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RHODES
1848 — 1998

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. LXXXV, No. 13

Thursday, February 19, 1998

Student Forum Successful Despite Low Turnout

By Andrew Shulman
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, February 17, RSG held a student forum from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Hyde Hall in the Rat. At this forum, students could talk with administrators about problems, concerns or complaints that they had. This is the first time that a program like this has been held at Rhodes, according to RSG President Damon Norcross ('98).

"The basic idea of the Student Forum was an event that hosted all the major administrative and staff departments at one time where students could address their concerns, questions, or suggestions to the relevant parties without the regular formalities of appointments," RSG senator Tara Parchman ('01) said.

From an informal survey, the two most popular people were Director of Food Services Tim

Vandermeersch and Director of Residence Life Carol Casey. Vandermeersch fielded complaints and questions about the Rat and the new plan as well as suggestions for meals.

Kalman Bencsath ('01) talked with Vandermeersch about getting juice at all three meals. Vandermeersch told him that the "Five Alive" juice machine is open and running during all three meals.

"It's a viable option," Vandermeersch said.

Vandermeersch also said that he was excited about the Lynx Lair being added to the meal plan. He said that to improve speed at the Lair there would be pre-made specials every day that would include a sandwich, chips, a cookie, and a drink for \$4.00, the equivalent value of a Rat meal.

One student asked

Vandermeersch about Ronald, the "Pan Geos" man. According to Vandermeersch, Ronald has been ill with throat cancer and is recovering at home. As soon as he gets better Vandermeersch plans to welcome him back to the Rat staff.

Casey said that she talked to students about the new residency requirement and the special housing options.

A small fraction of the Rhodes campus attended the forum.

"I'm a little disappointed by the turnout," Norcross said.

The event was put together by the internal affairs committee of RSG.

Other administrators attending the event were Dean of Student Affairs Mel Hokanson-Richey, Director of Financial Aid Art Weeden, Sports Information Director John Langdon, Director of Student Activities Cindy Pennington, Director of International Programs Katherine Owen



Photo by Andrew Shulman

Juhee Desai ('98) speaks with Director of Financial Aid Art Weeden and Director of International Programs Katherine Owen Richardson during the RSG Student Forum on Tuesday.

Richardson, Director of Career Services Sandi George Tracy, Director of Campus Safety Ralph Hatley, and Community Service Coordinator

Loretta Lambert.

See Forum on Page 4

Career Fair To Feature 45 Employers

By Heather Lockridge
Staff Writer

What do Andersen Consulting and the Memphis Redbirds have in common?

They are both going to be at the Rhodes College Career Fair on February 25, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the CLC Ballroom.

The Career Fair is co-sponsored by Career Services, Rhodes Student Government, and the Black Student Association. The purpose of the fair is to provide information on various careers for Rhodes students, according to Director of Career Services Sandi George Tracy.

There will be a drawing for a gift certificate for those who attend the fair.

Dress is casual in order to create a relaxed atmosphere where students feel comfortable conversing with representatives from the different companies. All students are encouraged to stop by and talk with employers representing a wide variety of companies.

Andersen Consulting, the City of Memphis, Ernst & Young Consulting, International Paper, the Memphis Redbirds, and First Tennessee Bank are among the 45 employers who will be present at the Career Fair.

Though the purpose of the fair is information oriented, organizations are always looking to fill full-time, part-time, and temporary positions. They are also looking for interns. The armed forces will have information on scholarships for graduate school.

Students are encouraged to bring copies of their resume to distribute among various employers.

"It is okay to talk with organization representatives even if you do not know the company," Tracy said. Tracy encourages students to ask representatives of companies about potential future job interests. She also encourages students to ask for business cards and to make follow-up calls to the companies that they find particularly appealing.

The majority of representatives at the Career Fair will be businesses, followed by health and nonprofit organizations. The organizations are interested in talking with students of all majors.

"Employers are interested in talking to students, so it is a great time to test out your marketability," Tracy said.

Some students have found full-time and part-time jobs as a direct result of the Career Fair.

"It is a great networking opportunity," Tracy said. "There will never be another time when so many employers are in the same room [at Rhodes]."

Career Services is encouraging all students to take the time to go to the Career Fair.

"You just never know what you might find out," Tracy said.

Further information about the career fair is available by contacting the Career Service Office or by checking the Career Services Homepage at: <http://tracy.stuaffairs.rhodes.edu/programs.html>.

Norcross, Venepalli Unveil ADVANCE Agenda For RSG

By Hallman Graves
Staff Writer

Last week, RSG President Damon Norcross ('98) and Vice President Neeta Venepalli ('99) presented a new RSG agenda. The senators were each given a booklet entitled A.D.V.A.N.C.E. (A Directed Vision Affirming New Constituency Empowerment).

The document stresses the important role that information gathering, action, and accountability to the Rhodes' campus and community play in RSG. The agenda outlines the responsibilities of RSG senators, possibilities for the development of class identities, and the expansion of class structure within the senate structure.

RSG felt it necessary to evaluate the structure of student government and its ability to accomplish its goals, as RSG begins its fourth year under the current RSG Constitution and as Rhodes enters its 150th anniversary year.

According to the booklet, ADVANCE came about as Norcross and Venepalli looked at "the current structure of RSG and saw that classes were continually being under-utilized."

ADVANCE calls for senators to build relationships with members of their classes, effectively representing individual and class goals. The RSG hopes that by targeting a smaller group, class representatives can be more effective and share a better understanding of the needs and desires of their class members.

RSG's method for expansion of the class structure within the senate structure will include bi-weekly meetings for class senators (facilitated by the RSG President), documented weekly constituency work, the allocation of necessary tools for class identity development and class projects, and the development of a plan to ensure personal contact with class members to accomplish their goals.

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

Mr. James Spears
Editor-In-Chief

Dear Mr. Spears,

Kudos and thanks for Mary McCoy's article in the Feb. 11 edition of *The Rhode'ster* on our band, The Spice Lads. It is nice to be recognized for what we do outside of Rhodes.

I have two brief *addenda* to the article. First, it did not mention the real purpose of our band, which is to serve God in all we do. We make music in order to lead people into communion with God—rather like the prophets in the Hebrew Bible who induced prophetic frenzies with their playing. (See 1 Samuel 10:5, p. OT353 in your NOAB). In fact, the harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre were our original instruments. When Solar Spice (Prof. Bob MacQueen) joined the band he also taught us to read the stars and discern divine messages in them.

