

**150**  
**RHODES**  
1848 — 1998

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. LXXXV, No. 18

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

## Rhodes Seeks Renewal Of SACS Accreditation

By Amy Tidwell  
Staff Writer

In February of 1999, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will give Rhodes an accreditation review to determine whether or not Rhodes deserves re-accreditation. The process, which occurs every ten years, consists of two components: the compliance study and the strategic self study.

According to Charlie Landreth, the compliance study "demonstrates that the school is in compliance with a series of must statements" set forth by SACS; the areas of study include Institutional Effectiveness, Educational Program, Educational Support Services, and Administrative Processes.

The strategic self study is designed by individual institutions and approved by SACS; the theme of Rhodes' strategic self study is "Liberal Learning and Residence Life Experience at Rhodes." While many schools choose to study technology

on their campuses, Rhodes chose to study how the residential aspect contributes to academics.

Several committees were developed to complete the SACS Self Study. The Self Study Steering Committee (Dean of Student Affairs Mel Hokanson-Richey and Dean of Academic Affairs John Planchon, Co-Chairs) consists of the Chairs of the following five committees: Planning Advisory (Director of Planning and Institutional Analysis Bill Berg, Chair), Compliance (Professor of Chemistry David Jeter, Chair), Curriculum (Professor of Philosophy Larry Lacy, Chair), Enrollment (Associate Professor of Psychology Bette Ackerman, Chair), and Housing/Student Services (Associate Dean of Student Affairs Charlie Landreth, Chair).

Berg sees that everyone stays on schedule, keeps up with SACS regulations and due dates, works on SACS teams that review other institutions, and handles most surveys,

including the Student Satisfaction Survey taken in November 1997. Jeter and the Compliance Committee compile a report that proves that Rhodes is in compliance with SACS's "must statements." The Curriculum, Enrollment, and Housing/Services committees deal with the specifics of the strategic self study.

Berg said that the committees recommend ways that Rhodes can "integrate academic and co-curricular life" based on their studies of issues on their agendas.

"The committees substantiate their recommendations by citing surveys that are taken on campus, comparing Rhodes to other similar colleges, and considering how Rhodes can be more consistent with the mission statement," Landreth said. The committees' reports are compiled by the Steering Committee and then submitted to Chancellor Harlow and President Daughdrill for approval.

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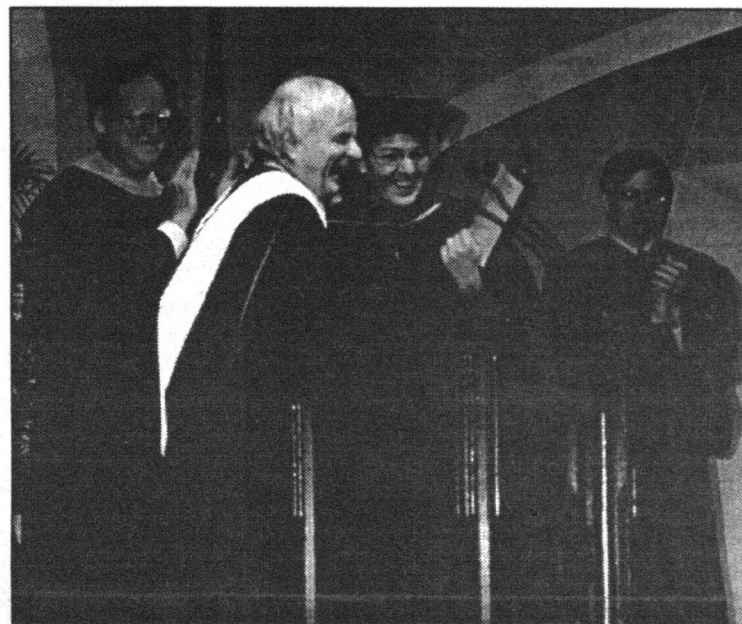


Photo by Chris McKenzie

Associate Professor of Religious Studies Ellen Armour receives the Day Award for Outstanding Teaching from Memphis businessman Clarence Day at the Awards Convocation yesterday. Professor of Physics Robert MacQueen received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Research and/or Creativity. The Clarence Day Awards have been awarded to Rhodes faculty for the past eighteen years. Other awards were given to outstanding students in each department at the ceremony, including several inter-departmental awards. The 1997-98 Model UN team, the Search Advisory Council, and the 1997-98 National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament Teams were honored as well.

## Departments Announce Changes For 1998-99

By Melody Barnett and Mary McCoy  
Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor

Several Rhodes departments have announced faculty and course changes for the Fall 1998 semester. Departments experiencing changes include Religious Studies, Economics and Business Administration, English, and Biology.

In the Religious Studies department, Assistant Professor Darren Middleton will be leaving to fill a tenure-track position at Texas Christian University. At TCU, Middleton will be teaching courses in the field of Christianity and Literature.

"I feel extremely sad when I think of leaving Rhodes," Middleton said. "Several dear and gifted friends have made valuable contributions to my vocational formation."

With Middleton's departure, Religious Studies has hired two professors, Luther Ivory and Julie Ingersoll,

on one-year contracts to teach a variety of courses in the department.

Professor Bob Entzminger, Chair of the English Department, said that part-time instructors Lisa Hickman (Southern Literature and Critical Thinking and Writing) and Charles Wilkinson (Critical Thinking and Writing) will not return in the fall.

"The Administration decided to redefine the part-time positions and replace those with one full-time person with a Ph. D.," Entzminger said. One replacement hired for next year is Gordon Bigelow, a professor from University of California, Santa Cruz, specializing in 19th-century British literature. According to Entzminger, another professor will be hired "to provide some leadership in the first-year composition course and to help us develop and strengthen it."

The future of Southern Literature at Rhodes is yet to be determined.

"It's an area that I hope we can continue to represent in the curriculum, but it's not one that's essential to the curriculum," Entzminger said.

"Southern literature has always been a vital component for the study of American literature and it has been a popular tradition at Rhodes," Hickman said, "especially when you consider we are located just one hour from the home of William Faulkner. I don't see why such an important and popular course should be eliminated — it just doesn't make sense."

In the department of Biology, Assistant Professor of Biology Roger Cicala will take a year's leave of absence to serve as founding medical director of the Methodist Comprehensive Pain Institute at Methodist Hospitals.

"This will be a large institute made up of over twenty physician consultants that will treat and perform research involving persons with chronic incurable pain," Cicala said. "This chance to return to the type of research I was once very active in is unique. It puts resources at my disposal that I've never dreamed of, allowing me to undertake some projects that were simply impossible a few years back."

### Other changes:

- **Anthropology/Sociology:** Part-time Instructors Allen Lummus, Ross Sackett, and Stella Warren will not be returning. No replacements have been confirmed.

- **Economics and Business Administration:** Associate Professor of Accounting Sue Legge is retiring. Her replacement has not yet been confirmed.

- **Foreign Languages:** Professor of

Spanish Donald Tucker is retiring.

- **International Studies:** Professors Haleh Vaziri and Paul Senese will not return in the fall. Professors Sean Kay (Dartmouth College) and Steven Ceccoli (Washington University) have been hired to replace them.

- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Professor Michael Rieck, who was hired on a one-year appointment, will not be returning next year. Two new professors have been hired to replace faculty members who have left.

- **Political Science:** Part-time Assistant Professor Robert Bartlett will no longer be teaching in the department, but will teach one section of the Search course this fall.

- **Theatre:** Associate Professor Thomas Jones will not be returning next year. No replacements have been hired.

## EDITORIAL OF THE SOU'WESTER

# Leadership Depends On Communication

It is one thing to run for election to a leadership position at Rhodes. It is quite another thing to fulfill the responsibilities which go along with that position. Now that the General and Presidential Elections, along with smaller elections within campus organizations have taken place, it is time to give serious consideration to those responsibilities.

There is a problem with communication between organizations at Rhodes, despite the fact that each of these groups has a committed, directed agenda for their organization's interaction with the Rhodes community, and in most cases, display exemplary leadership. This lack of communication not only exists between the members of organizations whose missions could potentially complement one another, but between these organizations and the student body.

Steps have been taken to improve this latter form of communication. The events calendar which is available online, in addition to being distributed through campus mail, provides a forum for advertising events that differs from the easy-to-ignore 8X11 flyers. More steps need

to be taken, but at least the problem has been acknowledged, and is being addressed.

The fact that these problems are wholly solvable, and that enough individuals are interested in them, should give us hope. But there is a long way to go before we are maximizing the leadership potential among our classmates. There's a lot of it, and it comes in many forms.

One of the first steps we can take is to make sure leadership positions are evenly distributed among individuals across campus. As former RSG President Damon Norcross said in his farewell speech at the Awards Convocation on Tuesday, quality is more important than quantity where campus involvement is concerned. While it is important to elect qualified and experienced leaders, it is also important to encourage background leaders to step up into more visible roles.

Recently, honor societies ODK and Mortar Board held their officer elections, and while many of the individuals who were elected are familiar faces, it is refreshing to see many individuals now holding these positions who have proven their leader-

ship skills through less visible roles on campus. In future elections, organizations should take this cue to ensure diversity among the individuals holding leadership positions.

Additionally, to aid in our communication around campus, elected representatives need to be just as visible after elections as they are beforehand. Members of the Rhodes community, if asked, should be able not only to identify the concerns and agendas of their class representatives, but should also be able to identify the larger concerns of the organizations they represent.

To increase visibility, and to more actively inform and involve the Rhodes community in decisions, we suggest the following approaches to elected representatives for RSG, SRC, the Honor Council, and Activities Board:

1. Create a website for your organization which includes profiles of elected representatives and specific concerns of theirs within the organization, as well as up-to-date information concerning issues your organization is facing.
2. Create an e-mail distribution list so class representatives can pe-

riodically inform their constituents of the issues and events which are currently being addressed within each organization.

3. Recognize and utilize the potential of the Student Organizational Collaborative, which will begin regular meetings in the fall. The S.O.C. will provide student leaders with a forum for discussing campus issues and for interacting with other campus groups, but will only be effective if students are committed to attending and serious about making a contribution to campus unity.

Taking these steps will enable campus leaders to invest more energy in the mechanics of supervising their respective organizations, and will provide opportunities for other members of each organization to get involved in making connections with the campus through more effective communication. This will familiarize younger leaders with the ways in which they can utilize their skills on campus, and develop a position of comfort and preparation for these individuals and the roles they will take on in the future.

## LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

Dear Professor McKenzie:

Though I am not accustomed to sending personal mail through "Letters to the Editor," I am following your practice in your letter to me in the March 25 Sou'wester about my Seidman Lecture.

I appreciate your attending the lecture and your commenting that much of what I said "rang true" to you.

Let me mention several points where clarification is needed or where we disagree.

1. You stated, "Religious commitment, if used as a criterion in matters such as faculty hiring, will inevitably have the effect of bracketing discussion and excluding certain questions from full consideration." I disagree with you on that. The fact is that religious commitment, as one factor in faculty hiring, has been the practice of Rhodes from the time it was moved to Memphis in 1925.

2. I said in my Seidman lecture that study of the Bible should be critically informed.

3. You correctly stated that I quoted from others regarding the secularist influence at research

universities. You named an exception to that from your experience at Harvard Divinity School. Divinity schools and seminaries seem to have quite a few exceptions.

4. You stated, "One professor did not openly divulge her faith commitment in class but did openly avow feminism... To state this was misleading because you failed to consider it in context. The professor said she did not want to divulge her faith because she wanted to foster the spirit of open self-critical inquiry." You did not state, however, whether she wanted to foster that same spirit in the class on feminist studies, and if so, why she did not follow a consistent practice to foster that spirit.

5. I could not follow your point about primary and secondary sources, so let me state my own views: a) The Bible is the primary source for knowing about God, and b) Since researchers in your field did not experience Old Testament times, they often quote secondary sources.

Two questions: a) Since you went through the Ph.D. process and have spent years in teaching/research in the manner you de-

scribe, have you been able to maintain a Christian faith commitment? I ask that because students are often interested in this as they look for mentors as well as teachers.

b) Would you be interested in discussing/debating subjects such as "Is there room for faith in the classroom?", "Should Rhodes hire a large majority of Christian faculty?", etc., in a college-wide forum? The Committee on Christian Commitment and Church Relationship plans to sponsor an event next fall, and I think they would be open to including us on a panel to discuss these subjects.

Sincerely,  
James H. Daughdrill, Jr.

Dear Sou'wester:

It has come to my attention that several students have sought to defame the character of Mr. Matt Marcotte, who was a recent candidate for several positions in the General Election, by making caricatures of his campaign flyers and leaving him obscene voice mail messages.

Having just run in the last RSG election, I sympathize with Mr. Marcotte's frustration with an elections process that seems to reward

superficiality and popularity at the expense of substance and conviction.

What is most striking about the tactics that the unnamed foes of Matt Marcotte use is that they engage wholly in ad hominem attacks. I would only venture that Mr. Marcotte's critics resort to this behavior because they are intellectual infants who are only capable of producing sophomoric quibbles about his ideas and cheap shots at his person. How pathetic it is that they cannot honestly engage the issues of his campaign. So here we are, electing people who have the backing of slick flyers and a Greek cavalry, and cowardly idiots take pot shots at exceedingly well qualified candidates like Mr. Marcotte.

My message to the cowards of the Rhodes community: stop to consider the enormous thought behind Mr. Marcotte's ideas and the nuance and subtlety that inform his thoughts, and then satirize him all you want!

Sincerely,  
Kevin Willoughby  
RSG Senator Elect

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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.

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<http://www.students.rhodes.edu/sw/>  
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# Forum Addresses Higher Education In Nonprofit Service

By Ford Baxter  
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, April 15, many of Rhodes' Birch and Bonner scholars met with several leaders from Memphis area nonprofit organizations in the second of a series of open meetings organized by Kristen Fox ('98), a Kinney Coordinator. The focus of last week's meeting was building partnerships between higher education and nonprofits.

Students and representatives from the Church Health Center, the Greater Memphis Interagency Coalition for the Homeless (GMICH), Hope Ministries of Everett Church, and Catholic Charities, Inc., discussed the optimal volunteer-nonprofit relationship. The group concluded that both the volunteer and the organization have to work to realize the goal of integrally important volunteers.

