

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Campus News...

An Iowa State University bus driver was assaulted last Saturday by a man riding the Moonlight Express, the late-night bus system operated by the university. The driver, a student volunteer, was Brandon Whalen, a junior graphic design major. Whalen stopped the bus and asked four young men who were disturbing the peace to get off. As they exited the bus, one of the young men hit him in the shoulder and five times in the jaw. Whalen was helped by Ryan Kolbo, a senior finance major. The entire incident was caught on tape by the bus' camera, and Whalen may press charges if the perpetrator is caught.

Trends at the University of Illinois mirror national trends as default rates on student loans lower. The national default rate, which peaked at 22.4% in 1990, was at an all-time low of 6.9% in the 1998 fiscal year. Default rates at the University of Illinois fell to 3.4 percent in 1998. Bob Anderson, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, attributes the success to the recent solidity of the national economy. Another factor is increased information available on the Internet about student loans, and responsibilities involved. Anderson estimates that about half of all college students take out student loans.

Freshman Mandy Jenkins, of Murray State University (Murray, KY), has overcome a disability to attend the university as a social work major. Mandy was paralyzed from the chest down when she was shot in the shoulder at the prayer-circle shooting at Heath High School in West Paducah, KY. Mandy, with the help of her twin, Missy, who was also at the prayer circle but was not wounded, is making the adjustment to college life in a wheelchair. Mandy decided to become a social worker when she met the social worker who was to help her adjust to life in a wheelchair after she was paralyzed during her sophomore year of high school. The social worker was not disabled, and Missy felt that she "could identify with other people in wheelchairs."

All stories taken from U-Wire

Kappa Delta All-Sing kicks off Parents Weekend

By Beth Purves
Staff Writer

Students, parents, faculty and friends filled Mallory Gymnasium on Friday, September 29th for the annual Kappa Delta All-Sing. Members of campus organizations entertained to this year's theme: "Motown Madness."

The boys of Kappa Sigma fraternity captured another All-Sing crown with a performance including "Theme from 'Shaft,'" "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," "ABC," and "My Girl." Said Brian Waggenspack ('03), "We practiced for a couple of weeks leading into it. It was a lot of fun. We really enjoyed it." With a live band, choreography, and a little humor, the Kappa Sigmas impressed the judges. J.R. Tarabocchia ('03) and Ben Chastain ('03) were the chairs for All-Sing. Mark Erskine ('03) was in charge of the band.

The Chi Omega sorority earned second place in this year's event. They sang "Shop Around,"

"One Fine Day," "How Sweet It Is to Be Loved by You," and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Outfitted in black, with boas, white gloves, sunglasses and shopping bags, they put on an exciting show.

Alpha Omicron Pi received a third place award for their performance of "Do You Love Me," "Can't Get Next To You," "Money," "Mr. Postman," "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," and "Natural Woman." They entertained the audience with energetic and exciting choreography.

Delta Delta Delta received the award for best costumes. The Black Student Association, who presented "Superfreak," "Lady Marmalade," and "As," was voted Most Entertaining. Another highlight of the evening was the Kappa Delta's exhibition performance of "I Will Survive" and "Respect." The fraternity pledge classes and the Rhodes Student Government also performed.

This year's All-Sing concluded with the traditional farewell by the Kappa Delta seniors.

From sweet potatoes to poetry: Visiting poet gives lecture

By Mia Hood
Staff Writer

Poet Alice Friman saw a tabloid headline: "Woman sees Jesus in Microwave Oven" and wrote the poem, "Ms. Beasley's Supper." Much of what Friman writes, in fact, germinates in the realm of the odd. Sweet potatoes, a dead zebra, and a squirrel stuck in a furnace (among other topics), were represented in her poems. On Thursday, September 28th, as part of the annual Visiting Writers Series at Rhodes, Friman shared her peculiar imaginings with students and faculty in Blount Auditorium.

With an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Indiana Arts Commission (1996-1997), the

Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America (1993), and several Pushcart Prize nominations (1992, 1993, 1998), Friman has established herself as a prominent poet and essayist. A New York native, Friman now lives with her husband in Indianapolis.

Friman received an M.A. in English from Butler University and a B.A. from Brooklyn College. Currently, she is a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Indianapolis. Her collections of poetry include *Inverted Fire* and *Zoo*, for which she won the 1998 Ezra Pound Poetry Award. She has additionally contributed work to *Poetry*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Prairie*

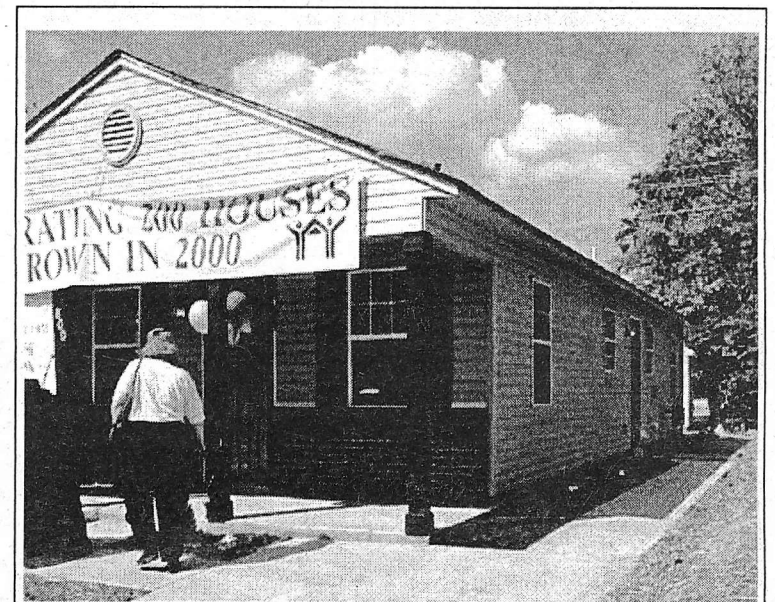


Photo by Ron Franczyk

Sponsors dedicated the recently completed Habitat house last Sunday. It was funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and is part of Rhodes' 75th anniversary celebration. See article on Page 7.

The seniors performed "Think," and "Nowhere to Run." After the senior farewell, the Wool Socks entertained with some real singing until the decisions of the judges were announced.

The profits from this year's All-

Sing will benefit the Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia and the Memphis Family Exchange Club. Kappa Delta raises funds for All-Sing through registration fees, admission fees, refreshments and t-shirt sales.

Schooner, *Ohio Review*, *Boulevard*, *Field*, and *Northwest Poetry*.

During her visit, Friman not only read excerpts from her poetry collections but also spoke in classes during the day. She encourages young writers to draw from any conceivable subject and write. Addressing the universal problem of writer's block, she recounts how the poem "Final Instructions" came into existence. Her mind was blank, she explained, but she had to write. The subject she chose, her favorite food, sweet potatoes, yielded her successful final poem of the night.

But Friman's poetry explores more than just the unusual. Her recent experiences with putting her parents into nursing homes

served as fodder for poems such as "The Fall," "Letter to My Sister," and "Diapers for My Father." Her love for her younger husband inspired the love poems, "Honeymoon," "Poem for Trees," and "Snow," all of which use her experiences in and knowledge of the natural and mythic world to correspond to her relationship with her husband.

Friman's work traces a path from the peculiar to the universal: a simple tabloid about a woman's sighting of Jesus in the microwave becomes a much larger, much more amusing exploration of the oddities of daily life. Friman elicited a positive reaction at her reading with both the humorous and the intensely serious poems she shared with Rhodes students and faculty.

Basic challenges lead to advanced opportunities

MATT WILDER
RANGER JOE



appeared during their junior and senior year of college. They may want to take a closer look at what is happening over at the Army ROTC program at the University of Memphis. While most juniors and seniors may assume that their paths are set only in one direction, the Army ROTC program is proving that it is not too late to shift to higher levels of leadership with a solid career as an Army officer.

In a recent survey by *USA Today* out of the top ten career choices, that of an Army officer was the number five choice. There are few careers in which you can earn \$30,000 per year and be able to progress to \$50,000 per year in only

Memphis Army ROTC program sent two cadets, Terry Williams and Joy Tolbert, to Camp Challenge. Both were recipients of two-year scholarships. Tolbert's enthusiasm was noted when she stated, "Camp Challenge was great! It increased my physical and mental capabilities." Tolbert is a Spanish major and actively participates in the ROTC Ranger Challenge. Williams declared "it is a comfort knowing that your tuition is paid for, to include books and a \$200.00 tax-free stipend a month for the next two years." Williams is a graduate student with the Psychology Department. Both cadets have a load off of their minds knowing that the remainder of their col-

leg education will be paid.

leg education will be paid. Where this benefit of Camp Challenge is relatively unknown is not only with sophomores and juniors on the University of Memphis campus, but also with those who are enrolled at Southwest Tennessee Community College (State Tech or Shelby State) or other partnership schools. The University of Memphis Army ROTC Partnership Schools consists of Rhodes College, LeMoyné Owen, Christian Brothers, and

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

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Cartoonist interested in political and campus issues...

Contact Nia Frantz @ FRAMW or submit a sample to *The Sou'wester* through campus mail.

Stop. Think. And shut your mouth.

BRAD DAMARÉ
L'ENFANT TERRIBLE



What do you say when people ask you about the social climate at Rhodes? No, I'm not talking about the frequency or type of parties, or the Greek system, or even the socioeconomic background of the students. What I mean is, what do you tell people about the way students at Rhodes interact? Is it a friendly environment? Is your privacy well-respected?

I don't know how you reacted to those first questions, but I'd bet any amount of money that you made a face after reading that third one. Privacy? At Rhodes? You're kidding, right? One of the undeniable consequences, ladies and gentlemen, of going to a school with such a small student population is that everyone knows you. Sometimes this works in your favor: you usually don't have to worry about going to a party and not knowing anyone; you've always got some-

one who lives on your hall or that you've hung out with in the past; plus there's no shortage of prospective dates to the Homecoming dance. And it's kind of nice when your parents visit for Parents Weekend and are surprised that everyone you pass knows you by name.

Oh, but there are disadvantages, too: the most random people seem to know things about your private life that you never intended to release for public consumption. We've all been in that situation before—you run into someone that you vaguely remember from first-year Search class, and they mention something off-hand that you'd have sworn you only told to your roommate. You walk away somewhat unsettled, maybe a little angry, and curse the grapevine that covers Rhodes more thickly than its precious ivy.