Second, we are always looking for

new talent. We can especially use composers to put the fine lyrics of Tweed Spice (Prof. Marshall Boswell) to music. We have pretty eclectic tastes and a broad repertoire, so any style of music is good—except for Michael Bolton tunes. We can also use more hoofers if any of your readers, like Gene Kelly and Officer Humphries, "Gotta Dance." Members of the Rhodes cabinet need not apply. For some reason they always strip down and lie around naked when they hear us play (1 Sam 19:24, p. OT368), and we just can't bear that sight. But otherwise, anyone is welcome. Just two requirements: 1. Must be church related, preferably ordained Presbyterian, and 2. Must bring recent, unretouched photo for our CD cover. See you at the Grammys,

*Old Spice (or Old T. Spice on analogy with James T. Kirk)
a.k.a. Prof. Steven L. McKenzie*

To the Editor,
In his recent article on the freedom of speech and the Klu Klux Klan, Jason Bishop avoided tackling the larger issue: should the Klan have the right to preach what it wants? He mentioned that they do have that right, and that he wouldn't be too upset if they lost that right, but he neglected to discuss the serious implications that this kind of thinking brings with it.

Does the freedom of speech entail the freedom to hate and to preach hatred? Generations have struggled over this issue, and some, including Mr. Bishop, would answer with a definitive "NO!" Carl Wiggington was adamant when he said, "a dog chained to a stake in the yard is not free, but his captivity keeps your children free." And John Gardner put it even better: "America's greatness has been the greatness of a free people who shared certain moral commitments. Freedom without moral commitment is aimless and promptly self-destructive."

But there is another side to this issue, a darker side which Mr. Bishop's article avoided entirely. Does limiting the rights of the Klansmen pose a threat to the rights of the society as a whole? Clarence Darrow said, "You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free." And even William Garrison: "Enslave the liberty of but one human being and the liberties of the world are put in peril." Still, it is very tempting to compromise the rights of those who think differently, especially when their beliefs are completely contrary to ours. But not according to Ben Franklin: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." These are powerful words which force us to stop and reconsider. After all, it wasn't too long ago when the sentiments of the Klan were the sentiments of the nation, and the voices of tolerance and understanding were kept in restraint and considered subversive.

Fortunately, we are leaving that time behind us. Hatred will not destroy the Klan, it will only nourish it, for those who preach hatred thrive when they receive hatred in return. And even suggesting, as Mr. Bishop did, that their right to free speech should be taken away based solely on the message they preach is a form of hatred which will only serve to make them stron-

ger. There is a more effective way of dealing with the Klan - it's called education. As much as the KKK preaches otherwise, the basis for all their beliefs is ignorance plain and simple, and the only way to fight ignorance is with understanding. Taking away the right to free speech of the Klansmen is counter-productive and dangerous, for, as Thomas Paine put it, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." Taking away anyone's rights makes everyone's rights a little less secure. Mr. Bishop was correct in saying that the Klan cannot be fought off with violence, but his assessment of their right to speak was exactly wrong, and, I'll say it again, even dangerous. "Freedom is the last, best hope on earth," said Abraham Lincoln. It will always be this way. So what better way to close than by giving a nod to a voice inspired by years of restricted speech:

"Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Amen to that.

Brad Damare ('01)

Dear Editor,
This week, as I was trudging through pouring rain to classes arriving soaked to sit next to other drenched, coughing students I had an idea: why doesn't Rhodes buy some sturdy umbrellas and umbrella stands and place them at the entrances to buildings on campus? That way, students and faculty could take an umbrella, enjoy a dry walk, and drop it off at their destination. This would decrease the number of rabid Rhodes students running at break-neck speed through puddle and professor alike (hey, I'm just as guilty as the next one). Heck, maybe it'd even decrease the occurrences of the "flu plague" that everyone just assumes is a by-product of communal living.

At any rate, it'd be a visible luxury that would make everyone feel a little better on Memphis's unexpected dreary days. And though there would be an initial cost, I'm sure the addition would be a welcome service to most students and faculty. There is always talk of improving Rhodes here and there and in many ways it is the little improvements that matter the most.

Brandon Barr ('99)

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(noljd) (xt 3391) (box 2055)**

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An article printed in last week's Sou'wester entitled "Mock Trial Team Advances to Nationals" stated incorrectly that the Rhodes College Mock Trial First Team's ballots scored four wins and two losses. The First team in fact never received the scores from their two rounds that week. Second Team and Third Team did not receive their scores either. We regret any confusion or inferences such results may have caused; the problem originated from a mistaken source.

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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. 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 Tuthill every Sunday afternoon at 2 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 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.

REACHING THE SOU'WESTER

Phone: (901) 843-3970
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-Mail: souwester@rhodes.edu
Address: The Sou'wester
Rhodes College, Box 3010
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690

Or visit *The Sou'wester Online*:
<http://www.students.rhodes.edu/sw/>

The Truth About DataMatch

NEETA VENEPALLI
BLITHELY
MUDDLED



Love is in the air, sighed a dear friend of mine the other night, as we were walking across campus at 2:15 in the morning.

Yes, and so is the nastiest case of the flu I've seen in 3 years, I dryly remarked, and then added that at least you don't go HUNTING for the flu—can you believe people are paying \$3 for a computer to validate their compatibility with other people, on the basis of a debatably accurate questionnaire?

At this point, she pointed out sweetly that someone who looked remarkably like me had been filling out a data match questionnaire for 30 minutes the other day in the Rat. At which point, I began a calm, rational soliloquy about the importance of participating in deserving causes for the sake of community. At which point, she leaned over and plucking my hidden data match sheet from my coat pocket, and innocently said, "That's why you bought your computer analysis with \$3 you could have given to Tex Mex, right?"

Okay, point made. I did fill out a data match questionnaire, and even worse, I did buy the results for \$3.00. But you know, there is a certain allure in hav-

ing a computer select the 10 male students on this campus that I am most compatible/similar with without going through the hassle of getting to know them personally—even if I did lie on some of the more important questions. And now that we all have our lists, I'm mildly curious about what each of you did with yours. I'll share: I ripped mine up into 16 pieces and put them in different paper recycling containers across campus.

Remember the first day of orientation, right after we finished moving in, after the picnic with the frozen bag lunches and sweaty drinks? We're all packed into Evergreen, staring at the Bibles in the wooden pews, and President Daughdrill says something to the effect of "And parents—take a good look around you, because the person sitting next to you could be the one calling you 'Mom' or 'Dad' in a few years!" And of course, at this point, everyone bursts into nervous laughter, sneaking peeks around us while our parents are shooting each other alarmed looks over our heads.

As I recall, my parents were laughing too, but for completely different reasons—they were gleefully chortling out of relief, because from their glance around, they didn't see too many brown faces staring back at them to worry about (if you don't understand this last sentence, go talk to some brown people). I hadn't even finished unpacking—how could anyone be thinking about serious relationships right now? Ha, ha, ha—I

think.

But after three years here, I do the math, and discover that out of my 16 hall mates my first year, 5 of whom have since left, at least 6 are now married, engaged, about to be engaged, or involved in a 'serious' relationship with daily contemplation of marriage. Statistically, the trend is as visible as the lion-gargoyle with President Daughdrill's face on the side of the CLC. And as sickly familiar is the "my-god-i'm-not-in-a-serious-relationship-and-the-clock's-a-tickin'-" pressure, that sometimes pounces on me in physical chem lab, when I'm handling delicate glassware.

