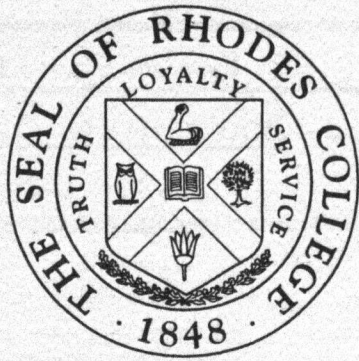


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# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, April 5, 2000

## Passport to the World Week Celebrates Multiculturalism

By Mara Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

Rhodes held its third annual multicultural awareness week March 27-31. This year's program was entitled, *Rhodes Passport to the World Week*.

Throughout the week, various organizations came together to organize events that would expose Rhodes students, faculty, and staff to cultural and ethnic diversity, both on and off campus.

To kick off the week, the Cultural Booth Bazaar was held on Monday afternoon in front of the Rat. Campus organizations sponsored tables from Guatemala, Brazil, Ireland, and Belgium. The tables featured an assortment of arts and crafts, newspapers, books, pictures, and other objects representing the culture and history of the various countries.

Karen Kopitsky ('01), the coordinator of the Belgium table, reported that she attempted to show all aspects of Belgian culture at her table, in addition to the things for which Belgium is already well-known, including Belgian money, pictures, beer glasses, and lace. Kopitsky said that she thought the bazaar was a successful event, add-

ing, "I hope that Rhodes students are now more aware of other countries and cultures that we might not have been exposed to before."

The week continued with a "Multiculturalism in Europe" discussion led by Professor of Foreign Languages Horst Dinkelacker. Dinkelacker's discussion topics included World War II as the cause of immigration and emigration between European countries, the growing emphasis on regionalism, ethnicity from the European viewpoint, and the new traditions emerging in Europe as a result of the formation of the European Union. The discussion opened many students' eyes to issues of multiculturalism. "I was really fascinated by some of the points that were brought up," said Jessica Hoffman ('01), coordinator of the discussion.

On Wednesday, the Film Society held an International Movie Night with a showing of *Night on Earth*. *Night on Earth* focuses on one night across the world, with scenes in cities such as Los Angeles, New York City, Paris, Rome, and Helsinki.

Thursday saw the BCLC Ballroom filled with both Rhodes stu-

dents and off-campus visitors at the International Dance and Food Show, a highly popular and well-attended event.

Ethnic dances from the Middle East and India were performed, as well as historical and modern dances such as a liturgical dance, a swing dance, and a Medieval dance.

Stephanie White ('00), a dancer in the Medieval dance, "The Earl of Salisbury Pavan," said that their group had spent around four days perfecting that specific dance. "I wanted the Rhodes community to be exposed to something other than modern dance," White said, adding, "Medieval dance steps are what some of our modern dance steps are based on."

After the dances, the audience was treated with samplings of ethnic food from local Memphis ethnic restaurants, featuring Chinese, Japanese, Indian, French, Mexican, and Greek cuisine.

On Friday, BSA held "An Evening in Jazz," a program which included a mixture of jazz and funk music played by the local band "A Moment's Notice." This was the second appearance at Rhodes for the band, and the event, was well-attended, successfully ending the week.



Photo By Valerie Witte

Ana Perez ('01) practices an Indian dance while her fellow dancers, Sangeeta Parikshak ('02) and Naomi Long ('02), prepare for the performance. The students performed at the International Dance Fest, a part of *Passport to the World Week*.

## Rhodes Gets a Jumpstart on Earth Week

By Margie Hall  
Staff Writer

As the environmentally conscious know, Earth Week does not officially take place until late April; however, since that is Easter Break, Rhodes celebrated a month early, from March 20-24.

According to Midu Bagrodia ('01), coordinator of Earth Week, the Rhodes Activity Board (RAB), friends of VECA, and interested Rhodes students coordinated a week of practical, earth-friendly activities for the week.

These included a can-crushing contest offered in the Rat, as well as the opportunity to sign up with

a national organization that can prevent individuals from receiving junk mail, which cuts down on excess paper waste.

Rhodes students also visited the Memphis zoo, an activity put into action by John Trout ('00), the Kinney co-coordinator of Peace, Justice, and Environment, and helped with the zoo's spring projects. Students were allowed to explore the zoo for free afterwards.

This "hands-on" approach also included a trip to Snowden, where students spoke with Snowden students about recycling and conservation of resources.

The Snowden students also decorated Piggly Wiggly bags with Earth Day themes. These bags will be displayed around campus until Earth Day, when Piggly Wiggly will use them.

Rhodes students also checked the exhaust levels in their cars, with the owner of the dirtiest car receiving a free tune-up, and the owners of the three cleanest cars receiving gift certificates to Wild Oats.

Students were also able to enjoy the outdoor environment of the campus in a RAB-and Campus Green-sponsored "Commune with Nature" in the woods behind

Trezevant. There was a bonfire, music, and the traditional hotdogs and s'mores.

Students received a reminder of the need for cleanup when they ventured to Cypress Creek. The initial design of the outing was to clear waste from the creek itself, but the state of Tennessee has designated the creek "toxic," and people are no longer allowed in the water.

Students cleaned the area, instead, and, according to Bagrodia, "We found couches, chairs, bottles, clothes, rugs, and just plain trash around the area and filled a huge trash bin from BFI full to the

brim."

The hands-on Earth Week celebration contained fun for all participants and even a reminder of the effects of careless disposal of waste.

The week's events were not the only environment-focused events of the year. Last semester, for example, several speakers came to the college to give lectures on environmental issues, including Chuck Brady, the president of the Sierra Club. However, Earth Week provided the Rhodes campus with an entire week of events designed to raise awareness about the environment.

## Colombia Bleeds into the 21st Century

PROFESSOR  
MICHAEL LAROSA



When the Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez wrote, in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, of a massacre at a banana plantation where “man corpses, women corpses, child corpses [were] thrown into the sea like rejected bananas,” readers thought, “Well, it’s just fiction,” but Latin American fiction, especially Colombian fiction, mirrors reality. And, often, reality has proven more dramatic than fiction, especially in Colombia, and especially in the past few years.

Clinton’s recent proposal to send about \$1.5 billion to Colombia can only add to the drama and misery in that battered society. Suddenly, Colombia is on the fast track to receive a massive aid package, most of which will go to the military. We all ought to take a deep breath and think carefully about supporting a notoriously corrupt and violent military and consider the consequences—in Colombia, in Latin America, and in the United States—of sending and spending this \$1.5 billion.

Colombia is at war right now, and the systematic elimination of those who criticize the state or the landholding elite can only be described as “dirty war.” The Colombian dirty war rages while civilian presidents sit in office. Dictatorships in Argentina (1976-1983), which presided over the murder of some 15-20,000 citizens of Pinochet’s Chile (1973-1990), which supervised the murder of about 10,000 Chileans and a few unfortunate foreigners (including at least two U.S. citizens, Frank Teruggi and Charles Horman), were headed by professional military officers.

Colombia, on the other hand, from about 1988-1995, eliminated more than 28,000 individuals for political reasons while civilians occupied the presidency.

When civilians sit in the presidential palace—and regularly hold elections—uncritical,

mode-minded political scientists rush in and happily anoint the system a “functioning democracy”; but democracy has been consistently confused with electoralism in Colombia. Colombian political and social culture is wedded to the myth of a long, democratic tradition compared to the rest of Latin America.

But, governments that allow the systematic elimination of political parties (as occurred beginning in 1985 with the case of the leftist Union Patriótica) or that arrest and convict fewer than five percent of all homicide cases, hardly deserve the title “democracy.”

Now, the Clinton Administration, together with the radically reactionary Republican Congress, have discovered that the Colombian state controls only about 60 percent of Colombia’s national territory. We repeatedly hear how the leftist insurgents control 40 percent of Colombia, yet the state has never held *de facto* control of all the national territory; this reality dates back at least to the late nineteenth century when, in 1877, the Colombian Conservative President Rafael Núñez essentially handed 50 percent of Colombia to the Roman Catholic Church for missionary activity.

We love to eat drugs in the U.S. The price of cocaine on the streets in Miami and New York is at an all-time low. It’s almost cheaper to tank up on coke these days than to fill the average SUV with premium gasoline. Last year, the boys at CIA Central in Langley, VA, predicted that Colombia would produce 165 metric tons of cocaine: they missed by 365 tons—one ton of cocaine for each day of the year. Colombia produced 520 tons of cocaine last year, and most of it went to the United States.

When are we going to realize that the billions and billions already spent on crop eradication efforts in Latin America and the military solution to the “drug” problem have failed and will continue to fail? Why can’t we begin frank dialogue in the United States on decriminalization of certain substances?

We certainly should consider treating the drug crisis as a national health crisis: we should

divert resources from murderous Latin American militaries, politically motivated prison construction programs in the U.S., and idiotic interdiction efforts toward the public health, education, and medical communities in this country. But it’s hard—impossible—to get elected to national office with a “decriminalization” agenda, so these important, life-saving ideas stay at the regional level and never filter up to the highest levels where, in fact, policy is made, and programs are funded.

The Colombian emergency aid package (Plan Colombia) is winding its way through the U.S. Congress. As I write, the package has passed through the House of Representatives and has apparently stalled in the Senate, where Trent Lott is holding up the money: he’s certainly playing politics (when the President is for something, Lott is generally against it).

The Senate Majority leader wants the money to be released as part of the next fiscal year’s regular budget and not as “emergency aid.” But his party, and the President, want the money now. Of course, nobody in Washington thinks the money can or will “save” Colombia: politicians in Washington, with this Colombian aid package, in fact, are giving themselves a big campaign contribution in an election year!

Vice-President Al Gore is firmly behind this package, as are a majority of House members. They want to be able to go before constituents in the fall and say, “Look, we were tough on drugs—we provided a billion and a half dollars to fight drugs in Colombia.” But, aid or no aid, the drugs will still flow in. The \$1.5 billion will break apart the fragile peace process already underway in Colombia and will lead to many more dead Colombian citizens.

But most voters in the U.S. don’t care about these details or care to learn about the complexities of Colombian history. All they want to hear is that their elected officials are voting for “tough” drug policy, even though the vast majority of those who decide the fate of millions of Colombians have neither visited Colombia nor know any Colombians.

We want to provide the Colombian army with about 45 he-

licopters, a couple of AC-47 gunships, and an assortment of other military equipment. We assume that we can isolate the drug producers and their allies and smoothly remove them from Colombia’s rough, nearly impossible terrain. How do we do this without getting involved in a guerrilla insurgency war that is already underway? How do we support a cynical, sacred, reactionary, barracks-based military?

The Colombian military (unlike, let’s say, the Chilean military) is not a serious military. It’s a military that sent Christmas cards to every single leftist insurgent during the 1999 holiday season (I’m not kidding... all 100,000 leftist insurgents were sent cards by the Colombian army on Sunday, December 19, 1999. They read: “Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year, *guerrilla!* Make your family happy and share the season’s joys with them. Desert your rebel unit and enjoy your freedom. Long live freedom! Long live Christmas!” The card was signed, “The National Army”).

Colombians have just left behind one hundred years of war: they don’t want our \$1.5 billion to support *another* century of murder and mayhem. Colombians want—and deserve—peace and the growing civilian peace movement, the No Más (“no more”) movement testifies to this fact.

We should support the peace effort in Colombia by working to eradicate drug consumption in the U.S. and supporting a Colombian-based peace process that involves reorganizing the Colombian agrarian structure and judicial system, as well as overhauling state institutions. It seems to me that the country that produced Gabriel García Márquez and Macondo can produce a long-lasting peace.

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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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## Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot

MATTHEW SHIPE  
WATCHING THE  
DETECTIVES



At the time it sounded like a good idea. When the words left my mouth in our staff meeting the other week that we should do a twenty-page *Sou'wester*, I thought it was a pretty swell concept. I have always been one for gestures of self-aggrandizement, and the idea of a twenty-pager seemed like the perfect idea. Most of the staff thought it to be a novel idea, except for Val, who just thought I had lost my mind.

So it was decided. We would do a twenty-page *Sou'wester*; a feat that had never been dared by any *Sou'wester* staff during our tenure here at Rhodes. Within this issue we would boldly go where no staff had gone before. Wild ideas started flying in meeting. We would do an expose of the Paris Theatre. We would expose all the lies and hypocrisies that exist at Rhodes. We would send Blake out to interview more

crazies....

Well, things are always better in concept than reality. Not to take away anything from this issue. It fulfills the most basic criterion for a twenty-page paper, and that is, it is indeed twenty pages. Between page 1 and page 20, you, dear reader, will find pages 2-19, and, unless the printer screws up, they should all be in numerical order with three following two and so forth. However, most of the innovative ideas of the issue got left on the cutting room floor. Blake tried to interview the owner of the Paris, but he was unable to get an interview. Great idea after great idea went unrealized as senior projects began to overwhelm the staff. There is nothing too shocking in this issue. You should be able to read this issue comfortably at the Rat without having to worry too much that the content inside will upset the normalcy of your dinner.

Perhaps I'm being too hard on this issue, and besides, if I've learned anything in my tenure as Editor, I have learned that people don't need to be discouraged not to read the

newspaper.

Hopefully, this issue will serve as a culmination of what the staff and I have attempted to do with the paper this year. If anything, I've tried to make the paper more interesting to read this year. While this paper hasn't always striven for journalistic integrity exactly (people always kept on reminding me that this wasn't a *real* newspaper anyway), it has tried its darnedest to be interesting to read. I don't think anyone can beat Blake's interview with Prince Mongo for pure entertainment value.

That's not to say that we didn't attempt to cover "hard" news. I think the paper has covered much more Memphis news than it has in years past. I am also quite proud of the *Forum* section, an idea that Patrick Lane originated. While the section has not yet been properly defined, I believe that it is a great forum (see, a pun) to allow members of the Rhodes community to express their ideas on national and international issues.

Coming into this year, I believed that it was going to be full of difficult change for the Rhodes campus. However, this year has been a remarkably

smooth one for this campus. There have been no great controversies that have enraged the campus, like the Mission Statement debate of my freshman year. I think that this positive attitude around campus can largely be credited to the arrival of President Troutt, who has done a wonderful job this year.

In a sense I feel like I am defending this staff's work. Not that I feel that we have anything to be ashamed of; on the contrary, I'm quite proud of the work that this staff has done. Even though I slightly cringe when I think of all the unrealized story ideas, I can truly say that this staff has worked as hard as humanly possible to put out the best newspaper that we could.

That brings me to the issue of my staff. Excuse me if this becomes self-indulgent, but I would feel like I would have done a great disservice to them if I didn't thank them for all that they have done this year. I'll try not to be overly sentimental, but I will truly miss working with each and every one of you.

I think that the newspaper will continue to get better and better next

year. Drew and Susan are both incredibly talented people, and they've assembled a great staff for next year. I'm sure that they continue to expand the coverage in *The Sou'wester* and that the paper itself will continue to improve. I wish them all the luck in the world, and I can't wait to see what they do with it next year.

Before I go, I have to say that this experience as Editor has been far-and-away the best experience of my college career. I think that we were able to create a publication of value this year. More than anything else, though, I will miss working with my staff on a weekly basis. I know I will feel lost for the next few weeks when I don't have to go down to the pub center for any particular reason. I know the conversation in the Rat will be a little duller with no newspaper to talk about. I know my Tuesday nights will seem a little odd when they are not capped off with a gin & tonic at Sidestreet in the company of my friends.

In conclusion, I hope you enjoy this issue; a lot of hard work went into it. This year has been a blast; I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

## And Never Brought to Mind

DREW HUGHES  
INCOMING  
CHIEF EDITOR



There's a term I've heard used in reference to a newspaperman: "inky wretch." It's an affectionate term, I think; I liked it even before I started working with the newspaper. It's a humble way for a writer to refer to himself in print, and it conjures up images of coffee-stained, mussed-hair writers with dark circles around their eyes and their shirts only half-tucked in.

I've seen fellow members of *The Sou'wester* staff shuffling about the Publications Center on production night enough times to know that my idea of the inky wretch's appearance isn't too far off. Like I said, I use the term affectionately. I genuinely look up to those graduating inky wretches whom I've

been fortunate enough to work with on the newspaper staff.

Nevertheless, the combination of time-consuming extracurricular activities and regular coursework grows tiresome for even the most dedicated students, and it shows. Seniors exhibit these outward signs most of all, as senior papers and honors projects have sapped every last bit of strength from their soon-to-grow-brittle bones.

Which is why, around this time every spring, the graduating members of *The Sou'wester* staff are relieved to turn over their responsibilities to a crew of fresh, young would-be editors. Meanwhile, hardly a soul on campus notices. That's the way it should be, I suppose—a smooth transition. After all, newspapermen are hardly gods, and so, perhaps, it is appropriate that the only pomp and circumstance we receive is that which we create ourselves.

Hence this week's 20-page extravaganza. But the deafening silence prompts the question, "Is there anybody out there?" And,

more to the point, "Are they listening?"

It's a tough question, and one that many newspaper editors are faced with in this post-literate era. The arguments for the print media over other media, primarily television and internet-based media, vary. Many of them seem to be emotional arguments, the product of nostalgic members of the press wary of the changes brought by late 20<sup>th</sup>- and early 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology.

However, the fact is that, other than the standard argument that reading is healthy, which I thoroughly believe, the print media are not inherently better than other forms of the media.

Irresponsible and sensational reporting may abound online, and even on TV, but there's certainly no lack of it in print. When it comes right down to it, the newspaper has to compete with music, television, computers, and a host of other forms of sensory input for its reader's attention. Quite an uphill battle for simple black words on

newsprint, considering all the stimuli that their competitors take advantage of.

Sensationalism is the easy way to compete, and maybe even win, a battle for attention. *The Sou'wester* doesn't typically go that route, though, and that's not something I see changing in the near future. With glossy, full-color pages out of the question due to expense, competing becomes even more difficult.

