

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, February 12, 1997

RSG Ratifies Constitution, Votes For Beer In Lynx Lair

By Andrew Shulman
News Editor

RSG, in their weekly meeting, took up two important issues Thursday in the Edmund Orgill Room. The first issue was whether or not beer should be served in the Lynx Lair (see sidebar). The second issue was the new Student Publications Board constitution.

The current constitution is vague in certain areas, especially in how much control RSG had over the board. The new constitution fixes that.

The new constitution, written by a joint Ad Hoc Committee on Student Publications and the Student Publications Board, cuts out RSG oversight and makes it easier for new publications to be started.

It also includes proportional representation, which means that if a publication ceases to exist, one elected student member of the board

would be dropped.

The requirements for the Publications Commissioner also are expanded, making sure that a qualified person would fill role. The new commissioner must now have experience in publications in an editorial position for a year, or be on the staff of a publication for two years.

Also, two new positions were added to the board, Chief Photographer and Systems Administrator.

Provisions for financial compensation are included in the new constitution, allowing publications that sell ads to be compensated from that ad money revenue and from subscription revenue, but not from any student allocation funds. The constitution also has more stringent guidelines for editorships, and gives the board power to recruit new staffs for publications while terminating old staffs.

"This is a revolutionary docu-

ment needed for a long, long time," publications commissioner Allen Boudreaux said.

Computer upgrades are included in the new constitution; the old version never provided for these.

With the full support of the Publications Board and all the editors of the publications, RSG voted unanimously to accept the constitution.

"I am very happy. . . We truly thrashed this around, and truly reached compromises," Ad hoc committee chair, Kevin Willoughby said.

RSG also voted to allocate the funds left over from last year's yearbook allocation, which has been kept in a special account. RSG allocated \$2,100 to the Activities Board which will use \$1000 for Rites of Spring, and \$1100 to pay for the NACA conference. The rest of the money is being divided between production costs for *The Sou'wester* and immediate upgrades for the Publications Center.

RSG Gives Consent For Beer

By Melissa Anderson
Staff Correspondent

In an encouraging if not unsurprising move, the RSG voted unanimously to have beer served in the Campus Life Center every Monday and Thursday evening.

The fourth item on last Thursday night's RSG meeting agenda generated little commentary, but a question was raised as to why those particular evenings were designated.

RSG president Michael Faber responded that they "buttress the traditional weekend nights that college students go out" and they would be "good nights for campus camaraderie," considering both nights' television line up.

Perhaps acknowledging the idea

that Rhodes' alcohol policy has resulted in many students moving off campus, Faber noted that allowing beer in the pub would not "change" but hopefully "enrich and diversify campus life [because] it has a lot of potential for community building."

Faber also confirmed that only beer is currently being considered for serving in the Lynx Lair, and all students, regardless of age, will be allowed in the pub on Monday and Thursday nights. . . It is now up to the administration to make the final decision, but Faber was optimistic as to the final outcome.

"I've gotten very encouraging comments from the administrators that this has a good chance of going through," Faber said.

Fraternities Make It One "Hell" Of A Week

By Blake Rollins
Staff Correspondent

By Feb. 16, fraternities and sororities will open their doors to the new pledge class, revealing their particular chapter's secret motto and history at Rhodes, often dating back before the Civil War. But recent national concern over how Greek societies test the loyalty and determination of their pledges—specifically act: culminating in physical or psychological abuse—prompted Rhodes to insert a new policy on hazing in the 1996-1997 Student Handbook.

The policy reads: "The [Fraternity Executives] Association defines Hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule." Suspension or expulsion is punishment for infraction of the Hazing policy.

Inter-Fraternity Council President Frank Farmer responded to Rhodes' decision to insert a hazing section in the Handbook, saying "There is, quite simply, a resurgence of hazing on cam-

pus across the country—to correct these problems fraternities and sororities must take steps."

Farmer said that the hardest part of fighting hazing is getting Greek societies to trust new methods of unifying a pledge class. Director of Student Activities Cindy Pennington provides a list of workshops and programs aimed at quelling the practice of hazing, including a lecture sponsored by IFC and Sigma Alpha Epsilon called "Hazing on Trial." In addition, students must sign an anti-hazing statement after accepting a bid, pledged with the Honor Code.

Sorority presidents at Rhodes unanimously condemn hazing, instead relying on less strenuous initiation procedures. Alpha Omicron Pi instead sponsors "Inspiration Week" which attempts to orient a new member class into Alpha Omicron Pi through poetry readings and sharing of past experiences from active members. Chi Omega sponsors a banquet for new members to facilitate the Greek conversion.