From other friends' descriptions, for them it's almost a physical compulsion to be involved, as if it's a reflection of self-value. And if you're not? Well...I think we think about this much more than we'd like to admit.

Heck—honestly, I think we're set up to think this way. It's practically in sky writing whenever we look up outside of our books: "College is where the serious romantic relationship thing should happen for the average normal person!"

Maybe this is because we're in the South, we're a pretty homogeneous community, and we're pretty yuppie; maybe it's all those sitcoms our generation grew up with. Remember when Zach and Kelly finally got hitched, in college—or when Brian and Donna finally had sex, in college—or when Andrea got married, had a baby, and an

affair, all in college?

College is an extended metaphor for the biggest and longest singles party most of us, in our life, will experience. We'll come in contact with around 2500 new people in our four years at Rhodes, at least half of which are 'potentials' depending most basically on gender, sexuality, feelings about Michael Bolton. After four years, if we don't walk out the doors with someone....what went wrong? Where do we go now?

Obviously, the singles scene is an option, with the phone lines, the smoky bars, the gym memberships, Ladies Night at Neil's; there's also the brown version of the singles scene: medical school parties and computer science graduate school expos. Okay, actually, I'm pretty certain the singles scene is no longer an option.

But, listen—is it really all about 'finding' someone, and 'being found'? Happiness can lie in romantic relations, true, but we often mistake them to be completely inclusive. We've heard this before, either from within or from our friends: "My life would be perfect if only I was in love...I'm only missing a girl/boy friend...I want to find someone who completes me...I'm so lonely for love".

Guys, I'm not disputing the awesomeness of love, but instead our obsession with being 'in love' as the most perfect state of being. It's like looking for buried treasure on a beach, hunched close to the ground with a magnifying glass; we miss the smells of the sea, we

miss the tops of trees, we miss the wave crests and the stars.

Hey, you know why I finally ripped up my data match sheet? Because I opened it, and saw 10 names neatly listed in tabular form with my compatibility percentages, in column form, and all of a sudden, I realized how little I really needed to know. What was I going to do with that information, now that I had it? It did satisfy my curiosity, in the sense that I discovered it didn't give me what I thought I wanted to know. It was fun, because we're so small that we know practically everything about everybody. It was intriguing because I'm wondering if we matched the questions I lied about, or was honest about.

So, in three months time, the group of people that were my mentors, my peer assistants, my resident assistants will be leaving Rhodes to enter the 'real world'. Some will be leaving with others firmly a part of their lives, some will be leaving by themselves, but not alone. I hope all are leaving with the knowledge that their presence here enriched someone's life intangibly and indelibly, and they made a difference for the people that are staying. I hope they leave, and that we will leave, realizing that the sum of their experiences isn't summed in whether they found the 'one'.

I also hope more people do data match next year, because there's something to be said about participating in something to build community. Okay, Okay, just kidding.

Life Off-Campus Ain't All It's Cracked Up To Be

BRADY POTTS
THE
MACHIAVELLIAN



I know what you're thinking.

Not this guy again, we just heard from him a few weeks ago. This guy's got a poor attitude and a sick sense of humor. And he called me names and made fun of my birthday cake.

Well some of you might be thinking that, anyway. Allow me to bask in freedom of speech. Neener neener neener. Remember, it's a healthy establishment whose ribs don't break upon being poked.

Well relax, because I'm in a good mood and I'm not going to bring up Freud again. Whoops. Just did. Bring him up. Oh well.

Anyway, the reason I'm writing this week is that one of my columnists took off to Australia on Wednesday without telling me. Melissa, if you read this on the Web or

something, I hope a dingo steals your Fosters, which for those of you who don't know is actually Australian for "beer". See, you learn something every day in my class.

So I thought I'd ingratiate myself to the ruling class by advocating something that should make our President's face light up with a glee unseen since the last time an ear was pinched for daring to utter "College" after "Rhodes."

Mark your calendars folks, I'm gonna say something pro-administration. Here goes: Living on-campus is superior to living off-campus in a number of ways.

Really. I'm not just saying this to get my reapplication for an R.A. position passed. I've lived on campus for two years and now off campus for one year, and living on-campus definitely has some advantages.

This is not to say that living off-campus is worse than living in the dorms, but it's not the Shangri-La that it's made out to be. Standing in line at the Piggly-Wiggly to pay my phone bill (Damn those 90 dollar

"Party Line" fees!) was enough to convince me that off-campus life has its own special set of hassels. That, and visiting MLG&W in its scenic "Right Next To The Paris Theatre" location with handy one-stop-shopping where you can pay your gas bill and get that Inflate-A-Mate you've been hunkerin' for in one quick and easy trip. It's also nice to have the Bursar figure out your bills for you and say what you will about the Rat, but at least you don't have to experience the joys of Mega-Market and the nice man who left his car running in the parking lot pumping out so much exhaust that it set off the automatic doors, from which point it moved into the store and onto my food. Try and work up your own menu without developing scurvy; it's not as easy as you think.

Still, it has its advantages. It's usually bigger for about the same price as a dorm room and if you luck out you can get a really nice apartment or house with a porch, as opposed to my nifty little cement balcony. You get your own room. You learn to cook, if you don't al-

ready know how. The first case of salmonella is usually the worst, and after a while you don't even notice it anymore. There's also more freedom.

Even so, don't write off living on-campus too quickly. When you move off-campus you tend to get slightly out of the loop. Many is the time I have been asked "Where have you been? I haven't seen you in a while" followed by a slightly petulant "Yeah, we thought you were dead. Sigh."

Maybe if I still lived on campus I would have known about my columnist going Walkabout before tonight, though it was a good excuse for trying out those Aboriginal ritual curses I'd been reading about in Anthropology.

The truth is that you feel more connected with the place if you live here. Maybe that's no big deal for you. But having been disconnected for a year I'm beginning to think there's something to be said for it after all. Your circle of friends draws a little tighter, as you are no longer around for late-night visits and spur of the

moment Taco Bell runs. You're less likely to stop by a friend's room and hang out for an hour or two because you're just not in the dorms very much.

Nor are you usually included in those stories that start "Remember that time we were all sitting around Glassell on a Tuesday night and you caught your hand on fire lighting a shot glass with Everclear residue in it and you tried to stomp out the flaming shot glass and then so-and-so went to Mexico via Colorado...?"

Okay, so maybe that's just myself and my friends. But if I had never lived on campus I wouldn't have half of the good memories I have of this place. I also would lack a few particularly nasty ones, but that's life. Living in a dorm really is a rare opportunity and I'm beginning to think that maybe the intangibles of dorm life outweigh the concrete benefits of living off-campus. So think twice before you flee for the promised land of off-campus living.