Asked how I'd like to change the newspaper, I hardly know where to begin. More emphasis on Memphis news that relates to students' lives, perhaps. It's easy to forget that we're right in the heart of a genuine city with genuine issues. News from other college campuses has been suggested. Maybe we'll start to feel a little less insulated. A greater presence on the web—after all, it's everyone's favorite procrastination tool. Everyone likes cartoons, so let's bring back the comic strip. I think all of these ideas could pull in a few more readers and improve not only *The Sou'wester* but also the "Rhodes community."

And the Rhodes community is

so vital to the success of the newspaper, not just as an audience but also as active participants in its production. I sometimes sense a degree of dissatisfaction with *The Sou'wester's* scope, or lack thereof. Ideally, *The Sou'wester* should only be as narrow as its audience. If it's any narrower, I would attribute it to the fact that a miniscule portion of the campus contributes to the newspaper. Try as we might, it's sometimes hard to cover all the bases.

If you're not pleased with the newspaper, I urge you to attend one of our Sunday afternoon meetings and bring any and every idea you've got. We want to hear them. Or send me an e-mail at [hugia@rhodes.edu](mailto:hugia@rhodes.edu), or contact any of the other editors. As I said above, everyone's input is necessary for the newspaper to thrive.

I'd like to think that, by implementing some of these changes, and especially by getting more of the Rhodes community interested and involved in *The Sou'wester*, we will shake things up a little bit on this rather conservative liberal arts campus.

## One Forgotten Leap for Mankind

TIM HAYES  
The View From  
the Moon



On December 21, 1968, three Americans—Frank Borman, Bill Anders, and Jim Lovell—accelerated out of the earth's orbit in their Apollo 8 spacecraft.

For the first time in human history, representatives of this planet escaped the gravity that had tied us to this rock. On Christmas Eve, nearly every functioning television set was tuned to the first pictures from another world, the colorless and stark face of the earth's one and only moon.

Yet, as Tom Hanks says as that same Jim Lovell in 1995's *Apollo 13*, "It wasn't a miracle. We just decided to go." That might be a bit of an understatement, though. After all, it was the dream of many from the beginning of time to escape from Earth and shake hands with the man in the moon, but it took one man in the right place at the right time to put the process into motion.

The date: May 25, 1961. The place: a joint session of Congress. The man: President John F. Kennedy. "I believe this nation should commit itself to the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth," Kennedy proclaimed, starting the nation on a course that led eventually to Project Apollo, which sent 9 flights to the moon between 1968 and 1972.

Kennedy's dream would ultimately survive his own assassination and a horrific fire on the launchpad in January 1967 that killed all 3 members of the Apollo 1 crew and jarred the program into a stunned silence.

Less than two years later, Borman, Anders, and Lovell orbited the moon for the first time and, only eight months after that, on July 20, 1969, a 39-year-old American stepped onto the forbidding soil of the Sea of Tranquility and spoke of the "giant leap" mankind had just made.

And yet, less than four years after that awe-inspiring broadcast live from the moon on Christmas Eve 1968, Gene Cernan, Jack Schmitt, and Ron Evans completed the final moon mission, Apollo 17, and no man or woman has left the earth's orbit since.

So, what should that extraordinary time mean to us today? It saddens me that the "space" memories of our generation are an exploding Challenger and the near tragedy of *Apollo 13*. Then again, I suppose it's all a question of attitude. Either *Apollo 13* is a cautionary tale that proves we shouldn't waste our money sending humans to the moon, or it stands as a testament to the hundreds of thousands of highly trained professionals that allowed those three men to return safely to the earth.

In the thirty years since, we've turned inward and attempted to deal with the societal problems that won't go away. This is, in and of itself, an admirable goal, and arguably more admirable than what Kennedy and NASA and America tried to do with Apollo. In the process, though, we've all gendered, sexed, raced, and ethnicized ourselves into a hopelessly disparate group of "individuals" with no sense of common purpose.

And, though I'm a firm believer in an individual's ability to make a tangible difference in his/her world, the big differences are made by large and united groups of individuals driven by a single purpose.

What nearly half a million Americans did throughout the chaotic and revolutionary 1960s was nothing short of spectacular, and it was the ultimate team effort. If anyone dropped the ball in the entire process, failure—and the lives of three crew members—hung in the balance.

It is astounding to me that, in only eight years, these Americans managed to build the hardware and software, develop the "specs," and hone the skills that sent those twenty-four men just shy of half a million miles on every lunar voyage. I suppose the math is appropriate—for every Apollo employee, those crew members traveled a mile closer to the moon. It also astounds me how quickly we've managed to forget.

The so-called space race was also, arguably, one of the biggest "battles" in the Cold War. If indeed it was a "battle," it should be all the more astounding that the rockets that sent Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts to orbit—and Americans to the moon—were all initially built to carry nuclear warheads halfway across the world to destroy our "enemy." There were no guns in space, no battles on the moon—just an open

challenge to see which society, capitalist or communist, could get there first (if at all). Thank God we won.

For me, though, the voyages to the moon are the greatest metaphor for achievement that I know. Whenever I'm walking on a clear night, lost in self-doubt and wondering if I can get that next paper written, all I have to do is look up at the bright, beautiful moon and remember what we did so many years ago.

One question I can't answer, however, is whether or not we should go back. I can tell you how going back could open up the universe for us and provide inspiration for a country notorious for its mathematic and scientific underachievement.

Still, my years at Rhodes have taught me how important my relationships with others are, and I know that I will use my life to teach others, never forgetting to share what the astronauts and hundreds of thousands of Americans achieved before I was even born.

And maybe, just maybe, we can all meet on the moon one day and walk in the footsteps of Apollo. Just look up at the moon tonight, if you get a chance, and think how extraordinary that would be.

## Of Woodstock, Wisconsin, and Rioting Spartans

DAN LONDON  
BACK IN ST.  
OLAF...



As I was watching CNN, the video came streaming in to my television: Students gathering in the street, questioning authority, driven by a fierce combination of independence and resolve. It is a scene off repeated in the history of world politics. From the Bolsheviks in Russia to the Student Movement in China, it has been people like you and me that have brought about change.

The students on my television screen, however, were not gathered in the streets of Moscow or Beijing. Rather, they were congregated in the streets of West Lafayette, Indiana, Ames, Iowa, and Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. And these students were not calling for the end of capitalism or protesting the corruption of their government.

Instead, they were vandalizing in the aftermath of college basketball victories by Purdue University, Iowa State University, and the University of Wis-

consin, respectively. There were no cries of freedom or liberty; the only cries were of students hit with tear gas by police wearing riot gear.

Is this what the student movement has come to? Overturning cars and smashing in store windows? Our generation seems to have confused activism with anarchy, and the result has become more of a spectacle than the game it follows. The student athletes who compete in the tournament every year are taught to play by the rules of the game. Their fans, sadly, seem to think themselves above the rules of society.

At the end of each game, the winners and losers both become winners as handshakes and hugs abound—even in the emotional Michigan State-Iowa State game, when the Cyclones' coach snapped with seconds to go and was ejected, he stopped to share kind words with the coach of the Spartans.

Yet, in the riotous streets afterwards, everyone loses. The students lose when they are arrested or injured. The schools lose by having their hard-fought images tarnished. The cities lose by being held hostage by the out-of-control mobs. The disparity in sportsmanship shown by the players

and students is remarkable.

And these instances are far from isolated. Last year, students from Michigan State University launched what was discovered to be a premeditated riot after their Spartans were defeated in the Final Four. And just two days after their Thursday riot in celebration of the Boilermakers' victory, Purdue University students committed a double-dribble by rioting again to protest their defeat on Saturday.

In all, over twenty students were arrested for setting countless fires and damaging all sorts of property during the weekend's festivities. And this comes in the aftermath of the tragic accident at Texas A&M last fall, where several students were crushed to death when a giant bonfire being built for the annual football game with Texas collapsed.

Alcohol, of course, is to blame in all of these incidents. As the commercial goes, the students were simply watchin' the game, and havin' a Bud (most likely more than one). When the buzzers sounded and the players shook hands, the students decided to start some action of their own.

This column is in no way a diatribe against alcohol or sports; in fact,

I would agree with Budweiser that their combination is "true." But losing control of yourself to the point that you would set a parked car on fire is decidedly untrue.

As a human being, this behavior saddens me. But as a student, it angers me. What gives these students the right to carry on as they do? At worst, it can cause injuries (one rioter in Ames suffered head injuries when he dove into a lake) or death. At best, though, it runs contrary to everything college should be about.

College should be a place to gain independence—these students forsook theirs by yielding to the mob mentality. College should be a place to learn to be a public servant—these students were gassed and arrested for being public nuisances. College should teach students to embrace the world—these students simply embarrassed their schools.

I feel lucky to live in a country and in a time where students can concentrate on their studies, where the weight of the world is not on our shoulders. Our friends are not going off to war, and our biggest concerns are high gas prices and Oscar thieves.

There is no reason why we should

not enjoy this good time while we have the chance. But the students involved in the riots are poor winners. In their actions they are mocking the achievements of the Americans that have created the great nation in which they live.

Recently, Tom Brokaw wrote two books on what he calls "The Greatest Generation," the men and women who survived the Depression and won the Second World War. If they are the greatest, then our parents' generation—which won equal rights for all Americans and brought an end to a bloody war while still in college—is not far behind. And where do we rank?

Fortunately, we have not yet had a major test of our fortitude, so our grade right now is incomplete. But, with the streets of Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin aglow, the chances of our generation living up to past examples look dimmer and dimmer. The fact is, we have not yet had a cause powerful enough to draw us out into the streets.

Instead of practicing on basketball games and football rivalries, let's just lie low until we receive our higher calling.

## I'm Not Playing Any More Games (Except Monopoly)

CATHERINE NEELLY  
Chance Card



Before coming back to school this year, I bought the game Monopoly. I love Monopoly. When I was in fifth grade, I memorized the order of the board, and then I bought a book on the history and strategies of the game. My friend Meredith and I would play for days on end, sliding the board under a table in our respective living rooms until the next day when we would reclaim our same positions.

Eventually, Meredith would tire of the game, wanting to move onto something else, like gin rummy or Clue. My family never wanted to play, and if they gave in, it was only with the stipulation that there would be a time limit. My mother was into setting the timer for 45 minutes; the property's not even

sold after 45 minutes, but it was the most I could hope for. I could usually guilt babysitters into playing, but even they would try to avoid it.

The reason I'm saying all of this is to show you how much I love Monopoly, but only one time this year has someone been willing to play with me, and she didn't fare too well, so she won't play again. Instead of playing my game, I end up playing everyone else's games. Maybe I shouldn't complain. I'm getting to play games, right?

But it's the content of these games that I care about. What games are these? The games that I most often get sucked into are the sleep game, the homework game, and the food game. Unlike Monopoly these games aren't much fun, and they don't have set rules, you just learn as you play. I'm writing this to identify these games for everyone, so hopefully you'll be better equipped to play.

1. The Sleep Game. Essen-

tially, the sleep game is the competition among students to see who got the least amount of sleep. The game works like this: one person enters into a dialogue and, regardless of what was being said, they start telling you and everyone else about how they have had no sleep.

This game can start out innocently; one person mentions that they're tired, the other asks if they were up late, and, before they realize it, both parties are trying to one-up each other about who got less sleep. This game is ridiculous, so why are we competing to see who is the most tired?

The "real" winners are the people who actually get enough sleep. I have to confess that occasionally, I, also, play the game. It does seem, however, that this game is more common around younger students, as though older students realize that sleeping is better than talking about not sleeping.

2. The Homework Game.

It's very similar to the sleep game, except that unmanageable amounts of homework are substituted for lack of sleep. It is likely the two games go hand in hand. If you have too much homework, you probably won't get enough sleep. You know what I'm talking about: "I was up until 3 this morning studying; I'm so tired." Let's face it, we all have homework, stop complaining; easier said than done.

The sleep and homework games are relatively innocent, obnoxious. The real game to watch out for is the Food Game. I often run into people playing the food game in the Rat. This is because I end up sitting with a variety of people in the Rat. The food game is the running commentary someone makes on how much they have eaten. For instance, "Oh my gosh, I ate so much, I can't believe how much I ate. Look at all of these plates. Look at how much I ate. I have got to go run this afternoon."

How does one respond to this? I haven't really figured it out. If I say they didn't eat a lot, then they say they did, and we end up going back and forth. Generally, when sitting with someone who is playing the food game, it is easiest to just play along and comment on how much you've eaten.

How can I sit there and say nothing when someone who ate half of what I did is lamenting being an "overeater?" The worst is when a group plays the game. Everyone starts feeding off each other, and, before long, I've chimed in too.

My only advice for all of these games is to be aware of them; you can't win. There are lots of better ways to spend your time. Maybe you could even find someone to play Monopoly with.

The sleep game, the homework game, and the food game are all for two or more players. The ages for the games are not defined, but I certainly hope that people stop playing as we get older. Somehow, I doubt it.

## Burning Apologists at the Stake

BILL BALDWIN  
PIANO MAN



Pope John Paul II has just apologized for every major sin that the Catholic Church committed in the past two thousand years. This followed his recent trip to the Holy Land, where he visited every major site in Christ's life. Now, I do not mean to be cynical here, but I believe the Pope's remarks were to ease any hard feelings Israel has about the last two thousand years.

The last Pope that went to visit the Holy Land had to sneak into the country and only visited one holy site. He never traveled to Jerusalem or met with the Prime Minister. Pope John Paul apologized, affording him the royal treatment to see everything the Holy Land had to offer. All he had to do was visit the Holocaust Museum and say some sympathetic words at the wailing wall. However, the Pope could be completely genuine in his appeal for forgiveness, and most people feel that he is.

But what really is the Pope apologizing for?

For one, take the crusades. Does the Pope realize how influential the crusades were to Western Civilization? Gun powder, paper, and the rose are just a few of the many great discoveries the Europeans made in the Middle East. The stone structures which the Europeans learned how to build during the crusades changed the course of warfare, and, hence, political development. Every major European country had its internal affairs governed by the exodus of political leadership. Take, for example, Richard the "Lionheart," who only spent a few months of his 7-year reign in England.

Great cathedrals still stand today, sprouted from the pilgrimages of many crusaders. Women's advancement in society, though limited, occurred during the crusades, since they were left by their spouses to manage the manor. Western history would have been entirely different if the Crusades had not happened.

Another event the Pope apologized for was the Inquisition. First, the Pope, along with every other Catholic, should understand that, without the Inquisition, there would

be fewer Catholic countries in the world. Even in the Catholic strongholds of Southern Europe, dissatisfaction with the way the Catholic Church was managed began to show itself in the 1540s. While it is arguable that they would have converted to Protestantism, Southern Europe might have split papal authority up among different regents, much like the Babylonian captivity.

The Inquisition of the 16th century is distinct from the Holocaust. The Inquisition indirectly spurred the emergence of Calvinism. Although I am no fan of Calvin and his Puritan lifestyle, Calvinism led to a modern conception of capitalism (see Max Weber). And I am a very big fan of capitalism. Capitalism has an unmeasured influence on the history of the world and still does in even the poorest nations.

Certainly, great human costs were expended during the Crusades and the Inquisition, but great human cost, in one way or another, is being spent right now for us to enjoy our lifestyle. Human suffering is inevitable; the Greeks called it a tragedy, but some suffering can and should be ameliorated. The suffering that went on dur-

ing the Crusades, Inquisition, and numerous other Church "sins" cannot be stopped, so why even talk about it? Those who hate the church will only use this apology against it. And to whom is the Church really apologizing?

The French Calvinists murdered at the St. Bartholomew Day Massacre are the predecessors of the fundamentalist Christians who moved here in the 17th century. The fundamentalists were (and some still are) the greatest supporters of the Ku Klux Klan, prohibition, and the failed War on Drugs. They built Bob Jones and vote for David Duke. Does anyone think fundamentalists will apologize for their misdeeds?

The Pope's apology was mostly meant for the Jewish people of Israel, and many of them were disappointed that he did not directly mention the controversy surrounding Papal acquiescence to Hitler's Holocaust policies. Pope Pius was German, and I am not familiar with the details surrounding his rule, but one should think that Adolf Hitler would kill anyone that got in his way. Hitler killed his own brother-in-law for trying to leave Berlin during the final days of the war,

when there was no chance for victory.

Why should the Church apologize for something they could not stop? The Old Testament has many accounts of where the followers of Yahweh wiped out entire tribes for not living the way Yahweh commanded or because they wanted their land. In the first few centuries of the Common Era the Jews would sell out the new formed sect of Christians to the Romans.

Even today, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are displaced from their ancestral homelands so Israelis can live in the Promised Land. No one calls for an Israeli apology. The Pope's apology panders to liberals who want today's values and morals to be extended throughout history so they can bitch about it.

When someone today spills a glass of water, they blame their own clumsiness. But, in the Middle Ages, one would believe the evil spirits pushed over the glass, because God was displeased with you. The logical error in the need to apologize continually for the past is applying a modern set of values to a time that did not share the same moral beliefs. It's all relative.

## Campus Safety Log



3/25/00 to 4/2/00

3/25		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT
3/26	5:15pm:	North Parkway/Hein Park area: Indecent Exposure - Witnesses identified a hispanic male driving a cream colored car in the area exposing himself to passers by. Campus Safety located the described vehicle and suspect later and turned the investigation over to the Memphis Police Department. Currently under investigation by the MPD.
3/27		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT
3/28	3:40pm	Alcohol Violation - Phillips Lane; visitor/host cited for alcohol violation on Phillips Lane
	7:50pm	Blount - 3rd floor fire alarm: Campus Safety responded, no fire, all checked okay, malfunction in system. Maintenance notified.
3/29	12:47am	Glassell - Broken water drain - maintenance notified.
	1:35am	Robinson social room: suspicious person - Campus Safety checked, determined it was an alumni. He left for home on his bicycle shortly after.
	9:28am	Phillips Lane - two vehicles booted for not registration
	7:30pm	Lynx Lair - theft of money: MPD is investigating
3/30	1:14pm	North Parkway entrance et al: 2 vehicles booted, chronic offenders.
3/31	3:16am	University/Snowden - vehicular/bike accident - no Rhodes persons involved. However, subject taken to hospital was riding a stolen bike. Bike impounded by Rhodes Campus Safety.
	9:50am	Fac/Staff parking lot - vehicle booted; chronic offender
4/1		No unusual activity reported (VERY BUSY DAY ON CAMPUS)
4/2		NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO REPORT

### STATISTICS

VISITORS: 3,221  
 CITATIONS: 129  
 TOWED CARS: 0  
 BOOTED CARS: 6

ACCESSES: 128  
 ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS: 1  
 ESCORTS: 25  
 PROPPED DOORS: 5  
 JUMP STARTS: 5

## No Restrictions for Napster

By Beth Purves  
Staff Writer

Amid the technological and legal controversy that has surrounded Napster, the computer software that allows users to swap mp3s over the Internet, Dean of Information Services Bob Johnson said that Rhodes has no plans to ban the controversial program.