Ah, yes, the infamous grapevine! The most rapid and frighteningly efficient mechanism on campus. More quickly than you can dial a telephone number and spit out the facts yourself, your dirty little secrets, whether real or imagined, are spread from Bellingrath to Blount, and become a

permanent part of the fabric of Rhodes social life. Who you dated freshman year, what you said about a former friend...the things you'd never expect to be general topics of discussion are suddenly and candidly tossed about over dinner in the Rat, between people you may not even know. Ad-

The infamous grapevine: the most rapid and frighteningly efficient mechanism on campus.

mit it: you know things, and I mean private things, about people at Rhodes that you've never exchanged two words with.

And it all starts so innocently, too: you mention something to a close friend behind closed doors, and the next thing you know, your dirty laundry is on full display outside of Palmer. I have NO idea how or why the system works as well as it does. If I studied half that efficiently, I'd have graduated at the end of fall break. Of my freshman year.

Don't let my cynicism fool you, though: I'm just as guilty as everyone else. Hell, there's a dent in the wall above my bed where I've repeatedly beaten my forehead after making a

complete ass out of myself. For example, let me tell you about a little situation that I was involved in just the other night.

A few friends had gotten together over coffee, as we usually do (CK's is the greatest thing about life in Memphis—this is not debatable). The con-

versation was going along just fine, until Person 'A' haphazardly spit out a piece of information about Person 'B', who was sitting directly across the table, which Person 'B' had thought was a complete secret between himself and just one other person. Well, as the conversation sank into an awkward silence, I sank under the table, because I realized that I had been part of that great and rapid transfer of information which had trampled over someone's supposedly private life.

And, yes, it had all seemed so innocent at first. Over dinner I had gotten a piece of information that I found interesting, so I told someone else, who I knew would find it equally interesting. Harmless, right? You keep

thinking that up until the point where you're sitting there over coffee next to someone who's just been publicly embarrassed because his private life has been reduced to a piece of good gossip.

Yeah, maybe I wasn't the first link on the chain, or even the most important; but just by being part of it, I might as well have been standing on a table in the Rat with a megaphone. What the hell was I thinking?! There's nothing more depressing, or more painful, than discovering that you've been a hypocrite, particularly after making a career out of criticizing students at Rhodes for their sometimes callous behavior.

Okay, there is one thing worse than that: knowing that you've put someone else in an embarrassing or awkward situation because you didn't keep your stupid mouth shut.

So by now, you're finishing up this column, and you're probably wondering why it hasn't been very witty or informative, or even that interesting. Well, it really isn't supposed to be. This isn't a joke, or a tirade, or a criticism, or really even much of an opinion column.

It's an apology.

Dear God, it's me: please grow up!

MEG LAWLER
IN SEARCH OF...



Happy hour can be productive. I actually had a very meaningful conversation with a recent Rhodes grad during one of these happy hours. We hadn't seen each other in a while, and so we were asking each other the pertinent life questions to catch up. When she got around to my major, and I replied Religious Studies, she scrunched her face in a way that was not only enhanced by the bitterness of the lime in her vodka tonic, but also piqued my curiosity. All she would say was, "That religious studies thing; I could never do that because it messed with my heart too much."

I didn't press her about the subject. The hour, after all, is supposed to be happy. However, I can't help but believe that she is one of the lucky ones, having attended Rhodes and having been required to think about her beliefs. We all allow Rhodes and our education to stretch our minds about atoms not actually being the

smallest particles in the universe or the information stored in our unconscious influencing our daily lives. Why, then, do we get so upset when the Life or Search class we are in pushes the envelope, too?

Granted, some of you out there are exceptions. You love religious discourse and question everything. But most young people out there, myself included, don't want to ask those questions where their personal beliefs come into the spotlight (where they could lose their religion). If you don't examine these questions, how do you know the faith you have is your own? I didn't know. As Dale Martin highlighted in his lecture the other night,

When we grow up, why aren't we trading our childhood view of religion for a more developmentally fitting, not to mention challenging, one?

do I think what I think because the Bible tells me so? Or my parents? Or my friends?

The former Rhodes professor's lecture is a good example of appreciating the Religious Studies department for their straight shooting efforts at being "the enforcer." Martin asked,

intermingled with his thoughts about homosexuality and interpretation, why people don't grow up with respect to religion. So many people think of religious truths as simple: truths they extrapolate from their Sunday School mentality. Why does religion get stuck being the Never Never Land of thought?

Human beings are developmental creatures. Do you remember that sphere little tykes have where the object is to put the circle piece in the circle slot and the square piece in the square slot? Do you use it now? When we grow up, why aren't we trading our childhood view of religion for a more developmentally fitting, not to men-

tion challenging, one? My point is no matter what religious tradition, if any, you come from, you have to consciously question it.

Now, I wanted to give myself a lot more credit than I was, as well as assume that Rhodes students are thinking centered and ask these questions

of themselves. But stop for a second. Imagine God, Ultimate Reality, whatever you call your ultimate concern, in your mind. What does it look like? My mind pictures this white robed fellow, pink lips smiling, almost John Kaltner-esque. And you know, this has been my picture of the God I grew up with for, well, all of my growing up. What does your God look like? And why didn't my God grow up with me through the years?

I was confused. A friend of mine said her God had grown up with her. She used to imagine God in jeans and a red t-shirt, but now, the God in her head wore more sophisticated clothes. But, I don't think a seasonal wardrobe change is the same thing I'm talking about. Sure, my God used to be there for me when I wanted to be picked first for the dodgeball game on the playground, "oh come on God...just let them pick me." Then, there was the "Are You There God, It's Me Margaret" phase where God helped me through the awkward teenage years. Now, my God, of course, as per this article, is in question. Why is my God Christian? Why is my God old? Why is my God a male, for God's sake? And for a lot of us who realize our God

was the same yesterday as He is today, I think we need to realize the Feuerbachian nature of that question: when we ask why God is the same, we are really asking why we are the same.

It's not as out-there as it sounds. It's normal to realize that the faith of our parents, that we often rely on because a holy book tells us so, might not fit us in the same way it fits them. Dean Hoge, a sociologist, talks about the common withdrawal from organized religion of people aged 18-30. I've noticed this question is all around us right now. Dean Martin even asked us, what happens when the owner's manual doesn't fit?

Well, what happens?

I suppose I mean to say that if you question your faith, or even lose your faith, it's not such a terrible thing. You might even have to lose it to find it. Shaking off the concepts you have about your ultimate concern in your head ensures that you are growing and maturing. And I can't see that being a bad thing.

Yep. I'm convinced that Searchers and Lifers, alike, are pretty fortunate to be able to examine their beliefs, whatever they may be, and force their God to grow up.

Gore: Fighting for the people

By Grace Williams
College Democrats

On issues across the board from foreign policy, to Medicare, to education Al Gore's stances make him the best choice to be 43rd president of the United States. While both Gore and George W. Bush have had a long history in politics, Al Gore's seven years in the U.S. Senate followed by eight years as vice-president have readily equipped him to serve as our next president.

Al Gore has much more experience in foreign policy than his opponents. As early as 1982, when he was a U.S. Representative, he introduced an arms control plan to reduce the threat of nuclear war. While neither Gore nor Bush favors isolationism, Gore favors much more involvement in foreign affairs. Vice President Gore advocates greater financial aid from the government for foreign affairs. Last November in a speech in Iowa, Gore criticized the Republican Congress for cutting funds for efforts such as monitoring arms, promotion of democracy, and peacekeeping, which Gore says "are not charity, but national security." He also pointed out that only one penny out of each dollar that the government spends goes to foreign operations. Gore wants to change this, first by paying long-deferred U.N. dues, which will aid in strengthening cooperation among international institutions. This will, in turn, make it easier to attain his foreign policy goals.

Al Gore's and George W. Bush's views on Medicare are fundamentally different. Gore wants to improve Medicare by assuring all seniors an affordable prescription drug plan, protecting the Medicare funds, and giving all seniors a choice as to their healthcare providers. The first part of his plan for improving Medicare consists of adding a prescription drug plan

that ensures all seniors access to affordable prescription drugs. With this plan, no one who needs medication will ever have to choose between that medication and food. Gore also wants to place the budget surplus in a "lock box" to protect the Medicare funds. This would insure that Medicare funds are never used for any purpose other than Medicare or paying down the national debt. In contrast, Bush's plan would take money from Medicare funds to grant tax cuts which overwhelmingly benefit only the

wealthiest one percent of the population. Finally Gore wants to guarantee Medicare recipients a

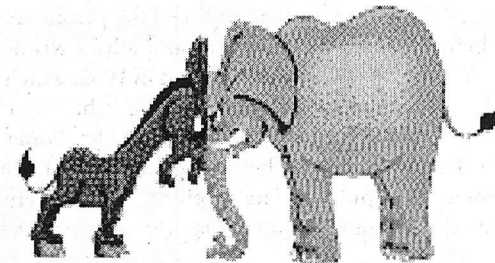
choice as to their healthcare providers. He wants them to be able to choose their own doctors and health care plans. Bush, on the other hand, advocates raising traditional Medicare premiums. Raising the premiums would force many seniors out of traditional Medicare coverage and into more expensive HMO plans.

Gore plans to pay down the national debt and eliminate the government's heavy interest payments. Lower interest payments will free up much of the federal budget for other programs. Gore plans to devote \$2 of projected surpluses toward debt reduction for everyone \$1 that he devotes to tax cuts or investments. Debt reduction is crucial because it will maintain

Gore hopes to turn around failing schools and close the achievement gap in the U.S.

the nation's economic prosperity and keep interest rates low, which will allow families to buy homes and cars.

One of the issues which probably concerns young people the most is education. Gore's education policy includes many necessary improvements to bring education in the U.S. up to par. His plan covers several financial aspects of education, such as making college tuition tax deductible, increasing the amount of student loans and grants to make at least two years of college free, and getting fifty percent more funds to public schools than are currently allocated. Gore also recognizes the importance of improving the teaching force. He wants to test teachers and remove failing tenured teachers; he also wants to hire two million new teachers over the next ten years to reduce class sizes. Other focuses of Gore's education policy include stressing early learning and increasing classroom technology. These goals will be reached by a plan to spend five billion dollars a year for universal preschool for three- and four-year-olds and by connecting every school to the Internet. In addition, by stressing teachers' accountability for their students' performances, increasing overall funding for public education, and ending practices such as social promotion, Gore hopes to turn around failing schools and close the "achievement gap" in the U.S. Al Gore's stances on these major issues show that he favors the solutions which will benefit the largest number of people. His concern for the welfare of the average citizen makes him the best choice for president.



Bush: A record of success

By Barrett Hago
College Republicans

As many of you prepare to cast your vote in your first presidential election, you must take many points into consideration, including what a person has done and what he can do. From the beginning of this campaign season only one man has proven to be the one who has put a record on the table that no one can challenge: the Republican Governor of Texas, George W. Bush.