At the very least, dormlife teaches you to knock before opening doors. Especially on Valentine's Day.

The French-American Connection

FRENCH STUDENTS REFLECT UPON RHODES EXPERIENCE

By Lisa Roy
Staff Writer

During the 1997-1998 school year, Rhodes has been honored with the presence of three students from France: Caroline Garnier and Fabienne Gautier from the University of Poitiers and Vincent Guillembert from the University of Paris VII.

Their respective universities have exchange programs with Rhodes. According to Katherine Richardson, Director of International Programs, Rhodes has reciprocal agreements with their universities — so three Rhodes students are studying in France in the places of Caroline, Fabienne, and Vincent.

Paris VII has only one exchange program for the United States — with Rhodes. Poitiers has two exchange programs with the United States. With a laugh familiar to many southerners, Caroline explained her choice: "Between Arkansas and Memphis, I chose Memphis."

Caroline and Fabienne are pursuing the equivalent of an English major; Fabienne is specializing in linguistics whereas Caroline's particular interest lies in American literature. Vincent is studying English and Spanish with a concentration upon linguistics.

In discussing their experiences at Rhodes, all three students agree that it is the size of Rhodes, as well as the availability of professors, that distinguishes Rhodes from their universities in France. Vincent credited his Rhodes professors with helping him through his classes, saying that he has had "good relations" with his professors for "the first time ever." Caroline said, "Rhodes is really special. You can go easily and talk to them [professors]."

Caroline and Fabienne have discovered other amenities at Rhodes as well. Fabienne praised the beauty of the campus, but she particularly appreciates the size and hours of the computer labs.

Caroline especially values living on campus. In France, she explained, students live mostly off-campus in apartments.

"It makes ties better," she said of her housing experience at Rhodes.

Caroline, Fabienne, and Vincent have taken a wide range

of classes at Rhodes, from Italian to psychology. Caroline and Fabienne, who have both taken literature classes at Rhodes, concede that the biggest difference lies in the number of books that one reads. Fabienne said that "in France, [classes read] maybe two books the whole year." Caroline elaborated on their comprehensive approach, saying, "you go really deep" by just concentrating on one or two books.

Unfortunately, all three agree that the biggest drawback to their stay in Memphis has been the lack of public transportation.

They have enjoyed nightlife on Beale St., but say they have had little chance to see the sites of Memphis. Caroline was able to visit Graceland and reached the conclusion of many (but not nearly enough) visitors: "It was tacky!"

Vincent and Fabienne have been to the U.S. before, but Caroline's Rhodes visit is her first to America. Vincent went with a tour group through Florida and has also been to Boston (which reminded him of an European city). Interestingly, he compared the American south to the south of France in terms of the friendliness of the region. Previously, Fabienne traveled to Milwaukee and Chicago, staying with host families and even going to a prom.

Fabienne and Caroline admitted that they had some stereotypes about Americans prior to their visit which have been only partially confirmed. Laughingly, Fabienne referred to the overseas conception of Americans as fat. Pointing to streets and buildings of American cities as partial confirmation, she said "everything is so much bigger than anywhere else."

Caroline contemplated the stereotypes of Americans as arrogant and uninterested in foreign cultures. In her experience, she has found some Americans who confirm the stereotypes and others who demolish them.

Before arriving in America, Vincent had eschewed many stereotypes — his two best friends in France were Americans who did not meet the TV watching or baseball playing clichés.

The three had interesting reactions to the current "crisis" in the



Photo by Chris McKenzie
During an International House meeting last Tuesday in the Robinson Social Room, the French exchange students Fabienne Gautier and Caroline Garnier spoke about life in France.

White House. When asked about Michael Kinsley's opinion, as published in *Time* (2/9/98), that Americans are becoming more like the French in their acceptance of Clinton's alleged sexual affairs, all three had something to say.

Fabienne, who has conversed with her father through e-mail, said that her father knew even more about Clinton's problems than she. She said, "In France, it was really, really funny."

Caroline agreed about the humor of the situation in France, but along with Vincent pointed to François Mitterand's (President of France, 1981-1995) own sexual indiscretions.

In France, however, Caroline

said, "you don't know until after the president is dead."

Vincent disagreed with Kinsley's generalized theory of the French; he was disappointed in Mitterand's behavior and asserted that it was both Mitterand's and Clinton's job to be "moral leaders."

All three count their overall experience in the United States as positive.

Vincent says that coming to the U.S. has been "like a dream come true." His experience has been particularly special for him because of the enormous pressures he had been undergoing at school in Paris. Vincent said, "I was working very hard. . . [I needed] a step back. Rhodes has given me

this interior calm."

Fabienne and Caroline are similarly glad that they came to Rhodes. Fabienne admitted that her mother was fearful because of crime and gangs, but was able to overcome her worries. Fabienne said of the benefits of their trip, "We have made friends and my English is better than it was."

The three feel as if they have been well-received by Rhodes students, staff, and professors. Indeed, during their first week Caroline and Fabienne felt almost overwhelmed by the amount of activities scheduled.

Caroline, Fabienne, and Vincent will leave Rhodes in May, after school ends.

Forum Continued from Page 1

"Teal Baker and her committee did a great job putting this together," Norcross said.

"I know that many students have concerns, and this would have been a great opportunity for them to let the administration know how they feel," Diane Faires ('99) said. "I think the students who did attend raised some good issues with the administrators they talked to, and I hope that students who still have concerns they would like to see addressed e-mail or make an appointment with the faculty and staff to let

them know their opinions. Nothing will change unless the administration knows what the students want."

"For those who attended, the willing cooperation of the administration and the convenience of the event seemed quite beneficial," Parchman said.

In other RSG news:

The Administration and Finance committee announced that it had tried, unsuccessfully to get the Bursar's office to extend its hours.

The Senate went into executive session over the protests of Sena-

tors Marcotte and Schniper.

Tomorrow's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 108 Buckman.

RSG Notes:

The Senate approved the following four people last Thursday:

- Halle Mitchell as recording secretary
- Richard Lum as Sophomore Senator
- Geoff Biddle as allocations board member
- Matt Marcotte as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Constitutional Reform.

Arts & Entertainment

Thursday, February 19, 1998

SOU'WESTER

Page 5

Assassins: The Truth About JFK (sort of)

By Henry Murphy
Copy Editor

See it twice. I know some of you will read this and say to yourself, Henry's completely lost the veneer of critic and wholeheartedly declared his partisan attitude toward the McCoy.

Nope. The new musical offered at the McCoy, *Assassins*, is a genuinely puzzling, intriguing production.

First of all, it's kind of a mock history lesson, centered on the assassins and would-be assassins of U.S. Presidents. But it doesn't exactly tell their stories in any complete way; it's more of an opportunity for Stephen Sondheim, who wrote the music and lyrics, and book-writer John Weidman to have fun with colliding assassin personalities.