For fraternities, however, initiation represents a trial by fire. Men

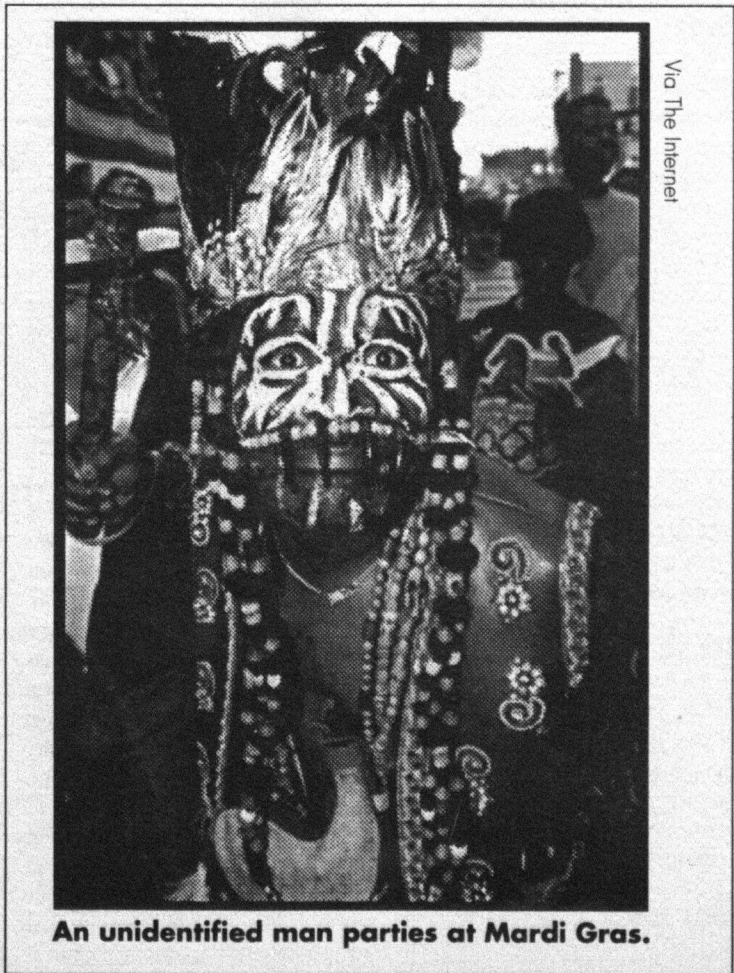
spend one week living in their chapter house with their fraternity brothers in a state of forced abstinence (no contact with members of the opposite sex). Yet, the sensitive nature of the 1990's perhaps permeates these highly guarded enclaves. While "Hell Week" practices remain strictly confidential, pledges appear normal minus sleep deprivation and unusually dressy clothes.

When questioned, a pledge who asked that his name be withheld responded, "I've done things that I didn't want to do, but I could still see the purpose. Hazing is when you're forced to act without any clear purpose."

When pressed for more detail on Hell Week, he said, "You know, the whole male bonding thing."

Farmer reminisces about his Hell Week ordeal with nostalgia.

"For me, it provided a respect for the history of my fraternity and a love and pride for the same that I still carry with me today. It also allowed me to spend time with my pledge brothers. This developed the closest friendships I have had anywhere," Farmer said.



Via The Internet

An unidentified man parties at Mardi Gras.

EDITORIAL OF THE SOU'WESTER

Publications Board Reform A Victory Built On Consensus

In our genuine attempt to exert a healthy skepticism upon the forces of the Rhodes community, this Editorial Board has perhaps built a reputation of bitterness toward many of this College's institutions, which we believe sometimes compromise our ability to work effectively as journalists and, more importantly, the educational quality of the College.

We offer no apologies for the content of our staff editorials—we think that their candor tends to compensate for the prevailing reticence on campus—but we do extend credit where it is due.

Therefore we must commend unconditionally the collaborative efforts of the Student Publications Board, the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Publications Board, and Rhodes Student Government this semester.

The Student Publications Board succeeded in reaching consensus with the Ad Hoc Committee (formed by RSG in September 1996), and the two bodies generated a new, tightly-written constitution for the Publications Board to replace the old document we have of-

ten bemoaned.

The new constitution grants semi-autonomy to the Publications Board, giving it authority comparable to that of Allocations Board. This level of autonomy is appropriate, given the forces currently operating in the Rhodes community. Publications Board will be able to allocate their own percentage of the student activities fee budget among the six official student publications. A safety remains in place, however, as RSG will conduct a periodic audit of Publications Board's finances.

Those who redrafted the constitution included explicit provisions for vast redefinition of Publication Board's infrastructure, requisite to meeting the new demands of administering their own allocations.

In addition, a formal complaint and resolution procedure is now in place, to allow Publications Board to deal more effectively with grievances against publications.

As part of their mission to emphasize financial responsibility and productivity, the Publications Board and the Ad Hoc Committee have recommended jointly that each of the six publications have the ability to

roll-over funds at the end of each fiscal year, thus curbing the wastefulness of the current 'use it or lose it' policy. Further, each publication, including *The Sou'wester*, will now receive an annual grant (from the percentage given to Publications Board) to defray production costs. Additional revenue from advertisement and subscription sales may be used to compensate staff for their labor, provided the editor of the publications submits a constitution with a clear delineation of how the funds will be used to Publications Board for approval.

Publications deemed eligible to administer compensation programs will be subject to a monthly audit by the Publications Board, a practice guaranteed to keep the occasional editor driven by an ulterior agenda honest. Fortunately, the Publications Board and the Ad Hoc Committee had the foresight to realize that constitutional and financial reform alone might not be adequate to produce higher quality publications immediately.

Therefore, the reform plan includes a training component that will ensure that enough funds are set

aside annually to provide weekly instruction in journalism to all members of the publication staffs.

Finally, Publications Board will now have the resources to update aged computer equipment in the Publications Center, using residual funds from the 1995-1996 Lynx Yearbook.

RSG approved the recommendations of the Publications Board and the Ad Hoc Committee with only minor revisions last week. These recommendations need only the approval of the President to become effective.

We strongly support these collaborative recommendations developed by both seasoned student journalists and savvy college insiders. The process consumed many hours, and on occasion was wrought with emotion, but the final product is the true embodiment of consensus among student leaders. And, this revolutionary plan for reform is the first legitimate blueprint for immediate and substantive improvement of student publications at Rhodes College. We believe the President will approve the plan for this reason alone.

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As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration with no outside funding from student activity fees or other College sources. It is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in 103 Buckman every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives and at-large representatives from the student body.

All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhodes'ter*, 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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CORRECTIONS

"Roundtable Discusses Sexual Harassment" (2/5/97)

Elizabeth Hood has asked that the difference between officially and unofficially reported sexual assaults be clarified. An official assault is an assault that is reported to personnel in Student Affairs, Student Activities, Campus Safety, or a Residence Assistant. An unofficial assault is an assault that is reported to personnel in the Counseling Center, Chaplain's Office, or Medical Services, all of which are bound by confidentiality.

