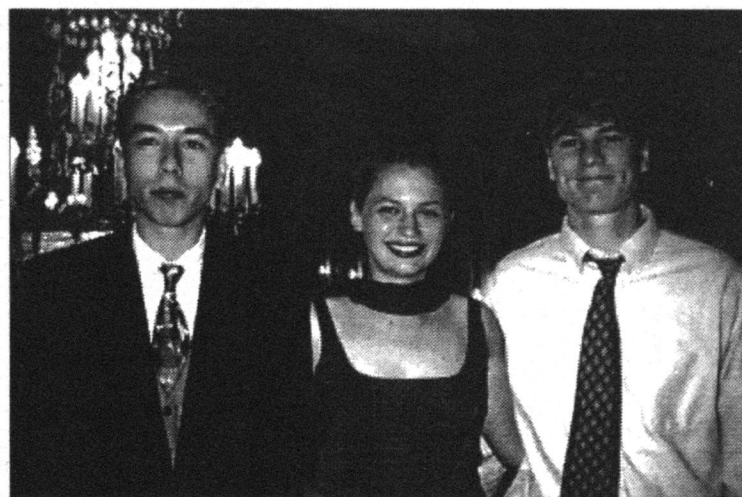


Photo Courtesy of Patricia Gray  
Jason Bishop ('98), Fredrica Carpenter ('98), and David Wheat ('99) attend the Opera Memphis performance of *Madame Butterfly* last Saturday.

learned that Pinkerton had found an American wife and had returned to collect his child and abandon Butterfly. Sniffles throughout the theatre intensified Butterfly's and her servant's bitter weeping and emotional outbursts. Even though the ending was clearly foreshadowed, the effect of Butterfly's death was never-

theless devastating, as the audience had hoped in vain for some consolation for Butterfly.

As usual, Opera Memphis presented a splendid production of a well-known opera, bringing to a new audience the intensity and universality of opera that has kept audiences returning for decades.

## Garrison Starr Changes Pace

By Sarah Hopp  
Staff Writer

"Grounded," the first song on Garrison Starr's newest release *Eighteen Over Me*, begins with the line, "I got a new perspective," and she does. The songs on this CD are often straight-ahead rock or pop, marking a move away from the more acoustic, folk-based sound she established on 1995's *Stupid Girl*.

Garrison Starr's voice takes a bit of getting used to; by the second listening her sound becomes more pleasing to the ear. It rather resembles that of a ten-year-old boy, and she has a way of drawing out certain notes that bends them into a whine (the 'e' in "here": "heeere").

On some softer songs, she has a bit of trouble modulating her voice to an appropriate level. "Afterall," for instance, is a slow song with an acoustic sound, and her voice seems to strain against the delicate instrumental backing.

This problem is a confusing one, considering her work on *Stupid Girl*—there, she achieved a nice subtlety and ease on slower songs. Maybe the effect is due to this change from folk to rock, but the stridency is not always appropriate or welcome. That said, Starr vocally handles the uptempo pieces on *Eighteen Over Me* quite well, and a good,

crisp edginess breaks through, a distinctive quality that could help bring her wider national success.

The first single, "Superhero," which has gotten some local airplay, has a catchy, exuberant chorus that will stick in your head for hours. Here, her voice complements well the driving instrumental backup. "Molly" and "Grounded" are also nice pop/rock tunes.

The songs in the middle of the album struck me as self-indulgent. Starr says in a *Memphis Flyer* article that her songwriting has shifted toward an emphasis on topics close to her own experiences. Unfortunately, this can lead to overwrought, if not openly confessional, songs such as "Ugly." She doesn't do anything particularly new with the emotional territory. What do we learn from this? Sometimes a little restraint and opacity can go a long way.

The exception to this problem is the title track, which comes relatively late in the album. On it, Starr tones herself down successfully and achieves genuine emotional tension. I don't care that I don't know what the song is about.

Although Starr's first major label release is not a fully mature work, it is worthy of notice and shows very definite potential. So, give the album a chance, or go see her live at Newby's or at the 96X Fest, and decide for yourself.

## History Of Opera Class Is More Than Just History

By Kate McWhorter  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Judging by the turnout of Rhodes students at Saturday night's performance of *Madame Butterfly* it would seem that appreciation of the opera is high at Rhodes. But according to music professor Patricia Gray, most of the students in her History of Opera class have never seen an opera.

Composed mostly of non-majors aiming to fulfill their fine-arts requirements, the class is geared toward raising awareness and appreciation of opera. It began upon the retirement of classical studies professor Dr. Tom Jolly, who donated his extensive collection of opera recordings to the music department. Suddenly inundated with a vast collection of opera music, the department decided to use the albums for a course on the history of opera. In the class, students not only study 15 operas during the course of the semester, but they also gain hands-on knowledge of what goes on behind the scenes of a production. Part of Gray's goal for the class is that students experience opera in such a way that they do not "just read about it, but are actually out there doing it."

Two years ago, students interviewed the director, cast members,

and orchestra members of the opera *Rigoletto* and witnessed first-hand the logistics of putting the production together. Gray says that students often see the final product of the crew's hard work, but they rarely know about the many details that must be considered before an opera is ready for production. According to Gray, "Opera Memphis is delighted that we are doing this," because of the publicity and visibility it brings them.