With his running mate, Former Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, Gov. Bush has campaigned throughout the country focusing on what he has done and what he can do. These two men have spent most of their lives working for the public and the citizens of America. Gov. Bush has spent the last six years as the governor of the third most populated state in America: Texas. Former Secretary Cheney has spent nearly a quarter century in public service from Chief of Staff for President Ford,

Bush has managed to turn Texas into one of the best states to live the American dream.

to ten years in the House of Representatives, and finally the Secretary of Defense under Gov. Bush's

father, the former President Bush.

The record speaks for itself. Gov. Bush has managed to turn the State of Texas into one of America's best states to live in, raise a family, and to live the American dream. He has given money back to the people. "This is the people's money to spend and not the government's" says Gov. Bush. He has been instrumental in orchestrating two of the largest tax cuts in history, totaling three billion dollars. These tax cuts have spurred

economic growth throughout Texas, making it one of the leading states for the growth of technology and new economy-based business. The state has its lowest unemployment rate in more than sixty years, including one of the lowest in the nation. Even with all these tax cuts, Texas is one of the few states in the country that is running a budget surplus. It is not a small budget surplus, but rather a surplus of more than one billion dollars.

Other initiatives have helped to make Texas the state that it is in respect to crime and education. Gov. Bush has passed legislation that forces violent offenders to serve at least ninety percent of their sentence; violent sex offenders now have to spend their entire sentence behind bars. During the Bush Administration in Texas, the overall crime rate decreased 13 percent and the violent crime rate decreased 20 percent; these are the two biggest decreases out of any state in the nation. As a result of Gov. Bush's appointments, Texas has the toughest parole board in history. This tough parole board has managed to keep offenders where they should be - away from the people.

While in prison, inmates must find constructive ways to better themselves. By authorizing the nation's first-ever 24-hour-a-day faith-based prison ministry, prisoners find ways to reduce their criminal behavior by finding the good in all things through the word of God. He has set up programs to catch criminals from the start. When a juvenile starts a life of crime, he is punished through the use of juvenile boot camps. These juvenile boot camps do not use violence to straighten out offenders, but they use punishment and teaching techniques that incorporate discipline, education, and respect to prevent crime.

Gov. Bush has shone in many areas, but he holds one area very close - education. Working closely with his wife, Laura, the Governor has managed to change Texas into one of the nation's best states for education.

Texas is currently ranked first in teacher quality, first in math and reading for African-Americans, and fourth in math and reading for Hispanics. Since Bush has become governor, Texas is one of two states that has had the greatest progress in education over the past five years. Of all these education statistics, one speaks louder than any: Texas has raised the number of students who pass the Texas Test of Basic Skills from fifty-one percent to nearly ninety percent.

Let the record speak for itself. From taxes to education, all these prove that Gov. Bush is the right candidate to lead America.

Express your opinions in . . .

Forum

A supplement to Sou'wester news coverage focusing on issues of national and global importance. Students are encouraged to write on pressing scientific, economic, cultural, or political topics.

All Rhodents are welcome to participate.

Interested? E-mail Trey Thacher at THAFB.

Nader: Public citizen for president

By Kosta Dalageorgas
College Green

With the 2000 Presidential Election drawing near, the ability to know the candidates and their platforms is crucial. For many Rhodes students, this will be the first time they have cast their vote in a Presidential election. Many people have heard of the two candidates running from the two main political parties of the United States: George W. Bush from the Republican Party and Al Gore from the Democratic party. However, many people are uninformed of any other candidates and their political platforms. One such candidate is Ralph Nader, the Green Party presidential candidate. Some people have heard of him, but many do not really know who he is or what he stands for.

Ralph Nader was born of Lebanese immigrants in Connecticut in 1934. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton in 1955, with a focus in Chinese and other foreign languages. After graduating from Princeton, he entered Harvard Law School, where he began doing research into the safety of American automobiles, which would later culminate in his role as an unpaid adviser to a Senate subcommittee which explored what role the federal government might play in auto safety.

In 1965, he targeted General Motors and the American auto industry in his best-selling book *Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile*. When GM attempted to discredit him, he sued them for invasion of privacy. This landmark case forced the president of GM to go before a Senate Committee and admit wrongdoing; and a series of safety laws were passed in 1966, which forced the auto industry to make drastic design changes (i.e. the safety belt) for safer motor vehicles. With the money Nader won in the settlement, he launched the modern consumer movement. The publicity he received, and the reputation he created for standing up to corporations, inspired activists from

around the nation to go to Washington, D.C. to work with Nader. They became known as "Nader's Raiders."

Turn on to politics or politics will turn on you.

Organizations were launched to push for laws to protect people as consumers, workers and taxpayers, as well as to protect the environment, combat corporate abuse, and increase citizen access to government. Ralph Nader and his Raiders have identified and confronted political and corporate bosses on hundreds of issues. They have fought against insurance companies, global trade arrangements that allow other countries to evade our environment, labor, and consumer protection laws, and corporate lobbyists and politicians who attempt to block safety standards or to deny fair access to court for injured parties.

These are just a few of the activities and projects Nader has been involved in in the past thirty-five years. Through his actions his political platform becomes evident. On the topic of Civil Rights, he supports human rights as cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and supports the actions of the ACLU, except when spending money on free speech. He also wants to strengthen Affirmative Action. He states that "the full range of federal affirmative action laws and programs to create equal opportunities for women and minorities must be defended, strengthened, and fully funded."

On another domestic issue, health programs, Nader endorses a universal health care system and wants to model the U.S. health care system after the Canadian model. He also supports legalizing medical marijuana, hemp, and de-

criminalizing controlled substances. He believes drug abuse is a health problem, not a criminal problem.

On the topic of crime, Nader is opposed to the death penalty and believes that "criminal justice has become Big Business a Prison-Industrial Complex with a vested interest in filling the jails instead of ending crime."

On the topic of the environment, Nader supports giving more funds to the National Park System and ending all commercial logging in national forests. He opposes the concentration of power and moneyed interests. He supports raising the minimum wage immediately and also supports worker's rights.

In the arena of defense and foreign policy, Nader advocates an end to the trade embargo with Cuba and a halt to the economic sanctions against Iraq. He also proposes a \$100 billion dollar reduction in the defense budget.

Another important consideration to keep in mind when voting is the vice presidential running mate of a candidate. Nader's running mate is Winona Laduke, a graduate of Harvard, who currently lives on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota and works on restoring the local land base and culture. LaDuke also serves as the board co-chair for the Indigenous Women's Network. In 1994, she was named by *Time Magazine* as one of America's 50 most promising leaders under 40 years of age.

Why would Ralph Nader appeal to the Rhodes Community? There are several reasons. First, Nader believes that citizens should be active members of their country's social, political, and economic programs. This is closely connected with the idea of active participation in the surrounding environment, one of the foundations of the Rhodes Educational ideal, as expressed in the 2000-2001 Rhodes Catalogue, "Rhodes provides students with opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics, fraternities and sororities, student publications and many other activities..."

Both Nader and Rhodes stress active involvement in society in order to enact positive change for the betterment of all mankind. Nader advocates change that is initiated through democratic action by a country's citizens. He tries to make the standard of living better by establishing regulations and rules of consumer products and industries. He is a strong proponent of social change and service to the community and also the nation as a whole, a philosophy which the Rhodes community and administration take pride in. In other words, he wants to ensure the betterment of all the citizens of a nation, not just the ones with the power



and the wealth, as is so often the case when corporations and big business dominate U.S. society. Only through active involvement in society can the citizens of a country truly enact change. It was this philosophy which Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., lived by, and which Ralph Nader hopes to carry into the twenty-first century.

For information about the Green Party of Tennessee, Ralph Nader and Tom Burrell (the U.S. Senate Candidate), go to <http://www.greentn.org>. For information about presidential candidates' stances and platforms go to <http://www.issues2000.org>.

The College Greens meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Townsend social room.

Harper's Magazine had an essay on Ralph Nader in their September 2000 issue.

Vote Nader: "Turn on to politics or politics will turn on you."

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Seniors protest yearbook policy change

By Mia Hood
Staff Writer

The deadline for senior pictures this year was extended due to a circulating petition about the new ban on group photographs. This decision, made last spring, limits the seniors to only individual shots for the yearbook and was met with some opposition from the senior class. Seniors Trey Thacher and Will Haven first presented a petition to the yearbook staff with 100 signatures, which, for them to overturn the decision, was too few. The petition needed to include signatures from at least half of the class in order to be considered. As of now, Thacher says, he has 150 signatures, only 18 short of the goal.

But with the new October 20 deadline approaching, the likelihood of the yearbook overturning the decision is slim.

Says Editor-in-Chief Andrea Hutchinson ('01): "As stated in the letter to the seniors this is the final editorial decision. There were not enough petition signatures to reconsider the change, nor have there been major complaints..." Hutchinson has found that, while

many seniors may not necessarily like the change, they understand why she made it and how it would improve the readability of the yearbook.

As stated in the letter to the senior class, there were three primary reasons behind the decision. First, it is more practical and journalistically correct to have one person in a picture with a one-name caption below. This, according to Hutchinson, follows collegiate standards. It additionally aids the administration when they need to look up alumni and link faces and names. Hutchinson believes the most significant among the reasons is the third: "When you look back at your senior yearbook in years to come you will be able to know who each person is."

But Trey Thacher and Will Haven have objections to the new policy. These objections, according to Thacher, have been met with support not only from the senior class, but also from other students, alumni, staff, and parents.

Thacher rebuts each of Hutchinson's three reasons for the new policy. First, in response to the journalistic standards of the yearbook, he claims that this proves the

yearbook's allegiance to "some journalistic group in some faraway city." Thacher questions whether the yearbook's goal should be to produce a "good" yearbook according to others' standards or to our own.

Second, he points out that the yearbook is not a reliable source for the administration to begin with. Unlisted pictures would go much further in hampering their search for readable pictures that would group photographs. Faces, he says, with no pictures omitted, would be a far more reliable source for the administration.

Lastly, he advises the students as well to consult Faces when trying to remember classmates after graduation. The yearbook, Thacher says, should record the friendships that were formed at Rhodes rather than mug shots of the seniors.

While Thacher protests the short amount of time that Hutchinson granted him to gather signatures, the yearbook staff does not want to push back its deadline once again due to their plant deadline. But Thacher will persist and, next week, distribute a dissenting letter to the senior class. Whether or not it will affect Hutchinson's decision is yet to be seen.