"RSG Commuter Diversity Survey Seeks Answers From Minorities" (2/5/97)

This article contained statistics on the approximate percentages of African-American, Asian, and White Rhodes students who commute. The statistics were printed incorrectly, and should have read: 62.5% for African-American students, 50% for Asian students, 32.5% for White students.

Searching For Who We Are



HENRY MURPHY
ASSOCIATE
EDITOR

I edit and lay out the opinion-editorial pages, and at some point during the semester I am supposed to produce a column, a guest editorial, because, as mentioned in this space last week, as an associate editor I should one of the most informed people on campus. As a result of this lumpy erudition I am supposed to be able to peel back layers, penetrate facades, and elegantly analyze the cultural landscape of this school.

Frankly, I've had a hard time doing that as the months march on. A reason for this (and I'm paraphrasing a previous column now) is assumed for the sake of this passage. Of course, there are several converging arrows of distraction: personal life, academic life (a beached, very small whale), and even working on the newspaper itself.

Even though my life is tied up in this school, I still find myself gliding by the humming life that centers our school. This is even assuming that our college has a center, a central

pulse of life. My forays into the culture here have not shown me the hub.

My most recent expedition, the mission statement change, helped a little. But despite the hectic activity of the RSG committee, and the student involvement in general, I was still disappointed in the number of students who personally voiced their opinions. Was the issue simply unimportant to them? If so, did they not even want to tell us, those who voiced concern and criticism, why it was not important?

I'll get right to it: the gap between what I represent and what I really possess is wide and I believe it's growing wider. It strikes me as almost the height of irony that our beleaguered publication, nearly bereft of staff members and bullying our way each week through production, is supposed to be the most informed group of people on campus. We do receive JHD's e-mails, true. We receive lots of upper-echelon information. But we are busy, involved workers. We don't spend our time absorbing the atmosphere here; we don't spend our time talking to our peers. We have to scoop out information, understanding, attitudes.

We are involved in a time-consuming activity, another brick on top of our academic work. Do we know the campus? Do we know the student body?

The point I'm getting at is that because of my erswhile activism, to use the term loosely, I am not wrapped in the threads of life on this campus, at least not as thoroughly as I would like to be. To write about the events and major happenings around here, one has to be a little bit out of the rhythms of life - because "life" on this campus is not about events or spectacles. There are several exceptions: the collective id-action of Rites of Spring, for example, or the much subtler, looser, more powerful air of autumn that descends over the senior class (an autumn followed by spring).

But in general, life is not about scenes. Life is about flux, change, the blunt edge of chaos. The question I am asking you, the reader, is whether or not this newspaper is a representation of not only the outsized activities to be found on this campus, but also the minuscule carvings of social shifts, group attitudes and delineations.

See MURPHY, Page 3

One Eye On The News And One Eye Inward



NEETA VENEPELLI
BLITHELY
MUDDLED

Recently, I've stopped watching MTV because I'm convinced that they're involved in an insidious plan to infiltrate the national music consciousness, eventually dominating the entire world. "A little paranoia?" my mother snickered when I informed my family of my revelation "Are you turning into a liberal at Rhodes?" my father inquired suspiciously. My sister ignored me and continued to flip between MTV and VH1 to see if her favorite band had made it into music video status, which meant the band had 'made it big'.

But what does that really mean? Does that mean we as a consumerist audience have decided this band is 'in', and MTV is merely reflecting our views?

Or is it that MTV decides when a band is in or out, and we

reinforce their impressions by relying on them as a standard of general acceptance, buying mad numbers of their top endorsed CD's?

Boss Tweed once said (to paraphrase loosely), "I don't give a damn who wins the election as long as I get to decide who the candidates are". He could have been talking about our current relationship with the media. Of course, ultimately we do have the power to turn the TV on and off, to change channels, to buy a different newspaper, to vote. But let's analyze this 'power' more closely.

For example, what is the real choice we're making when we select Peter Jennings over Dan Rather? Aren't we really making a statement about our preferences for their hair color, the make of their suits, their mannerisms? We're obviously not choosing either one for their presentation of the news, because the information given, the news clippings and live footage and interviews shown, and the

views portrayed are generally the same.

VH1 over MTV? Are we choosing what music videos will be shown, or are we choosing the order in which they'll be shown? Are we really providing the content or rearranging what is already given?

The New York Times over *The Commercial Appeal*? The Associated Press functions as an unquestioned, seemingly omniscient narrator, distributing the same stories with the same wording and the same pictures to thousands of media.

Our freedom of press is actualized in a million newspapers, with different titles and slightly different views on the same material. Even those that express dissenting views from the norm are presenting 'accepted' dissent, because our choice of response is contingent on the content originally provided.

It appears that our real power lies less in our ability to demand more information than

in our chance to bicker and squabble over what information is tossed to us.

We play with the homogeneity of view that is accorded us, convincing ourselves of our agency and control, sculpting it, shooting holes through it, attempting to delve into the truth behind it, but ultimately, all of our responses build on, and even preserve, that original homogeneity in some form.

Our power as consumers is necessarily limited by the product line; if the product line is mass-produced with marginal differentiation for the 'pretense' of true diversity, our power is transparent, delusional and our 'choices' are the mere appearance of decisions.

The most terrifying aspect of this is not our lack of information, but the ease of our self-deception in our insistence that our freedom of choice is preserved. We still cherish our first amendment rights, viewing them as our protection against explicit censorship, never ques-

tioning the implicit censorship and biases presented to us without our consent.

We view the dissent of opinions present in the media, and regardless of our personal stand, we are comfortably convinced that such diversity of opinion reflects our freedom of press and freedom of speech.

In reality, we have as much freedom of press and freedom of speech as the select few in charge of distribution and production deem it necessary for us to have. The media is not objective; it is always political, with implicit bias and content omission that we, as consumers, cannot control.