Oregon State, St. Cloud State, Boston, North Carolina State, and Northwestern Universities, as well as the Universities of New Hampshire, Pittsburgh, and Texas, have all blocked access to the Napster website. These universities claimed that up to 40% of their bandwidth was being used by stu-

dents uploading and downloading songs using Napster.

When Rhodes doubled its bandwidth a month ago, the extra bandwidth was filled within a week. Although Rhodes is not considering taking any steps to ban Napster or block the Napster website, Johnson reminds students that Napster is still creating a problem for the campus community.

Napster is a program created by a college dropout last August. It simply allows members to share their mp3 libraries with others. Mp3s are songs in a compressed format that is easy to transfer and downloads quickly.

The fact that Napster commandeers much of the bandwidth on schools' Ethernet systems is the main problem that most colleges and universities find with the program. Indiana University is currently working with Napster to develop a version that will first look to see if any students on the college network have the mp3 that a student is seeking.

The Internet will be a last resort. Indiana University and Napster officials hope that this will free up bandwidth and eliminate some of the problems associated with Napster. However, authorities say that there are still bugs to be worked out of the software.

Although most colleges cite the technological issues, there are legal issues behind Napster as well. Legally, it is a felony to own an mp3 without owning the original of that mp3. This is punishable by a \$1,000 fine for each illegal mp3. In addition, Napster users could be fined up to \$250,000 for using the software to trade pirated mp3s.

Although there are no plans to prosecute users individually, there are lawsuits in the works against Napster. The music recording industry is outraged that the music is being given away. Many artists are offended that Americans have so little respect for their work.

The controversy does not end here, however. Students on many campuses at which Napster has been banned have made this issue the newest one in the free speech debate. Students see the universities' meddling in their personal affairs as a violation of their constitutional rights.

Additionally, many argue that the school has no right to regulate student use of the services that the school provides. In The University of Nebraska's *Daily Nebraskan*, for example, students contend that, since the university cannot regulate phone or utility usage, they cannot possibly regulate Internet access.

Johnson said that Rhodes students should not expect any formal action at this time. However, he encourages campus Napster users to use the program more responsibly and to expect information about Napster and the problems it creates from the administration.

As Johnson said, "We ask that Rhodes students consider the negative aspects of Napster and help us as a community to operate wisely and legally."

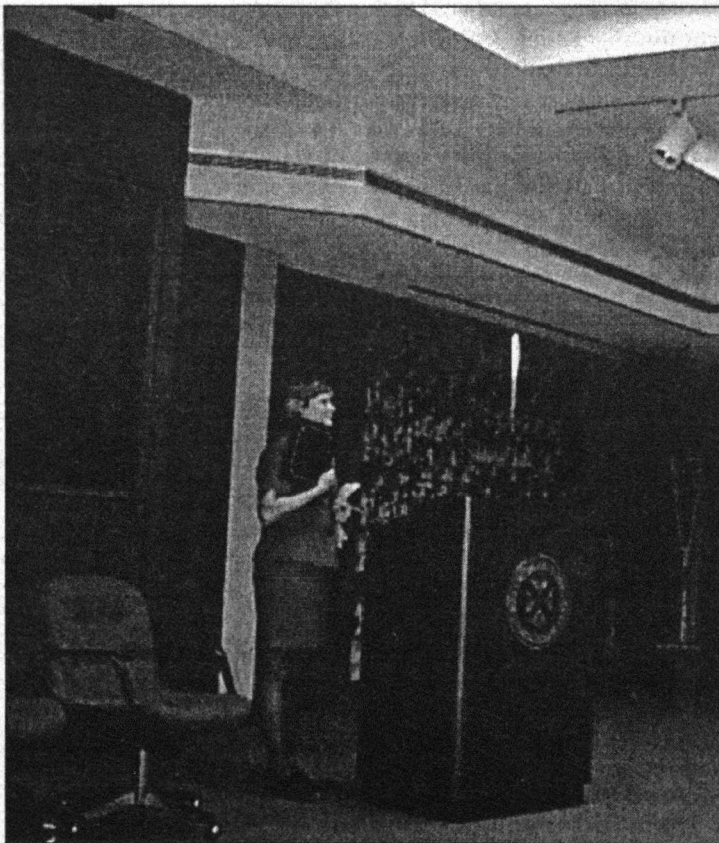


Photo by Jaime Hook

State Representative Carol Chumney accepts the Outstanding Female Political Activist Award from the Rhodes College Democrats on April 2. Chumney received the award as a result of her work as chair of the House and Family Affairs Committee, where she proposed a number of bills aimed at improving the daycare system in Tennessee.

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## Taiwan: To Be or Not to Be a Republic

By Kenneth Lukas  
Staff Writer

"Well, well, well," say most Americans, "just who is this Chen Shui-bian fellow who's been getting all this press coverage recently?"

It is highly unlikely that most Americans know much about Taiwan and even less likely they care a great deal about the results of the March 18 presidential election. The brief flurry of news reports on the major networks has ended, and most people will go back to tending to their own affairs until a crisis ensues.

But America is a democracy, and the potential for war is a serious matter, one about which people should get their feelings sorted out before a crisis strikes and emotion takes over. Taiwan is a place where war could quickly break out.

Taiwan, officially known by its government as the Republic of China on Taiwan, is the final result of Chiang Kai-shek's loss to Mao Zedong's Communists in the Chinese civil war. After fleeing to Formosa, Chiang bided his time and hoped to return triumphantly to the mainland someday. Chiang was an autocrat and kept Taiwan under a tight fist, suppressing those who advocated separation from China. After his death in 1975, Taiwan gradually democratized.

Chiang's party, the Nationalists (also known as the KMT), remained dominant after the transition to democracy. Today the KMT controls the legislature and had always controlled the Presidency until March 18, 2000. Chen Shui-bian was elected President on that day, due to a split in the KMT that divided its vote and saw its most popular politician, James Soong, mount an independent campaign with talk of founding his own party.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is very disturbed by this turn of events. As long as Chiang was in power, there was no possibility of Taiwan achieving independence. Today, Taiwan is effectively independent and sovereign, never claiming to be a separate nation.

But there is currently a fear in Beijing that Taiwan is slowly drifting toward independence; not arriving immediately, but incrementally. The possibility of Taiwan permanently splitting from China, which is what many of the advocates of formal independence for Taiwan want, is unacceptable to much of the Chinese leadership and public.

The PRC leadership frequently denounced Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's first democratically elected President. Lee was constantly attacked by the PRC for wanting to split Taiwan away from China proper and achieve Taiwan's independence, though Lee (a native Taiwanese, as opposed to a mainlander who arrived in 1949 with Chiang) never explicitly said this. Whether Lee secretly wanted independence for Taiwan is uncertain, though it is believed by a fair number of people in Taiwan that he did. Professor of International Studies John F. Copper, a noted scholar on Taiwan, believes he did.

Chen's election is particularly disturbing to the Chinese leadership because he was the person largely responsible for inserting a plank into the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) platform calling for Taiwan's independence from the mainland. The DPP is the major opposition party in Taiwan and has always attracted a segment of the population that supports independence from China.

Chen is the one man the PRC did not want to see as the President of Taiwan. Zhu Rongji, not exactly known as a hardliner, went as far as to say, prior to the election, in a remark aimed at discouraging the election of Chen, that, if the Taiwanese people made a mistake, they would not have the opportunity to do so again. Actually, most of the Taiwanese people seemed to favor the status quo: neither sub-

mission nor complete independence for Taiwan.

Still, after Chen's election, the PRC was remarkably mild in public response, adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Chen has tried to be conciliatory; he pledged during the campaign that, if elected, he would not declare independence. There has also been discussion of dropping the independence plank from the DPP platform, but, because a significant number of internal party opposition in the DPP still see Taiwanese independence as an eventual goal, it seems unlikely it will happen. He has also invited Chinese leaders to visit Taiwan and encouraged dialogue.

Still, there is reason for concern. Over the past few years, the PRC has become increasingly strident toward Taiwan in voicing its displeasure with any signs of independence. China test-fired missiles in the straits near Taiwan in 1995 and 1996, effectively creating a blockade (an act of war) of limited duration; Taiwan's prosperity is wholly dependent on foreign trade, so this is a severe threat. China has threatened to use "fresh blood and lives" to ensure that Taiwan never gains independence. Plans for an invasion of Taiwan frequently appear in the Chinese press.

China recently increased the tension when it released a new government White Paper stating China's intent to attack if a prolonged stalemate in efforts at negotiated reunification were to occur. The White Paper built on the longstanding PRC policy to launch an attack on Taiwan if it declared independence, fell into internal disorder, acquired nuclear weapons, or became subject to an external power.

But much of the Chinese military is outdated and underequipped; there is serious doubt whether the Chinese could currently launch a successful invasion of Taiwan, leading to the description of such an attempt as the "Million Man Swim." Yet with China's strong economic performance, the country has begun upgrading its military. Military budgets increased steadily throughout the decade.

China has recently purchased advanced Russian weapons, which it will no doubt study and copy when it has the technical proficiency to do so. These weapons include the Su-27 Flanker, an excellent, modern fighter, and Sovremenny-class guided missile destroyers, which, equipped with Sunburn anti-ship missiles, can pose a significant threat to American vessels. China is also working on developing power projection capabilities with a true blue-water navy capable of operating far from bases.

The situation is complicated by a power struggle currently going on in Beijing between a faction seemingly more open to modernization, and possibly democratization, and a more hardline faction that is more resistant to reform and very hawkish. When Deng Xiaoping effectively eliminated Communism as an ideological basis for Chinese society, he successfully replaced Communist dogma with nationalism. The forces of Chinese nationalism, which date back to the nineteenth century and events like the Boxer Rebellion, (a reaction to China's domination by Western powers and Japan, may prove too powerful to control).

Aggressive nationalism is popular in China right now at the grassroots level, and even the potential reformers like Zhu seek to increase their political strength by adopting a hardline toward Taiwan. They cannot afford to be seen as weak on the Taiwan issue, or they risk losing power.

In any case, hardliners, particularly the military, have increased in power in the past few years. This is largely a result of the struggle to see who would succeed Deng as paramount leader. Jiang Zemin won this struggle but had to make significant concessions to other groups to secure his position. He is clearly still dependent on their support, and, as a result, a weak leader. Jiang is also conscious that, historically speaking, leaders who allowed China to fragment or lose territory have not been treated well by party historians.

But China is still far from a first-world country. It still needs time to grow, both economically and militarily. A

conflict over Taiwan would interfere with investment and growth. A major economic crisis might well threaten Communist Party rule in China.

However, it may still suit Jiang's internal opponents and rivals to instigate a losing conflict in the hope of toppling Jiang. Or, Jiang, afraid of falling if he doesn't appear tough enough on Taiwan, may find himself forced into escalating a conflict he doesn't really want. He might even, if he is in imminent danger of falling, initiate a conflict with Taiwan in an attempt to rally the country around him.

The United States must decide what its position will be between China and Taiwan. The U.S. is more or less pledged to come to Taiwan's aid if it is attacked, according to the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, passed by Congress when Jimmy Carter broke off diplomatic relations with Taipei.

The United States officially follows a policy of engagement in regard to China. However, in reality, we currently still follow a policy of strategic ambiguity between China and Taiwan: wait until the crisis arrives to decide what to do. The fear is that, if we openly pledge too much support (or pledge it unconditionally) to Taiwan, this might encourage pro-independence forces to declare independence, provoking a conflict with China. On the other hand, if we don't aid Taiwan, this would be a betrayal of a democratic American ally and severely hurt American credibility and influence in East Asia and the world.

We also maintain a rough policy of maintaining Taiwan's defense capability by selling it fairly advanced weapons, something few other countries will do due to Beijing's verbal bullying and potential market opportunities. This routinely causes intense friction with the Chinese, particularly in the light of our policy of engagement. Tough decisions in this regard will have to be made soon. For example, will we sell Taiwan the four advanced Aegis-guided missile ships that it has sought to purchase?

Another issue of contention is the possible development of a Theater Missile Defense system in East Asia and whether such a system would include Taiwan.

The bellicosity of Chinese statements often leads one to think that a successful relationship with China can only be achieved by capitulation to and appeasement of its demands.

Historically speaking, any country that has had the power has sought to increase its power in the international arena. If China's strength grows, it will seek greater power and influence, fueled by a historical sense of importance as the "Middle Kingdom," possibly putting it into conflict with the U.S. China certainly has pretensions of being a regional hegemon in Asia. A future conflict with China may be unavoidable. In light of this, concessions made to China today to gain their friendship may be worse than useless.

If we continue our policy of engagement and help to modernize the Chinese economy with our investment and technology, will they suddenly become democratic and peaceful? Or will this economic success merely increase the legitimacy of the authoritarian regime and embolden it further? In any case, other countries will help modernize China if we do not.

There are potentially serious flaws in the current policy of engagement. They are highlighted by the potential conflict between China and Taiwan and how the United States might be drawn into it. If the conflict ever comes to a head, we will have to decide what means more to us: freedom or potential profit. We will finally have to decide just what our relationship to China will be.

This is certainly no promise of a China/U.S. conflict, or even one between China and Taiwan. But it is critical that the Clinton administration develop a coherent plan and a set of priorities to deal with a military escalation should it ever occur.

As Professor Copper states, "Engagement is a nice-sounding word that doesn't mean much." The U.S. needs to put some meaning into its policy of engagement.

## American Leadership in the Post-Cold War World

By Steele Means  
Associate Editor

The United States, in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, has struggled with the question of how to orient itself in foreign affairs. Currently, for example, there is a tendency towards isolationism in the American body politic. This is due largely to the lack of the overarching and worldwide threat posed by Communism. However, simply cutting itself off from the rest of the world is clearly not a viable option for the United States.

All the different facets of international relations affect the U.S. just as much in the post-Cold War world as before; and it, therefore, has an active interest in helping to resolve the multilateral challenges of today and tomorrow. In addition, the strength of the United States means that it has a particular contribution to make in the course of this process, and other states will naturally look to it for guidance, even if they might resent it at the same time.

This does not, however, mean that the style of American foreign policy should continue unaltered compared to the days of the Cold War. The structural realities of the international system after the end of World War II elevated the United States to the status of superpower, and the fear of Soviet expansionism and aggression resulted inevitably in a hegemonic style of leadership within the Western bloc, which the United States felt obliged to organize and, to a great extent, police.

This pattern cannot persist in the post-Cold War world for three primary reasons. First, while many states, for the sake of alliance (in the case of the members of NATO) and bloc cohesion, were willing to accept it when they themselves were facing the Soviet threat, that bloc's absence means that they are now much less likely to acquiesce to U.S. preferences.

The United States nevertheless continues to act unilaterally and without regard for the concerns of other key states in the international system on a number of significant issues, such as the drug trafficking problem in the Americas and the sanctions regime on Iraq and Cuba. The danger here is that America may win the enmity, or at least the mild hostility, of partners and potential partners in the effort to bring about a more secure and

stable world.

Second, as already mentioned, the American people will simply no longer support a foreign policy which is perceived as authorizing the United States to act in the capacity of "global policeman." Finally, a continuation of hegemony will also heavily tax its resources, which is an unsustainable burden in the long run.

The characteristics of the international system of today demand an update of the characteristics of American leadership, if the United States wishes to be a positive contributor to global security. It must be willing to give up hegemony and strengthen the capacity of global and regional bodies such as the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and the European pillar within NATO to address the security challenges of today. These include drug trafficking, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism.

Why should the United States groom global and regional bodies for the task of true leadership in the international system, rather than individual states? To be sure, the United States and others will continue to accomplish much on the basis of bilateral agreements and action. However, the primary challenges facing the world today are truly transnational and are thus not well addressed by individual or bilateral state action.

Clearly, such issues as global environmental degradation, drug trafficking, and terrorism require the equitable support and cooperation of every state in the system. These new threats do not respect state boundaries or sovereignty, and many cannot be easily resolved through traditional diplomacy or military force, as they often present no tangible adversary. Multilateral institutions, if properly strengthened and made credible, provide a viable solution by coordinating, in turn, transnational responses to these challenges.

No other state, currently, is quite as capable of doing this as the United States. The U.S., for example, has the military, economic, and cultural power to make the partial transfer of power credible. Also, the manner of American leadership in the world during the latter part of this century proves that it is uniquely and historically suited to this task in a number of other ways.

First, the U.S. has a tradition of establishing and working through international institutions, even if this was, at times, only done for symbolic value. Second, the fact that it did not exploit

its position for the purposes of power and hegemony for their own sakes, but, rather, to face the Soviet threat, is significant. Leaders of other state entities may not necessarily make this distinction, and their perception of American action in the global arena, as stated beforehand, is, of course, very important. The United States, arguably, does often refuse to take other states' preferences into account. Nevertheless, it is important that the United States has never placed any priority upon gaining an empire. Instead, it has led the pursuit of global security and stability, even if this has resulted in a certain amount of resentment among even its closest allies and if its definition of these two qualities has differed from that of other states.

It is important to state that giving up on hegemony in favor of the multilateral principle does not mean that the United States can no longer act unilaterally if it believes that it is in its national interest to do so. However, facing many of the challenges of today's world requires that the United States work more in concert with other actors in the system, even if it continues to be the "senior partner." It will clearly continue to play a leadership role within international organizations, as long as it retains a preponderance of military, economic, and cultural power, with the added advantage that it will be conserving its vital resources and retaining the support of the American people and the leaders of other states, particularly its allies in NATO.