This week in Campaign 2000

By Bill Baldwin
Staff Writer

The presidential debates occurred Tuesday night in Boston and neither George W. Bush nor Al Gore could claim total victory.

Gore appeared uncomfortable as Bush discussed policies, making him appear condescending. Gore should have presented himself as more likeable to the Americans electorate, but his gestures did not allow that to happen.

Bush did not come across as having command of the issues. This allowed Gore to look far more informed on both the tax issue and foreign affairs.

Bush stated that he would want the Russians to take an active role in Serbian politics and try to persuade the old Government to recognize the election held on Monday. The debate took place before the riots in Serbia and before the Russian Government had recognized the Serbian elections as the rest of the world had. Gore pointed out that the Russians would not be very helpful if they did not welcome the new Serbian government, and Bush never ex-

plained his position any further. The exchange made Bush appear weak on foreign policy.

Bush and Gore had problems with tax policy and were accused of exaggerating stories.

Many conservatives think Bush should have defended his tax cut policies. They take the stance that the upper tax brackets pay the most in taxes and should get the most back in a tax cut. Bush also failed to explain a plan backed by supporters, indicating that the bottom six percent of the population should not pay any income tax under the governor's plan.

Gore was accused of exaggerating a story about a girl in a Florida public school who was forced to stand all day in one class because there were not enough chairs. The principal of the school said later that Gore's story gave a false representation of the school's problems. The accusation fits into a common perception among many people about Gore's scruples: that he will say and do anything to get elected.



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Campus Safety Log

10/2/00 to 10/11/00



10/2	9:02am	Stewart Hall - Vandalism reported to wall in hallway, Res-Life Investigating
	10:10am	Robinson Hall - Insect Bite - Treatment recommended
10/3	NOTHING REPORTED	
10/4	3:35am	Phillips Lane - Reckless Driving and alcohol violation cited
	9:35am	North Parkway/University - Vehicle Accident - MPD on the scene, no injuries
	8:40pm	Dorothy C. King Hall - front lawn - Campus Safety removed a very large snake from grounds
	8:50pm	Tutwiler/University - Vehicle accident, no injuries
10/5	NOTHING REPORTED	
10/6	NOTHING REPORTED	
10/7	7:00pm	Phillips Lane - Hit and Run accident reported - under investigation
10/8	3:30pm	Robinson Hall, Suspicious persons: Campus Safety located two Snowden school students in hallway selling candy. They were asked to leave.

STATS:

ACCESSES: 153	VISITORS: 1,341
PROPPED DOORS: 0	ESCORTS: 19
JUMP STARTS: 1	CITATIONS: 115
ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS: 1	BOOTS: 0

Rhodes Habitat hosts new homeowner, volunteers for dedication party

By Margie Hall
News Editor

Sunday, October 1, new Habitat homeowner Sharon Ghoston stood by ready to receive her keys as Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis dedicated the final houses built during 2000. By Tuesday, October 3, Sharon, her brother Raymond, and her five children slept on beds for the first time in five years in their first real home.

Students and volunteers from the Memphis area dedicated over fifty work hours in a six week period to finish eight new Habitat homes, one of which was drawn as the official one hundredth completed construction funded by Habitat of Greater Memphis.

With Rhodes acting as the official volunteer sponsor, working in conjunction with the Tennessee Assembly, representatives Susan Hughes ('01) and Jessica Anschutz officially turned over two sets of keys to Ghoston, keys that opened not only her front door but also the chance at a new standard of living.

Rhodes students and organizations made their presence known during the build, as they tirelessly helped with houses behind schedule and struggling to finish before the September 30 deadline.

Habitat of Greater Memphis construction committee chairman Diane Franczyk, responsible for overseeing the building blitz, said, "The energy level and commitment of the 'Rhodes kids' was never ending. No task was too small or large to be completed successfully—they are always a totally willing group of individuals." Members of several Rhodes organizations contributed to the building effort, with the Honor Council, Bonner Scholars, Burch Scholars, the staff of Student Affairs, and several sororities and fraternities signing up to provide eager volunteers.

In addition to supplying the physical effort required to realize the final structure, college officials also donated five beds to the Ghoston family, with physical plant workers delivering them to the newly finished home.

The Rhodes Habitat chapter also held its own dedication party Sunday, October 8, where they made the official presentations of house-warming gifts to the

family. In addition to supplying the Ghoston family with a new sleeper sofa, the chapter donated linens and comforters for each member of the family.

Members of the build team from the campus and the Memphis area stopped by, bringing food and pictures to thank students for their hard work.

Dave Horne, co-construction leader of the house staffed by students, faculty and staff, said, "The Rhodes students were the most enthusiastic volunteers we've had. It's good to know that volunteerism is alive and well—after all, these guys are our future." President William Troutt made an appearance to congratulate both the family and the volunteers for their dedication to the project. While Rhodes made several presentations to the family in celebration, Chaplain Billy Newton also recognized key members of the build coordination team, presenting home-

owner Sharon Ghoston, Hughes, and construction leader Ron Franczyk with hammers commemorating the successful completion of the build.

Hughes commented, "We faced some difficult obstacles to completion of the house, including an early start date, as well as the fact that the final weekend coincided with Parent's Weekend. Even with the conflicts, we always had enough volunteers, and both the students and members of the administration demonstrated a strong commitment to extending the College's presence into the surrounding area and exhibiting a strong activism regarding poverty issues within Memphis. The build was successful in more than its stated goal of providing affordable housing—it also forged relationships between the administration, the students, and the community which will serve as a strong basis for even more involvement and impact in the future."

RSG Update:

Dear Student Body,

RSG is continuing to work hard.

I told you all that more details would come regarding the library hours. Currently, the library closes no later than 12am. Many students feel that this is too early and RSG has been in close contact with the administration regarding this issue. It seems that the money was simply not budgeted this year, due to lack of interest last year, to keep the library open until 2am. This puts a hindrance on the process of keeping it open later as it is not simply a matter of persuading the administration, it is a practical impossibility. However, we're working on it. First, next year the budget will be reevaluated based on the response from students and the research done to see the library hours of peer schools. Second, other studying facilities are being sought that would be open 24 hours. And lastly, there seems to be an initiative to extend the hours of the library during heavy exam times; perhaps to even keep it open 24 hours. This is tentative, but in strong consideration.

Due to further student concern, RSG has been looking into the BCLC

hours as well. It is not currently in the plan to extend them (again, a matter of budgeting, perhaps next year), but instead to make sure the hours are most suitable for students. This may involve opening an hour later in order to close an hour later, or closing earlier on Sundays in order to stay open later on Fridays, etc.

Other issues being discussed are the idea of some form of dead period before finals or the possibility of scheduling one's own exams. The latter is very tentative pending on student interest and the compatibility of the idea with the faculty. Both of these initiatives are intended to lessen the workload the week before finals in order to prevent the occurrence of overloading of work in that time. These two ideas are still in the earliest stage of finding student interest and need.

There are many other issues being discussed, and you are welcome to attend our meetings, held Thursday nights at 7:30 in 108 Buckman.

Please feel free to contact me or any of your senators if you have any opinions or confusions regarding what is written above. We want your input!

-John Ramsey

RSG Vice-President

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Arts & Entertainment

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THE
SOU'WESTER

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Iphigenia and Other Daughters: a triumphant tragedy McCoy opens the 2000-2001 theatre season with an impressive feminist play

By Anna Teekell
Staff Writer

If-uh-jen-ee-ya. I couldn't pronounce it either, but it's a name worth remembering. *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* opened the twentieth season at Rhodes' McCoy Theatre last Wednesday to an undeservingly scant Dollar Night crowd. Maybe it's the name, because this is a play that definitely deserves to be seen.

On a stage that has previously been criticized for too few women's roles, the McCoy makes a big statement with *Iphigenia*. The play by Ellen McLaughlin is being produced here by special permission, for the first time outside of Broadway. It is a feminist retelling of the classical Greek story of Electra. With a script unafraid of asking big questions, guest director Brad Shelton ('90)

pushes his cast to challenge the traditional roles of women in society.

The story's setting is Athens and Everywhere. The four-woman chorus (Erin Cook, '02; Sara Davis, '03; Ashley Sewell, '02; Angela Springer, '03) are dressed in white as temple statues, women-as-art. Costume designer David Jilg has the rest of the women in Victorian Age dresses, appropriate in that like the women of that era, they are questioning their marginalized place in society.

The set by Laura Canon is a versatile thrust stage designed to look like marble, with a courtyard, stairs, and columns cleverly fashioned by hanging sheer fabric from the spotlights.

The audience sits on opposing sides of the stage, which involves them in the drama. Chorus member Erin Cook said, "We weren't

sure how the audience was going to react, whether they would laugh or not – since it is a tragedy." With an audience as small as the Dollar Night crowd, it was a challenge for the actors to hit the comedic and dramatic punch lines, but they succeeded.

The cast is led by visiting artist Margaret Osoinach as Clytemnestra, who bristles with energy and emotion as a mother who "lost the only perfect thing I ever made," when her oldest daughter, Iphigenia, is sacrificed.

Iphigenia, sacrificed as a virgin so her father's battleships will have wind to sail, is played by Sarah Tipton ('03). During her long monologue in the opening scene, I had some reservations about Tipton's unmasked Southern accent, but by the end of the play I understood its appropriateness as a way of thematically

locating the story in the South (the music used throughout is Memphis bluegrass).

The "Other Daughters" in the play are Melissa Batchelor ('01), a compassionately performed Chrysothemis, and Tamra Patterson ('01) who gives an unforgettably dynamic performance as Electra. Patterson's Electra never lets the audience forget that "I am necessary;" her life's aim is the revenge of her father's murder by her mother. This is a family caught in a bitter cycle of blood revenge, hinged on the sacrifice of a daughter.

Enter Kyle Hatley ('03), the lucky(?) lone male in the cast. Hatley is excellent as Orestes, long-lost brother, a soldier who does not know or understand the world of women. His reunion with Electra is charged, and with him the revenge cycle is completed.

The concluding act harnesses humor and pathos in Iphigenia and Orestes' reunion. The chorus strip down to their bloomers to smoke, drink, and speak frankly about life segregated from men. It is a beautifully lyrical scene delivered with directness and wit.

Shelton said in an interview with the *Flyer*, "It's about the inevitability of family history... the roles women are expected to play," and if women are, as Iphigenia says, still "female and slightly terrifying" then there is a gap in human understanding. But as Iphigenia and Orestes embrace, their tragic story ends in hope.

Iphigenia is a promising and refreshing beginning for this year's season at the McCoy. Let's hope that they continue to produce thought-provoking shows that are suited not merely for campus but for the Memphis community.