But what we can do is force an explication of those biases, force an acknowledgment that we are not receiving the 'truth', but select perceptions. Our external standards, our frames of reference are being fixed for us by the media, and our greatest power lies in our ability to challenge the structure itself.

Will I watch MTV again? Of course I will, because even though I really do believe that MTV is controlled by a small select group of individuals who wield the power of 'buzz clip' over the entire western world, I'm still fascinated. But hopefully, I'll watch reflexively, fully cognizant of what is said and, more importantly, what is left unsaid.

CAMPUS SAFETY LOG February 3-9, 1997

- 2/3 8:14 p.m. Campus Life Center: Water leak-Physical Plant notified.
- 2/4 1:03 a.m. Gym Lot, car alarm-Checked okay, high winds.
2:05 a.m. Snowden Street-Disabled vehicle. Pushed out of roadway.
1:30 p.m. Memphis Police Department on campus.
11:30 p.m. Fire extinguisher inspection complete.
- 2/6 7:30 a.m. Buckman Hall, Wallet found and turned over to Lost & Found
11:15 a.m. White Hall, Bathroom-drug paraphanelia found
1:10 p.m. Trezevant Lot, hit and run- MPD made report.
2:30 p.m. Glassell Lot, Property damage to vehicle
- 2/7 1:30 p.m. Trezevant Boiler Room-alarm. Checked okay, Maintenance on scene
5:15 p.m. Blount Residence Hall-Fire alarm. Showed pull station-a check of all floors indicated false alarm. ADT notified.
- 2/8 9:15 a.m. MPD on campus.
11:40 a.m. Disturbance, Trezevant-Student Affairs called.
- 2/9 1:38 a.m. Bellingrath, 2nd floor-loud music disturbing. Asked to turn music down.
10:29 a.m. Glassell Hall, large dog reported running loose. Dog captured and held for Humane Society shelter

STATISTICS

ACCESS	20	JUMP STARTS	6	CITATIONS	110
ESCORTS	1	VISITORS	838	SLIM JIMS	1
PROPPED DOORS	11	BOOTED CARS	0		

Murphy Reflects On Newspaper Continued From Page 2

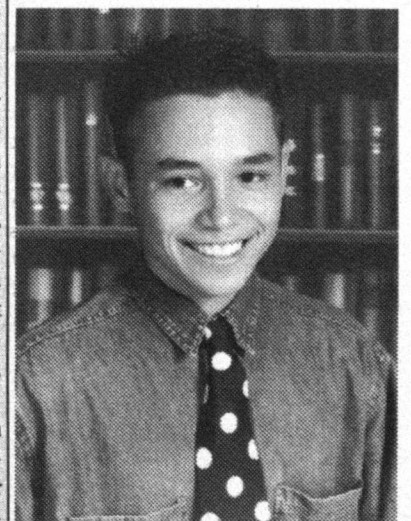
lineations.

After all, the world is not so much the world as it is our perceptions of the world. I want to know if the students of Rhodes see their lives reflected, or diffracted, in the pages of this publication.

I believe the main worry that occupies our editorial staff is whether or not the paper really does reach students. Our attitude forces us to act on the assumption that we are an important element within community life, because we struggle to present a portrait of that life in each and every issue.

Student organizations, all student organizations: tell us what you are doing with your money, your members, and your activities.

We have had success this year in collecting students of all attitudes, persuasions, and perspectives beneath our masthead. We can only profit by expanding our margins even further. Do not be content with letting a few dedicated, overworked students attempt to throw a net over the struggles of this college. Contact editors about changes and actions. Come to our staff meetings with information that may get lost in the shuffle of someone else's every day business. Help your newspaper form itself for the future.



Aaron Rodriguez
Ballplayer freshman year.
Little League Coach sophomore year.
Killed junior year.
December 28, 1993
San Antonio, TX

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will?

All Shapes, All Sizes Highlights Eating Disorders

by Kate McWhorter
Staff Correspondent

In appreciation of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, February 3-8, the Counseling and Student Development Center (CDSC) dedicated a week for programming on body image and disordered eating habits entitled "All Shapes, All Sizes." Observed February 10-14, the week includes programs each day on different aspects of body image and disordered eating.

Monday in the Orgill Room, a fashion show, complete with clothes from AKA Eddie Bauer and a \$50 gift certificate, provided advice on dressing professionally with a limited budget. Katie Sandage, an independent sports nutrition expert, presented ways to cook healthily.

Tuesday, Residence Life staffers helped orient students to the exercise equipment in the new Bryan Campus Life Center during a workshop on safe exercise.

Tonight, CSDC staff and members of the Rhodes faculty will hold a dialogue with students after a showing of the film "The Famine Within," highlighting the ways distorted body image and social pressures can lead to disordered eating. The film will be shown at 8 in the Robinson Hall social room. Evening snacks will be provided.

Tomorrow at 8:00 P.M. in the Orgill Room, the second annual Relationship Game will test couples' knowledge of each other.

Friday February 14 is designated "Diet Free Friday" featuring treats from Residence Life in students' mailboxes and an ice cream

sundae bar at lunch courtesy of ARA food services.

According to Dr. Ricci Hellman, the assistant director of the Counseling Center, one goal of this program is to help students "recognize when [focus on] body image leads to eating disorder."

As the film "The Famine Within" documents, eating disorders can include activities such as bingeing and purging, compulsive eating, purposeful starving, and compulsive exercising. The film deals with eating disorders and body image in depth.

"All Shapes, All Sizes" is not targeted specifically at men or women, but is designed for all students to "raise awareness of and appreciate different body sizes,"

Hellman said.