The actual assassinations are not always historically accurate, either, which isn't too much of a problem - I mean, it's a musical - but it tends to shake you up when you try to haul meaning out of the play, which, of course, you can't help doing. You think to yourself, There must be a reason besides kicks that Sondheim and Weidman sat down and wrote such a catchy, poppy musical about the series of misguided men and women who took the health of the American body politic into their hands.

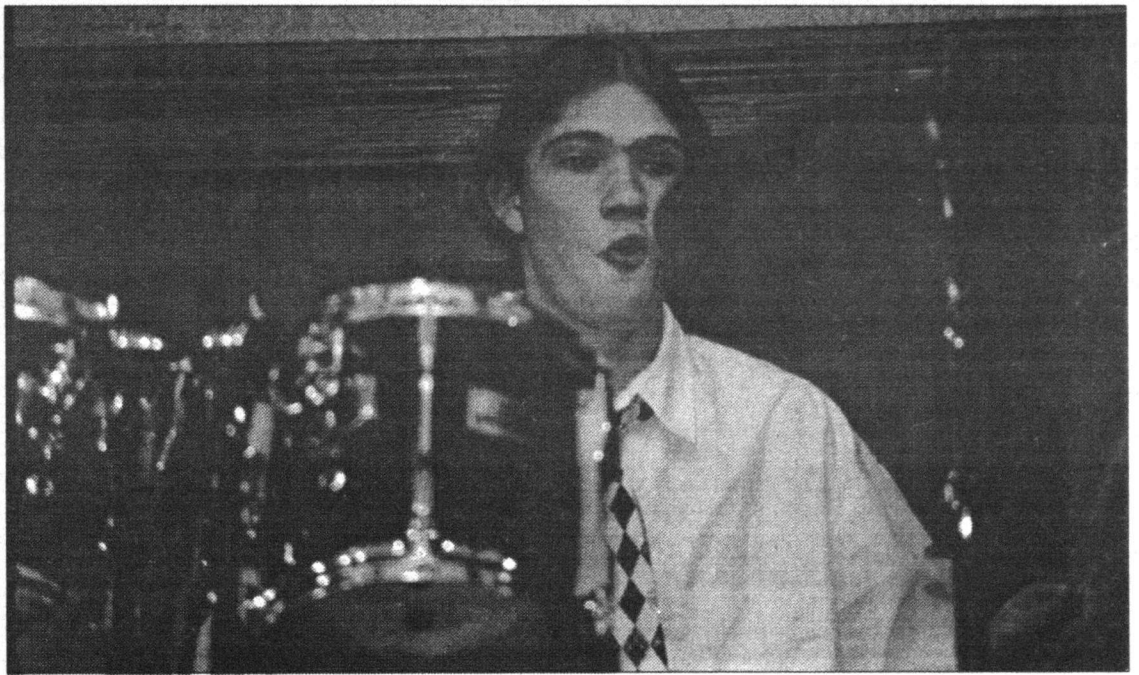
There are hints, of course, little throwaway bits and pieces about the significance of presidential assassins: John Wilkes Booth, played by Sam Jordan ('98), is hailed as the forefather of this strange tribe; and Lee Harvey Oswald, played by Andrew Sullivan ('01), is presented as the link in the chain who injected new strength. He provided the inspiration for John Hinckley (Wesley Meador ('00)) and, according to the play's interesting sense of historical movement, people ranging from Sirhan Sirhan to Palestinian terrorists.

This mix of the a-historical and genealogical is the trickiest element of the play to come to terms with; I had a hard time buying it, and it depends in large part on how much you think the world is driven by collective unconscious. It's also, according to Sondheim, a particularly American phenomenon: numbers like "Another National Anthem" and "Everybody Has the Right" offer a vision of the American dream which is distorted and frantic, a vision that burns through claims of equal rights and unlimited opportunity with such force that the seer is burned up as well.

Ben Houston ('99) plays Sam Byck, an angry Joe Q Public who tried to crash a jet-liner into the White House in February of 1974. Byck's furious ravings about the labyrinth of contemporary American politics are brought to fierce, riveting relief in Houston's impressive performance. You can watch the acting, strong and honest (Byck is much older than Houston), and you're enthralled by it. Also very good are Ty Hallmark ('99) and Amanda Sisk ('98), who play would-be Ford assassins Sara Jane Moore and Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, respectively. They both have splendid singing voices and make a very funny comedy team, playing each of their characters with skill and obvious pleasure.

Sean Lyttle ('99) plays McKinley assassin Leon Czolgosz with a blend of warmth and idealistic anger, combining angry Marxist rhetoric with a personal genuineness. Similarly, Meador's Hinckley gives one of those creepy, "He's so sweet" portrayals, which makes you wonder about the twists and stumbles that turn a person from one action to another.

At the other end of the spectrum, Jordan's Booth is a creature of security and habit, self-righteous and commanding, with a clear head and a liberated conscience. Jordan is in excellent form: funny, and with more stage presence than usual. Also very good is Brandon Barr ('99), as Charles Guiteau (who assassinated President Garfield); his physical presentation of Guiteau is interesting, and his singing voice, although not particularly strong, is used skillfully. He's one of the most entertaining people on stage. Chris Hettinger ('00) plays attempted FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara rather one-dimensionally, with a constant scowl because of stomach pain, but he also has a strong presence (unfortunately, his singing voice was drowned out by the orchestra, the only time that happened). Garney Fendley ('00), as The Balladeer, has a marvelous singing voice—loud, strong, and expressive—which I hope will be put to use in future McCoy productions. Directed by Barry Fuller; the musical director was Ernie Scarbrough (the band, with several Rhodes students, is excellent); the set design is by Stephen Pair; the lights are the work of assistant professor of theatre Laura Canon; Matthew Nelson ('00) did the choreography, and the stage manager is DeNae Winesette ('99).



Photos by Russell Young



Tom Smith ('01) (above) and Lee Spitzer ('99) (left) lay down licks during the annual Battle of the Bands contest Friday, February 13th in the Lynx Lair. Bands and performers such as Root 9, Flimsie Mimsie, Shaun Townley, and the Pollocks mixed it up, vying for a spot during this year's Rites of Spring. The Pollocks, with a folk-inspired sound, took first place and a slot during Rites. The Skastronauts won last year with a— you guessed it— ska lineup featuring Sean Lyttle ('99), Rob Bell ('98), Dave Wheat ('99), and others.

"Playing Rites last year was cool despite the time slot," Wheat said about last year's performance. "All the bands were good last weekend, especially the Pollocks, but it's a shame the exceptional musical cast of *Assassins* wasn't on the voting ballot."

Some of the musicians on campus this year were unable to compete in Battle of the Bands because they were in the McCoy production of *Assassins*, which showed a performance during the Battle of the Bands contest.