Radiohead gets ambient, experimental with *Kid A*

By Bill Harrison
Staff Writer

With the release of their first album in over three years, Radiohead have put the pre-millennial anxiety behind them and have landed in the synthetic and distant nature of the twenty-first century. The album *Kid A* is more obtuse, more obscure, and more ambient than anything previously released by the band (including their cryptic and critically

acclaimed last album, *Ok Computer*). At the same time it is also the most album-oriented they have put forth.

Always concerned with present technology, the band has named their latest album in honor of the first human clone. That sort of synthetic and artificial nature has carried over into the sound of the aptly named record.

The opening track, "Everything

in Its Right Place," is made up of splices of lead singer Thom Yorke's voice, mellifluous keyboard, and a repetitive pulsating beat behind it. Next up is the title track, "Kid A." It is like a twisted nursery rhyme. Radiohead, once again, plays with Yorke's voice and distorted, already jumbled lyrics. The drum loop backs the light tones of the keyboard and eventually gives way to "The National Anthem," a song set

by a pounding bass line, loud drums, and eerie synth. Yorke sings with claustrophobic fervor and is eventually drowned out by blaring brass. Crashing cymbals and Yorke's pleas for help magnify the anarchy.

Radiohead step away from their former guitar-based airiness even more in "Treefingers" and "Idioteque," the latter being one of the frustratingly best songs they have written. The former is a wordless, Brian Eno-esque music-scape, seemingly an appropriate way to end the record's A-side. "Idioteque" is helplessly artificial; icy beats give way to Yorke's voice, which glides along the slick surface of synthetic rhythms. Radiohead places further emphasis on a feeling rather than a normal tangible effect.

Radiohead still cling to the epic ballad, as demonstrated by the paranoid gentleness of "How to Disappear Completely" and the ironically sublime "Motion Picture Soundtrack." The former swells with incredible beauty, set with simple acoustic and strings. The latter, with harp, organ, and choir, transforms into a closing dirge for the album.

However, for those who yearn for pre-millennial guitar anthems, "Optimistic" is a savage, thumping track where Yorke's voice transcends the raw guitars and tribal drums. This song seems to be the most likely to get airplay. "In Limbo" and "Morning Bell" round out the album, both

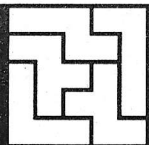
of which are not as nearly foreign as the tracks around them. There is almost as much organ as strings, showing that Radiohead has not completely departed from the *OK Computer* days (where the Hammond organ enveloped songs such as "Subterranean Homesick Alien" and the ever-classic "Karma Police").

Warning: *Kid A* is not a natural progression from the prog-rock epic *OK Computer*. The band will not release a single, allowing radio stations to play whichever track they choose. The album can come off as some sort of art-over-music escapade.

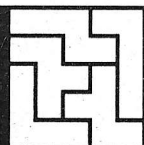
Furthermore, Radiohead have already written and produced a fifth LP, which will be released sometime in spring of 2001. Apparently it is a more guitar-based, "traditional" album.

So what causes this amorphous opus to emerge? Many will be unhappy with Radiohead's latest. Some might say that it seems too self-indulgent, filled with too much noise or even that the album says little compared to the sort of apprehension and loathing expressed in prior albums.

Kid A is a tongue-in-cheek album of the twenty-first century: a band enclosed in metallic noise, drowned out by sound. What better way to convey a distant, displaced world than by saying little or nothing at all.



Rhodes Puzzler



#5, October 11, 2000
10 points

Last week's Malco movie pass winner: *Doug Lemme*

What number comes next in this sequence?

11 13 17 25 32 37 47

The Rhodes Puzzler is sponsored by the Math/CS Department of Rhodes College. Send your solution (with name!) to puzzler@rhodes.edu, place a Word or text document named "<your name>.doc" in the Puzzler folder located on the Academic Volume (under Academic Programs), or turn in a hard copy to Kennan Shelton, 318 Ohlendorf. All solutions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. A weekly winner will be randomly chosen to receive two free movie passes, donated by Malco Theatres. Semester winners will each receive gift certificates for dinner at a local restaurant. For a complete set of rules, see the Rhodes Puzzler homepage at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/puzzler.html>.

Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

THE SOU'WESTER

Page 9

Acting out the issues

Stop Kiss addresses homosexuality, hate crimes

By Richard Pearson
Staff Writer

Stop Kiss is about two young women who are making their way in 1998 New York City and end up finding love in the most unlikely of places.

Callie (Anne Dauber) is a radio traffic reporter, and Sara (Sara K. Armstrong) is a third grade school teacher in the Bronx. Both women give strong performances, making their characters sympathetic and believable.

Callie, the twelve-year veteran of the New York City scene, has agreed to look after Sara's cat since it was apparently not welcome the only apartment she could afford.

The days go by, and we see more and more of Callie and Sara spending time with one another and inspiring each other to become better people. Sara convinces Callie that she does not have to put up with the horrid noise that happens above her apartment. Callie gives Sara true companionship, something she has never truly experienced before.

The two become inseparable,

and even Callie's "friend" George (Jeff Godsey) notices that Callie is spending less and less time with him and her old college friends. The romantic tension is visible in uncomfortable gestures, awkward looks, and meaningful snippets of conversations. Yet, while this affection is ever-present, it seems as impenetrable as the well-crafted brick wall beyond Callie's apartment window. The kiss alluded to in the title comes as a cataclysmic leap of self-awareness, trust, and caring.

Since it could happen just as easily between a man and a woman, *Stop Kiss* transcends the specifics of a gay romance and embraces the broader themes of love, commitment, and identity.

It is because of that one sweet, sincere meeting of lips shared between two women that the play must address violent hate crimes as well. After a brief burst of happiness, this kiss leads to an unexpectedly frightening state of affairs, giving this work a distressingly timely edge—one that resonates in Memphis, Tennessee as well as New



Members of Kappa Sigma fraternity take part in Kappa Delta's Annual All-Sing Contest. The competition, which was held on September 29th, is a fundraiser for Kappa Delta's national philanthropy, child abuse prevention. All-Sing was well-attended by parents, students, and faculty and raised \$9,000 before costs.

photo by Miriam Dolin

York City. And, unfortunately, its message about the damaging effects of hate crimes is equally universal.

The unseen, horrific act of aggression and its aftermath are what gives this play its extremely emotional significance. *Stop Kiss* has ev-

erything you could ever want in a story. There are scenes that invoke laughter and scenes that can create tears. At times, the situations in the play could cause viewers to become angry.

I would recommend *Stop Kiss*.

However, this play is not for the closed-minded. It deals with a great number of sensitive issues and uses many strong visual images. For those who would brave the journey, *Stop Kiss* is playing through October 15th at the Circuit Play-

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A&E Editor's picks of the week

film

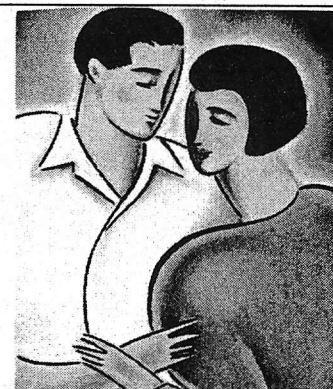
Almost Famous, directed by Cameron Crowe

Following the enormous commercial and critical success of *Jerry Maguire*, Crowe proves once again that a film can be mainstream and still maintain artistic integrity. The film is set against the kaleidoscopic background of the 1970s music scene and offers outstanding performances by newcomers Billy Crudup and Kate Hudson.

television

The West Wing, Wednesdays at 8 on NBC

This remarkable show, which is praised by critics and was recently awarded the Emmy for Best Drama, deserves all of the recognition it receives. In such a heavily political year, it is fascinating to see this fictional portrayal of White House goings-on. Watch it, and you'll wish you could vote for Martin Sheen in 2000.



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Pink Palace: home of shrunken heads and kitsch

By Seth Jones
Staff Writer

When I was little, I used to play in my grandparents' antebellum farmhouse in northern Kentucky. I was enthralled by the treasures I found there: an old hand-crank telephone, toys from the 1950's, fossilized diatoms from the cow pasture, and even a few artifacts from my aunt's Peace Corps stint in Africa.

Walking through the exhibits at the Pink Palace Museum on Central Avenue, I felt like I was rummaging through my grandparents' attic, except that the Pink Palace is larger and only slightly more organized. Although the museum staff has attempted to arrange the displays in a somewhat logical order, there are some exhibits that defy rational categorization. Just when you think that you are browsing through the exhibits of any museum in any city, you will see something so bizarre and out-of-place that you are shocked into realizing that this

place is not normal; it is Memphis.

As any Memphian will tell you, the focal piece of the museum is the shrunken head. This little sleepy-looking head sits on a pedestal in the center of the Pink Palace Mansion. In most museums around the country, he would be placed in the context of African tribal customs, anthropological studies, and the rich culture of people once thought to be "savages."

In Memphis, he stares out into the lobby at a polar bear.

The Pink Palace, however, is so much more than just a shrunken head. A section on the history of Memphis contains some excellent factual information, but also displays some of the oddities that people *really* go to museums to see.

Tucked in between exhibits on the education and lifestyles of Memphians in the 1800's is a tiny, dark room that holds a beautifully detailed iron sarcophagus of one wealthy Memphis resident who wished to be buried in style. Just

down the hall is a series of illustrations showing the intricately designed floats and well-produced parades of turn-of-the-century Memphis Mardi Gras celebrations.

Piggly Wiggly founder Clarence Saunders built the Pink Palace Mansion in the 1920's. The house got its nickname from pink Georgia marble used in its construction. Before the house was finished, however, Saunders declared bankruptcy and donated the house to the city, which turned the mansion into a museum. In honor of Saunders, the museum houses a full-sized replica of the first Piggly Wiggly grocery store. Apart from its significance as the first supermarket ever, the Piggly Wiggly replica is remarkable for its display of familiar products in their early packaging, as well as some of the funniest advertisements this side of the Snickers panda.

Next to the Piggly Wiggly exhibit, for no apparent reason, is a hand-carved miniature circus that

occupies the space of three ping-pong tables end-to-end and features a parade that circles on tiny tracks around the big top.

The other, less unusual, holdings of the museum are such that some areas of interest are pitifully under-represented while others are quite extensive. For example, although the museum's section on the history of Memphis ranges over several large rooms, very little is said about Memphis's involvement in the Civil Rights struggle; and the section devoted to Native American artifacts consists of three or four small display cases. Likewise, in a room displaying the diversity of animal life, an inordinate portion of the exhibit consists of an excellent collection of stuffed birds, while the rest of the biological sciences exhibit is on par with the museum in the lobby of Frazier-Jelke.