Events are open to everyone and students are encouraged to attend. For those students not able to attend the programming but who have an interest in body image awareness and/or eating disorders, written information is available in the Counseling and Student Development Center's "info to-go" stations, as well as in the Refectory and in the Burrow Library during this theme week.

For additional information on programming or individual assistance with body image, disordered eating, or other personal concerns at any time during the school year, contact the Counseling and Student Development Center in 310 Briggs (x3849).

January Kinney Fair Offers Students Chance For Community Service

by Jill Peterfeso
Staff Correspondent

The Kinney Program, Rhodes' Volunteer Action and Service group, hosted the January Kinney Fair in the North Dining Hall of the Refectory on January 29 during dinner hours.

This year, in addition to the Fall Kinney Fair early in the first semester, the Kinney Program decided to hold a smaller-scaled winter event.

"First-years don't want to get bogged down at the beginning of the year, so we wanted to offer another opportunity for them to see what volunteer programs are out there," Kristin Fox, a Kinney Coordinator and the Director of Souper Contact, the Rhodes' community service project that feeds homeless individuals and families at local churches, said.

Chaplain Billy Newton, director of the program, added, "The January Kinney Fair is a way for new volunteers to get started and for current volunteers to consider new projects for the semester."

Sixteen agencies sent representatives to the Fair, including two new programs, Aloysius Home and the Refugee Resettlement Program of Catholic Charities.

The Kinney Program reported 78 sign-ups that evening, each agency averaging 4-5 new volunteers, with the most signatures for Evergreen After School, Midsouth Peace and Justice Center, Refugee Resettlement Program, Snowden Adopt-a-School, and the Family Link.

As stated on the new Kinney bulletin board in the Rat, "The Kinney program seeks to develop relationships between

Rhodes students and the larger community, helping students become aware of social needs, and calling students into action to meet these needs through volunteer service."

Of 1425 Rhodes Students, 334 are Kinney volunteers, meaning approximately 25% of the student body participates in service; Senior Surveys show that 75% of the student body takes part in community service by the time they graduate.

Kristin Fox explained that Kinney Coordinators act as "liaisons between students and agencies," encourage service, show appreciation, and organize large campus events. This semester, they plan to distribute a monthly newsletter, and a "campus-wide Spring event" may be in the works.

The Kinney program will be celebrating its 40th anniversary during the 1997-98 school year.

"Kinney volunteers have grown from a handful of dedicated students to a strong, integral part of student life," Newton said.

The Kinney Fairs are not the only times that community service programs become available to Rhodes students. The coordinator from Aloysius Home, a program aiding people who are homeless and have HIV/AIDS, will be in the Rat during lunch on Friday, February 14.

The Kinney bulletin board is filled with service opportunities and the phone numbers of helpful individuals. The Chaplain's office is always aware of immediate volunteer needs in the community.

Philosophy Candidate Gives Lecture

by Steele Means
Staff Correspondent

Dr. Jennifer Case, assistant professor of Philosophy at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, gave a lecture last Monday on the topic "Science As A Metaphor."

Dr. Case is a candidate for the vacant position in the Philosophy department. The focus of Case's lecture centered around the need to avoid thinking that scientific knowledge is "higher" or more

true than those of other disciplines. She said that if one wishes to have a full grasp of "significance," one must appeal to every intellectual discipline. Dr. Case is a specialist in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy and, if hired, would teach a course in American Philosophy.

During the interview process, Case reflected on what she would bring to the Rhodes community.

"I hope to help students understand that philosophy is about everyday life," Case said.

COOKS

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Departments Search GSA To Attend Conference in for New Faculty Murfreesburo

by Sarah Hopp
Staff Correspondent

Rhodes' 1997-98 faculty will include new faces in several departments, including English, Religious Studies, Chemistry, and Biology.

The English department is in the process of hiring for three positions: American Literature (long-term renewal contract), fiction writing (Writer-In-Residence), and poetry writing (tenure track). Over the past few weeks, candidates for the poetry writing, American Literature, and Writer-In-Residence positions have given readings and lectures.

In most cases, each candidate gives a public reading (or presentation) and teaches a class. In addition, students have been encouraged to meet the candidates during scheduled lunch sessions in the Rat.

"We really want to see how they in-

teract with the students. Also, student interaction helps sell the college to prospective faculty members if they can see students are actively invested in their education," Robert Entzminger, chair of the English Department, said.

The department has already narrowed the number of candidates for the poetry writing and American Literature openings; Entzminger noted that, "in both situations, the classroom experience was decisive." One of the poetry-writing candidates has received a formal job offer.

The Religious Studies department has been recruiting since October for a position in American Religious History. They have received over fifty applications for the position, interviewing twelve of the applicants. Four candidates have visited campus. The Religious Studies department has also made an offer to a candidate, and is waiting for a reply.

by Liz Nichols
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Several Rhodes students will be attending the sixth annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference February 14-16.

The site of this year's conference, which originated at Vanderbilt University in 1990, is Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesburo. Activities will particularly focus on the theme "And Liberty For All," and will bring together more than 500 gay and lesbian student leaders from across the Southeast.

The conference has attracted much controversy in recent years. The 1996 conference, held at the University of Alabama, was jeopardized when Alabama State Attorney General Jeff Sessions moved to ban the convention. After a federal court in Mobile ruled that the state's law prohibiting gay and lesbian

groups from meeting on state campuses was unconstitutional, the conference was able to proceed as scheduled.

Keynote speakers will include David Mixner, a former senior campaign advisor for President Clinton, Torie Osborn, a consultant, lecturer and writer and Lynn Sheppard, executive director of The Experience, a non-profit educational organization. Other speakers include Paul Yandura, former Lesbian/Gay outreach director for Clinton/Gore '96 and Patricia Nell Warren, a prominent writer of books dealing with lesbian and gay issues.