Jenny Bartlett-Prescott ('97), a Rhodes alumna who now works with the Church Health Center, said you know you are a partner in the organization if you are "getting things done that wouldn't be done if you weren't there." According to Prescott, a "real partnership" is what is important.

Several students spoke of positive experiences they have had in organizations that enabled them to become partners. Hunter Phillips ('99) has developed a partnership with St. Peter's nursing home and Rhodes in which students are paired up with patients who share some similar interests. Adam Beeler ('99) noted that the volunteer coordinators of the ministry tutoring program he works with were very helpful, introducing him to the community around Vance Elementary.

An important step along the path to becoming a student partner with a nonprofit organization comes with the willingness of the organization to share its vision with the student.

"It's important to understand the mission of an organization," Phillips said. "You need to have an outlet to make contributions." She said that if an organization clues the student in to the larger picture, then the student can feel more welcome

to offer recommendations for change and have them respected.

Vasser noted that students will be more willing to engage in collaborative partnerships with organizations if they see how these experiences can help them out in the future.

don't recognize thank me for a program I did at their school."

A core group of students who keep up official contact between the organization and the school is necessary for the long term, Chaplain Billy Newton said. Newton thinks this is why Rhodes' relationships with nonprofit agencies have been so successful.

Newton pointed out that it only takes two or three students to catch the vision of an organization, and that they can then get lots of others involved. Newton used the example of the Soup Kitchen at St. John's to illustrate his point.

"Hundreds of kids do it each year, but there is a core group of maybe five coordinators who keep it going," Newton said.

Constance Graham of GMICH had a strong vision for the future of Rhodes' involvement in the Memphis community.

"I see Rhodes being able to be the catalyst and leader to bring in other colleges and universities in this city by becoming well-known for its volunteer activism," Graham said. Vasser agreed and added that Rhodes should go even further.

"If we do this only in Memphis, Tennessee,

we've failed miserably. We need to take our system and make it a template for cities across the U.S.," Vasser said.

Graham noted that the institutions of higher education represent a resource vitally important to keeping nonprofits alive and effective. She thinks that the information age represents a whole new set of dangers for individuals that nonprofit organizations will have to be the vanguard in alleviating.

"We will always need people to move systems, that's what nonprofit is about," Graham said. "The information technology can damage people; companies are holding people back because of their health histories, for example. The technology can be wonderful, but now people can be ruined with the push of a button. That's how you become homeless today, it's often one freak accident that does it."

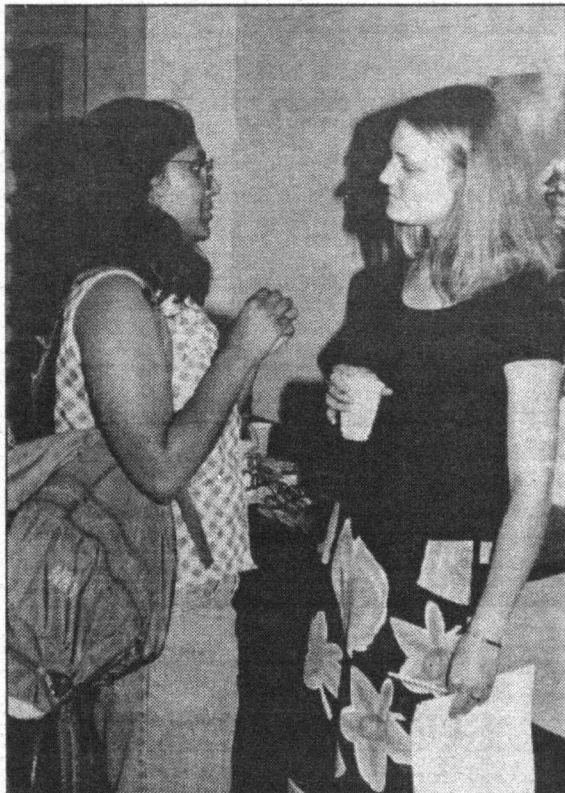


Photo by Carol Curry

RSG President Neeta Venepalli and Kinney Coordinator Kristen Fox discuss issues pertaining to nonprofit organizations and higher education at last week's service forum. Representatives from four nonprofit organizations attended the forum.

"You need to learn how to transfer your skills to different areas of your life, to the different things you're involved with," Vasser said. Prescott added that it is important for students to keep it in mind that they are working on prospective jobs, and it is also important for the organization to think of college students as potential employees.

The discussion suggested that once the door is open for willing students to engage in partnerships, it is important for students not to get discouraged if they do not quickly see the organization's goals being reached. Joani Laney of Hope Ministries pointed out that her volunteers often do not feel like they are making a difference after one semester of working with the children after they get out of school.

"You make a difference oftentimes when you don't even know it - your presence has a great impact," Vassar said. "I've had people come up to me in the mall who I

# Beale Street Music Festival Here Once Again

By Matthew Shipe  
Staff Writer

The annual Beale Street Music Festival will be held May 1-3 at Tom Lee Park and will feature ninety bands of all types. This year's headliners include Bonnie Raitt, Ben Folds Five, Green Day, and blues great Buddy Guy.

The festival kicks off Friday afternoon with the gates opening at noon. Friday's performers include the Fabulous Thunderbirds, known for their single "Tough Enough," who will play the Budweiser stage at 6:00 p.m. The North Mississippi All-Stars, a local blues act, take the VH1/Hardrock Cafe stage at 6:45. At 9:00, classic rock legends the Doobie Brothers play the Budweiser stage. The Doobies are of course best known for such songs as "China Grove," "Taking It to the Streets." South Carolina's Edwain McCain play the VH1 stage at 9:45. Bonnie Raitt closes the festival Friday night with her blend of blues and rock.

On Saturday the gates once again open at noon. At 3:00, local artist Garrison Starr plays the Budweiser stage. New Orleans legends, the Neville Brothers hit the Autozone stage at 4:30. Chicago blues legend Buddy Guy plays the Budweiser stage at 6:00. Steve Earle brings his rock/blues/country fusion to the

Autozone stage at 7:30. Robert Cray, one of the leaders of the modern blues scene, brings his band to the Budweiser stage at 9:00. Widespread Panic will close Saturday, playing the Autozone stage at 10:30.

The gates will open at noon again on Sunday. At 3:00, Paula Cole hits the Autozone Stage. Cole became famous last year for her album *This Fire*, which included the hit single "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" Ben Folds Five play the Autozone stage at 6:00. Ben Folds will most likely be playing songs such as "Song for the Dumped" and "Brick" off of last year's *Whatever and Ever Amen* CD. Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers play their reggae at 7:30 on the Budweiser stage. Memphis legend Rufus Thomas plays at Harrah's Blues Tent at 9:00. The festival comes to a close with a bash when Green Day ends things with a set of their pop infused punk rock.

Day passes for the festival are \$13 in advance, \$16 on the day of the festival. Three day passes for the festival are \$32 in advance, and \$40 on the first day of the festival. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations, which include Piggly Wiggly, Cat's Music, and Blockbuster Music.