A number of factors will be important in the course of its leadership in the years ahead. For example, its superior intelligence and surveillance capabilities will be necessary and vital in the contribution to the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Also, concerning its allies in Europe and in Asia, its military power will be crucial for collective defense in the face of an active and hostile threat in those regions, or for peacekeeping and stabilization purposes.

Finally, and more generally, the United States will play an indispensable role in forging consensus within these bodies. Many international organizations have traditionally been notorious for failing to accomplish their goals due to the number of divergent views within them. The preponderant power and influence of America will go a long way in overcoming this obstacle.

## Bush and Gore at a Glance

By Brock Lanier  
Staff Writer

The Presidential candidates are in the news almost every day. There are still eight months left until the end of the political campaigning but, despite all of the information that floods the public, few people know the candidates very well. The majority of the voters receive their information from short quotes and commentaries from experts without hearing the candidates speak themselves. In reality, George Bush and Al Gore, the candidates for the most important office in the country, share many personal and political traits. However, there are many profound differences between the proposals of these representatives of the two large American political parties.

George Bush is a rather complicated person, one of many contradictions. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and will be 54 years old on July 6. Bush's first years were ones of privilege. He later attended a private high school in Massachusetts. Although some criticize him by saying that he is not smart enough to be the President, he graduated from Yale in 1968 before studying business at Harvard. It is a bit odd, therefore, to hear his repeated complaints against the East Coast mentality.

At the same time, this attitude is responsible for much of the support and popularity that he has earned as a politician. Bush is famous for his ability to listen to the profoundly different sides of an issue and to reach a compromise that each side can accept. However, he has

been responsible for creating such divisions on other occasions. His first major political defeat as governor of Texas, for example, was in 1997 when he decided to fight for fiscal reform. He lost this battle because he created divisions inside both parties.

Perhaps the most notable moment of Bush's career was the education reform that he spearheaded as governor of Texas. This was one of the promises that he made during the 1993 campaign for the office. A large part of his reputation as a compromiser was won from his efforts with this issue. In comparison with other states, Texas's constitution limits the power that the governor holds. Bush entered into negotiations with the legislative body of Texas, one with a Democratic majority. He was able to gain personal and political support from legislatures of both parties in order to reach his objective. Many critics, consequently, affirm that this capability to reconcile political forces that normally disagree is his strongest political ability.

As far as his economic policy, however, Bush has been less convincing. His record as governor of Texas may not support his motto, "the conservative with compassion." Many critics of the candidate point to laws that Bush supported in favor of the big businesses while at the same time cutting subsidies to poverty programs in the state. Texas, consequently, has one of the highest poverty ratings in the country.

Al Gore is almost the same age as Bush, 52 years old. His childhood took place on a farm in Tennessee and in Washington, D.C., where he was born. His father was a House representative and a Senator. He also attended a

private high school before attending Harvard and Vanderbilt law school.

At the national level, Gore has more political experience, having served in both legislative chambers and as vice-president of the country for eight years. Gore is not known for his personal charm, as Bush is. Political analysts share the opinion that Gore lacks Bush's oratory skills.

Gore's most important political theme is the environment. He has supported numerous laws that protect it and published a book, *Earth in the Balance: Healing the Global Environment*, in 1992. However, during his seven and a half years as vice-president, there have been some extremely delicate moments. At times, he has had to disappear at times such as the Lewinsky scandal of President Clinton and during the Department of Justice investigation into some of his fundraising practices. However, many political scientists think that Gore is in a better position than Bush with respect to the upcoming elections. Gore defeated his challenger, Bill Bradley, without as many problems as Bush had with his opponent, John McCain.

As stated, the two candidates have very similar backgrounds, but their differences are equally significant. Bush carries an advantage over Gore in domestic policy while Gore has more experience with international relations. Some have accused Gore of being too impersonal; however, others emphasize that he tends to study an issue thoroughly before making a decision. Others admire Bush's leadership style, which relies more heavily on the advice of well known advisors. The United States will have to decide which type of leader it wants. It will be an election based on the different styles of Bush and Gore.



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## A Night at the Oscars: Every Rose Has Its Thorn

By Steve Perry  
Staff Writer

The Oscars managed to surprise yet also managed not to. There were moments when something clearly deserved—*Buena Vista Social Club* comes to mind—did not win, but, after seeing this so many times, one realizes that it is part of the process.

The very fact the Oscars are so good at getting it wrong is about as telegraphed as what its winner for Best Foreign Film will be. Last year, Sophia Loren gave an Oscar to fellow Italian Roberto Benigni; this year, as soon as two Hispanic actors walked out, there was little doubt that Pedro Almodovar would win for *All About My Mother*.

I do not think that, coming in, many expected *The Matrix*, of all films, to win the second most Oscars; at four, it was just one behind *American Beauty*, which garnered Oscars for Best Picture, Director, Actor, Original Screenplay, and Cinematography.

But, then again, it really is not undeserved. *The Matrix*'s technology was simply more groundbreaking and better integrated into what its director was doing than *Star Wars*' cluttered use of bright and shiny special effects was. It is true that the "bullet time" technique has been seen before, including commercials for The Gap, but the man behind those commercials, John Gaeta, was the man behind *The Matrix* as well, and did them while he was working on the film.

Admittedly, the Oscars probably chose *The Matrix* over *Star Wars* because *Star Wars* was made by Lucas, *persona*

*non grata* among some Hollywood circles for his attempts to be independent from Hollywood (two groups arguing over who gets more of many millions does not make me very sympathetic to either), something reinforced by only a handful of representatives from the film showing up for the event.

It is this whole element of internal politics, a problem with probably any kind of major award, that makes the Oscars oftentimes so painful to watch, because these politics become so obvious after those of us watching from home get to see them played out over a period of four hours.

The best—or perhaps worst—example of it was Warren Beatty's winning of the Irving R. Thalberg Award for lifetime achievement. Beatty deserves some credit for actually trying to address political issues in films, though never particularly successfully. But to say the man involved in such a non-classic as *Ishtar* is some sort of filmmaking genius is somewhat less justified.

What was so wrong was that an Oscar telecast that promised to at least try to be short was so obviously indulging him. Jack Nicholson is someone who, despite getting more and more overweight with hair looking completely disheveled, can still have an aura of cool.

Sitting there in front, engaging Billy Crystal in conversation, Nicholson was like some sort of pasha expecting any moment for dancers or maybe an execution to be brought out for his amusement.

Meanwhile, Andrzej Wajda—a real

director—was exiled into merely getting a more minor award from Jane Fonda, due more to the fact that he does not know the right people than the fact that his resume does not include such cinematic wonders as *Dick Tracy*.

Disregard what you think of Ms. Fonda's politics, and just appreciate that it is absolutely bizarre, even insulting, to have a Communist sympathizer present a lifetime achievement award to a person who, in films like *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, attacked Communist rule in his native Poland. Wajda's acceptance speech, which expressed his joy on behalf of all of Poland—not so much for the award as the fact that it was now a free nation—was the night's most emotionally powerful moment, even though it could be read only through subtitles.

But such a moment was lost in all the self-congratulatory smugness, perhaps best seen in Kevin Spacey's attitude toward the proceedings, backslapping behind stage because he knew he had made an important film. It is true that Spacey's performance was good, and, arguably, deserved the Oscar over Denzel Washington, or a more personal favorite, Richard Farnsworth.

But Sam Mendes' direction struck me as rather unremarkable, as did Conrad Hall's cinematography, and both seemed to win based largely on the inertial factors from simply being involved with the film in the first place.

Cinematography is an easy category for the Oscars to flub—in fact, almost any sort of category requiring a closer analysis is flubbed (the best editing job



Steve Perry, winner of the Oscar's Crabby Critic Award, basks in his glory

of the year, Sarah Flack's for *The Limey*, was not even nominated, and, though I am not a particular fan of *The Phantom Menace*, I have to wonder why Trisha Biggar was not nominated for costuming.)

In cinematography, Robert Richardson was nominated for *Snow Falling on Cedars*, not even his best effort of the year (that would be *Bringing Out the Dead*), while others deserving consideration, like Jeff Cronenweth for *Fight Club*, were not even nominated.

Yet Hall's Oscar did not bother me so much as Mendes' did, since Mendes is normally a stage director and won an Oscar for his first film. Welles didn't do that for *Citizen Kane* (come to think of it, he never won a directing Oscar), and, while he was also involved in theater, he demonstrated enough of a mastery of cinema as an art form that his not winning truly was a shame. Mendes more or less let the talent around him carry him to success, taking a very Ronald Reagan approach to filmmaking, a comparison I doubt he would much enjoy.

Oh, politics. One should never think that the Oscars are ever really endorsing an idea. That would have required serious deliberation, and the majority of voters do not see what they vote for until they get a tape of it. Most have lost the sense of wonder that moviegoing brings.

Anyone who has read my reviews knows that I found *Beauty* to be unremarkable. I will spare you my recapitulation of that. Instead, I will point out that, for all its supposed scathing attacks of the suburbs, the film fit nicely into a long tradition of films going back to *The*

*Graduate* that attacked suburban complacency and questioned materialism, a tradition reinforced in recent years by films like Ang Lee's superior *The Ice Storm*.

Those who voted for it did not vote for it because it was truly daring. Given their own background in Hollywood, any attack on the suburbs ultimately means little to them. Nevermind that the suburbs are a nice place to live, they're also apparently hotbeds of fascism and materialism and everything else evil in the world, it would seem.

But there is more. Remember that only five years earlier they chose *Forrest Gump*. The fact that *Pulp Fiction* was a movie that more or less created a genre aside, a vote for *Gump* meant a vote for a film that inherently had no message. The thematic highpoint came when Forrest, asked to give his thoughts about the Vietnam War, has his speech interrupted by a dead mike. *Gump* as a film has no real content, aside from the fact that success is predicated on being simple-minded and detached from the outside world.

Films that have won since then have had the most meager amount of content, with *Braveheart* reaffirming "freedom," and films like *Titanic* and *Shakespeare in Love* doing less than challenging existing norms by saying love is a good and warm and fuzzy thing.

*American Beauty* was more deftly sold as being against convention than really being against convention. And, with all this criticism, out of what was nominated, it probably was the most deserving. And that's sad.

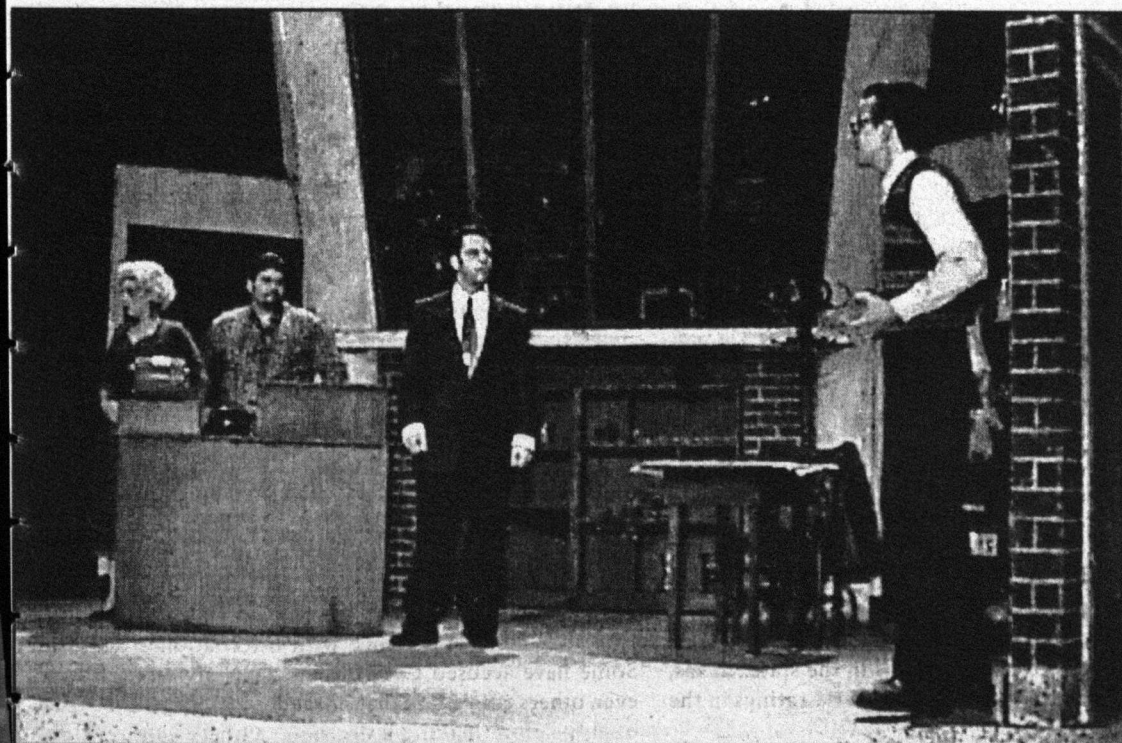


Photo by Drew Hughes

**Little Shop of Horrors** opens in the McCoy Theatre on Wednesday, April 5. It will run April 5-8 and April 13-16. Pictured here are (L-R) Shelley Stenshol ('01), Joe Viscovo ('02), Kevin Collier, and Matt Reed ('02).

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## Looking for a Good Time? See Your Sou'wester Editors' Picks

As part of this celebratory farewell issue, a few of *The Sou'wester's* staff members decided to share their several of their favorite CDs, movies, books, and general sources of entertainment.

**Blake Rollins, Op/Ed:  
Incredibly Strange Music Vol. 1 & 2**

Re Search out of San Francisco produces some of the most interesting books and media on the counterculture in America, including their classic publications *Incredibly Strange Movies*, *Guide to Bodily Fluids*, and *Industrial Culture Handbook*. With the *Incredibly Strange Music* compilations, Re Search harks back to a golden age of homespun recording artists when hobby musicians cut records in their garages and living rooms! Instead of sending its team of researchers to libraries and archives, Re Search dispatched their people to thrift stores where they thumbed through discarded LPs looking for the most interesting covers. The result: a version of the Box Tops classic "The Letter" played on a sitar, a gospel ventrilo-

quist doll singing "Join the Gospel Express," The incomparable commercial voice-over artist Ken Nordine waxing poetic (read: beatnik) about colors, and a tripped-out instructional session on "how to speak hip." An unappreciated jewel of a record - so freakin' weird!

**Dusty Springfield - *Dusty in Memphis***

The only white soul singer who could hold her own with the greats, this Brit bombshell had her career tragically cut short last year when she finally lost a battle with cancer, just weeks shy of her induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. Anybody who fell in love with the "Son of a Preacher Man" after seeing *Pulp Fiction* owes it to him/herself to buy this great achievement in soul music, recorded here in Memphis at Stax Records with the Memphis Cats playing backup. Thirty years after its original release, Rhino records reissued the album in 1992 with new bonus tracks. Never again will you ask "What Do You Do When Love Dies?"

**Jim Thompson - *The Killer In-***

*side Me*

Stanley Kubrick once described the Jim Thompson novel *The Killer Inside Me* as "probably the most chilling and believable first-person story of a criminally warped mind I have ever encountered." Are you sick of no-talent hacks writing about the dehumanizing effects of the big city, as if America begins and ends with New York? Jim Thompson, born in small town Oklahoma and raised in the empty plains of West Texas, peels away each layer of the happy stereotype of old fashioned country living, revealing the same sick and depraved human nature plaguing the big city - if not worse. In a small Texas town lives a sheriff's deputy named Lou Ford, who is so dull and good-natured that that he lives in cliches. But Lou's good natured facade allows him to wreak the worst kind of evil - often to hilarious effect! Read the book that one Amazon.com reviewer called a "Texas Noir."

**Patrick Lane, Scene:  
Vladimir Nabokov - *Lolita***  
(Audio Book, read by Jeremy

Irons)

*Lolita* is easily one of the best novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has also been made into a couple of rather unimpressive films, the most recent effort starring Jeremy Irons as the pedophilic Humbert Humbert. While his performance in the film may be lacking, his performance in this audio book is amazing. He is Humbert. He brings to Nabokov's great monologue a vitality which I daresay makes this recording superior to reading the hardcopy. I have encountered only a few audio books of which that is true.

**Tom Waits - *The Black Rider***

The play *The Black Rider* was staged in Germany in 1990 by Robert Wilson, with Tom Waits supplying the music and William S. Burroughs writing much of the text. This album gives us the music Waits composed for the production, with him doing all the vocals (except for one track "sung" by Burroughs). A brilliant mix of dark carnival, Satanic tent revival, and horrific cabaret, Waits' score perfectly fits the very odd Romanian folk tale on which the play is based. "I think I'll have the veal, a lovely meal, that's how I feel! Oh, may I use your skull for a bowl? Come on along with the Black Rider, we'll have a gay old time!"

**Val Witte, News:  
Election**

I'll sum up this movie in a word: flawless. If you haven't yet experienced Jim McCallister's (Matthew Broderick) plot to keep Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon) from becoming the next student body president, rent this movie immediately! Definitely one of the best (if not *the* best) pictures of the year.

**Rushmore**

Usually when I talk to people about this movie, they say things like, "I didn't get it" or "What was it about?" or "It was weird." All I can say is if the quirky originality isn't enough, pay special attention to the song played in the last scene—I think it says it all. And, speaking of the movie's use of music, the soundtrack is classic, composed mostly of British Invasion hits (and how could anyone not lovethat?).

**The Beautiful South - *Quench***  
The latest release from perhaps the most original current British band, the CD contains the group's usual mix of bitter irony and great tunes. As their CD notes from an-

other album state, "Their songs juxtapose uplifting pop melodies with sardonic and cynical lyrics." Not for everyone, but if you're in the mood for something different, give it a try.