One of the primary issues slated for discussion is the formation of a Campus-Based Civil Rights Initiative within the Southeast. Comparing the plight of the suppressed gay/lesbian/bisexual movement to that faced by

African-Americans during the 1960s, organizers hope to organize, empower and motivate student leaders to "bring civility to the South."

Workshop topics focus on leadership tactics, gender identification issues, youth programs, increasing visibility, political organization, racism in the Gay/Lesbian community, heterosexism on campus and welcoming diversity. Rhodes students who have plans to attend the conference include GSA President Jason Bishop ('98), Liz Lowe ('98), Trisha Morris ('98) and Ruby Booth ('00).

"I think the conference is a wonderful opportunity for networking among gay, lesbian and bisexual student leaders. It gives us all a chance to share some of our frustrations and our successes with people in our region that are having many of the same experiences we are," Bishop said.

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Increasing Awareness Of Sexual Harassment At Rhodes

By Melody Barnett
Assistant Managing Editor

The issue of sexual harassment has been heavily discussed on campus during the 1996-97 school year, particularly in recent months. The RSG chose sexual assault and harassment as the central topic for the Chancellor's Roundtable on January 30 of this year. Sexual harassment is a nebulous issue because it is more difficult to define than sexual assault. Many students believe that multiple instances of sexual harassment at Rhodes remain unreported each semester.

The Rhodes College Handbook offers several definitions of sexual harassment, but the broadest definition of the term is as follows: "Sexual harassment may be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct or written communication of a sexual nature when . . . such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work, academic performance, participation in extracurricular activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, learning, or campus-living environment."

The Handbook also explains that it is the responsibility of all members of the

Rhodes community to report incidents of sexual assault and harassment to the appropriate College official. This policy covers violations by both students and faculty members of the College.

Elizabeth Hood ('98), headed investigations into gender relations for the RSG Student Life Committee, presented the Roundtable with a student's perspective on the problem of sexual harassment at Rhodes.

Hood cited the ambiguity of the term *sexual harassment* and the closeness of the Rhodes community as two factors that may influence the reporting of violations.

"Because it is so hard to define, people aren't sure whether they've been harassed or not," said Hood. "On a campus this size, you pretty much know everyone. Most people don't want to turn in a friend or acquaintance for something they don't consider to be a huge issue. . . I think a lot of times students just think they can handle it on their own."

Courtney Spivey ('98), who also spoke at Roundtable, presented another side of the issue, focusing specifically on instances of sexual harassment between students and professors.

"I am really bothered that when people think about sexual harassment, they think that the only victims are the

people who were directly harassed," said Spivey. "Every female that ever had a class with a person guilty of sexual harassment is a victim, because [they] simply don't know if [they] were harassed or not."

Spivey explained that, due to the close relationship Rhodes students often have with their professors, even students who are not directly harassed find themselves questioning the nature of "every good grade, every positive comment, every piece of advice" given by a professor that may be guilty of sexually harassing other students. This is a very gray area, one which leaves students with many unanswered questions.

Another Roundtable participant, Gina Yannitell ('97), acknowledged the difficulties that students may face if harassed by a faculty member.

"I think one of the biggest problems is defining what sexual harassment is, and finding out what's happening," said Yannitell. "There have been cases of sexual harassment I have witnessed that have gone unreported because they [the victims] were afraid. And the reason they don't report is because people have power over us."

Yannitell also indicated that this kind of intense focus on issues of sexual as-

sault and harassment makes people wary, afraid that innocent actions or words might be misconstrued.

Hood believes that, as a result of recent discussions, students and professors may develop a heightened sensitivity to the issue of sexual harassment.

"I think people are going to be a little more aware and a little more conscious of what they are doing," said Hood, "but I don't think our professors will let it interfere with their classes. I think there's a mutual trust. We trust our professors not to harass us or make us feel uncomfortable, and, at the same time, they trust us not to invent things."

The Roundtable discussion was one more step towards improving communication and awareness within the student body, in hopes of perpetuating the "harassment-free" environment supported by the College Handbook. Yannitell emphasized the importance of this awareness.

"A lot of people know about [sexual harassment], but just don't realize what a big deal it is," said Yannitell. "I do think it's something that needs to be discussed here. . . and I think it can be discussed a lot more, because a lot of it does go on, and some people don't realize it, and some people just aren't ready to believe it."



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Ceruti String Quartet Mesmorizes Audiences

By Jeanne Hamilton
Staff Correspondent

Rhodes hosted the Ceruti String Quartet, currently the Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Memphis, in Payne Recital Hall on Monday, February 3 at 8 p.m.

The group consisted of two violinists (Susan Waterbury and Kathleen Powell), one viola player (Lenny Schranze) and a cellist (Peter Spurbeck). The lively program contained arrangements by the composers J. C. de Arriaga, Kamran Ince, and a premiere work-in-the-making by Serge Prokofieff, a professor at University of Memphis.

The musicians were completely in sync and swayed in perfect time with one another as their instruments produced the most diverse of sounds. Even their breathing was attuned as they performed before a good-sized audience.

De Arriaga's *Allegra* from the *String Quartet No. 1 in d minor* began the medley with a bang. The performance continued with four pieces, the following three progressing with high passion, pounding melody, and the sounds of a catchy

and eccentric jig. The fifth selection, Ince's *Curve* for string quartet was beautifully dark and brooding.

By far, the highlight of the performance was the series of three movements just following the short intermission. Serge Prokofieff, professor at the University of Memphis, was present to hear the Ceruti Quartet execute his work-in-progress. This performance was the world premiere of the piece, which was to be played in New York City following its completion.

The *String Quartet No. 2, Opus 96* was truly a contemporary masterpiece. The flow was harsh, and the running together of each instrument's part was so haphazard that it was almost too striking. In the beginning moments the cello buzzed and the viola whined. Delightfully, a basic but subtle beat was soon highlighted and the piece became more unified, while remaining distinctly edgy. The use of different keys and unique and violent plucking of individual strings became marvelously startling. This performance swung from a dreamy tragedy to a pounding discomfort and back again. The effect was truly mesmerizing.