Robert Downey Jr. Heather Graham Natasha Gregson Wagner

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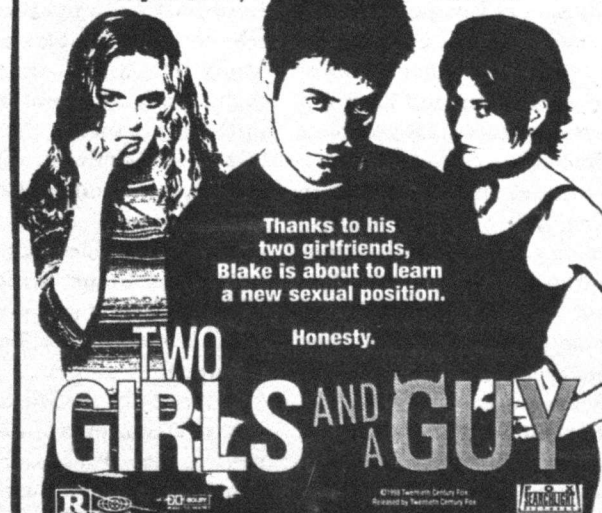
-Amy Longsdorf, PHILADELPHIA WEEKLY

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# Yahoo Ranks Rhodes Among America's Most Wired Colleges

By David Elder  
Staff Writer

In the May edition of Yahoo Internet Life magazine Rhodes College was ranked as the 14th "most wired college" in America. Additionally, Rhodes ranked second out of all small liberal arts colleges.

The article listed Rhodes alongside many of our country's elite institutions of higher learning. Dartmouth College was ranked first, with New Jersey Institute of Technology, MIT, Rensselaer Polytechnic, and the University of Illinois rounding out the top five.

Yahoo based its criteria for selection on a number of variables, all of which fit into four basic categories: general, academics, social life, and computer status. Rhodes was listed as very strong in all categories, but received particular praise for the quality of the on-line newspaper.

"For such a small school, the online newspaper is top rate and frequently updated," Yahoo said of *The Sou'wester Online*. Brian Willis '00, the 1997-98 Editor of *The Sou'wester Online*, was very pleased with this bit of praise.

"Having done the design for the online paper myself, this is like

receiving personal praise for my work," Willis said. "Needless to say, I was very proud."

The staff at the computer center were also very pleased with the high ranking.

"The survey used to create these rankings was not perfect, but we are very pleased with the overall results," Information Systems Specialist Richie Trentham said. Trentham believes that this praise is in large part due to the efforts by the computer staff to provide internet access for every student.

"You can't get any better than 100% access for all students," Trentham said. He said that the

computer staff also takes great pride in this recent recognition.

"We do a lot around this campus that is not very visible, so it's good to be recognized for all your hard work." Trentham did not know what the next big step will be in campus computer technology, but promised that the computer staff intends to maintain and improve the high level of quality that has led to this high ranking.

"As far as educational institutions are concerned, Rhodes is on the cutting edge of technology," Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Dave Wottle said, "but we are not satisfied with where we are,

and we will continue to improve and enhance the technology on campus. The next step is to make this technology an important tool that can be used in every classroom." To this end, the Board of Trustees have set up a new committee on technology to deal with these issues.

Dean Wottle is hopeful that this ranking will likely serve as a powerful tool in the recruitment of new students.

"We are seeing a trend that students are becoming more and more tied to computers and the web," Wottle said. "We want to promote this as one of the many strengths of Rhodes College."

## Accreditation

continued from page 1

In February, SACS will send two teams of reviewers to Rhodes, consisting of faculty from other colleges in the region. The Compliance Team verifies that Rhodes complies with the "must statements" while the Consulting Team examines Rhodes' self study report.

The Consulting Team looks at housing, enrollment and curriculum so that they can give advice about how Rhodes might implement the proposals in the self study report.

"The reaccreditation really turns on the compliance report," Berg said. "SACS draws no conclusions from the strategic self study report, they just see that we were serious and worked hard on the self study."

If the Compliance Team finds that Rhodes is not in compliance with all of its stipulations, then they will make recommendations, which Rhodes is required to follow. Berg says that he has never seen an institution that met all of these stipulations, and there will be some recommendations made to Rhodes.

"Rhodes must respond in writing, laying out the plan for addressing the recommendations within 90 days," Berg said. "If you do not show in writing that you are complying, then you will be put on probation."

A one year follow-up report ensures that all recommendations are met.

SACS's Criteria and Review Committee meets twice a year, in June and December, to make decisions about reaccreditation. The committee usually reaccred-

its an institution with the understanding that it will address all of the recommendations in a reasonable amount of time.

Berg said that despite the fact that reaccreditation is "a very bureaucratic process and very time consuming," the strategic self study gives Rhodes a chance to revise its plans for the future. The last strategic plan that Rhodes proposed started in 1978, remained in draft form, and was revised when needed.

According to Landreth, Rhodes' plan always looked to 1998, its 150th anniversary, as its horizon.

Berg called the strategic plan "an active and living document," because it was constantly revised and consulted.

"Planning only really has an impact if you are constantly looking at it and it affects the decisions that are made," Berg said.

Chancellor David Harlow chairs the Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee which will combine the Strategic Self Study report with the recommendations of two other committees, Financing the Future (Dean of Administrative Services Allen Boone, Chair) and Institutional Character (Assistant to the President for College Relations Loyd Templeton, Chair), and present a plan, in draft form, to the Board of Trustees in October.

"We really needed to revise our strategic plan," said Berg, stating that the SACS' review comes at a perfect time.

Information on the SACS accreditation should be available to students on the academic volume in late May.

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### Campus Safety Log



4/13/98 TO 4/19/98

4/13	10:00am	Phillips Lane: Booted Vehicle (2nd offense - \$50 fine)
4/14	3:20am	Disturbance: south side of Glassell Hall: Campus Safety responded. Found students outside of hall - they returned to their rooms
	10:00am	Phillips Lane: Booted Vehicle (1st offense - \$30 fine)
	12:50am	Phillips Lane: Booted Vehicle (1st offense - \$30 fine)
	6:00pm	University/North Parkway: Accident - non-Rhodes personnel - injuries, MFD and MPD called to scene
4/15	7:00am	North Parkway Gate: Accident - property damage but no injuries: Rhodes student involved
	10:00am	Hein Park/North Parkway: Resident called with regard to a suspicious person walking west on North Parkway exposing himself and acting as if he had a mental condition. MPD was called but subject left the area before they arrived. He was described as a black male, 6', 160 lbs.
	12:00pm	Austin Fac/Staff Parking Lot: Booted vehicle (1st offense - \$30 fine)
	4:21pm	McCoy Lot: Accident - Soccer ball struck and cracked windshield of a student's vehicle.
	6:15pm	Campus Life Center: Larceny of Bicycle. Bike not secured
Note: another bicycle was stolen from the Refectory porch one week prior at about the same time: between 4pm and 6pm. Lock your bikes and REGISTER THEM WITH CAMPUS SAFETY PLEASE!		
4/16	2:15am	Evergreen Church: Burglar alarm activated. Campus Safety responded and found open door. MPD notified - made the scene and conducted a building search. All ok, resecured.
	8:11am	Buckman Lot: "Driverless" accident: car rolled into another parked nearby
	11:45am	Refectory: Larceny of a book bag reported: Later recovered by owner
4/17		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT
4/18		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT
4/19		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT

STATS	
CITATIONS: 67	BOOTED VEHICLES: 4
VISITORS: 1,734	ESCORTS: 9
JUMP STARTS: 3	ACCESSES: 154
PROPPED DOORS: 0	

**Wanted!**  
**Sou'wester Columnists for the 1998-99 academic year!**  
 If interested, submit a sample column of 500-700 words to Mary McCoy (mccme) by May 4. Questions: call X3330

## Roger Shattuck Offers Criticism, Hope For Education

By Lisa Roy  
 Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 21, Roger Shattuck delivered the concluding lecture for the 1998 Seidman Lecture Series. Shattuck is a noted literary historian whose books include *Marcel Proust, The Banquet Years* (winner of the National Book Award), and his recent work, *Forbidden Knowledge: From Prometheus to Pornography*. Now retired, Shattuck has taught at Harvard, the University of Texas, the University of Virginia, and Boston University.