Black History Month Event: Nubian Theatre Company

By Henry Murphy
Copy Editor

On Wednesday, February 11th, the Memphis-based professional theatre company known as Nubian Theatre Company performed in the ballroom of the CLC to a small crowd of BSA members and interested students and faculty. As part of the BSA's on-going contributions to campus culture and activities in February, Black History Month, the Nubian Dance Theatre company was a lively group, informative and entertaining. The focus of the group is the enactment of African-American artistic and cultural traditions, such as storytelling, dance, singing, and tap-dancing.

Choreographer John Sullivan, an accomplished dancer, is involved in community efforts to open the world of Nubian dance/theatre. One of his pupils is the daughter of Susan Kus, associate professor of Anthropology/Sociology. Bola Rasaki ('99), BSA recording secretary, served as emcee.



Rhodes Students Help Make Valentine's Special

By David Elder
Staff Writer

The second annual Special Hearts Dance took place this past Saturday in the Bryan Campus Life center, and once again was a success, as Rhodes students made Valentine's day special for some local handicapped young adults.

The dance was organized as a part of the "PALS" program in cooperation with the Center for Independent Living, which is an organization dedicated to helping handicapped young adults of Memphis.

"PALS" is a service program involving Rhodes students who develop friendships with handicapped young adults. The dance lasted from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and included refreshments and a live DJ, providing local young adults who are handicapped with a chance to take part in a Prom-like experience, which they might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.

Cory Perrin ('98) and Rob Cole ('00) were the event coordinators, but they depended upon the help of many other Rhodes students to make the dance the success that it was.

The Rhodes women's softball team also helped make it a special night by serving the refreshments. Approximately 100 handicapped young adults attended the event, ranging in age from 15 to 23.

The Special Hearts Dance is part of the Center for Independent Living's program to help young handicapped persons learn life skills, so that they can become independent adults.

Rhodes students involved in the dance said they were just happy that they could give young adults with mental and physical handicaps a special Valentine's Day.

"It's good to know that Rhodes students are reaching out to those less fortunate in our community and helping them enjoy some of the positive experiences that we often take for granted in our own lives," Cole said.

Students interested in the "PALS" program should contact Cory Perrin or Rob Cole.

Faber Revives Political Science Honor Society

By Ford Baxter
News Editor

The Tau Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, is rejuvenating itself after a period of dormancy begun shortly after its establishment at Rhodes in 1993.

Objectives outlined in the organization's constitution include succeeding in a mission to "stimulate productive scholarship and intelligent interest in politics and government, [and] to promote a better understanding of political life among its members."

Society President Michael Faber ('98) got the honor society back on its feet last summer when he began communications with the national organization. With the help of faculty sponsor, Asso-

ciate Professor of Political Science Daniel Cullen, Faber has drafted a new constitution for the Tau Delta chapter.

Faber traces interest in jumpstarting the honor society back to Loretta Lambert ('96) and Robb Robinson ('97). Sam Jordan ('98) has also been instrumental to the society's rebirth, according to Faber.

"The main barrier to getting it restarted was getting the manual from the national organization and taking care of clerical matters," Faber said. "Professor Cullen has been incredibly helpful; he provides continuity to the organization and has been essential in keeping track of documents."

The new constitution includes a revision of the membership criteria. The Tau Delta chapter

boasts admissions standards higher than those demanded by the national board of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Membership is open to junior and senior political science majors who have completed at least four political science courses, including at least one above freshman level, and have obtained a political science GPA in the top third of political science majors in their class. The prospective member's cumulative GPA must also be in the top third of his or her class.

Last week thirteen junior and senior political science majors received letters inviting them to become members in Pi Sigma Alpha. The induction ceremony will occur Tuesday, March 3rd.

"We plan to make our presence known on campus," Faber said.

The honor society plans to bring speakers to campus, produce papers, and conduct seminars, conferences, research, discussion groups. Faber said the group's activities will be geared for the benefit of all those on campus interested in political science. Faber hopes the organization will develop a philanthropic side while reaching its academic goals.

The national organization awards grants for chapter activity. Pi Sigma Alpha will provide a one-year student membership in the American Political Science Association for one member per year from the Tau Delta chapter.

For more information on Pi Sigma Alpha, check out the official website (www.georgetown.edu/departments/government/psa/).

Heart Throb Contest Reaches Goals

By Amy Tidwell
Staff Writer

For the last five years, the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority has raised money for arthritis research through the Heart Throb Contest. This year the contest included nominations from twenty-nine organizations on campus.

"The response for this year's Heart Throb has been phenomenal," AOPi Philanthropy Chair Hunter Phillips ('99) said. "Students, faculty and staff have had fun with the competitive aspect of Heart Throb."

"The Heart Throb Contest is a very good event that AOPi does every year," RSG President Damon Norcross ('98) said. "Not only does it facilitate student involvement, it goes along with the college's mission of supporting the community through service."

The contest's co-sponsor, the Moore Moore Student Health Center, helped with publication, expenses, and running the booth

in the Refectory. Phillips said she would like to thank Director of Health Services Doris Gill, and the Health Center's work-study students, Holly Arnold ('99) and Leslie Curry ('98), for all of their help and support.

Arnold and Curry revamped the boxes in red felt with decorative hearts supporting the nominees' pictures.

Phillips would also like to thank McCallister's Deli, Macaroni Grill, and Malco Theaters who donated the prizes distributed to individual winners.

"I felt good that I was able to help raise money for a good cause," Head Athletic Trainer Glenn Schwab said of his win. "It was nice to receive free tickets to the theater."

In the end, AOPi raised \$146.47 for arthritis research.

"We have met our goal of increasing student interest and creating a fun Valentine's philanthropic event for the entire campus," Phillips said.

The winners of the contest are:

- 1st Place: Will Harris, ATO Fraternity
- 2nd Place: Prof. Russ Wigginton, BSA
- 3rd Place: Glenn Schwab, Time Out For Choices.

Computer Center Urges Use Of Student Volume

By Seth Jones
Staff Writer

The Student Volume is a service provided by the Computer Center to allow people to save files to Rhodes' main computer. Each student has a password-protected folder with a capacity of about ten megabytes, the equivalent of about seven floppy disks.

Currently only about 4 or 5 percent of Rhodes students actually use the Student Volume.

Because it saves files to Rhodes' central computer, the Student Volume is much more reliable than a disk.

"Floppy disks are very unreliable," Computer Center Assistant for User Services Tom Snyder said. "I've seen even new disks go bad sometimes."

The Student Volume, on the other hand, is regularly backed up by tape so that even if the main computer should fail, a copy still exists.

The Student Volume can be accessed from any computer on cam-

pus with a network connection or from any computer off campus with an Internet connection. Each student has his or her own network password (applying to both the Student Volume and the Academic Volume), which is not the same as the e-mail password, to access his or her folder. In this way, all information on the folders is completely secure and private.