Several Rhodes students were conspicuously absent from classes on Friday, preferring to take advantage of the Mardi Gras festivities that took place over the weekend in New Orleans.

Via The Internet

Sir David Willcocks Gives Insight Into Meaning Of St. Matthew's Passion

By Steven Perry
Staff Correspondent

Acclaimed composer and conductor Sir David Willcocks visited Rhodes last Thursday to give this year's Springfield Music Lecture.

The subject of the lecture, which was held at Evergreen Presbyterian Church, was Johann Sebastian Bach's choral masterpiece the *St. Matthew Passion*. Willcocks has been director of the London Bach Choir since 1960 and is considered to be a leading expert in the field of choral music.

Willcocks has also acquired much renown independent of his work on Bach. After graduating from the Royal College of Music and King's College, he became organist at Salisbury Cathedral. Following this position and a longer service as organist at Worcester Cathedral, he returned to King's College as a professor and a composer. From 1974 to 1984, Willcocks directed the Royal College of Music. He was knighted in 1977.

The *St. Matthew Passion* was composed by Bach in 1729. Lasting over three hours, it is considered to be the composer's greatest choral work as well as one of the great choral masterpieces in the history of music.

Matthew's Gospel had been set to music many times before, but Bach took the story and treated it differently. First, he doubled the size of the choir and the orchestra. He then added a solo part written as a recitative for

the role of the Evangelist, who functions as a sort of musical narrator for the story.

Bach also brought in a soloist to sing the role of Jesus in the form of arias. Finally, he added chorales to the story, allowing the audience to sing along with and participate in the events of the story as they unfolded.

In his speech, Willcocks primarily focused on this unusual format used by Bach in the *Passion*. To better highlight these aspects, he used the Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale under the direction of Professor Tony Lee Garner to show the piece's different features.

At certain points in the lecture the chorale stood and sang excerpts selected by Sir Willcocks, who would then tell the audience why the selected pieces were significant. Sometimes Willcocks demonstrated these features himself, playing segments of the *Passion* on the piano and discussing their importance.

Using these tools, Willcocks proceeded through some of his favorite parts of the *Passion*, from start to finish. One of Willcocks' favorite elements was Bach's use of the double choir, which is formed by splitting the choir and using this division to enhance the drama at specific points.

For instance, when the crowd demands that the life of Barabas be spared, these two separate choirs can be heard reciting his name in German, giving the sequence a much more powerful

dramatic impact on the listener.

Willcocks was also particularly interested in the purpose of the chorales, which were intended to be responses by the audience to the events in the story.

Willcocks believes that these chorales serve as transitions in the story's movement and provide the audience with an opportunity to contemplate what they have just heard. To demonstrate this function, he asked for the audience at Evergreen to stand and sing a hymn that was a chorale from the *Passion*. Willcocks feels that allowing the audience to become a part of the story in this manner keeps them actively involved in story's progression.

Willcocks' subject matter was of particular pertinence to Professor Garner and the Chorale. They, along with the Memphis Symphony Chamber Orchestra and the Music Academy's Children's Chorus, will perform the *St. Matthew Passion* February 23. Garner was extremely pleased to have Willcocks visit, calling the conductor "wonderfully talented" and "dedicated."



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Women Set To Play Ball Softball At Rhodes

By Mary McCoy
Staff Correspondent

As of this spring, women's softball at Rhodes has made large strides, moving from what had been a club sport where players held their own practices, had limited equipment, and played only a few games against local schools, to a full-fledged NCAA Division Three team.

"I played softball all through high school," said sophomore Kerry Kornblatt, "and it was so hard for me to decide to come to Rhodes, because I loved the school, but they didn't have a softball team."

Other Rhodes women voiced similar opinions to Kornblatt's, and a core group of about six women from last year's club team, which had been coached by Kari Duncan, coordinator of recreational services, actively recruited Rhodes women for a roster of 14. Rhodes administrators have been, according to Kornblatt, "very supportive."

"The college wanted women's softball," Kornblatt continued.

Title IX, passed in 1978, forbids discrimination in educational institutions based on gender, and has been used chiefly to encourage

schools to offer more athletic opportunities for women. In many ways, Title IX is largely responsible for the ease with which Rhodes women have had in making softball a varsity sport.

The college played a very active role in the initiation of women's softball, and paid to completely outfit the team with uniforms and equipment.

Women's softball is fairly new in the area, but most Division Three schools have started teams. Many of the teams on this season's schedule are new teams much like Rhodes.

According to head coach Darren Ambrose, the roster is still expanding. "I literally had a girl join the team yesterday."

Ambrose worked at Rhodes from 1993-95 as a part-time soccer coach, but left last year for the University of Connecticut. This year, he returned when the soccer position was made full-time, and expanded to include the title of head softball coach.

The assistant coach is Lisa Drumm, who formerly coached women's softball at Craigmont High School.

"We want to be competitive this

season," said Ambrose. "We're not saying, 'Okay, we're a first-year team, so go ahead and beat us.' The girls are all at different experience levels, but are all involved for the right reasons... to play the game and have fun."

Kornblatt described some strengths of the fledgling team saying, "We have a lot of pure athleticism on the team, good raw material."

"The difference between practice now and two months from now will be night and day," she said.

Practices started last week, and the first game will be played at home against Union College February 25 at 4 p.m.

Ambrose predicts that with the commitment and team spirit of the women, Rhodes softball will be "regionally, if not nationally competitive within three or four years."

Though women's softball is not yet a conference sport, it is gaining recognition.

"All of Rhodes is in this together," said Kornblatt.