Shattuck continued the theme begun with Daughdrill's inaugural Seidman address of issues in education. His lecture, entitled "American Education Against Itself," confronted problems within both secondary and higher education. Shattuck's lecture offered a mix of general criticism and solutions-in-progress for educational institutions.

Shattuck framed his lecture by harkening to the "Founding Fathers," whom he saw as possessing "institutional imagination" in their creation of the United States' enduring institutions. Today, Shattuck asserted, we need "institutional imagination," not to create a constitution but to contend with the current educational system.

"Leviathan" and "institutionalized bohemia" were words Shattuck chose to describe the state of higher education. He said that higher education, by virtue of being too successful, has become big business; having "cannibalized the surrounding culture," higher education has a plethora of degrees and programs, various

types of research, large athletics programs, and has displaced the role of institutions such as conservatories. Institutions of higher learning have a monopoly of the traditional "rites of passage" for young people — going to college is the only route to success.

Shattuck pointed to an "accommodation" between secondary schools and schools of higher learning. Secondary schools graduate students who are unprepared for college, while colleges and universities, ever needful of funds, accept and provide remedial training — producing on both ends, in Shattuck's view, lower standards.

There are three major "misapprehensions" that Shattuck believes have produced the current state of education and have hampered attempts to change: a "well-meaning belief" that all students must attend college, a fear of teaching students uniformity as opposed to "critical thinking," and the desire to retain local control. Shattuck argued that not all students need attend college; if secondary schools grant diplomas with real meaning attached, then the monopoly held by college to entrance to the workforce would be broken. Thus, the key to resolving problems in both higher education and secondary education is to work towards reform in secondary education.

Such is the fear of relinquishing local control that the current buzzword in education is "standards," a euphemism for curriculum in many places, Shattuck wryly observed. "Standards" entail instituting a core program of knowledge to be taught, and establishing bases of measurement such as exams. Shattuck contended that there are

schools around the country which are moving in that direction, using curriculum provided by for-profit and non-profit organizations such as the Core Knowledge Foundation. Vollenhine Optional School, a Memphis area school, has adopted a Core Knowledge curriculum and is among 500 schools in the nation which have done so.

Shattuck defended instituting curricula, or "standards" in schools, in true literary fashion: he offered his listeners an analogy of schooling as sexual reproduction — "schooling is our gonads," or rather schooling is the "organized transmission of culture we deem necessary for survival." A consistent basis of education is needed to fill in the gaps left by parents in certain homes, Shattuck argued.

Shattuck spoke at length of his own experience in Vermont as part of a committee working to institute state-wide standards and to create a "governor's diploma" for students who meet certain requirements. Other states are on similar paths, he noted.

Shattuck concluded his lecture by offering his own "institutional imagination." He mused that a type of volunteer, national service could be utilized for individuals to either aid or benefit from secondary education. Furthermore, he insisted that the monopoly of higher education must be challenged by the establishment of meaningful high school diplomas. In the final analysis, however, Shattuck ended his talk on a positive note.

"I am optimistic about what is going on in education," Shattuck said.

## Crime Elevates Near Rhodes

By Hallman Graves  
 Staff Writer

Recent crimes in the Rhodes area near University Avenue have made the Memphis Police Department and Rhodes Campus Safety especially alert to the safety of the Rhodes students and the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. In the past few weeks car thefts, burglaries, and gunpoint robberies have been reported.

Tom Jolly, a retired Rhodes Professor of Classics who lives on University just north of Snowden, was robbed at gunpoint as he walked to pick up his morning paper. Later the same week an elderly lady was also robbed at gunpoint by a simi-

larly described suspect. In the weeks before the gunpoint robberies there were several home burglaries in the Evergreen area and at least three car thefts.

While the Memphis Police Department believes the burglaries and robberies were connected, they do not believe that the car thefts were connected to these incidents. The MPD's Major Chuck Bryant assured Director of Campus Safety Ralph Hatley that the police were saturating the area looking for one suspect in these recent crimes.

The suspect was described as African-American, 6 feet tall, weighing 160 pounds. Last week the MPD stopped a suspicious subject in the

area in possession of burglary tools and made an arrest. Since that time criminal activity has stopped.

Hatley notes that the MPD provide fantastic patrol coverage assistance and high visibility, especially during threats such as the crimes in the past weeks.

Hatley encourages students not to take safety at Rhodes for granted. He wants to students to be aware of circumstances around them at all times and encourages them to use escorts, travel in pairs, stay in well-lit areas, lock cars, lock bikes, lock rooms, and never prop open doors.

Hatley advises students to report anything suspicious or out of the ordinary.

## RSG Names Service To Students As Chief Objective For 1998-99

By Kathryn Royster  
News Editor

Rhodes Student Government's new leadership has designated better handling of student concerns as its primary focus for the coming year.

According to vice president Teal Baker ('00), she and president Neeta Venepalli ('99) have a "shared vision" of "identifying student concerns and dealing with them in a prompt and efficient way."

Venepalli concurs with Baker, citing plans to handle student issues efficiently without turning RSG into a "faceless proposal mill."

Venepalli considers herself a student spokesperson to the administration. Filling that role is tricky, she says.

"There are so many gray areas because of the multiplicity of voices you have to represent," Venepalli said. She believes that in order to do her job well, she will have "to be out there as much as possible," staying continually aware of students' concerns.

Currently, RSG is examining the ways in which it obtains information about the student body.

"The resources are there, but we're just not pulling them together, and that's frustrating," Venepalli said. She is considering periodic meetings with student organizations as a way to find out what students are thinking.

Baker adds that RSG is asking itself whether printed surveys are truly helpful to the Senate; right now, focus groups and random phone sampling are being considered as alternative polling methods.

Like Venepalli, Baker believes she can best do her job by "taking the initiative and going out to the constituents" rather than "just waiting for issues to come [to RSG]."

Baker's primary duty concerns committee matters; she is "a support for senators and committee chairs" as well as a "point person"

for students who are concerned about an issue but do not know which committee should handle their concern.

One barrier to past committee efficiency, Baker says, was the newness of RSG's three-year-old constitution and committee structure, but she believes constitutional amendments and the administration's increased awareness of the new structure have eradicated major problems.

cumstances and discuss options with the administration accordingly.