**Susan Hughes, Sports:  
WWF Wrestling**

As strange as this may seem to some of you, I'd like to take this opportunity to recommend that everyone at least try watching WWF wrestling. I agree that the show serves more as a testosterone-laced soap opera than as sports, and, in general, I also disagree with gratuitous violence. Having said that, however, this is the one show that I have discovered actually lowers my stress level. No matter how much I need to accomplish in the next twenty-four hours, I'm not being driven into a floor or pummeled by loud, angry people. The tradeoff is that I don't have the millions and millions of The Rock's fans chanting my name. If you catch it on a good night, you'll even see Memphis' own Jerry "The King" Lawler doing commentary. Monday Night RAW airs from eight to ten on Channel 28, and Thursday Night Thunder from seven to nine o'clock on Channel 8. And if you're not down with that, I've got two words for you...

**Shel Silverstein - *The Giving Tree***

Everyone remembers the children's poet Shel Silverstein and his book of poetry, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Although poems from that book still rank on my list of favorite poetry, I have to recommend another Silverstein classic, *The Giving Tree*. Not only does the book remind me of the importance of sharing, but it also reminds me that sometimes you just need to rest—a difficult thing to remember in the last month of the school year when things start piling up.

**July**  
My personal favorite month.

**Drew Hughes, A&E:  
Evil Dead**

**Evil Dead 2: *Dead by Dawn***  
These two cult classic horror flicks, directed by Sam Raimi, star the incomparable Bruce Campbell. The *Evil Dead* movies are one hell of a fun ride, heavy on the gore and the amazing low-budget special effects. Banned in Finland, the first features the only rape of a woman by a tree captured on film. A few of Ash's (Bruce Campbell) one-liners have been used in the Duke Nuke'em games. Groovy.

### Sic Transit Gloria

#### Former Sou'wester Editor, Legendary Arkansas Newsman, Dies at 72

By Drew Hughes  
A&E Editor

John Robert Starr ('52), legendary Arkansas newspaper editor and columnist and former editor of *The Sou'wester*, died Saturday. He suffered a heart attack on a road trip, visiting his son's home in Colorado after a trip to the Colorado Rockies' spring training camp in Arizona. Starr was 72.

After his graduation from high school in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, in 1945, Starr joined the Army. Following his 1947 discharge, he worked for Standard Oil in Memphis. In 1948, he married Norma Jeanette Wilson and enrolled at Southwestern at Memphis in September. Because Southwestern did not have housing for married couples, he was also at one point enrolled full-time at Memphis State (now the University of Memphis). Starr graduated from Southwestern in 1952 with distinction, having edited *The Sou'wester* and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Starr soon found a job on the sports staff at the *Commercial Appeal*. He left to establish a

weekly paper in Pine Bluff before joining the Associated Press in Little Rock. He made a name for himself covering Arkansas politics as the AP's Capitol correspondent. After 19 years with the AP, Starr left to teach journalism at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He enrolled as a graduate student in communications at UT-Knoxville the next year. But Starr returned to Little Rock before completing his doctorate when *Arkansas Democrat* publisher Walter E. Hussman, Jr., named him managing editor in October 1978.

From that position, Starr had a profound impact on Arkansas journalism over the next two decades. He led his *Democrat* to victory in an often brutal newspaper war against Arkansas' other statewide daily, the then-dominant, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Arkansas Gazette*. The *Gazette's* circulation was nearly twice that of the *Democrat* when Starr took over, but by 1991 Starr's paper had passed the competition in Sunday circulation. Once proud bearer of the distinction "Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper West of the Mississippi," the *Gazette* sold to

the *Democrat* that year.

In 1992, Starr retired from his position as editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, but he continued as a regular columnist until the very end, despite failing health. His final column, prepared for publication before his death, appeared in Sunday's issue. During his time as an observer of Arkansas affairs, Starr had earned a reputation as a hard-nosed, opinionated newspaperman with a soft side that few people saw. The Clinton presidency and University of Arkansas Razorbacks head basketball coach Nolan Richardson were two of Starr's favorite targets in recent years.

Starr was a devoted family man and lover of animals. He wrote openly about his grief at the loss of his younger brother this February. Several staff members of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* have sung Starr's praises since his passing, and President Clinton and First Lady Hillary have expressed their condolences.

John Robert Starr is survived by wife Norma, sons John and Rusty, and daughter Linda.

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## An Acid Pop Masterpiece: The Fractured Genius of The Flaming Lips

By Drew Hughes  
A&E Editor

The very existence of a band like The Flaming Lips is something to wonder at. After 17 years of experimental music and numerous lineup changes, they've had just one fluke hit that they've never been able to follow up (1993's "She Don't Use Jelly"). Their albums are dotted with titles like "Psychiatric Explorations of the Fetus with Needles" and "Talkin' 'Bout the Smilin' Deathporn Immortality Blues." One wonders why record execs, notoriously hostile to uncommercial art, put up with them.

### Studio Lips

Presumably under greater pressure with each album to deliver a saleable product in order to keep their contract with Warner Bros. alive, The Lips came out with the stunning *The Soft Bulletin* in 1999. Their finest album to date, *The Soft Bulletin* mixes keyboards and beats with otherworldly lyrics and lead singer Wayne Coyne's almost painfully frail vocals. The result is a 22<sup>nd</sup> century sound that you can dance to, but it is still organic; it avoids the twin pitfalls of cut-and-paste sampling and cold,

robotic vocals that plague so much technologically up-to-date music.

The album functions as a meditation on human mortality. It may oversimplify the matter to note that, during the early stages of the album's conception, lead singer and lyricist Coyne's father died of cancer. *The Soft Bulletin* opens with the driving keyboard of "Race for the Prize," in which Coyne sings about two scientists sacrificing everything "racing for the cure for all mankind." With the slightly off-key piano opening and Coyne's high-pitched warble on the verge of breaking, it's as if the disease is eating away at the song itself.

"What Is the Light?" is a song about the power of love, not the Huey Lewis kind of power, but love's physical force, which the song likens to the force of gravity. Or, as the album's liner notes explain, "an untested hypothesis suggesting that the chemical (in our brains) by which we are able to experience the sensation of being in love is the same chemical that caused the Big Bang."

The Flaming Lips wear their hearts on their sleeves more than ever before with "Waitin' for a Superman,"

a two-and-a-half minute burst of naked emotion and pop genius that, when I have my own radio station, will be played several times a day. File this one under "Everybody Hurts" if you want; it echoes R.E.M.'s "hold on" refrain with the chorus, "Tell everybody / waitin' for superman / that they should try to / hold on / the best they can." But where Michael Stipe consoles his followers from the pulpit, Wayne Coyne testifies from his own lonely pew, his tenuous voice sounding as if he's trying desperately to comfort himself along with whoever might be listening.

"The Gash," with its big beats and booming bass line, approaches hip-hop. Turn it up loud, and you want to bob and sway along with the music. By the time the Muppet-like chorus kicks in, you hardly notice the lyrics about being shot in the head for all the song's deep groove. Such is the power of the Flaming Lips.

Throw in a few more unforgettable songs, including two wonderfully spacey instrumentals, and you've got arguably the best album of 1999.

### Live Lips

Watching The Flaming Lips per-

form is a revelation. One reviewer compared their live show to a low-fi, acid-influenced Pop Mart. They treat their concerts as theatre, complete with props. A gong, hand puppets, confetti, and fake blood, not to mention keyboard, bass and the occasional guitar, are among The Flaming Lips' stage instruments. They're also known as the "headphone concerts," because The Lips loan two hundred personal radios to their fans at the shows. They broadcast additional tracks throughout the venue using a low-power radio transmitter, tracks that complement the live music on stage.

Part of the complexity of The Lips' show is due to the multi-talented Steven Drozd. Drozd plays drums and keyboard for the band, though he obviously can't do both at the same time. So they record the drum parts in advance and synchronize the drumming and the live performance, which frees Drozd to play the keyboard on stage. Also synchronized is the video that plays on a large screen behind the band—the on-screen events play out in time with the music, including footage of Drozd on the drums, nuclear test explosions, Leonard Bernstein conducting an orchestra...and the list goes on.

The headphones are an outgrowth of The Flaming Lips' recent experimentation with the possibilities afforded by using multiple sound sources. An explanation could grow tedious, so suffice it to say that this is something they have been working on for several years. They even convinced Warner Bros. to release their 1997 album *Zaireeka* on four discs, intended to be played simultaneously on four CD players.

On "Race for the Prize," the song The Lips open with these days, Coyne bangs away at the gong during his breaks from the microphone, and

while singing, he waves his gong stick in the air as if conducting an orchestra himself.

Before the sing-along of "She Don't Use Jelly," the band members distribute bags of white confetti among the audience. Everyone grabs a handful and throws it into the air at each refrain, giving the club a beautiful, snowy appearance. At the same time, when I saw The Flaming Lips in St. Louis last month, several individuals dressed as white rabbits moved from the back of the club to the front, dancing to the music along with the crowd.

Coyne brings out the theremin for "What Is the Light?" and the instrumental it immediately flows into, "The Observer." Both are performed before a backdrop of images from outer space, appropriate to the former song's lyrics about stars, gravity, and love.

After closing with "When You Smile," a lovely song from the band's 1995 release, *Clouds Taste Metallic*, the band returns for an encore of "The Spark That Bled" from *The Soft Bulletin*. Coyne turns to face the audience while singing the song's first lyrics, "I accidentally touched my head / and noticed that I had been bleeding," and his face is streaked with stage blood.

The band's quirks aside, though, The Flaming Lips' music remains firmly rooted in the 1960s psychedelic pop sound that so many praise in *Pet Sounds*-era Brian Wilson and the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper*. They may at times be a difficult listen, but The Flaming Lips' simple melodic brilliance shines through, making the reward well worth the effort. If you're not convinced, I urge you to check out a few of their mp3s in my shared folder in the Glassell workgroup.

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The Flaming Lips (L to R): Michael Ivins, Steven Drozd, and Wayne Coyne. This photo is on a handbill distributed on The Flaming Lips' current tour.

## Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Honor Council (But Were Afraid to Ask)

By Steele Means  
Associate Editor

Two of the most distinguishing aspects of Rhodes College are its Honor Code and the student-coordinated Honor Council, one of the few in the country structured in this fashion, which ensures that students follow and respect its tenets. The Council, as most students know, has the mandate to investigate and try cases of alleged offenses of the Honor Code, as well as the power to hand down harsh sanctions to those found in violation.

Despite the important role played by the Honor Council in the life of the Rhodes community, many are unfamiliar with its procedures, standards of evidence, and the degree of power it wields. Part of this is due to its privacy and secrecy policies, which dictate that everyone who is involved in a particular case refrain from divulging the facts thereof.

Joe Peeples ('00), Vice-President of the Council for the 1999-2000 academic year, detailed the procedure followed whenever an offense is reported.

First, the Council appoints an investigator, who contacts the accused, the accuser, and any witnesses to get their sides of the story. The investigator subsequently presents the information that he or she has collected at a pre-hearing, which consists of the President and the two Secretaries of the Council. The purpose here is to determine whether there is enough evidence to take the case to a general hearing.

If it is decided that enough evidence is available, a date for the hearing will be set and the accused, accuser, and witnesses notified. Unless the accused enters a plea of "in violation," in which case the Council will immediately initiate deliberations on the sanctions to be applied, the parties involved will first present their sides of the case and answer any questions asked by the members of the Council.

Afterwards, the Council must decide, on the basis of majority vote, if there is enough evidence to find the accused in violation. Patrick Betar ('01), a representative of the Junior class on the Honor Council for 1999-2000, said, "The standard we follow is clear and convincing evidence." If it is simply word against word, the Council will not be able to make a judgment.

However, Betar went on to say that, "Say person A was sitting next to

person B and he or she has the same answers, right or wrong, as the latter. In addition, persons C, D, and E saw A looking at B's test, and A has failed every other test before, but suddenly makes a 99 here, there is probably something wrong. Depending on other circumstances, these facts would probably push one [in favor of determining that this constitutes] clear and convincing evidence."

Amit Mirchandani ('01), President of the Honor Council for 1999-2000, gave another hypothetical example, saying that the Council could, depending on other circumstances, consider a case where a professor comes forward with a student's paper, which is worded similarly to another.

If the accused is found in violation, he or she, depending on, among other factors, the severity of the offense and his or her ability to reenter Rhodes under the Honor Code, will receive some manner of sanction.

Technically, any offense of the Honor Code warrants expulsion, but Peeples noted that the Council usually votes to reduce the severity of the sanction to be applied. Probation and/or "creative sanctions" are sometimes applied. However, three, two, or one semester's suspension is often handed down, in which case the person in violation would be forced to leave campus immediately. He or she would receive a "W" for all coursework that semester: If the offense is related to a specific class, he or she will receive an "F" for that class.

Betar ('01) noted that, "The [Honor Council] constitution says that every violation merits expulsion, but obviously if you take a cup from the Rat you are not going to get expelled. Each case is different, and if someone is found in violation, the situation surrounding the case is examined. A senior who plagiarizes fifty percent of his or her senior paper will be treated differently from a first-year student with a [plagiarized] one page response paper."

According to Peeples, expulsions are rare and reserved for those people, who the Council believes can never again be trusted to respect the tenets of the Honor Code. Sanctions consisting of probation or suspension are more frequent. He stressed that the primary point of sanctions was to educate the offender.

"One of the more satisfying things about being on the Honor Council is seeing how people have learned from the process. We hope that everyone

will learn something from the experience and it is a shame that that has to get mixed in with the more negative aspects of punishment."

Amy Killebrew ('00), a representative of the Senior class on the Honor Council, also stressed the educational aspect of their rulings. All students, she said, know what is required of them under the Honor Code and the Council must ensure that students know that violations are not tolerated.

"We are confident that what we are doing is educating the student... If a student messes up once, he or she should not ever have to do so again. When we are harsh, we feel that we have to be in order to get the point across, so they can learn that what they did was wrong. He or she must completely reevaluate his or her life."

"I have seen these things work out," Killebrew went on to say. "I have seen people really reformed and that makes it all worthwhile. It is emotional for me to see people come back, the process having changed them for the better, and know that I am sitting next to someone who will be a steward in whatever community with which they choose to be associated and that I have made a difference somehow."

Regarding the question of whether such potentially severe sanctions are really required in order to ensure the education of the offender, she noted that people sometimes "need to be shaken up" and that sanctions are also meant as punishment.

Mirchandani, commenting on that subject, asserted "Sometimes it is necessary to remove a student from the school to be fair to the body as a whole. Sometimes removing a student from the community educates them... Hopefully, after having that time away, they are ready to come back and contribute to our school."

"I did not create the system," Mirchandani went on to say. "If I had created the system, maybe I would have provided for lesser sanctions, but this is the system with which we work, and this school takes truth and honor very seriously."

Students found in violation can appeal a ruling if they wish to do so. A case may be appealed to the faculty Appeals Committee on the basis of a lack of clear and convincing evidence to rule the accused in violation, the handing down of inappropriate sanctions in light of the severity of the alleged offense, new evidence which has come to light, or a failure to conduct the case fairly in light of procedure.

The committee can subsequently,

if it believes the Council's reasoning was flawed, ask its members to reconsider their decision, though it has no power to directly overturn or modify rulings. The Council's decision thereafter is final.

The question here is how seriously any one body, which has already examined the facts of a case and made a decision according to its members perception thereof, will review the same case if it is sent back for reconsideration.

Mirchandani asserted that the Council takes the opinions of the Appeals Committee very seriously.

"There was a case this year, [which ended with] the student receiving one semester's suspension. I did not personally agree with the decision of the Council, and I encouraged the student to take it to the Appeals Committee. I told the committee that I did not think that the Council made a perfect decision in this case. The Appeals Committee sent it back to the Council and it did change its decision. This tells you, the Council does take the Appeals Committee's opinions seriously."

All of the members of the Council interviewed testified to the benefits of a student-run and administered Honor Council.

"It is much more harsh to be reprimanded by one's fellow students. It is more final and decisive to be judged by one's peers. It makes it more of a learning experience," said Killebrew.

"When Rhodes determined that it would have a Honor Code and a Honor Council, it decided that it would be the responsibility of the students to enforce it... It is the students' responsibility to do this... The Honor Code is about the students, and it therefore falls to them to uphold it."

Betar asserted that a jury of one's peers is more competent to render judgments because they face the same problems and situations as the accused.

Another concern that is raised, however, is the actual competence of the members of the Council to make these kinds of very serious considerations given their relative lack of experience and the fact that they come to sit on the Council as a result of an elections process, which, arguably, is not taken very seriously by many students.

Mirchandani, responding to this charge, said that, "We have had very little problem with bad people get-

ting on the Council. And even if an unqualified person does get on the Council, that is okay, I think, because it is an internal challenge. [The idea is that] we should educate this guy too."

Peeples echoed this sentiment. "Sometimes people do just have catchy flyers and they get elected. But we have been lucky to have had a strong Council for the past several years. Even though there is the potential for someone unqualified to get elected, I think the people who do get out there and vote know what's going on. I do not think the possibility of a bad person getting elected wrecks the whole system."

"Re-electing incumbents helps too, because they have experience. There is also a retreat for new members, to train them in process and procedure."

A number of other students gave their opinions on the Honor Council. Matt Crockett ('02) believes that the Council handles all of the cases before it in a very fair light, and agrees that a jury of one's peers is best, as fellow students can better understand another's situation.

Jonathan Hulgán ('03) agreed and said that, "By having it student-run, it is less intimidating for the accused. It is less stressful to face one's fellow students."

Crockett is not of the opinion that the sanctions it hands down are too harsh. "If you chose to come here, you have to do what they say. You either have to accept the decision, or try to get on the Council and change it."

Shelby Reed ('00), on the other hand, does not think that the Council should have the power to expel students.

Hulgán, though, said "If there was no punishment, people would not take [the Honor Code] seriously. The [sanctions] are pretty strict, but they could be stricter."

Mike Bryan ('00), commenting on the Council in general, said that, "It is a good idea in theory, but what comes along instead is a general atmosphere of fear."

He also believes that the Council's decisions are too harsh, and that some of its power should be taken away.

For example, he thinks that the decision to expel a student calls for a much longer and drawn out process. He also doubts whether the appeals process is taken very seriously in general.

## Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Sou'wester, But... Etc.

By Patrick Lane  
Scene Editor

For all those who may harbor some curiosity about how *The Sou'wester* is produced, here is a step-by-step guide to this fascinating, painstaking process.