Much of this imbalance, though, is a result of what wealthy and sometimes eccentric benefactors have contributed to the Pink

Palace's collection, as well as overlapping subject areas of other museums. The Palace's abundance of taxonomically preserved birds is the result of a donation from a bird enthusiast who stipulated that his entire collection of stuffed birds must be displayed. The lack of information on Civil Rights and pre-Colombian settlements may be a result of competition from the more subject-specific National Civil Rights Museum and the Chucalissa Archeological Museum, both also in Memphis.

Apart from a few minor faults, the Pink Palace is definitely worth the \$7 price of admission. This is the museum of *Memphis*: a collection of oddities arranged so that they almost make sense. Sure, you have probably seen old rocks and moldy-costumed mannequins before, but going to the Pink Palace may actually make you learn something. Even if it fails to educate, you will certainly leave wanting a shrunken head of your very own.

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Men's soccer loses to Trinity, Centre, and Sewanee to fall out of the SCAC playoff race

By Lance Ingwersen
Staff Writer

The weekend of September 29th-October 1st, the men's soccer team played host to two conference games against Southwestern and Trinity. Friday afternoon's win against the Pirates of Southwestern University capped off an incredible September for the team, who compiled a record of 8-0 after dropping the first match of the season to Wilimington College. The men's team edged the Pirates 3-2 at home, however, neither the coach nor the players thought it as decisive a victory as both had hoped for. Matt Prewett ('01) scored two goals, and Chad Mason ('02) added the other one.

On Sunday, the Lynx faced a tough Trinity team that was ranked 5th in the nation. Sunday also marked the first annual Couch Day at the game, with Kappa Sigma winning first prize by having the most couches and fans. However, even the

great support could not propel the Lynx over the Tigers from Trinity. The Tigers struck first midway through the first half, which ended with the Tigers leading 1-0. The Lynx came out with a vengeance in the second half but could not put any of their chances in the back of the net. Trinity added a second goal with 20 minutes to go in the game. That's how the score remained as Trinity handed the Lynx only their second loss of the season, 2-0.

The following weekend (October 6th-8th), the Lynx traveled to Centre and Sewanee for two more tough games against huge conference rivals. Friday afternoon in Danville, Kentucky, the Lynx fell behind early as Centre surprised the Lynx with two goals in the first ten minutes of the game. After this lapse, the Lynx took control for the remainder of the game but were only able to score once off a Chad Mason header. Friday afternoon's

disappointment handed the Lynx their second consecutive conference loss and their third loss of the season overall. Having lost a second conference game, the Lynx' backs were against the wall on Sunday needing a win against rival Sewanee.

Unfortunately for the Lynx, the weekend had very few bright spots, and David Wishnew's ('01) goal with a minute left in regulation proved too little too late for the Lynx who trailed 2-0 fifteen minutes into the second half. Sunday's loss and a 3-3 record in conference play all but eliminated the team from competition in the post-season and proved a huge moral defeat to a team who had hopes of winning the conference this season.

The Lynx travel to Colorado over fall break to take on two tough opponents: Colorado College and Westminster College. Then the team returns over homecoming weekend to face conference foe Hendrix College.



Photo By Scott Holmes

Sylvester Chisom ('03) dives in an attempt to block the kick by Washington U. in the 48-7 debacle during Parents' Weekend.

Lynx football loses to both Wash. U. and Rose-Hulman

By Stu Johnston
Staff Writer

After a promising 3-0 start, Rhodes football has taken a nosedive, dropping their last two contests to Washington University in St. Louis and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Lynx's most recent defeat came at the hands of the previously winless Fighting Engineers of Rose-Hulman, a team that Rhodes (3-2, 2-1 SCAC) pounded a year ago.

Rhodes came out flat from their disappointing 48-7 loss to Washington U. and started the game with two incompletions before punting the ball away to the Engineers (1-5, 1-2 SCAC). Rose Hulman wasted no time, driving 64 yards in 11 plays for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

Disaster struck for Rhodes on the ensuing possession. Three plays into the drive, Gary Rockne ('04) was thrown for a loss while dropping back to pass. The play left Rockne with an injured knee, and he left the game permanently. The following day, tests revealed a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and it is unlikely that he will return to play this season.

"The loss of a quarterback like Rockne really hurts," said linebacker Chris Huff ('02), "He is a great player and person. However the season does not stop for injury, and we still have our eyes on a conference title."

The first quarter ended with the Engineers leading by a 7-0 count and

threatening to score again. With their backs against the wall, the Lynx defense stopped Rose-Hulman on fourth and one from the four-yard line. However, the Lynx' next possession ended with an interception, and the Engineers, buoyed by excellent field position, mounted another scoring drive that ended in a 30-yard field goal. After another three-and-out for the Lynx, Rose Hulman marched down the field for another score on a 58-yard touchdown run and took a commanding 17-0 lead.

Rose-Hulman attempted an onside kick to capitalize on their momentum. However, Rhodes' Tyler Burklow ('03) recovered, and the Lynx subsequently went on their only scoring drive of the first half. Andy English ('03) connected on a 22-yard field goal after the Lynx drove 47 yards in fifteen plays. The half ended with Rhodes trailing 17-3.

Rose-Hulman set the tone for the second half on the very first drive. The Engineers scored another touchdown in a 87-yard marathon drive.

Quarterback Rob Schrier ('04) led Rhodes an 80-yard scoring drive late in the fourth quarter, completing 7 of 11 passes on the day and throwing the scoring strike to Ed Roberts ('03) from three yards out. The game ended with the final score of 24-10, the Lynx' second consecutive loss. The Lynx seek to turn their season around during the next few conference games.

Volleyball records 3-2 mark at SCAC Cross

By Lauren Ferrera
Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 5th, the Rhodes volleyball team departed for the SCAC Cross at Sewanee. This was the first time this season Rhodes was to play many of their conference rivals, including Centre, DePauw, Oglethorpe, Sewanee, and Rose-Hulman.

On Friday, October 6th, the Lynx played DePauw. Although feeling very confident for the tournament, this first match did not prove to be the best starting point. The Lynx fell to DePauw in three games of the match, losing 15-8, 15-3, and 15-6.

But, the team did not let this loss ruin the rest of their tournament. Later that night, Rhodes played Oglethorpe, and in just quick three games, defeated them 15-11, 15-4, and 15-8. The win boosted their confidence.

On Saturday afternoon, the Lynx went up against the host, Sewanee.

However, nothing could have kept them down, and this was just one more win to grab. Again, Rhodes took the match in only three games scoring 15-6, 15-13, and 15-9.

Finally, things really began to get started. On Saturday, the Lynx battled it out against Rose-Hulman. This match proved to be the most exciting of the tournament. With the intense support from the Rhodes soccer team, men's and women's, the Lynx had a major boost in spirit and confidence.

In the first game of the match, Rhodes won with a score of 16-14, so they knew what they were up against. In Coach Sam Wolinski's words, "This is going to be a dog fight until the bitter end." And the team knew it.

The second game proved to be a battle as well, with Rhodes winning once again with a score of 15-11, yet nothing could have prepared them for the third game. Needless to say, Rose-Hulman was not about

to walk away with an easy upset, but Rhodes was not about to leave empty handed. The third game was the most intense, most demanding, and most nerve racking yet. Both teams battled it out rally after rally, and in the end, only the strongest survived. Rhodes won the match in the third game with a score of 17-15.

On Sunday, the much-anticipated game against Centre did not go as well as expected. Centre won in three games, scoring 15-6, 15-4, and 15-3. Coach Wolinsky commented, "Yes, we were disappointed with the Centre match, but we face them again next conference match, so we'll have their number." But Wolinsky added, "We came out with a winning record of 3-2. When you leave with a winning record, you have to be happy."

Upcoming games will be this Wednesday, October 11th against CBU in Mallory at 7:00 p.m. On October 20th, the Lynx will travel to Trinity to play in the SCAC West.

Women's golf moves up to 2nd in the nation

By Whitney Bryant
Staff Writer

Using the momentum of last spring's third place finish in the NCAA Division III women's golf championship, the women's golf team began the 2000-2001 season with an impressive win in the 20-team Illinois Wesleyan Lady Titan Invitational. The tournament fea-

tured several of the top ranked Division III teams in the country. Emily Burch ('01), from Germantown, TN, placed 5th individually. Laura McKinney ('04), from Little Rock, AR, placed 8th.

On October 2nd-3rd, the Lynx competed in the Murray State Lady Racer Classic. As the only Division III school in the tournament, which

included a total of 13 teams, Rhodes finished 7th among a tough Division I/II field. Emily Burch finished 6th individually in the invitational. The Lady Lynx are ranked second nationally by Golfweek and third by Golfstat.

Rhodes' next competition is the Arkansas State Invitational in Jonesboro, AR.

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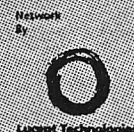
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This school needs more Bobs

BOB COLEMAN
The Word of Bob



For those of you who don't know me, my name is Bob Coleman. As a senior, I am deeply concerned about a serious problem that this campus faces in the near future. Now, I'm no tarot card reader, and I can't talk to dead people, but I can predict the future of Rhodes College. This place is going straight to the dumps unless we can pick up some more Bobs before it's too late.

I don't know how many people have flipped through the "student preferred names" section of Faces, but in case you haven't, let me fill you in on a little fact. *There are only four Bobs left on campus as students.* Myself, Mr. Bob Arnold, Mr. Bob Davis, and Mr. Bob Schneider, and contrary to popular belief, we can't be everywhere all the time. We may be near-perfect, but we aren't Supermen. [Editor's Note: *Though we appreciate Mr. Coleman's attempt at secrecy,*

it must be confessed that Mr. Bob Arnold is, in fact, Superman.]

So what I am suggesting here is that Rhodes College look deep within its own muddled psyche and go recruiting for some Bobs. Let's face it, Bobs are the be-all and end-all when it comes to people. They are the elite, the best of the best, the *crème de la crème*. Bobs excel at anything they put their minds to: they easily make the best students, singers, lovers, dancers, listeners, lovers, talkers, friends, enemies, lovers, fathers, mentors, lovers and video-game players, and they make up the ruling class of our world. Bobs make the best husbands, and furthermore, they make the best wives, too. To even consider moving on to next year without addressing this situation would ensure disaster.

Based on these facts, I finally decided to do something about this problem. I went around campus in August and September asking some important questions to get an idea of how current Rhodents feel about the situation.