"Girls who weren't representing the school before are wearing varsity letters. If we look good, the school looks good."

Go See Pre!

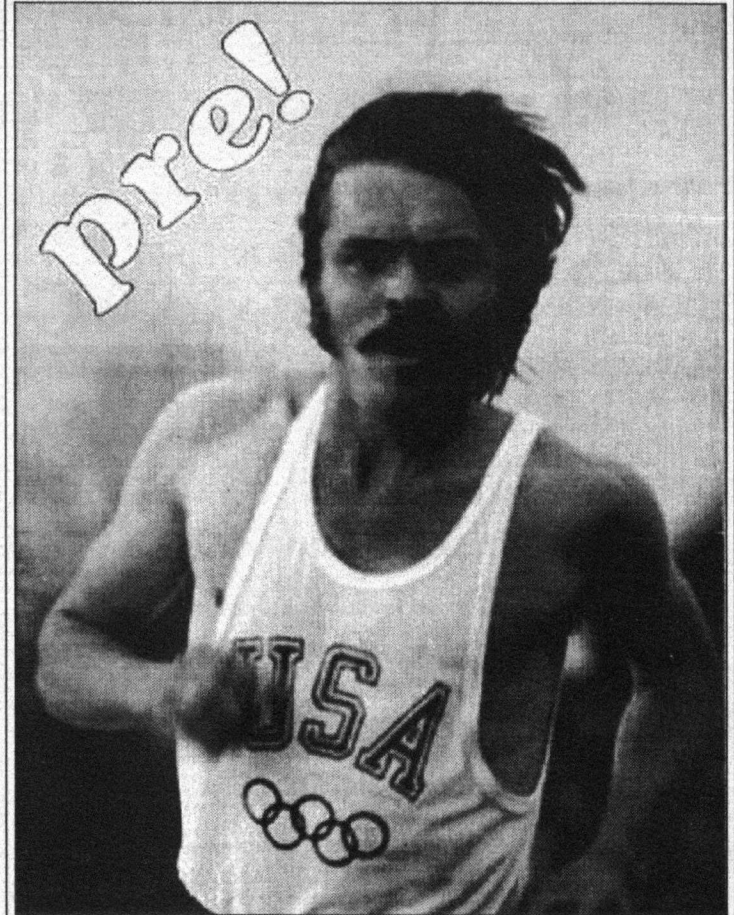


Photo Via Internet

Prefontaine, the Disney feature film on the running icon of the 1970s, Steve Prefontaine, is playing in theatres now. After a stunning loss in the 5000m in the 1972 Munich Olympics, Pre's chariot of fire came to its end in a 1975 car accident. Prefontaine has not opened in Memphis theatres.

Record Holders Repeat In A Cold Four Mile Classic

By Grant Gandy
Staff Correspondent

The bright colored caravan of people passing in front of the Rat on Saturday morning was not a mock parade for those who did not go to Mardi Gras. The motley crue of scantily clad revelers were participants in the Rhodes Four Mile Classic road race, benefitting the cross country and track teams.

Overnight rains and cold weather produced a smaller turnout than in years past, but the weather did not prevent some fast times on both the men's and women's sides.

Course record holder Mark Newman led wire to wire, convincingly beating the rest of the field. He finished in 20:10, missing his own record by six seconds.

Jeremy Meyersiek finished more than a minute behind Newman in 21:13, edging out third place finisher Eric Laywell in 21:14.

The women's side saw the women's course record holder, former Rhodes volunteer assistant

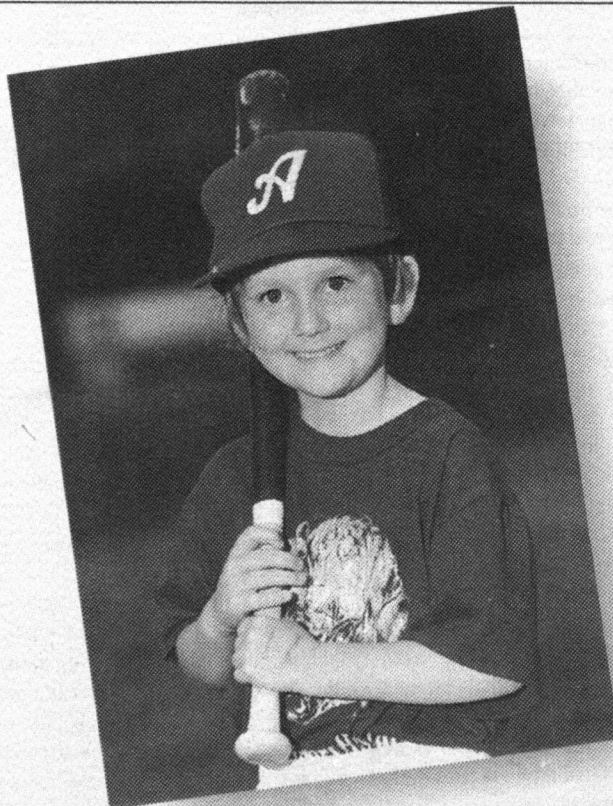
cross country and track coach, and 1996 Olympic marathon trials qualifier, Brenda Walton, ease her way to victory. Walton topped fifteen year old Maggie Silvers (25:49) and current volunteer assistant cross country and track coach Francee Laywell (26:34).

"It was cold," Laywell said, adding that she didn't perform up to her expectations.

According to race coordinators, turnout by Rhodes students and faculty was low this year. Race-day registration was bolstered by Memphis area runners, making the track team's fund raiser a marginal success.

"We pulled off a good race," Robert Shankman, head cross country and track coach said. "I think the cold weather hurt us a little bit, but we couldn't control that."

Special thanks goes to the race sponsors National Bank of Commerce, Union Planters Bank, Kelly Brother Illustration, Aramark Dining Services, and Team Victory screen printers.



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