**1. Sunday, 3:00 p.m., Stories Posted:** Sunday afternoon, the editors meet with staff writers to eat cookies and discuss stories for the next issue of the paper. Each section editor pitches the stories available for his or her pages, and writers take stories which appeal their individual personality and character. Later, the News Editor sends an e-mail message out to all staff announcing what stories still need writers.

**2. Saturday afternoon, Story Deadline:** Over the course of the week, dedicated writers track down leads and rustle up reliable sources, eventually gathering enough information to put together a solid article for their peers' reading pleasure. By Saturday afternoon, the stories begin to flood into the newspaper's folder on the Academic

Volume, and generally story submission continues up until Monday evening.

**3. Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Editors' Meeting:** Before meeting with the staff writers about stories for the next week's issue, the Editor-In-Chief meets with the various section editors in the Publications Center to discuss the current status of their pages. Each editor reports on what stories he or she has received and which writers need to be hunted down and knee-capped. The Business Managers then announce what ads are ready to be printed, and ads are assigned to the pages who most need the space filled. Once the current week's business is resolved, the editors suggest story ideas for the upcoming issue. A list of interesting stories is compiled, and then the editors hike over to Buckman to meet with the staff writers and make assignments.

**4. Tuesday Night, Production Night:** While some editors have to foresight and general got-it-togetherness to lay their pages out on Monday or even Sunday evening, most layout is done on Tuesday.

Editors work in the Pub Center, listening to a broad range of music, and juggling ads and photos among the pages so that everyone's page has just the right amount of material on it. Each story is scrupulously edited and then adjusted to fit its allotted space. Editors cooperate in writing headlines and composing captions for photographs. Once an editor completes his or her layout, the page is printed and given to the Copy Editor, who meticulously (and we kid you not) proofreads every article and checks the alignment of every box, line, and element on the page. The page is returned to its editor, who makes the changes and prints out a final copy. At last, the page is given to the Layout Editor, who pastes in the ads and prepares the page for the printing service.

**5. Tuesday, approximately 10:00 p.m., Issue Delivery:** Once all the pages have been pasted and approved by the Layout Editor, the staff takes the finished paper to Campus Safety, where it will be picked up by the printing service later in the evening. Occasionally, the paper will not be finished until

after midnight, in which case the printer may be contacted in order to delay pick-up.

**6. Tuesday, The Wee Hours, Post-Production Editor Recovery:** Those editors still standing after production is completed retire to the Sidestreet Bar & Grill near Overton Square, where they ensure that they will not be standing for much longer. In truth, though, the editors tend to share a quiet, contemplative, and wholly civilized

evening together, reminiscing about issues long past.

**7. Wednesday, approximately 4:00, Paper Distribution:** Wednesday afternoon, the Editor-In-Chief and the Associate Editor pick up the printed copies of the paper from Campus Safety and distribute them in key tactical locations across campus for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to enjoy.

**8. Saturday afternoon: The Cycle Begins Anew.**

### Editors' Sidestreet Bar & Grill Picks



Matthew Shipe, Editor-In-Chief: Gin and Tonic  
Steele Means, Associate Editor: Maker's Mark Old-Fashioned  
Sarah Bettinger, Layout Editor: Definitely Not the Gin and Tonic  
Barrett Hathcock, Rhode'ster Editor: Heineken  
Tim Hayes, Copy Editor: The Incredible Philly Steak Sandwich  
Drew Hughes, A&E Editor: "Water"  
Susan Hughes, Sports Editor: The Waiter  
Patrick Lane, Scene Editor: Sloe Gin Fizz  
Blake Rollins, Op/Ed Editor: Mooching off Steele's Old-Fashioned  
Greg Scheuchenzuber, Business Manager: Vodka Martini Up  
Brian Willis, Business Manager: Artichoke Dip  
Val Witte, News Editor: Amaretto Sour

## Are You Looking for a Great Summer Job Right here at Rhodes?

Come work for the Office of Communications and College Relations

Three openings:

- (1) Writing classnotes for *Rhodes Magazine* and draft news releases. Work with Executive Director of Communications on special media projects and marketing initiatives. General office duties will also be required (e.g. xeroxing, faxing).
- (2) Producing *FACES* and other publications. Macintosh computer skills and scanning experience extremely helpful. Will also be responsible for Lynx-TV, Channel 117.
- (3) Performing general office duties, including phone coverage and campus errands. You will also help out with the preparation of brochures and *Rhodes* magazine in addition to maintaining the slide and photo inventories.

8:30-5 every day, 37.5 hours weekly. Start date: May 15. End date: Aug. 18. Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> are holidays. Stop by 136 Palmer and leave a short resume with Marsha Williams.

## Baseball Comes Up Short in Loss to Trinity at Home

By Jeremy Smith  
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, the baseball team has had several ups and downs, including successful road trips to Rust College and Hendrix and a disappointing home series with Trinity. After this unpredictable stretch, the Lynx are 2-9 in the SCAC and 8-12 overall. Centerfielder Pat Finley ('00) was the star of the road trip to Rust and Hendrix, earning honorable mention for SCAC player of the week. Finley had 9 hits in 13 at-bats for an astounding .692 batting average.

The doubleheader sweep of Rust was the highlight of the trip. In the first game, Rhodes annihilated Rust, 13-1. Designated hitter Clint Randolph ('02) had an outstanding game, sparking the offensive attack with three hits, including a triple and a home run. Randolph also both scored and drove in three runs. Finley had an impressive performance, as he delivered two hits, scored three runs, and stole a whopping five bases. Leftfielder Jason Rowell ('02) also contributed two hits, two runs, and an RBI to the win. In addition to the dominant hitting, the fielding was noteworthy, as the team committed no errors. Denny Pegg ('00) pitched an excellent game,

giving up only two hits and one earned run in his five innings of work to record the win. Jay Balfour ('02) pitched well in relief.

In the second game against Rust, the Lynx won convincingly by the score of 7-2 with two three-run rallies in the fourth and seventh innings. Catcher Seth Seegert ('02) hit a home run and drove in three runs. Shortstop B.J. Jackson ('02) also slugged a homer and contributed two runs and two RBI's. Other players played significant roles in the winning effort, as third baseman Barrett Vawter ('01) collected three hits, outfielder Graeme Adams ('03) had two hits and scored twice, and Rowell had two hits including a double. Winning pitcher Tim Stakem ('02) had a solid performance, as he struck out six while he only allowed one earned run and four hits in six innings. Balfour again pitched well in relief. Again the Lynx played good defense and only made one error.

The team hoped to continue its solid performance against Trinity at home this past weekend but unfortunately came up short. On April 1, Trinity swept the Lynx 11-1 and 9-3 in a shortened six-inning second game. In the opener, Trinity roughed up pitcher Josh Wilmsmeyer ('00),

who gave up four earned runs in only a third of an inning. Therefore, the team fell behind 4-0 before the Lynx even got their chance to bat. Defensively, errors again plagued the team, as the Lynx committed five. Offensively, Rhodes only managed to deliver four hits and Finley had the sole RBI, as he drove in Seegert with the team's only run. In one of the only bright spots of the lopsided game, pitcher David Fineberg ('00) had a solid outing in relief, pitching over 6 innings and allowing seven runs but only three earned runs. Fineberg also struck out ten Trinity batters.

In the second game, the team played better, but Trinity's six-run rally in the fifth inning broke the 3-3 deadlock and gave Trinity a lead they would never relinquish. Infielder Jon Buchanan ('02) had two hits and two RBI's and outfielder Lagan Sebert ('03) and first baseman Denny Pegg ('00) each scored a run, but the five Lynx errors again proved costly to the team's chances. Pitcher Will Askew ('01) had a decent performance but was hurt by poor fielding and a costly homer in the fifth. After the Trinity setback, the Lynx are last in the Western Division.

Despite a solid offensive production, exemplified by the team's .307



Photo By Susan Hughes

Rhodes baseball player **Lagan Seibert ('03)** swings as a Trinity pitcher attempts to strike him out. After a hard attempt at coming back in the second game of a double header, Rhodes ultimately succumbed, losing both games in home play. To date, Rhodes posts a 2-9 record in in the conference and an 8-12 record overall.

batting average and 7.95 runs per game average, the team has struggled to maintain consistency. Defensively, the team's fielding percentage of .906 ranks the squad last in the conference. The team has also struggled with pitching, as the Lynx rank last in the SCAC with a 6.79 E.R.A.

Despite the team's struggles, there are several promising performers on the team. Finley ranks sixth in the SCAC in average hits per game. Finley and Seegert

each rank in the top ten in stolen bases per game, fifth and seventh respectively. Three Rhodes pitchers rank in the top ten in strikeouts per nine innings: Askew, Wilmsmeyer, and Fineberg.

The baseball team needs to work on its consistency and concentrate on pitching and especially defense in order to show improvement over the final month of the season. Yet, with the amount of talent on the team, improvement is a definite possibility.

## Tennis Season in Full Swing

By Bryan Baker  
Staff Writer

The spring tennis season is already over halfway through, and both the men and the women have shown that they can compete with the best in the SCAC as well as in the South Region.

The men have compiled a record of 5-3, 3-2 in the SCAC, with wins over Hendrix (twice), Millsaps, Christian Brothers, and Huntingdon College. Two of those wins came this past weekend during the Rhodes Invitational. While the Hendrix match was won fairly easily by the Lynx, the Millsaps match was a battle. Five of the six singles matches went to a third set, with Rhodes claiming four of them to take the win.

The only losses this season for the men have come against Coe College, Southwestern, and Sewanee. The Sewanee match has definitely been the highlight of the season thus far. While the twentieth-ranked Tigers have handily de-

feated the Lynx in recent years, this year the outcome was totally unexpected. The Lynx nearly came away with a major upset before succumbing 4-3.

With the experience gained from this near-win and continued hard work at practice, the men feel confident that they can win out the rest of the season before the Spring Sports Festival. Gaining a high seed for the SCAC Festival is extremely important if the men hope to improve on their fifth-place finish from a year ago. The next scheduled match for the men is next Wednesday afternoon, when the Lynx will face CBU for the second time this season. Also, Rose-Hulman, Centre, and Millsaps will be facing the Lynx next weekend here, April 15-16.

The women are currently 8-4, 4-1 in the SCAC. The women have recorded wins over Hendrix (twice), Millsaps, Southwestern, Coe College, CBU, Huntingdon College, and Washington University (seventeenth in nation). The win over Wash. U. came during the team's Spring Break

trip to Claremont, California. This trip provided the women with some much needed experience against top-ranked Division III schools and enhanced their strength of schedule. While the women defeated Wash. U., they fell to UC-San Diego (tied for seventh in nation), Claremont (tenth), and Emory (sixth). The only other loss of the year came against Sewanee (tied for seventh) in late February.

The women have an extremely important weekend coming up, as they host the Atlantic/South Regional. It is imperative that the women finish among the top five in the region in order to have a chance at going to Nationals in May. Among the schools competing this weekend are Emory, Meredith, and Sweetbriar, to name a few. The women are currently fourth in the region and twentieth in the nation. They are very capable of performing well this weekend and earning key victories that could propel them to the next level.

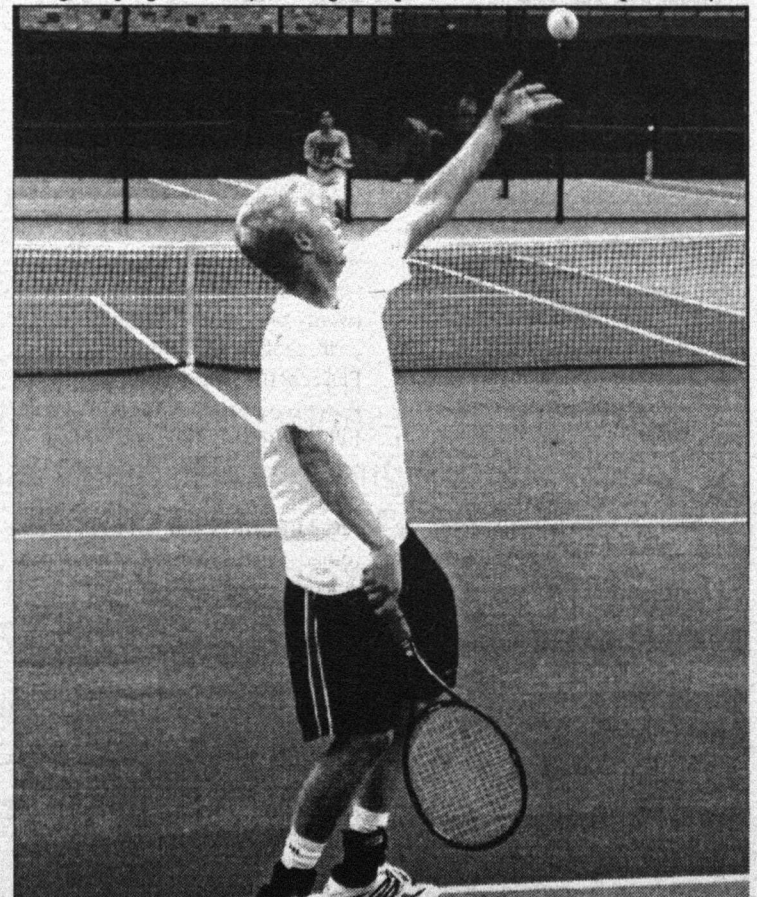


Photo By Susan Hughes

Rhodes tennis team member **Duncan Howell ('03)** faces a Millsaps opponent as Rhodes defeated Millsaps in singles play. Rhodes tennis takes on Christian Brothers University this weekend for the second matchup of these two teams this season.



# Rhode'ster

THE  
SOU'WESTER

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Wednesday, April 5, 2000

## News for Your Brief'ster—The Only News Necessary

By Barrett Hathcock  
Rhode'ster Quickie

In a related story, Anthropology Professors Ekstrom and McGowan will be holding an informational meeting on the Peace Corps this Friday afternoon in the Orgyll Room (this is deliberately misspelled tim, so that it may contain the pun on orgy). The talk is entitled: "Teepees, STDs, and Me: Your Social Life in an Underdeveloped Country."

In a related story, Professor John Copper of the International Studies department will be doing a presentation next week on the wife trade in Korea. Door prize available.

All students from Texas are reminded that this Thursday is their annual vaccination day. Please report to the Moore More Healthy Center.

In related news, the Moore More Healthy Center is still taking applications for Condom Fairies for this year's Rites of Spring festivities. Responsibilities include: carrying around a large basket of condoms, wearing the appropriate fairy-wings, ability to demonstrate proper

condom usage if the situation should (ahem) arise, and the ability to distinguish between various sizes.

In dormitory news, the new dorm opening in 2001 will have bidets in each bathroom. However, said new bidets will still possess that strange and interesting odor of those campus bathrooms without bidets.

In related bathroom news, eight students were temporarily blinded last Tuesday when they overeagerly entered a 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor bathroom in Robb-White-Ellett just after Housekeeping had Cloroxed the entire area. A spokesfolk for the Healthy Center said that the acidic burns to the retinas were just temporary and nothing to "get real excited about."

In a related story, if you happen to be extremely bored this weekend and don't have many friends spraying you with beer and other unmentionables at every waking moment (or if you just don't dig that type of thing), then come see *Little Shop of Horrors* over at the McCoy Theatre. There, you will get to see Joe Viscovo in something called a

"root suite."

In a related story, numerous faculty members will contribute thoughts and reflections to a lecture reflecting on the long history of the Search curriculum. The lecture, Search: Still Haven't Found What We're Looking For, will be in Buckman next week.

In related extremely timely news, this month is national poetry month. Just in case you were confused, this is how it goes: we had Black-People month, Woman-People month, and now it's poetry month. And no, we don't know when White-People month is. I guess we're going to have to wait a little longer for our own niche in the calendar, but we digress . . . Anyway, support this month's topic and our nationally underappreciated art form by going to see Yusef Kumenyaaka this Wednesday night (that's tonight if this paper actually comes out on time) in the Blount Auditorium. He's male, he's eloquent, and his poetry does not suck one bit.

In a nonrelated but perfectly topical story, we here at *The Rhode'ster* would like to point out that Kappa Delta's Mr.

Shamrock Competition was, in fact, totally for charity. All proceeds (i.e. profits) were locked in an airtight safe, only two individuals knew the combination, and absolutely no one saw any green at all. All money or anything even close to money went towards Child Abuse.

In a related story, Kappa Delta would like to announce plans for a strip show charity fundraiser in conjunction with Snowden Elementary. The program will be called Strip-Teach. For more information, call 1-800-g-string.

In a related story, plans are well underway to begin the new internet-based radio station, Members of Pub Board hope to have the system up and running by the time students return in the fall. However, the new system will be much like the internet systems here on campus, in that every time you log on to the internet, you will not only be greeted by the Colossus homepage (and that creepy FACES montage), you will also be greeted by an au-

tomatic cyber-radio greeting. Though the plans remain sketchy at this point, the cyber-greeting will most likely be a voice-over performed by Andrew Shulman.

In related legacy-leaving news, Fingerems National Ring Supplier will be on campus later this week selling their finger wear. Not in a fraternity? No clubs or activities to paint your memories? Then buy a ring from Fingerems, the classy and inexpensive way to cherish your Rhodes career.

In a related technology story, the Computer Center will sponsor a free workshop next week entitled, Boot Up: How to Make Your Floppy Fit in Your New Hard Drive.

Addendum: We forgot to mention that Poetry Month is in lieu of a Gay-People month.

In related gener-issue-topics, Women Holding Onto Respect and Education (WHORE) will be holding a meeting later this week on men's issues. They will discuss masculine hygiene, the pulling-out conundrum, and when whiskey becomes too much for your willie. Men are invited to come.

Have a good weekend. Pray for sun. Try not to puke on anyone you love.

## Local Student Does Nothing

By Bob Arnold  
Rhode'ster Nihilist

Many Rhodes students spent their time wisely last week. Some volunteered at charitable organizations, others struggled through job interviews, and yet others spent hours agonizing over assignments, working to meet deadlines and fulfill graduation requirements. But sophomore Bryan Kopta was busy distinguishing himself by doing, according to several sources, "absolutely nothing."