Baker lists next year's Roundtable as another year-end issue for RSG.

"There has been some dissatisfaction with [this year's] topics and the way [Roundtable] was presented," Baker says, and RSG is addressing those concerns as it chooses next year's topics and format.

Baker adds that RSG is continuing to discuss with the administration the feasibility of placing a fast-food franchise in the Lynx Lair.

Issues left over from the administration of Damon Norcross ('98) include Rat renovations, student input on the new board plan, and encouraging faculty to help improve the buyback process by submitting book adoption lists in a timely manner.

RSG will, of course, encounter new issues next year as the legislative session progresses, but Baker and Venepalli have already identified some major concerns. The presidential search and Roundtable are at the top of the list, along with a proposal by Adam White ('01) to form an ad hoc committee that would directly involve students in the College's efforts to improve its national reputation.

Venepalli also hopes to discuss administrative funding of club sports and non-Kinney service organizations and to examine ways to make administrative information accessible to students.

The administration currently places information about its policies and actions on the Academic Volume, and Venepalli hopes that RSG will be able to organize that information into a more accessible format.

"One of our roles is to improve communication between students and administration to the point where students are giving active feedback to the administration," Venepalli said.

*"We've been establishing a voice, and now we're looking to use that voice."*

—Teal Baker, RSG Vice President

*"One of our roles is to improve communication between students and administration to the point where students are giving active feedback to the administration."*

—Neeta Venepalli, RSG President

In addition, Baker believes RSG is "getting to the point where we can make [committees] more autonomous."

"We've been establishing a voice, and now we're looking to use that voice," Baker said.

With just two weeks left in this year's legislative session, Venepalli and Baker are facing a substantial agenda of issues. The College's Presidential Search Committee is RSG's primary concern, according to Venepalli. The institution of a search so late in the school year has left RSG in a position of "response rather than initiative," but she believes RSG can still begin "ensuring student access to candidates for the presidency."

Spring allocations is also a pressing issue; organizations have requested more money than is available, indicating a possible need for increased activities fees. However, some organizations have not spent a large portion of the money allocated to them in the fall, indicating a possible surplus of activities funds. RSG must sort through the reasons for both cir-

## News Briefs: What Happened, What's Happening

**April 3-5: Rhodes Mock Trial Team** competed at national tournament. The team placed fourth in the competition.

"We were thoroughly satisfied with our performance," Mock Trial Team member Kerry Kornblatt ('99) said. "We executed well, but the cards didn't fall into place."

**April 17 (Friday): BSA Evening in Jazz** held in McCallum Ballroom. The band "Swing Time," comprised of some of the members of the Memphis Jazz Orchestra, performed at the Black Student Association's musical fundraiser.

"The Evening in Jazz was a success," BSA President Adele Hines ('99) said. "There was a variety of students from many different organizations on campus as well as students from Christian Brothers University. We had a wonderful time and look forward to this event next year."

**April 23 (Thursday): Time capsule** to be buried at BCLC. An official Rhodes time capsule will be

buried at 6:30 p.m. in the courtyard in front of the Bryan Campus Life Center in honor of our 150th anniversary. Among the items placed in the time capsule are photographs of the campus including student residence hall rooms, a CD-Rom and video used by Admissions Office for recruiting students, issues of the student newspaper *The Sou'wester*, the Student Handbook, and the College Catalogue for 1998-99. Fifty years from its installation—on April 23, 2048—the time capsule will be opened.

**April 25 (Friday): Senior Thesis Exhibit** opens in Clough-Hanson Gallery. The opening reception for the Senior Thesis Art Exhibition will begin at 5:00 p.m., lasting until 7:30 in the Clough-Hanson Gallery. The exhibit will run through May 15, Tuesdays through Saturdays, and includes work by Rhodes seniors Kendall Dinon, Chris Gerrish, Joel Hass, Rachel Killen, Kathy Scott, Kara Witherspoon, and Mandy Yarborough.

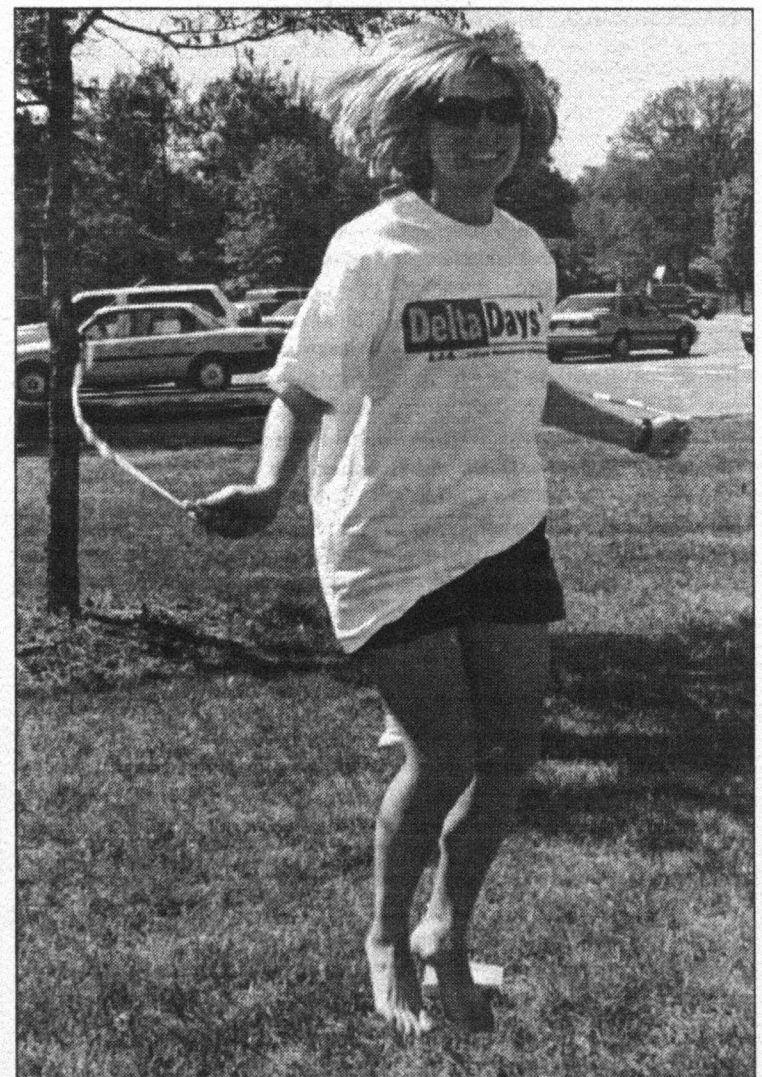


Photo by Chris McKenzie  
Nicole Atkins ('99) jumps rope at the Tri Delt fundraiser "Delta Days" this past weekend.

# Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

SOU'WESTER

Page 7

## McCoy Presents The Great American Nightmare

BURIED CHILD FINISHES STRONG SEASON AT MCCOY THEATRE

By Henry Murphy  
Copy Editor

If you missed the latest offering from the McCoy, you missed out on some of the year's finest acting at the theatre this year; you also missed out on one of the weirdest, most displacing dramas (more like an *uber-drama*) I've seen in the little black box. It capped off a year of powerful offerings from the McCoy, winding up the grim and menacing atmosphere which was launched with *Richard III*, and continuing the fine ensemble work navigated through that production and those in the middle.