Access to the Student Volume and Academic Volume from the Internet has been recently added. From the Rhodes homepage select the Computer Center page; then on the Computer Center's page, choose the menu labeled "Remote Access." Next, select the link to the file servers. On this page, a prompt will ask you for your user name and which volume you want to access. After this, a window will prompt you for a password before you are given access to the Student Volume.

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Campus Safety Log



2/9/98 TO 2/15/98

2/9	11:54pm	AOII, Suspicious Vehicle: Checked OK
2/10	12:40am	Sigma Nu House: Injury - Memphis Fire Department ambulance transported to Baptist Hospital
	7:10pm	Tutwiler west of Barksdale: Suspicious Persons - 3 subjects monitored by Campus Safety until leaving area
2/11	NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT	
2/12	3:10am	Fraternity Row: Firecrackers complaint: Student Activities Dept and Campus Safety investigating
	10:50am	Blount Hall - 3rd Floor: Suspicious Person: Campus Safety/Res. Life Investigating - unauthorized guest overnight.
2/13	2:39am	Sigma Nu House: Firecracker complaint: Student Activities Dept and Campus Safety investigating
	3:10am	University/N. Parkway: Vehicle accident. Rhodes personnel involved. No injuries: MPD on scene.
2/14	NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT	
2/15	2:10am	Glassell Hall - Noise complaint: Campus Safety responded, nothing found

STATS

ACCESSES:	177
PARKING CITATIONS:	108
VEHICLES BOOTED:	0
VEHICLES TOWED:	0
CHRONIC VIOLATORS NOTIFIED OF INTENT TO BOOT/TOW:	12
ESCORTS:	9
VISITORS:	373
AVS:	0
PROPPED DOORS:	0

UFSIA Program Offers Social Science Studies Abroad

By Melody Barnett
Associate Editor

Next spring, Rhodes students will have the opportunity to participate in a new study-abroad program, Rhodes at University of Antwerp (UFSIA): Continental Europe. Students will apply in the fall of 1998 for this 17-week program, which offers courses in the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts, and includes a study tour of Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

Director of International Programs Katherine Owen Richardson explained that the program was developed to meet the needs of students who were interested in studying the social sciences abroad.

"There are other [Rhodes] programs which are based in Europe and which have a travel component," Richardson said. "However, most of these programs are designed for the student to study language and culture or art history. Continental Europe offers students an opportunity to study modern Europe through courses in philosophy, history, politics and economics. The program also allows students to study language and fine arts."

Course offerings at Continental Europe include "20th Century European Philosophy and its Roots," "European Political and Economic

Integration", "A Political History of Post-War Europe", and "A Survey of European Business", as well as a European seminar and study tour, and courses in Dutch, French, German, and Spanish. Through these courses, students can earn up to 17 hours of credit transferrable to their studies at Rhodes.

In addition to the study tour, special study excursions will be scheduled

to coincide with specific courses and lectures.

In order to defray the costs of the program, students may apply for a newly established scholarship, the Margaret Hyde Council Scholarships for Women to Study Abroad. Students interested in the Continental Europe program or the Margaret Hyde scholarship should contact the office of International Programs.

Elections Calendar

- Feb 19: Petitions available for officer elections
- Feb 26: Candidate Information Session, 8:30 Tuthill, petitions due
- Mar 1: Campaign Forum, 7 pm, Lynx Lair
- Mar 3: Election: Rat: 11-1:30, 4:30-6:30; Student Center: 1:30-4:30
- Mar 5: Run-offs (if needed)
- Mar 16: Petitions available for general election
- Mar 22: Candidate Information Session, 7 pm, FJ, petitions due
- Mar 23: Campaign Forum, 7 pm, Lynx Lair
- Mar 25: Election: Rat 11-1:30, 4:30-6:30; Student Center: 1:30-4:30
- Mar 27: Run-offs (if needed)

Great Moments In Rhodes History: Dilemma In The Sixties

By Steele Means
Staff Writer

PART II IN A SERIES LOOKING BACK AT OUR 150-YEAR PAST

Dilemma was an annual, week-end-long, student-run program which began in 1966 and ran, skipping some years, until 1989. The preamble to the program of activities of the first Dilemma symposium in 1966 states:

"As products of Western society and as members of an ever-widening world culture, Southwestern students have chosen to confront the problem of today's quest for a more coherent society through a symposium dealing with areas of current concern."

Dilemma was started by a group of Southwestern students who wanted to facilitate rational discourse on the issues of their day. These students organized a symposium around a specific issue, to which noted speakers from the areas of government, politics, philosophy, religion, the natural

sciences, and the fine arts were invited to the Southwestern campus for a weekend to lecture and hold seminars on the issue at hand, according to Bill Short, Coordinator of Library Public Services and a student at Southwestern at the time of the first Dilemma symposium.

The Dilemma topic varied from year to year and ranged from questioning American capitalism in 1984 to civil rights in 1988. The first Dilemma symposium in 1966 was entitled "Society in Search of a Purpose." Its program stated: "Dilemma '66 is founded on society's need to be cognizant of, and to evaluate, both its purposes and its directions."

The panel of speakers also varied depending on the particular topic and was comprised of some of the most influential men and women of the time. For example,

Dilemma '68, the title of which was "Tell it like it is — the eve of understanding," featured, among others, Gerald Ford. Dilemma '69, "Crisis of Conscience," featured George McGovern.

Short said that the initiation of Dilemma was essentially a product of the times. The turbulence of the '60s did not pass over the Southwestern campus and the students were eager to examine and call into question traditional positions on religion, race relations, duty, and so forth. Dilemma brought a diverse group of speakers together which would allow students to examine all sides of an issue.

"The mentality of the time was conducive to the initiation and success of a program like Dilemma," Short said. "Student attendance at Dilemma was high because it was run by students and

not influenced by the Administration."

Short said he believes that a greater sense of community at Southwestern in earlier years was another reason that Dilemma enjoyed widespread student participation.

For example, weekly convocation for chapel and general announcements was mandatory at that time. Short said that even though he and the other students complained about the convocation, it nevertheless fostered community and connection among all the students at Southwestern by regularly bringing them together to participate in a campus-wide event.

Southwestern students were accustomed to functioning as a group, according to Short, and Dilemma drew on this.

"Dilemma allowed the campus

to examine relevant issues of the day as a group," Short said. He also said that the Dilemma symposium of 1968 stimulated him to question the ideals with which he had been raised and to discover his true beliefs.

"My foundational beliefs were shaken and I had to take them all apart, examine them, and reassemble them in the proper order," Short said.

Subsequent groups of students carried on the Dilemma program after 1966, but there has not been one since 1989. Short misses the Dilemma symposiums and believes that the program could be revived, though possibly in a different form.