Last week was apparently mediocre in every way for Kopta, and he isn't even interested in letting the world know about it.

"It was pretty boring," he said. "Why are you asking?"

Things happened in the world last week. Lots of things. Things that were big, things that were important, and other things that were both big and important (though medium-sized important things, oddly enough, seemed rare). But so little happened to Kopta that he even ventured to describe the things that didn't happen as "nothing."

"Seriously," he said. "Nothing happened."

Coincidence?

"I don't understand what

you're asking," responded Kopta, obviously bewildered by the recent non-events. "Why won't you leave me alone?"

Kopta began the landmark week on Sunday, followed it immediately with Monday, and subsequently lived through Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and, in something of an unorthodox move, Saturday. It was over these seven days that the nothing occurred.

"I mean, I called my mom, I guess. I slept. I went to class and stuff. But mostly I did nothing."

Kopta maintains that the feat was entirely coincidental—he did no planning, no training, and admittedly gave the entire week very little thought.

"I just didn't have anything to do," he insisted. "Stop asking me these stupid questions. I don't want people to think I'm a loser."

So what was it like to live an entire week of worthlessness?

"Dammit," he responded, "what did I just say?"

Kopta's roommate does not dare dispute his friend's impressive claim.

"Yeah, I think it was a slow week for him," said Trey Aquadro

('02). "He didn't do much of anything."

Not much of anything, perhaps, but did he do *nothing*?

"What's the difference?" asked Aquadro.

When asked if he would attempt to repeat his achievement, or maybe even try for the daunting "Fortnight of Nothing," Kopta became visibly agitated and stormed out of the room.

By squandering large quantities of potentially valuable time, Kopta joins the distinguished ranks of the United States Senate, Freudian theorists, and many Rhodes Resident Computer Consultants. He insists, however, that this accomplishment will not change his outlook on life.

"Look, I brought Campus Safety," he said upon his return. "This is the guy that won't leave my room. Could you please get him out of here?"

But first, the question on the lips of the world: what exciting things (or no-things) are on tap for *this week*?

"I wasn't planning on anything," Kopta admitted. "But you kind of screwed that up already."

**MUSIC**

Fiona Apple in concert


Okay, again, we know, you will be seeing lots of music this weekend, and you really can't spare the time or the cash or even sober up enough to see Fiona Apple next Monday at the Orpheum. And we also know that she is kinda bitchy and will probably throw a tantrum and/or sound like hammered doo-doo (a la her last SNL performance). But, hey, she's Fiona. And she's got that voice—that voice like hot apple butter. And she's got that whole pseudo-poet-read-too-much-Maya-Angelou-thing going on. And those lips! You must admit she has nice lips. Though you probably won't be able to see them from where you're sitting.

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

I know I know: you don't read. That is just so, like, last century. But, just in case you did feel like straining your eyes and looking at something that didn't do a digital giggle, and perhaps even risk a paper cut, may we here at *The Rhode'ster* recommend Dave Eggers' *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. We're not sure if it lives up to its name, but we are certain that it's much better than any of those damn Chicken Soup books and it's a whole lot more fun than anything they will ever make you read in Search. Plus, it's written by one of us. Yes, that's right. Dave Eggers is no less than a yuppie kid who grew up with too many video games and not enough responsibility. So support your brethren and/or sistren.

book

picks of the week





## Mock Trial Team 873 Earns Pardon for Kong

By Bob Arnold  
Rhode'ster Palientologist

In an astounding recent victory, the highly successful Rhodes Mock Trial Team 873 earned a posthumous pardon for King Kong, the giant ape that clambered atop the Empire State Building in 1933.

"We were just kind of sick of these little penny-ante tournaments," explained Team Captain Emily Monroe ('00). "We wanted to tackle something with real historical significance."

During the trial, held last week on the uncharted island that was Kong's home, Defense Attorney David Adams ('02) claimed that the ape was victim to a type of separation anxiety, and that his actions were simply his own personal method of coping.

"Mr. Kong was dealing emotionally with his feelings of displacement," Adams said, "and he did the same thing that any of you would do; namely, abduct a beautiful woman and flee to the top of a tall building."

Adams, who asked to be likened to Dylan McDermott on "The Practice," also told the jury, "You should believe me because I look so damn good in this suit." The statement was met with general amusement.

The team called in several character witnesses to flesh out Kong's psychological state, both before the incident and at the time of the rampage.

The giant brontosaurus that once battled Kong offered little information, though he did express something to the effect of "meeaaaaaaaggh." Attorney Grace Williams ('03) acted as a translator, but her attempts to mimic the animal's sounds led to an incident involving a failed mating. The bailiff was called on to restrain the creature.

"In a few years, I will be richer than any of you could even imagine," Williams told us, when asked to comment on the incident. "If this brontosaurus thing makes the papers, I swear here and now that your puny little lives will be a constant and excruciating hell."

Other witnesses expressed disbelief at Kong's actions.

"I don't know," said Kong's mother, Mrs. Deirdre Kong of Tuscaloosa, AL. "He was such a gentle child. I never thought anything was wrong."

"Ma'am," countered the Prosecuting Attorney, "you gave birth to a giant primate and sent him to live on an uncharted island, where he was worshipped as a god by the natives...and you

never thought anything was wrong?"

"He was adopted," replied Mrs. Kong, a fact which Team 873 later described as "psychologically difficult."

"It was a constant source of frustration," said Team Member Anna Smith ('00) during closing remarks. "Like a big bunch of bananas that's just a little too high in the tree."

In a daring and original move, Smith asked the members of the jury to close their eyes as she recounted "a simple story."

"Imagine a child," she said, "who is taken from his home, his friends, his worshippers... Imagine that he is forced to go on stage, to perform for thousands of people. Now imagine that he finds the one person that is physically attractive enough to understand him, but all of his efforts to hold on to her invariably end in death and destruction."

Smith then delivered the final blow. "Imagine all that," she implored, "and now imagine... that the child is a monkey."

Nary a dry eye was to be found in the courtroom that day.

The honorable Judge Joe Brown, who presided over the trial, called the actions taken against Kong "Atrocious. Atrocious and ridiculous. Atrocious

and ridiculous and inane." He went on to add that the actions were also "vile," "unthinkable" and "reprehensible," but he chastised Adams for attempting to label them as "repugnant."

The trial was almost dismissed when it was revealed that Godzilla and Mothra, two of Kong's reported "friends" and important character witnesses, were actually disguised team members Tracy Kornblatt ('02) and Kim Thomas ('02). The ruse was uncovered when Kornblatt failed to breathe electricity on command.

"We kind of forgot about that part," Kornblatt admitted. "But up until then we really had the judge going. I worked all month on that high-pitched screech." She then proceeded to demonstrate the screech, and was eventually subdued by a band of annoyed natives.

"They made me dress up like a [expletive deleted] moth!" commented Thomas. "At least Tracy got to be a big [expletive deleted] lizard! But I have to dress up like a giant [expletive deleted] moth?? I hate them! I hate them all!"

So, does this case mark the

end of Thomas' Mock Trial career?

"No, I'll probably do it next year," she said. "You get to meet lots of cute guys at competitions."

Despite their unorthodox approach, both judge and jury were swayed by the team's powerful and completely insincere argument. The judge ultimately issued a pardon excusing Kong from any further prosecution, and also suggested that a formal apology be made to the family by the United States Army.

"Boo yah," commented Smith.

The trial ended in a jubilant celebration around Kong's big-ass grave. "I'm so happy," said Harold Kong, the monkey's uncle. "I just wish Fay Wray were here so that I could give her the finger."

The victorious Mock Trial Team declined an invitation to the festivities, preferring instead to roll around in a swimming pool full of the cash they received from Kong's family.

"I'm actually thinking of killing everyone else and taking it all," Monroe said of the money. "I could convince a jury to let me off, I think."

Raising the disembodied arm and leg that were included in the legal fees, Monroe proudly proclaimed, "I am one hell of a lawyer."

## Student Eats Pancakes, Crow

By Jamie Groover  
Rhode'ster Chef

In a shocking move that startled several, a Rhodes College freshman attempted to bring positive press to his school by starting a competition. While most others would have tried a fundraising softball game or something of that ilk, this student, who has asked that his name be withheld, took his challenge outside the walls of the school—all the way to the walls of the local IHOP. The actual competition took place earlier this week, and the student asked that this reporter be present to record the events of this momentous occasion. What follows is an actual transcription of what was spoken several nights ago.

**Rhode'ster:** So what exactly is the nature of your challenge here tonight?

**Student:** Basically, the manager told me that, if I could eat 50 pancakes in one sitting, I could have them for half price.

**Good lord, that's a lot of pancakes. And how exactly does this relate to Rhodes enough to be appropriate for one of its publications?**

Well, in addition to my hope of bringing national media attention to Rhodes through my hopefully record-breaking feat, I was also inspired to undertake this mass pastry consumption by the school itself.

**Really? How so?**

In my Search class, we studied the Epicurean philosophy, which basically states that people are made up of atoms and a void. After skimming briefly through the text while watching pornography and then later seeing a quote by Epicurus on a Philosophy club flyer, my whole life was changed. I realized that there was a void in my life, too, and that my atoms needed a-pleasin'. So I figured I could kill two birds in the hand with one bush if I filled said void with pancakes. Fifty pancakes, to be more precise.

**And what do you hope to accomplish by this particular competition?**

I hope that my actions can serve as an example to others that the ultimate good can be reached—it is in our grasp, warm and fluffy and right off the griddle. The world has forgotten the simple innocence of the pancake and the pure ideal that it represents. Take, for example, the fact that there

are currently two schools of thought: is the earth round, or is it flat? You can debate this all you want, but no one is ever going to prove either way, and the differences in the two schools will never be reconciled. But the pancake is the happy medium: both round and flat. The unique bonding power of a flapjack is the force that will unite the world. If my actions here tonight can convince even one child to put down his gun and pick up a pancake, I feel it will all have been worth it. Plus, you know, hey, free pancakes.

**So why did you choose the Rhode'ster as your starting point in your national media blitz? Why not Time or Dateline or even the Commercial Appeal?**

I feel that, if I were to begin with such top notch media outlets, the world at large would view my promotion as "hype." Something that was all fluff and no substance.

**Like a pancake?**

Kind of like a pancake, but without the butter and syrup. I didn't want to play part of the "hype" machine. So I decided to start the "buzz." "Buzz" is positive. It's what the "cool" people follow. The "elite." So I decided to start

from a publication with a circulation of approximately 8, and build my way up. Plus, you were the only guy who could give me a ride to IHOP.

**All right, that's cool. Hey, we've been here a while. How many pancakes have you eaten?**

Umm... Six.

**Six? That's all? We've been sitting here for an hour, and you've eaten six pancakes?**

Well, you have been asking me all these questions, and I don't want to talk with my mouth full. Plus I did have a big breakfast and lunch. And then dinner just before we came.

**Why on earth did you eat so much if you knew you were going to have to come here and eat an ungodly amount of pancakes?**

I thought I would keep my stomach stretched out. All I had at dinner was some Rat steak and some potatoes and corn and those burgers that aren't quite White Castle, but the fact that they call them "Castle burgers" makes it painfully obvious, and then some tater tots with chili and cheese and—Oh, man, I'll be right back. (he heads to the bathroom)

**Waitress, check, please? Thank**

**you.**

(The student returns from the bathroom) Ah, man, that was awful. There was this guy in there making all sorts of horrible noises in the stall. It was like someone was running a Veg-o-matic in there.

**Great. That's disgusting.**

Yeah, I know. That guy was me.

**All right, I think it's time to go.**

**What about the rest of my pancakes?**

Well, they've already printed the check charging you for six pancakes. They can't just retract the check. I think you've had enough pancakes for tonight.

**Dude, I just made room for like 44 more pancakes!**

**Then use that room to eat some humble pie. Go pay the check.**

**All right, all right.**

**So what did the manager say?**

He said I don't have to pay for the remaining 44 pancakes they fixed or the horrible damage I did to the bathroom if I wear this sign that says "Quitter" on my forehead for the rest of the month.

**Sounds pretty reasonable to me.**

**Yeah, but now I'm depressed. You wanna go for some tacos?**

## Perpetual Machine Proposal Rejected by Honors Committee

By Steve Perry  
Rhode'ster Physicist

The seemingly theoretically impossible invention of a perpetual motion machine is no longer such. Rhodes Physics major Jeremy Brewer has become the epicenter of a major earthquake in the field of thermodynamics after creating a confirmed working perpetual motion machine last week.

But it turns out that something else may even be a more impossible task for Brewer--getting it approved as an acceptable honors project to receive a degree in physics with honors. Despite the major discovery, the committee in charge of approving honors projects here at Rhodes decided that Brewer's work was not groundbreaking enough.

"I once read about a perpetual machine in some magazine--maybe Redbook," stated a professor of Religious Studies. "I really don't think this is an original idea at all."

For some time controversy has existed over the fact that professors outside the field of expertise of the proposed study are called upon to judge whether or not the study's research is truly an original addition to the already present body of knowledge. The committee

Brewer faced also included professors of Political Science, German, and History, as well as Director of Food Services Tim Vandermeerich.

According to Dean of Academic Affairs John Planchon, this measure was taken due to departments approving too many weak proposals for honors study to enhance the number of major holders they could claim graduated from their department "with honors."

In 1995, the Psychology Department approved some 962 honors proposals for a graduating group of psychology majors numbering only 21. More notorious examples of proposals of a dubious nature accepted before the program was changed include the 1994 English paper "Paradise Sloshed: To See if Liquor More than Milton Can/ Justify the Ways of God to Man," as well as a 1997 International Studies paper, "Opening Up a Cold Six Pack of Sanctions on the Republic of Cuervo Gold." Both studies cited Seagram's Guide to Bartending as a primary source.

Despite these past mockeries of standard academic procedure, Brewer's discovery by all accounts is a remarkable breakthrough. "Historically, it is on par with the Michelson-Morley experiment,

Eddington's confirmation of Einstein's theory of relativity, and the 515 -consecutive-hour vulgarity-filled tirade by Redd Foxx during the summer of 1971," noted Professor Oliver Klosov, Director of Scientific Legerdemain at the Uri Geller Institute for Cryptophysics.

Attempts to create such a device in the past have failed. The secret to how Brewer accomplished it remains classified for national security purposes, though word from inside the Physics department suggests that the key ingredient in achieving success apparently was "a healthy dose of love mixed with two scoops of tenderness."

To add insult to injury, after the meeting, Brewer was immediately detained by Campus Safety authorities.

"At this school we obey the laws of thermodynamics," said Campus Safety Director Ralph Hatley in a statement. "Mr. Brewer's conduct is a violation of almost two hundred years of established scientific principle." Director Hatley then proceeded to place signs around campus warning of an "unidentified blackish-looking man or woman seen driving faster than the speed of light on University."

Meanwhile, the scientific commu-

nity at large is welcoming Brewer's advance, arguing that perhaps a "negative first" law of thermodynamics be added to the scientific canon to explain Brewer's finding. Though it now appears doubtful that Brewer will graduate with an honors degree, he is already considered to be a leading contender for this year's Nobel

Prize for Best New Solo Artist.

Brewer remains reticent, but, with logical reasoning, as strong as ever. "Look at it this way. 'With Honors' was a bad 1993 Joe Pesci movie about a homeless guy living at Harvard. Since I am without honors, I can take pride in the fact that I'm neither Joe Pesci nor homeless nor at Harvard."

## Thinking Outside the Cardboard Box

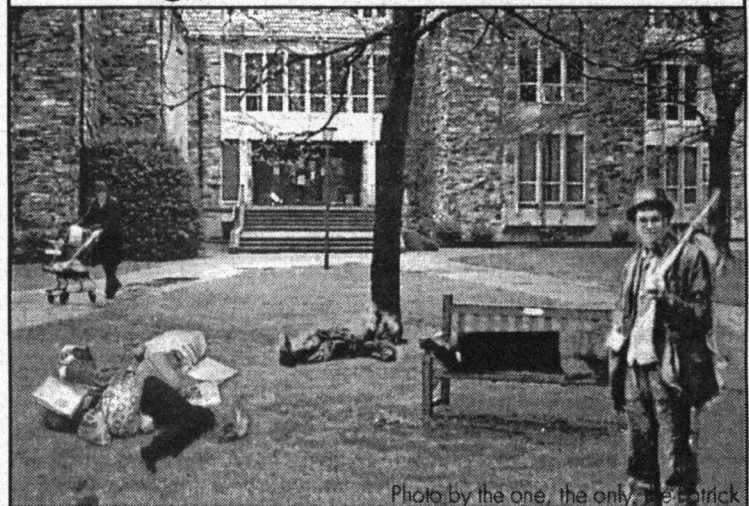


Photo by the one, the only, the best, Patrick

Rhodes Senior English majors prepare for their future careers outside of Clough.

## Campus Safety Log



- 3/23 Notorious "flasher" apprehended by Campus Safety on North Parkway. The man was proving that driving in Memphis could still be "fun." In a scene reminiscent of Faulkner, Campus Safety promptly castrated the man.
- 3/24 The "French Connection" was broken up by Campus Safety in first floor Voorhies social room. Campus Safety sufficiently grossed out.
- 3/25 Shantytown discovered in second floor Voorhies social room. Hippie types found to be "studying" on coach. Evacuated immediately to Frazier Jelke.
- 3/28 Rat boiler explodes. No one hurt by explosion, but vegetables finally cooked all the way through.
- 3/30 Reslife continues policy of lying to students, assures that there will be enough housing "next year." Supposed waitlist discovered to be hitlist.

Theme song: One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer

Fake New York Accents: 2

Rhodents you've never seen until Rites: 312

Performance Fleece: 793

Unattended Film Festivals: 1

Unattended Performances of the Jayhawks: 1

Bands scheduled this weekend that we've never heard of before: 7

Days until graduation: not enough and yet too many

Vacations left in this year: 1

The Atomic Weight of Cobalt: ?

## Rhodes Fencing Club Wins Regional Title

By Steve Perry  
Rhode'ster Schhhwing!