I walked into the theatre, and the set stared me down; designed by Ron Newlin ('98) as part of his senior project, the living room was the setting for the McCoy's production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, which ran from April 2nd through 4th and April 16 through 19th. The show, directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Tom Jones, played on a space which glowered with deep black paint. There were strategically placed holes in the house's walls and the boards were ragged, aged by time, weather, and the corrosion of the family contained within its walls. A striking feature was its use as a facade. When the house ended, tall dark walls began, stretching the set from one end of the theatre to the other. I had the feeling of walking into a funeral home, actions happening unwatched, secrets biding their time.

Of course, the play's title didn't help much to alevate suspicion; right away, I knew we were in bitter, helplessly despairing territory. This was heightened by the contrast between the music playing — sound designed by Brady Potts ('99) — and the setting; a collage of American hits, we went from swing, through the Rolling Stones and on to Jimi Hendrix's brilliant revision of the national anthem. This continued throughout the show, with hits like "California Dreamin'" hitting you at the bone.

We opened on the dark living room, the sound of raspy coughs filling the air. Monty Montgomery ('99) played Dodge, the battered patriarch of the family, in excellent makeup and with a gravelly voice worthy of Johnny Cash. Through the opening conversation between Dodge and his wife, Halie, we got a snapshot of what

dominates the family: people do not connect; they simply try to carry on their own ideas and desires without anyone else even finding out what's going on. Halie, played by Ty Hallmark ('99), was sequestered upstairs, her voice arching onto the stage (she was out of the audience's view at the beginning) like arrows from a mountain. Words in this play made end runs around each other; language seemed to be another form of life, detached from experience.

Sometimes my head spun at the conversational contortions which resulted from this kind of captivity.

And Montgomery and Hallmark played their parts so well that the pressure never let up. I liked Hallmark's performance better when her voice simply rang throughout the theatre, although she was quite good in person as well; but Montgomery, aided and abetted by a member of our audience the night I saw it, hacked and snorted and clawed his way through his dialogue with strength and precision. Together, they were two visibly pulsing points of power, colliding and regrouping in a frightening skirmish.

When the grandson Vince, played by Andrew Sullivan ('01) and his girlfriend Shelly, played by DeNae Winesette ('99), show up, the situation enacts what we've already suspected: in his failure to even recognize Vince, Dodge brings us to an experiential perspective of mis-connection. Sullivan was uneven, and sporadically inexplicable, digressing in emotional tone (against the gradual tone of the script); at times, his performance was distractingly single-minded. Winesette, however, provided a nicely nuanced portrayal of a woman suddenly flung into an emotional tornado, trying to find the solid ground and bring others with her to safety. Her nervously offered generosity and compassion were touching and tense.

Brandon Barr ('99) played Bradley, who is, to put it nicely, something of a loose cannon in the play. He suffers from the loss of his right leg, and acts upon contrary impulses: his first appearance in the play is marked by his terrorizing of both Dodge and Shelly, but after his prosthetic leg is removed, he becomes cowed and desperate. A shockingly funny

scene near the end of the play consisted of Sullivan teasing Barr with the possibility of getting his leg back.

Matt Nelson ('00) played the mentally retarded Tilden as a sort of unwitting straight man, but also as an uncanny catalyst for the play's epiphanies; the mix was somewhat awkward. The difficulty of representing a limited consciousness was handled with tenderness and caution, and the character became extremely moving as the play progresses.

The costumes were by Maegan Leith ('00) and the lighting was designed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Laura Canon.

## Danger, Film Critic, Danger!

By Brady Potts  
Rhodes'ter Editor

One of my favorite things about college would have to be disillusionment. Not the whiny, angsty, flannel-wearing, tortured-lyric-writing, shotgun solution Kobain kind, but the disillusionment that inevitably accompanies education. I mean the kind that's fun at parties when you want to raise your hand and say "Ooh, call on me, I'm ever so smart!"

At this point, you begin to wow your friends with comments like "Did you know that the same chemical that causes Japanese businessmen to get a slight rush from pufferfish causes the behavior of Hatian zombies? It's not magic at all." It's the same kind of deviant fun you get telling little kids about the Easter bunny. The point is, a little bit of knowledge can be a dangerous thing.

Unfortunately, this kind of disillusionment is a bit sticky when it comes to entertainment, especially movie "events" like *Lost in Space*. Actually, it takes the fun right out of a lot of things.

Thanks to my spiffy Rhodes education, I had to really work on that willing suspension of disbelief thing.

So, in lieu of a conventional review, I thought I'd give you some tips on which parts of your brain to shut off if you want to enjoy the movie, and you can glean info about it from my helpful hints.

First off, I'd like to extend a big kudos to Dr. Wetzel in the Psychol-

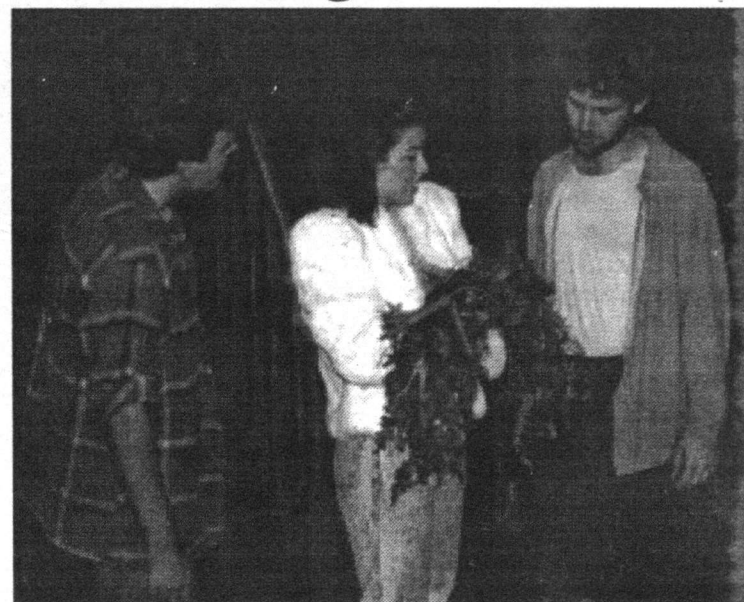


Photo by Carol Curry

ogy department, whose parapsychology class rendered me incapable of believing in UFOs, time travel, or any of that fun stuff. As a result, my first reaction to the alien spider thingies that put the Robinson family in danger, *Will Robinson*, was "oh yeah right, space spiders with heat cells on their underbellies that live in the vacuum of space."

Then hordes of the little things started swarming and I managed, through the good graces of New Line cinema's special effects staff, to get over it and proceed to getting creeped out by the little buggers. They aren't anything too novel, but imagine Arachnophobia in space. I had nightmares.

Really.

Well, one nightmare, but it was pretty damn scary.