"The Dilemma program of past years was a product of its times, so any new Dilemma program would have to adapt to present circumstances," Short said.

Hendrix Stops The Lady Lynx's Winning Streak

By Jeremy Smith
Staff Writer

During a rare Saturday afternoon game at Mallory, the Lynx ran into a roadblock that took the form of conference cellar dweller Hendrix College. Going into the game Hendrix was 0-10 in the SCAC; however, their record is not indicative of what kind of team they really are.

Throughout the past couple of seasons, the Hendrix weekend has always been built up to be one of great expectation, not only for the players but the crowd as well. This weekend was a little different, though. With both teams mathematically out of winning the conference title and having disappointing seasons, the game took on a meaning that possessed

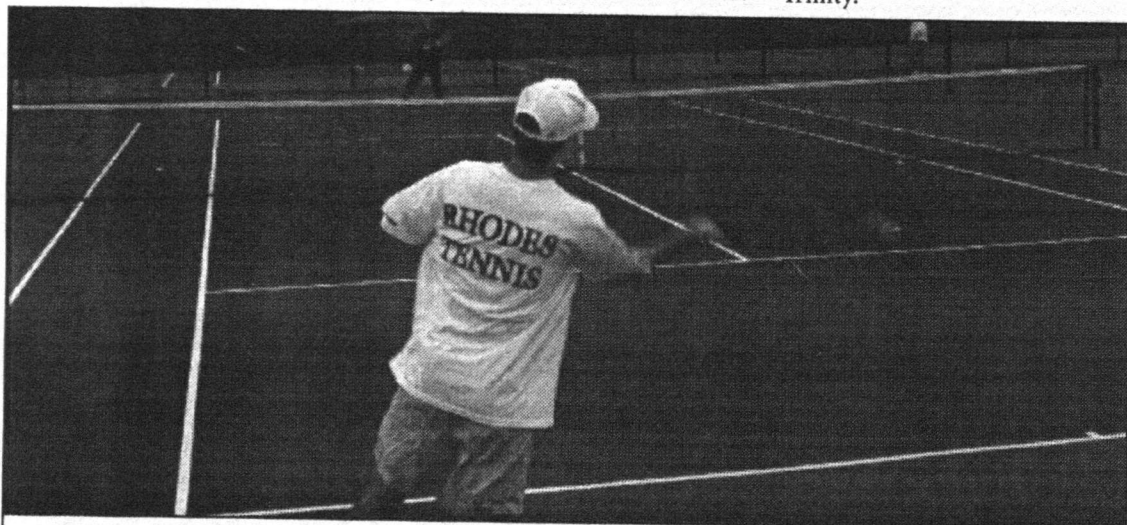
less significance than usual.

After an abnormal week of practice due to the cancellation of Tuesday's game against Fisk University, the Lynx came into the Saturday showdown without the intensity level that was necessary. Getting off to a slow start, Rhodes found themselves down ten points at half time, 43-33.

Playing uninspired basketball, the Lynx watched the Warriors' lead balloon as large as 19, early in the second half. After a time out called by a disgusted Coach Hilgeman, Rhodes began their come back bid. Cutting the lead to two with about two minutes left, the Lynx looked like they were going to pull out a great home victory. However, the Warriors were

able to keep their composure under the relentless Rhodes pressure (a feat they had not been able to manage all season), and pull out their first conference win 69-64.

Patrick Yoder ('00) was able to have one of his better games of the season in the loss, tallying 15 points and 8 rebounds. The Lynx dropped to 12-8, 5-6 in the SCAC, and Hendrix improved their record to 7-16, 1-10 in the conference. By the time this paper comes out, the Lynx will have completed their home schedule for the '97-'98 season, having played a Monday night game against Huntington College. They will take to the road to finish out the year, beginning this weekend at Southwestern and Trinity.



Bryan Baker ('01) works on his forehand after tennis practice.

Photo by Chris Mckenzie

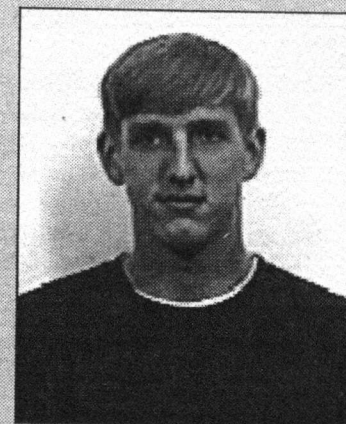
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Athletes of the Month

January



Sharon Compton

Compton ('99) recently qualified provisionally for the 1998 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston on March 13-14 in the long jump. A competitor in the 100 meter, 200 meter, 100 meter short hurdles, and the long jump during the outdoor season, she finished sixth in the 55 meter and 200 meter distances in the first indoor meet of the year.



Brendan Beehan

Beehan ('98) has led the Rhodes basketball team of late with impressive performances against conference opponents. He leads the team in scoring with 15.8 points per game and 7.4 rebounds per game. Beehan also got his name into the Rhodes record books, becoming the 22nd player in basketball history to score 1000 points (1,114 as of February 2).

The purpose of the Rhodes SAAC is to discuss issues such as season length, missed class time, the importance of academics and other issues which affect student-athletes participating in collegiate athletics.

SEMESTER ABROAD IN COSTA RICA

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) and Duke University are accepting applications for the Fall 1998 semester for a **field-oriented, science based semester abroad program in Costa Rica**. Students earn 16 credit hours in tropical ecology, environmental science and policy, field research methods, and Spanish language and culture.

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Application deadline for 1998 Fall semester is
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Lady Lynx Struggle In Final SCAC Home Game

By Jason Heller
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 14, the Rhodes women's basketball team got an unwelcome Valentine: a loss to Hendrix which snapped the three game winning streak by the Lynx. Hendrix, the defending conference champions, defeated Rhodes, 81-67. Hendrix started the game off with a 9-2 run and never

trailed. Hendrix guard Lauren Turnbow ('00), the 1997 SCAC player of the year, scored 30 points. The Lynx managed to cut the lead to five points partway through the second half, but the team could not get any closer.

Forward April Rucker ('01) had a great game and led the team with 20 points and 7 rebounds. She played well inside and made two crucial three-pointers. Kate Maffei ('98) was honored before the game, as this was her last game at Mallory-Hyde Gymnasium during her career at Rhodes. Maffei scored seven

points and grabbed four rebounds to put her current career totals at 926 points and 549 rebounds. Guard Corinne Graddick ('01) scored seven points and handed out seven assists.

The loss dropped the Lynx's record to 8-12 overall and 6-5 in the SCAC. Hendrix extended their winning streak to nine games which puts their record at 17-5 overall and 9-2 in the SCAC. The Rhodes women's basketball team has four games left, with their next game Monday, February 16, at the University of Ozarks. As of press time, details on this game were not available.