"There's a wide variety of good-natured Bobs here," senior Russell Young told me. This is just proof that

we need fewer Russells and more Bobs, as Mr. Young is obviously unprepared for and completely ignorant to the Bob crisis.

I also asked people what the worst problems are here at Rhodes. Most chose to beat around the bush, attempting to blame symptoms such as apathy, immaturity, depravity, and uncaring as current problems, but I was able to read between the lines. Beneath this seemingly shallow assessment these students are, in their

Let's face it, Bobs are the be-all and end-all when it comes to people.

own way, screaming out, "We need more Bobs! Quick! Before it's too late!"

So this column is a cry for help to the Rhodes Admissions Staff. Please, the campus needs you more than ever. The Rhodes community has been dealt a fatal blow to its highly fragile Bob membrane. Without some vital Bob transfusions, this campus will be eaten up from the inside by the Johns, Russells, Toms and Ambars of the campus. And this we cannot allow, for if Charles Diehl

has taught us anything, it's that we should fight for our rights. Or maybe that was the Beastie Boys. Either way, it's sage advice.

I want everyone to realize that Bob Schneider and I will graduate after this year, which cuts the already small number of Bobs down to a mere two. Just the idea of Rhodes attempting to survive on the bravery of two Bobs sends chills down my spine. That's equivalent to asking Steven Spielberg to create an Oscar-

worthy film with Keanu Reeves. To put it bluntly, Bobs are constantly being weighed down by all the NonBobs around them.

Imagine how great this campus would be if we increased the Bob index! From my current analysis, we have a Bob ratio of approximately 1-375, meaning that there are 375 Nonbobs for every Bob on campus. That's horrible! Realistically thinking, for our campus to achieve what it's truly capable of, that number needs to increase to at least 1-25.

I first considered simply changing names. Deependra Mohato could be Bob Mohato. Mellick Sykes could become Bob Sykes. Why even stick with genders? Kristjen Lundberg could be Bobjen Lundberg! Amanda Flaim could become Bobanda Flaim! See how easy that is? But then I thought, why stop there? We start with our custodial help, and spread out from there!

Think of how inspired our campus of Bobs would be if it were lead by the wonderful and benevolent Bob Troutt and his lovely wife Bobarole? We wouldn't have to settle for a mere 38th among liberal arts colleges; we would be number one with a Bob-endorsed bullet. But until that day happens, we are in serious trouble.

So, oh valuable Rhodes Admissions Staff, when looking over applications for the upcoming year, please think of the wise words that have been stated in this column. Make sure you accept any Bob that applies, no matter his SAT scores, extracurricular activities, severe rashes or physical deformities. Because unless everyone changes his or her name, *we can't afford to take any chances.*

Confessions of a parking lot delinquent

ANNA TEEKELL
Meter Maid



I got my first parking ticket at Rhodes when I was a freshman, walking back to Williford from theatre class. I saw this car and thought, "Man. Sucks for them. They got a ticket. I didn't know there was another silver Integra at Rhodes." And then, of course, it hit me. And it's been war with Campus Safety ever since.

So I have this year's tickets on the bulletin board in my room: forty dollars' worth. My favorite is the one that says, "remove yellow decal." That decal has been on my windshield since 1997. I tried to remove it two years ago. There are still little silver scratch marks across its surface. Ten dollars — are they kidding me? That's more than two dinners at the Rat.

I'm a parking delinquent, and I'm proud. I boldly park where no one has been allowed to park before. My favorite is to sneak into that slot beside the handicapped space in the Robinson lot and leave my hazards

on during class. The other really good one — if nobody beats you to it — is this little homemade spot on the center isle by Ellett. You can slide right in, and with a car as small as mine it really looks like a regulation spot.

The trick to parking illegally is you have to be on guard all the time. Constant supervision is required. Park, run to class, and then sneak back to the car. It's the world's best suspense: come around the back of your car...slowly creep to the side...

What has driven me to this need to park illegally? If you don't know, you must not have a car at Rhodes.

windshield is clear. Beautiful! You won. And what a victory — not only did you beat the system, you saved ten dollars, a three-mile walk from the airstrip, and an extra hit on the snooze button. Plus you came away with three new options: leave the car (this is the big gamble — how attentive are those Campus Safety officers? If they missed you once, will they miss you again?), move to a different illegal spot (also quite chancy), or park legally in the boon-

docks and hike it back to Palmer in the next ten minutes (still a gamble — how fast can you really walk with that backpack on?).

Parking at Rhodes is my insignificant way of living on the edge. I've never been to Tunica, but I think this equates. True, you can't win money for a great spot next to Voorhies, but there is money to be lost (and this factor probably makes it more like the casinos anyway). It's \$10 for your average "improper parking," up to \$50 for parking in a

handicapped space, and, as I discovered when living in Stewart, MPD will hit you up for \$20 for anywhere you're not supposed to park on University or Tutweiler. So by my rationale, this means that a victorious illegal parking job will actually win me ten to fifty dollars.

And it's even better if you don't have a decal. I had to cave in this year when they started apprehending people at the gate, but an expired decal raises the stakes ten bucks. I got

away with it for the entire spring semester last year, and it was truly beautiful. I wish I could just get the old ones all the way off so I could sneak around without them knowing who I am. I did this once when I borrowed my dad's car for a while last year, and it was almost as good as being invisible.

What has driven me to this need to park illegally? If you don't know, you must not have a car at Rhodes. The parking is abominable. My roommate calls it, "the most demoralizing experience in the world." In many ways it's akin to the terror of finding a seat in the Rat at 12:30. You scan to the left: nothing. You scan to the right: no places there. You creep up the next aisle real slow...surely there's a place for you...there it is, right by the exit...nobody else is after it... Damn: handicapped. They have all the luck.

It's the most anxiety-ridden part of my day, trying to park. And no, I'm not going to leave my house 30 minutes early to get to class when I live five minutes away. I'm not going to sacrifice sleep for parking. So I join the throngs of nervous parkers in the 10:20 rush. It's competitive. You drive in, suspicious of any car in front of you. Where are they go-

ing? The commuter lot? The airstrip? The construction zone way out there halfway to Mississippi? You get ambitious. You use your turn signal to claim your space (though use of a turn signal in Memphis is unheard of even in the most drastic circumstances). That one's mine, you think victoriously. Mine. I won. And then you see the sign that says "Reserved. Faculty. M-F. 8 a.m.-5 p.m."

Because Rhodes is a Presbyterian school, I'm starting to think that this is all some sort of experiment on predestination. The parking situation has taken on an otherworldly significance. More than mail, it can make or break your day. Will God smile upon me and grant me a spot by the fraternity houses, or will God condemn me to the no-man's-land behind Physical Plant? What have we done to deserve this parking-lot anguish? Did I sin less on the day I got that spot by Robinson? Is it a crime against the Lord if I park in front of the sorority houses all day long?

I'm not sure: I think Calvinist parking is more of a Daughdrill thing than something Troutt would come up with. But until I know for certain, I'll be praying every time I drive in the gates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor may be edited for content or length. The Rhode'ster reserves the right to mock you openly for any views you may express.

What happened to that Shipe guy?

Dear Editor,
I just finished reading the first issue of the Rhode'ster, and I must say: What the f---ing h-ll is this sh--? You call this sh-- funny? You're a g--damn f---ing moron!
Thank you for your time.
Bob Coleman ('01)

What happened to that Potts guy?

Dear Editor,
I just finished reading the first issue of the Rhode'ster, and I must say: What the hecky-doodle is this stuff? You call this shmacky-poo funny? You're a goshdarn freaking moron!
Thank you for your time.
John Ramsey ('02)

EDITORIAL

No unusual activity to report

Since I began my reign as Editor here at the Rhode'ster, several things have happened. People have started stealing my boxer shorts. A messy eye infection inexplicably cleared up. And my sex life has increased exponentially (yes, math majors, zero to the tenth power is still zero).

Most notably, people have begun asking me when I'll be including a mock Campus Safety Log in the Rhode'ster.

The reasoning behind this request is fairly uniform: the Rhode'ster's Campus Safety Log, is, evidently, "always soooo funny!" Really, I get this all the time, from numerous people.

My question is this: how do you know it will be funny? Readers speak of the Log as if it comes from somewhere else, some supernatural Platonic form of "Mock-Campus-Safety-Logness" that is infallibly funny. Past editors have had unlimited access to this inexhaustible store of humor.

But nobody thought to tell me where it is. I sat down today and attempted to write my version of said Log; what emerged were entries such as "10:20 p.m. — A guy was doing a thing in Glassell and that thing, it was bad." Try as I might, I could not create a more coherent or clever entry than that. And unless you failed the Reading Comprehension section of the ACT, you can see that this kind of writing just won't work.

I'm guessing that at least a few of you just had a 60-watt bulb click on above your head. "I know," you thought to yourself, "I'll offer to write one for him!"

Well, slow down there, Pancho. There's another good reason why I haven't included a Log in recent issues: there is, quite simply, not enough space for one.

Allow me to rephrase and repeat that previous statement for the sake of emphasis:

There is NO ROOM HERE for a fake Campus Safety Log.

Noooooooooo room.

At all.

With the huge amount of submissions flooding into this office (evidenced by the fact that I inevitably end up having to write three-fourths of this damn thing), I don't feel that I can justify the large chunk of space that the Log takes up. I'd prefer to use that space for more pertinent and important articles. Like this one.

I love that a whole slew of first-years are reading this and thinking, "What the hell is this Log thing he's going on and on about?" God bless your youth and innocence. You first-years are our future.

So until popular demand overwhelms my own personal preference (and I can hold out for quite some time; I still haven't read a single Harry Potter novel), don't look for a Campus Safety Log in these pages.

Unless I get a really, really good idea for one.

Bad parking job of the month



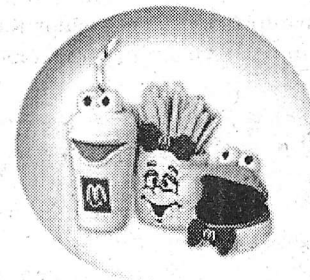
Photo by Scott Holmes

The first-ever of these prestigious awards goes to this little gem, found in the Robinson parking lot last week. We have no idea who the driver of this car (a blue Toyota Corolla, Tennessee license plate BXP 614) is, but if you know them, tell them we said hello and then remind them what those little white lines painted on the asphalt are supposed to mean. And if you happen to be the unfortunate owner of that white car on the right, then it looks like you just found out where the scratches on your paint job came from.

ATTENTION ENGLISH MAJORS!