While we're on the topic of science, let's hear it for Dr. MacQueen. As the Jupiter II flew on a collision course for the sun while William Hurt and Matt LeBlanc looked annoyed, I thought, "Damn it, they got the chromosphere all wrong." Then the jumbo speakers made the air in the theatre rattle and I was nearly blinded by the giant movie screen, at which point I shut up, and enjoyed the ride.

As far as Messrs Hurt and LeBlanc go, I should confirm that this movie is not about acting, with the notable exception of Gary Oldman's Dr. Smith. He pushes back the love, brings in the jive instead, and sets most of the plot in action with his own brand of bad voodoo. Anyways, back to the

leads.

Remember *The Accidental Tourist*? Imagine that performance in a spacesuit that restricts his movement even more so than usual. It's not that I haven't met scientist/thinker types like that before, its just that they don't translate well to sci-fi/action movies.

Imagine if Spock, bereft of those nifty eyebrow wiggles, had been the captain of the Enterprise full time. It wouldn't work — you need Cap'n Kirk to start a fight every so often, which is where Matt LeBlanc's character comes in.

See Matt. See Matt grunt. See Matt fly the ship. See Matt waste alien critters with a lot of big guns while dispensing wacky quips like "I'd trade all this stuff for a can of Raid". See Matt sexually harass Maureen "Rollergirl" Robinson (Heather Graham from *Boogie Nights* - you should really check it out. Fun movie.) See Matt act? Well...don't hold your breath.

Still, this movie could be fun, if you know how to watch it. Forget anything you ever learned in the following subjects: physics, drama, film, writing, and psychology. I'm betting that my eight year old cousin, who doesn't know that a planet can't turn into a black hole no matter what, will really dig it. And odds are, I'd take them to see it without complaint. All I'd have to do is turn off the nitpicking part of my brain, leave Occam's razor at home, and watch the pretty colors on the screen.

A couple of beers beforehand wouldn't hurt either.

## Ima Rec

By Farrah Fite  
Staff Writer

As this intramural season comes to a close, the Department of Recreational Services would like to thank everyone who participated in intramural for making this year another great one. If you would like to receive a schedule of intramural sports and Natural High activities for the 1998/99 school year, please e-mail Kari Duncan at DUNCAN. Also, intramural coordinators Mike Gonda ('93) and Heather Soto, along with Director Kari Duncan, would like to thank all intramural officials and supervisors for their hard work.

Another congratulations goes out to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Tri Delta sorority for accumulating the most points through participation and achievement and therefore winning the Intramural Sports Award. Dagon Percer ('99) was the representative for the SAE's and Dorothy Weir ('01) was the representative for the Tri Deltas.

However, there are still two intramural sports that haven't concluded yet. In the soccer league, the SAE team leads the league with an undefeated

## Rhodes Runners Rewrite Records

By Grant Gandy  
Staff Writer

A rare April cold snap spawned by El Niño produced optimal conditions for what Coach Robert Shankman calls, "probably the best performances that I've seen as a coach. This meet was very gratifying."

The performances of Dave Thomasson ('99) and Mike Wottle ('99) have produced an interesting sub-plot during their three years of competition at Rhodes. Both have been named co-SCAC MVPs, Wottle in 1996 and Thomasson in 1997, and now both are school

record-holders. Though they usually run different events, their occasional meetings in the steeplechase have proved to be epic battles.

Saturday was no different for these two. Thomasson won the 1500m in 3:56.56, breaking his two year-old school record of 4:01. His effort left him .32 of a second shy of the provisional qualifying standard for the national meet. Thomasson came back in the 800m, where he placed third in 1:57. Wottle raced assistant coach Brendan Minihan ('97) for a chance to claim Minihan's school record in the 5000m. Wottle pulled away with one and a half laps

remaining to beat Minihan and lower the record by eleven seconds, to 15:24. Commenting on his race, Wottle said, "I'm happy to have the record. It's a long race, but Brendan and I worked as a unit to both run faster than the old record." Thomasson and Wottle were not alone in their outstanding performances. With the exception of one runner, every runner running 800m and longer on the men's team set a personal record.

In an almost foregone conclusion, Jason Walter ('99) qualified for nationals in the triple jump for the second time in as many years with his

mark of 46' 11.75". Matt Wilkinson ('00) and Chris Bracken ('99) placed second and third, respectively, in the javelin with their marks of 176 and 167 feet.

For the women, Emily Ferguson ('99), who missed several days of practice due to illness, ran a strong 5000, finishing second in 19:18. Robyn McKeller ('00) placed third in the high jump with a mark of 5' 2". Kelley Thompson ('01) finished third in the 3000 with a time of 11:05. Bola Rasaki ('99) threw the javelin 91' 10", good for a third place finish.

record. They are seeded first and are expected to win the play-offs. However, the BLT's, consisting of all females, opted to compete in the men's play-offs. This team that is led by Adrienne Ballew ('99) may cause an upset.

In volleyball, the women's league will finish up this Wednesday night, and the Chi Delta team led by Jennie Wingad ('98) is expected to win as the first seed. In the co-ed/men's league, the play-offs are set for next Tuesday

night when the first seed Ringers will take on the fourth seed Kappa Sigma team, and the third seed Soccer team will play the second seed SAE team, all in the semifinals. The winners of those two games will face off for the championship title at 9 p.m. next Tuesday, April 28.

Looking at the other side of Recreational Services, on Friday May 1st, the last day of classes, Natural High and Timeout for

Choices are sponsoring a pool party to celebrate the end of the school year. All Rhodes students and faculty are invited to attend the party that will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Both organizations are hosting the party in hopes that students will start their celebration of their last weekend of school without the use of drugs and alcohol.

Pizza and refreshments will be served and a number of great prizes will be given out to the win-

ners of some all-time favorite pool competitions. Both directors, Kari Duncan of Natural High and Glenn Schwab of Timeout for Choices, encourage everyone to take time out to have a natural high on their last day of classes as they join in all the enjoyable activities and games that will be offered. Remember, Friday May 1st from 4 to 7 p.m. at Alburty pool. In the event of rain, there will be refreshments inside the CLC.



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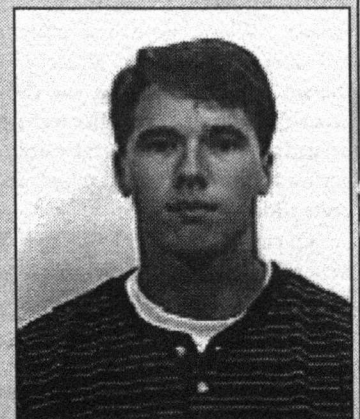
## SAAC Athletes of the Month March



**Taylor Tarver**

Following the graduation of Nao Kinoshita, Tarver moved into the #1 spot on the tennis team and has taken on the change quite comfortably. She currently has the best 1998 singles record (8-6) of anyone playing #1 in the SCAC. Tarver and doubles partner Kasey Sweeney also have the best record of the #1 doubles teams in the SCAC at 9-5.

**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.**



**Chris Valas**

A two-sport athlete at Rhodes (football and baseball), Valas is ending his Rhodes career by leading the Lynx on the diamond. He currently leads the team in batting average (.438) and triples (5). He is 9th among SCAC players in batting and 3rd in the SCAC in RBI's per game (1.37). On defense, Valas is the top Lynx pitcher with an ERA of 4.199.