In addition to the course on opera, Gray maintains the Opera Memphis home page on the World Wide Web, which includes the dates of the current season's opera performances, the seating chart for the Orpheum Theatre, ticket information, synopses and highlights of the season's operas, and pictures from several different productions.

Two interesting features of the page are the pronouncing dictionaries: one for opera terms in general, and one for specific operas and composers. The dictionaries list the definitions of terms, or a tidbit about a selected opera or composer, and (thanks to the Rhodes foreign language department) provide sound files that allow visitors to hear the terms pronounced properly. These features are particularly useful for

those who are intimidated by the foreign names of operas and composers and for those who are interested in the musical techniques of composers and singers.

Because of the large response to the site—thousands of visitors since its beginning—Gray considers it a service to the Memphis community in that visitors to the site are informed of upcoming performances and given access to a wide array of resources, such as the dictionaries, information about upcoming operas, and writings about some of the historical and critical aspects of opera. Gray hopes that the web page, in conjunction with the History of Opera course will play a small but considerable role in what happens to opera in the twentieth century, particularly how the "generation of MTV" will respond to this "timeless" art form. As in classic literature, the themes voiced in opera live on and apply to generation after generation, Gray says.

To access the Opera Memphis home page:

<http://gray.music.rhodes.edu/operahtmls/Opera.html>

To access the History of Opera home page:

<http://gray.music.rhodes.edu/musichtmls/Music121Opera.html>



## Injured Lynx Fall To Austin College Kangaroos

By Jason Heller  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Lynx suffered a lackluster first half against the Kangaroos of Austin College (TX) en route to their first home loss of the season. It was disappointing to see the Lynx, who were coming off one of the greatest wins in Rhodes history, play with an incredibly low level of execution. Three lost fumbles and an otherwise stagnant first half offense gave the Lynx a 14 point deficit at halftime.

Rhodes put together a fine drive right before halftime, but lost control of the ball on the Austin 9 yard line. By halftime, not only did Rhodes find themselves behind 14-0, but they also found themselves without star tailback Darrell Brown, who left the game in the second quarter with an ankle injury.

Emerging from the locker room was an almost completely different Rhodes team: a team that was in this

position the previous week, a team that knew how to come back at home. They took the second half kick-off and marched 66 yards in 4:20 to cut into Austin's lead and make the score 14-7. On that drive, Brent Keller was 3 for 3, passing for 55 yards. Bernard Quinn handled the rest of the work, finishing off the drive with a one yard touchdown run.

Meanwhile, the Lynx defense woke up and kept the Kangaroo offense in check for the third quarter. The defense was led by several outstanding individual efforts, most notably free safety Jason Walter (11 tackles, 1 forced fumble), defensive end Kyle Ryan (7 tackles, 1 sack), and linebacker Brad Hearne (9 tackles, 1 forced fumble).

The two teams played the field position game for the entire fourth quarter. Blessed with the better hand in that game, Austin College cashed in and scored the only points in the



Photo By Ladye Jane Vickers/Sou'wester  
John Ferguson ('00) evades the Kangaroo defence during last Saturday's game against Austin College.

final frame via a 51 yard drive. Rhodes began their final possession on their own 20 down 21-13. The offense sputtered in their comeback bid, as they turned the ball over on downs up around midfield. Austin then proceeded to run out the clock

and leave Fargason Field with their first win of the season.

Rhodes dropped to 1-2 on the season. Their next game is Saturday, September 27, at home against Carnegie-Mellon University at 1:30. A quick injury update: Senior de-

fensive tackle Matt Smith, who left the game in the fourth quarter on a stretcher, is all right after suffering a mild neck sprain. He will not play next week. Junior tailback Darrell Brown is questionable for next week's game with an ankle injury.



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## Tough Competition At Vandy

By Grant Gandy  
Staff Writer

Facing a bevy of competition from larger schools, including last year's men's NAIA national champion Life University, the Rhodes cross country teams had their hands full Saturday at Vanderbilt's Commodore Classic in Nashville. The women finished ninth overall and first in the small schools category. The men did not fare as well, finishing fifteenth overall and fourth for small schools.

Head coach Robert Shankman was pleased with the women's team.

"Our goal for this race was to run faster than we did last week on a tougher course, and as a team we did that," Shankman said.

Nicole Horvath showed improvement from last week's race to lead the women. Horvath was followed by the pairs of Kelley Thompson and Emily Ferguson, and Megan Emery and Joy Johnson. Laura Henderson and Emily Clark finished sixth and seventh for the women.

Dave Thomasson assumed what has become a customary position as top finisher for the Lynx. Mike Wottle and Grant Gandy rebounded from weak performances at Sewanee to fin-

ish second and third. Kosta Dalageorgas, Matt Alexander, Rob Cooksey and Virren Malhotra rounded out the top seven.

"It was deceptively hot on Saturday. I was pleased with the effort, but the times were not there," Shankman said, of the men's team. "I think we'll have a better idea of where we are after Boston."

Assistant coach Brendan Minihan ('97) ran the meet as an unattached runner.

"I am in much better shape than I was in last year," Minihan said, "but my time was not indicative of that."

The Lynx will search for cooler weather and faster times when they travel to Boston in two weeks for the National Preview Invitational.



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