McDonald's corporation of America has many exciting employment opportunities for hardworking individuals of your education level! All of the following positions are open at your local branch:

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- *French Fry Fryer
- *Milkshake Stirrer
- *The person who puts those little apple pies in their little boxes
- *Janitor



What better way to prove that your \$100,000 diploma is completely worthless? Wages begin at a generous \$2.75/day.

APPLY TODAY — OR HATE YOURSELF LATER.

Rhode'ster Staff

HARRY TRUMAN
Bob Arnold

DORIS DAY
Bryan Kopta

RED CHINA
Bob Coleman

JOHNNIE RAY
Anna Teekell

SOUTH PACIFIC
Scott Holmes

WALTER WINCHELL
Drew Hughes
(of the Little Rock Hugheses)

JOE DIMAGGIO
Susan Hughes
(of the Fairview Hugheses)

So you think you're funny, huh?
Your friends talk about liking the Rhode'ster and you just scoff? You think, "I could do that better," and you chuckle knowingly to yourself?

So write an article, big shot. Put your funny where your mouth is. We accept submissions from anyone, so there's really no excuse.

Unless, of course, you're Chicken.
BWAAAAAAWK BWAWK
BWAAAAWK!

Send stories or story ideas to
arnrf@rhodes.edu.

Rhode'ster Puzzler

WORD SEARCH

See if you can find the following words hidden in the puzzle:

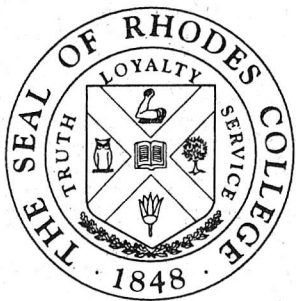
- FUTILE
- POINTLESS
- IMPOSSIBLE
- NOT THERE
- IN VAIN
- GULLIBLE
- MAHI MAHI
- FRUITLESS

D	J	D	C	K	Y
Y	B	T	J	U	F
U	N	R	C	I	D
U	H	D	K	H	R
G	D	G	O	A	S
L	Y	F	R	M	H
U	G	B	D	I	O
A	K	J	O	H	U
H	F	U	8	A	H
N	P	R	F	M	J
O	E	T	Y	S	V

Each month, we'll pick a random loser to make fun of in print. We don't mean a loser in this contest. We mean a loser in general. This month it's you, Kyle Hatley. You sure are a stupidhead.

NYAH! NYAH! NYAH! THHHBBBBPPPPPTTHHHHHH!

Let all who read this fear our wrath.



THE RHODE'STER

The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

This Page is a Humorous Parody. Read at Your Own Risk.

Page 16

“YBS” vandal terrorizes campus

By Bob Arnold
Rhode'ster Stool Pigeon

Standing in the quad under a particularly harsh midday sun, Erin Johnston ('04) studies the large, crudely drawn chalk letters that spell out her name.

“Well,” she says with a shrug, “it looks like someone loves me.”

Someone indeed. The once-quiet Rhodes campus has, over the past few weeks, squirmed in the terrifying grip of an elusive graffiti artist and apparent stalker – a presence known to frightened students only as “YBS.”

YBS' modus operandi involves the use of pastel sidewalk chalk to convey chilling messages of affection to an apparently random array of first-year females. Messages like “Have a great day, Becca!” and “Rachel is the best little sis ever!” stain the sidewalks of the school. And students now walk those sidewalks in fear.

“It's kind of sweet, I guess,” commented Johnston, who asked that her name not be used. “In the same way that having your name carved into a bathroom stall is sweet.”

“At first we thought the messages were written in blood,” remarked Di-

rector of Campus Safety Ralph Hatley, who is heading up the search for YBS. “But then we realized that blood doesn't usually come in pastel colors, and further tests proved that the medium was actually just chalk.”

Tests on the chalk material are being performed in the large underground crime lab beneath Buckman. Hatley, adorned in a skintight bat suit, has been working diligently in the lab since the YBS graffiti began.

“We'll get this joker soon,” Hatley stated. “Holy sororities!”

So far research into the YBS incidents has revealed one striking fact: the cryptic chalk messages bear a strong resemblance to the writings of David Berkowitz, the notorious “Son of Sam” killer who terrorized New York in the mid-1970s. While officials are quick to point out that Berkowitz is currently serving time in a New York prison, there remains the possibility that the killer escapes every few nights, makes the 1100-mile trek to Memphis, writes on the amphitheatre, and then sneaks back into his cell before sunup. Consider the following:

Son of Sam: “Sam loves to drink blood. ‘Go out and kill,’ demands father Sam.”

YBS: “I'm so excited that Stacey

is my little sister!”

SOS: “I love to hunt. Prowling the streets looking for fair game – tasty meat. The wemon of Queens are z prettyist of all.”

YBS: “Beth is one AO cutie Pi!”

SOS: “I want to make love to the world. I love people. I don't belong on earth. Return me to Yahoos.”

YBS: “I love my little sis! Only two more days till revelation!”

This last sentiment has caused much concern in the campus community. Not unlike Manson's interpretation of “Helter Skelter,” the message calls for an impending “revelation,” presumably a global event of apocalyptic proportions.

“We think these messages are a harbinger of the End Times,” explained Hatley, “or at least what YBS interprets as the End Times. I'm guessing it's a student with a couple of unpaid parking tickets trying to bring on the apocalypse because he doesn't want to be out twenty bucks.”

If that is indeed the case, then this reporter can only sympathize.

Several students, intent on taking matters into their own hands, have formed a vigilante alliance dubbed “Kick Krazies off Kampus.” The group's second meeting, which was widely advertised around town,



The face of YBS?

Campus Safety recently released this composite sketch of the man they believe to be the “YBS” vandal. The sketch was pieced together from several eyewitness reports, which indicate that the suspect sometimes performs his crimes with the aid of a large white dog.

One witness described the suspect as follows: “He's thin and kind of quiet, and he has lots of great ideas about curbing the rising cost of higher education. He also plays a pretty mean sax.”

Sketch courtesy of Robert Stack

took place on the corner of North Parkway and University. The gathering met with unexpected opposition: the members were broken up and nearly decimated by a diverse mob of angry Memphians. The group's founder blamed this unprovoked attack on the members' attire.

“We were going to dress up like ghosts and try to trick YBS into thinking that the area around the campus was haunted,” he explained. “Somebody said that ghosts are scarier if they have pointy heads, and

when we tried to go with that all hell broke loose.”

“It's funny,” he continued. “When we met on campus, all we got were a few angry bulletin board posts.”

Campus Safety assures us that the search for YBS will continue ceaselessly until this dangerous criminal is safely behind bars. We tried to reach Hatley for an update on the situation, but it was a Saturday and he was fishing somewhere in Mississippi.

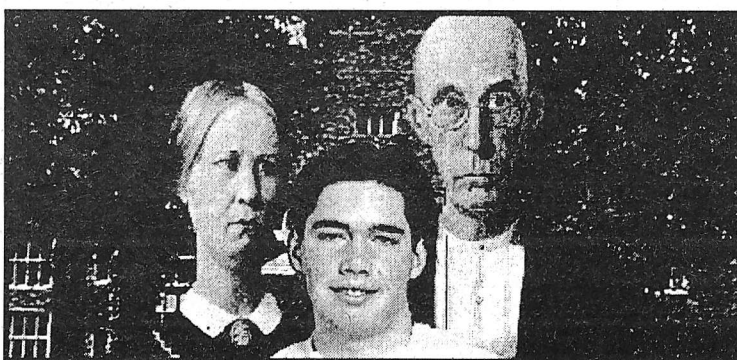
Parents Weekend leads student down harrowing path towards redemption

By Bryan Kopta
Rhode'ster Mama's Boy

On the weekend of September 29th through October 1st, the loving parents of Rhodes students adorned the picturesque mid-southern campus, and Tommy and Mary Sue were once again reunited with dear old Mom and Dad. Already refrigerated beers were hidden in boxes in the closet, tickle fights in Williford and Trezevant were put on hold, pajamas were replaced by slacks and shirts, and some students even wore belts. For the next 48 hours everything would seem right with the world.

Everything, that is, except for the life of a junior named Bryan Kopta, whose parents were unmistakably not there.

Based on the transcript of a phone conversation provided by the FBI, the Rhode'ster staff began to piece together the events leading up to Kopta's ill-fated Parents Weekend. The trouble seemed to have begun



Kopta's original plan for surviving Parents Weekend involved passing off these cardboard cutouts as his mother and father. “It didn't work,” Kopta complained. “People kept asking why my dad had a pitchfork.”

some two days prior to the event, when the following phone call was recorded:

Bryan: Hey Dad, how's everything?

Dad: Fine...uh, Greg?

Bryan: No, no, it's me, Bryan. The fifth one.

Dad: Right. Hey sport! What's up?

Bryan: Oh, nothing much. So are you guys coming up for Parents

Weekend on Friday?

Dad: Well, let me see here...wait, are you the one that lives in St. Louis?

Bryan: No Dad, Memphis. I go to school in Memphis. Dan, Kathy and Carolyn — they live in St. Louis.

Dad: Really? Then where the hell does Greg live?

Bryan: (Sigh) Seattle.... Listen, so are you coming?

Dad: Yeah, I'm going to say — um, no. It's just that it's such a long

drive from Oklahoma City to Memphis. I think your mother and I are probably going to go to Colorado for the weekend instead.

Bryan: But dad, that's like twice as far.

Dad: Yeah.... Well, goodbye! (Click. Dial tone.)

Bryan: Dad?

Sources close to Kopta say that that one phone call sent him spiraling down a path that few independents dare travel: Kappa Delta All-Sing. While Kopta had reportedly denounced the function in years past with statements such as “You'd have to hit me over the head with a giant novelty anvil to get me to go to that,” several eyewitnesses nevertheless spotted him at this year's All-Sing.

RSG Vice President John Ramsey reported that “His shirt was untucked, his hair disheveled. He looked half crazed, yet kind of detached. I mean, does that make sense?”

A breakthrough in the case came when Rhode'ster correspondent Kyle Hatley cornered Kopta in the mailroom.

Kyle: I have just one question for you, mister: Why'd you do it? Why All-Sing?

Bryan: Why? I don't know why. I guess I just wanted to see how it felt to be on the other side. It was lowdown and dirty. But it felt great. I had fun at All-Sing. But then again, I'm sure you wouldn't understand.

Kopta's was perhaps the most enigmatic response to one of Parents Weekend's most frequently asked questions. So while we may never know when or why Kopta's parents stopped loving him, we do know that the consequences were disastrous.

Sources close to Kopta maintain that All-Sing was not a life-changing event. Friend Bob Arnold commented, “Bryan seems to be his usual self again. I think he asked a girl out and she said no. Pretty standard stuff really.”