Rhodes College continued its stranglehold on the SCAC fencing championship, impressively using home field advantage to take first place in all individual events to win the conference crown.

The tournament, held on Summer and Tillman avenues, brought first place finishes for Steele Means and Jeff Bigongiari in the Warehouse Shakedown Epee Spree, Greg Scheuchenzuber in the Cloak and Dagger TV Bagger, and Blake Rollins in the Stereo Theft.

Two region records were set in the process. Working under cover of a controlled riot on Tillman, it took only 7 minutes for Rollins to remove a Pioneer CD player from a Pontiac and then sell it at a price of \$120 to two students at Snowden Elementary School.

Scheuchenzuber posed as a cable repairman to gain access to an electronics store warehouse, then at epee point removed a television. All in all, it took a record 32 minutes to steal the Ryder van and then the TV, with enough time to abandon the van in the Mississippi.

The largest margin victory of the day occurred in the Killing Spree, where Means and Bigongiari rolled easily past an intoxicated Sewanee squad. A brief fight ensued upon their attempt to take over the store, but their opponents' plans were "foiled" when Bigongiari adeptly scaled a staircase, jumped on a rope holding up a very large curtain, and used

his foil to cut a wooden chandelier hanging above the center of the room, causing it to fall down on a group of seven store employees positioned precisely beneath it.

For good measure, Means then sliced open the bellies of each of them with his sabre to ensure that they would not live long enough to identify their attackers for the authorities, garnering him a bonus ten points per dead body. The pickup included two refrigerators, seven stereos, ten DVD players, some 43 discmans, and 17 copies of the Dreamcast game "Crazy Taxi."

Scheuchenzuber is a particularly dedicated player of the sport. "I remember playing the game Joust as a kid. I remember saying to myself, 'If only I could ride around on an ostrich killing people with an old-fashioned weapon.' Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find an ostrich or even an emu, but I have been known to run several people through with my sword, funding my college education in the process. And the whole electronic dimension to the sport makes me think I am being close to the game Joust. This game makes my life have purpose."

Bigongiari's goals were more career-oriented. "I joined the fencing team because, as an International Studies major, I wanted to be able to better understand how the Russian economy works."

President Troutt was thrilled at the news of Rhodes' victory. "It is with great pride that I congratulate our region

champions, who have proven once again that no school is better than Rhodes at stealing high-quality electronic goods. Not only are the participants enriched, but so is the community, which is brought closer together by the proliferation of these products. The team truly is a 'cut' above the rest."

The Rhodes Riding Club, dismayed at their lack of attention, interjected, "We urge you to come up to Paducah, Kentucky, at 6 AM Saturday morning to watch us compete."

Asked if the fact that what amounted to a several hundred thousand dollar criminal syndicate existed on campus, Campus Safety Director Ralph Hatley said, "Are you kidding? These prices are so low they're practically giving them away. And if it is so low that it's practically free, then it might as well be free, and if it is free, then it's really not selling these goods other people paid for below market price. So, no."

The Fencing Club now advances to the national championship tournament in Detroit, where it will get a chance to exact revenge on the team that beat them last year in the finals, Bowdoin College of Maine. Two years ago, Rhodes defeated Bowdoin, making this year's match crucial.

"I hope we win it," said Rollins. "I would have loved to win it three straight years, but, as Meatloaf said, 'Two out of three ain't bad.'"

## EPA Declares Townsend Social Room as Superfund Site

By Blake Rollins & Patrick Lane  
Rhode'ster Hygiene Twinkies

Rhodes College--its toxins truly are in a league by itself.

To the shock and dismay of the Rhodes community, the EPA released new figures for 2000 that ranked Townsend social room as one of the most polluted sites in the United States--top of the Superfund list of sites most in need of government action to prevent environmental dangers. Tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency last week revealed widespread nicotine and pichulie contamination of the carpeting, drapery, furniture, and the urine samples of those who perpetually inhabit the social area. Core samples drilled from Townsend's concrete foundation revealed toxic seepage all the way into the groundwater supply, potentially infecting all the entire dormitory complex.

Physicians fear the entire population of Townsend may be rendered infertile by prolonged exposure to toxins. Moore Moore resident in training Dr. Octagon is not concerned, however. "Given the people who live in Townsend, their inability to reproduce may not be a bad thing," he notes.

Environmentalists point to the recent decision by Residence Life to seal off the social room by closing the hallway door as the critical factor producing the natural disaster. Supporters of the "shut door" policy felt that concentrating the smoke in the social

room would measurably improve the quality of life in Townsend, already made unbearable by the abundance of dirty socks pinned to the outside of doors each night.

Suspicion of extreme contamination in Townsend began as early as September 1999, when students complained of a horrible, death-like stench throughout the building. According to Campus Safety officers who refuse to be identified, the odor of cannabis sativa and Taco Bell chalupas were particularly potent. In early January, an unspent cigarette ignited a fire on a sofa that burned continuously for 3 days, with little visible sign of damage to the sofa.

Townsend RA Andrew Sullivan contacted the chemistry department, which soon discovered high nicotine and THC concentrations throughout the room. The EPA verified the Rhodes study through the most cost-effective methods currently available to the agency: paper, rock, scissors.

Humbert Humbert, current head of the Sierra Club's university operations, originally endorsed the "shut door" scheme as a necessary environmental compromise to attain a livable environment. "We completely gave up on Glassell. Keeping Townsend alive was our last chance before the whole campus descended on the downward spiral. But, my God, this is the nastiest example of pollution we've seen since they opened Strom Thurmond's Depends (trademark)."

Presidential hopefuls from both

parties used the bad news to their political advantage. Democratic candidate Al Gore, who earned a D in ecology at Harvard, denounced the failure of Rhodes to resolve the situation: "When will people learn that you can't smack up mother nature like Prodigy's proverbial bitch?" Gore went on to say, "Un voto para Gorcito es un voto para el inventor de la Internet y el odio de los suburbios. Muerte al United Fruit Co.!" George Bush struck back, saying, "Estoy cierto que Al Gore es el rey de huevones, y además, es más loca que Ricky Martin."

Pat Buchanan, speaking from Reform Party headquarters, strongly urged the government to "eject those dirty immigrants who stole the tobacco-picking/cannabis-growing jobs from Americans in the first place." Jesse Ventura, speaking on behalf of the other Reform Party, condemned Buchanan for his xenophobic stance, "Unless, of course, those immigrants believe in God. In that case, boot their butts back to the Third World."

Political posturing aside, it is clear the federal government lacks the funding to clean up the Townsend Superfund site. Environmental spending under the Clinton administration has waned, with insufficient funding to conduct pollution studies, let alone expensive cleanup efforts. As of 2000, more than 50 Superfund sites await treatment. Grassroots student response at Rhodes has been minimal--only a resolution passed by

Model UN that "STRONGLY URGES members of the Rhodes Community to switch to smokeless tobacco and other chewable nicotine delivery systems."

President Troutt, fresh from his victories in the Senate that lowered the costs of higher education, recently stepped in to ameliorate the Townsend tragedy. Following the advice of his elite cadre of University of Chicago economists, Troutt effectively privatized the cleanup efforts by inviting the prestigious Febreze Odor Defense Squad, a division of Procter and Gamble who were anxious to test their new product.

According to John E. Pepper, Chairman of P&G, "Fabrics are all around us, from upholstery, to carpets, curtains, even canvas shoes. In fact, up to 75% of the household surfaces that we routinely clean are made of fabrics." Factoring heavily into the school's decision to bring in Febreze was the massive annual research and development budget at Procter and Gamble, which surpasses the GDP of many highly indebted poorer countries (HIPCs).

The detox team arrived by helicopter on top of Halliburton tower on April 5, resurrecting bad memories of the chaotic departure of President Daughdrill in 1975 in response to North Vietnamese soldiers approaching the campus. Since their arrival, they have been spraying Townsend social room with Febreze, protected in special odorless detox suits provided by the women in Williford. Additionally, residents of Townsend will receive regular Febreze injections over the course of three years until they are "fit to reenter society."

At the same time, students contaminated are regularly taken outside to be hosed down with intense cleansers, though the administration notes that fraternity members who already undergo this treatment as part of hazing need not do it twice a week. The fence create during Rites of Spring will be left up after the Rites festivities are over as an internment camp for those contaminated.

Dean Landreth said the college originally invited the coveted Glade Insitute of Plug-In Research to bid on the project, but determined the already strained electrical wiring of Vo-To could not handle a plug-in the size of a water bison. Students requiring further information on Febreze are urged to call their toll-free information line at 1-800-308-EASY.

## Townsend Gets its Spray On



Photo by Patrick Lane

### Hazardous Waste Cleanup in Townsend

This is a brilliant photo of the hosing process in Townsend. Our very own Patrick Lane was hospitalized, shortly after obtaining this photograph, for burned skin, inflamed nostrils, and a really bad hangnail.

## THE Rhode'ster Staff

KING BEE

Matthew Shipe

QUEEN BEE

Steele Means

WANNA-BEE

Barrett Hathcock

DOUBLE-BEE

Greg Scheuchenzuber  
Brian Willis

RHODE'STER EDITOR TO BEE

Bob Arnold

THESE PEOPLE SAVED MY ASS

Matthew Shipe, Patrick Lane, Steve Perry, Jamie Groover, Bob Arnold

WORKER BEES

Blake Rollins, Drew Hughes,  
Patrick Lane, Valerie Witte,  
Susan Hughes

OUR COW&CHICKEN GAL

Sarah Bettinger

POSSIBLE RELATION

Drew and Susan Hughes

THEME SONG

That Vertical Horizon song

SPELLING BEE

Tim Hayes

FUTURE KING BEE

Drew Hughes

OVERRATED BEE

Bruce Springsteen

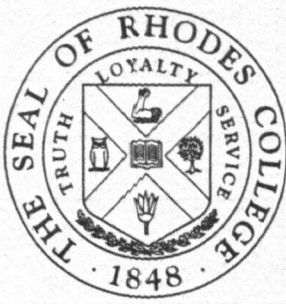
FUTURE QUEEN BEE

Susan Hughes

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Do you want fries with that?

*The Rhode'ster* is officially over. Well, unless Bob gets really motivated in these last few weeks and produces something funny. We'd like to thank every one who helped out this year, as well as all those people who let us make fun of them. Please remember to help control the pet population and have your doggies or kitties (or friends) spayed and neutered. We hope that the rest of your year is full of wit and charm and hugs and bunnies. And beer. *Reaching the Rhode'ster* In less congenial news, most of our staff will disappear from this lovely gated community within a few short weeks to walk the earth, much like that guy in *Kung Fu*.



# THE RHODE'STER

## The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

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

Page 20

## Editors Retire Gracefully

By Barrett Hathcock, Patrick Lane, & Matthew Shipe  
Rhode'ster Pagan Trinity

To the great disappointment of the Publications Board and members of several sororities, the senior editors of *The Sou'wester* ended their tenure this year in peaceful retirement. In the past, editors have traditionally staged a gratuitous bloodbath in which they allow themselves to be killed in various horrible ways, in a final, selfless attempt to provide an entertaining article for their loyal reading public.

This year's editors stated that selflessness and the reading public could go take a long walk off a short pier.

Matthew Shipe, Editor-in-Chief: Upon graduation, all Matthew Shipe had to say was "Rosebud." Shipe is on the lam. After being accepted into grad school, Matthew decided to "give academia the finger" and drive cross-country with the writer Barry Hannah. We've only heard snippets from his adventures, but so far they include a debacle involving roofies and an iguana out in Las Vegas and a run-in with authorities in Tiujana. A rare e-mail message from Shipe described the West as "shallow and facile," much like various faculty committees.

Steele Means, Associate Editor: Trapped in a Jamaican prison. Appar-

ently, Means' celebratory Caribbean cruise ended tragically, leaving him stranded in the Jamaican capital of Kingston with 30 pounds of Spice 1 CDs duct-taped to his chest. He maintains his innocence, but we think anyone who has to catch rats as a dietary supplement must deserve it.

Val Witte, News Editor: Val has left to seek her fortune in the great big world. She has a noble steed, a vorpal sword, and an ad submitted to *The Sou'wester* last fall advertising SexPays.com. Val, always considered the "friendly" one of the group, is doing better than the rest of the staff, and she always seems to have a smile on her face.

Blake Rollins, Op/Ed Editor: Hiding out in Argentina. For what reason, we do not know. The CIA reports that Rollins is engaged in any or all of the following activities: living as a *gaucho* on the *pampas*, raising llamas for the black market Uzbekistani llama prostitution rings, performing diabolical vivisections on stuffed animals and street clowns, or cruisin' for the ladies.

Tim Hayes, Copy Editor: Tim is going to grad school. He will finance it in part by selling back the sniper rifle we all know he purchased back when things looked grim. But Tim is not, we repeat, *not* having a nervous breakdown.

Sarah Bettinger, Layout Editor: Professional mullet researcher. Soon

## Rhode'ster: Shipe, Lane, and Hathcock Own Up to the Lies

### Ragamuffins Hang Their Collective Heads in Shame, Retreat To South of France, Drink Heavily

By Matthew Shipe  
Rhode'ster Apologist

In the most surprising announcement since Bobby Ewing popped out of the shower to end season 8 of *Dallas*, the editors of *The Sou'wester* announced this week that *The Rhode'ster* was not the real news, that in fact that stories printed in the publication are usually fabricated.

"Yes, it's sadly true," proclaimed editor-in-chief Matthew Shipe. "The stories in *The Rhode'ster* are all lies. We even occasionally make fun of people in the publication."

The announcement comes on the heels of mass campus confusion in which the twenty people who actually read the newspaper became confused over the wild, improbable, and wacky news printed in *The Rhode'ster*.

"I knew something was fishy with that publication when I showed up to Advanced Essay Writing and Professor Brady was still there," said one

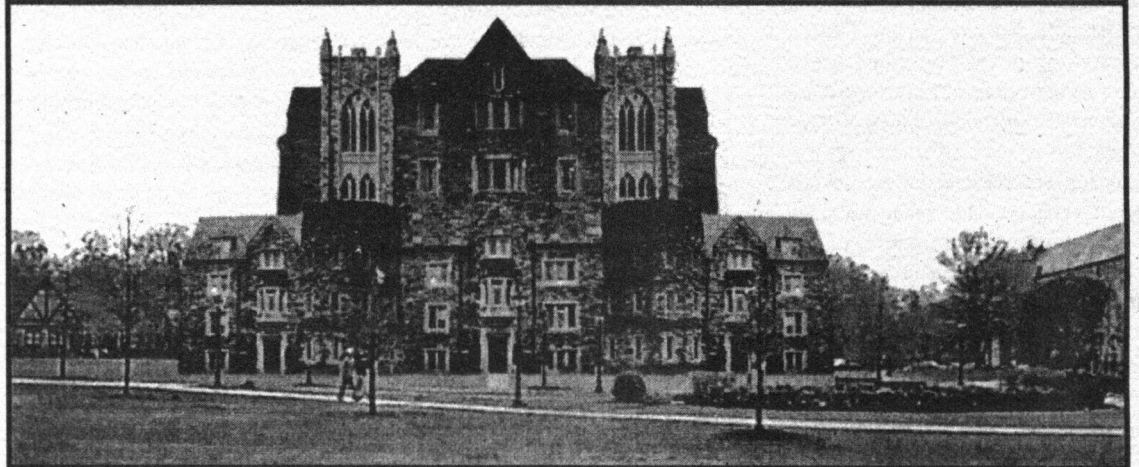
anonymous junior, who has a habit of smacking her gum. "I had read in the supposed *newspaper* that she had been drafted into the army, but she has been in class every day this semester. I guess that story was nothing but a blatant lie!"

Patrick Lane, the author of the Brady article, admitted, with a tear in his eye, that the article was completely fabricated. "Yes, I admit it. I made it up. All of it! Every last syllable was fiction. I'm not ashamed. I'd do it again if I were given the opportunity, and I'll see those bastards Shipe and Hathcock burning in hell for doing the exact same thing."

Hathcock and Shipe, who have been the major contributors to *The Rhode'ster* for the last three years were quite open about the lack of truth in their columns. Both openly admitted that they routinely make things up to write about.

"Not that making things up doesn't happen throughout the newspaper," said Shipe. "Stories are rou-

## Rhodes Constructs New "Ultimate" Dorm



Photomanipulation By Patrick Lane

Hoping to put an end to the housing crisis once and for all, Residence Life has nearly finished construction on a new dorm. "Daughdrill Hall" is the most technologically advanced building ever constructed on campus, featuring Internet access in all rooms, fully equipped kitchenette suites, smokeless ashtrays, and a massive death ray capable of destroying an entire planet. The dorm is being touted by ResLife officials as "the ultimate power in the universe." However, housing fears are far from being over. Said Carol Casey, "Until this battle station is fully operational we are vulnerable."

to unveil her new website, "Let's Mullet Over: Class Problems in the Evolution of a Hair-Statement," Bettinger announced that she is leaving school less than a month before she would graduate in order to enter the lucrative world of mullet research.

Patrick Lane, Scene Editor: Patrick has announced his plans to pretend to be in grad school for a year. He requests that everyone play along when his parents show up for graduation.

Barrett Hathcock, *Rhode'ster* Edi-

tor: Barrett has been chosen as a national sponsor for Kappa Delta Sorority. Hathcock hopes to lead the profit-winning efforts through a new Campaign for the Unloved Children of the World.

Susan Hughes, Sports Editor, and Drew Hughes, A&E Editor: Dead. Since we do not wish to jinx the next generation of editors by failing to follow tradition, Susan and Drew, our Junior Staff members, have been summarily executed. Susan was first given a pile-

driver, which effectively paralyzed her from the neck down, and then she was set alight by her residents with contraband candles. Drew was rent asunder barehanded by movie reviewer Steven Perry, who has wanted to get back at all the past A&E editors for butchering his column by butchering an A&E editor. For old times' sake, the fleshless skulls of Susan and Drew were placed high atop poles and paraded out of the pub center during a massive pagan festival orgy. We send their families all our best.

tinely made up in the newspaper. Do you think that whole Daughdrill retiring/Troutt as president schtick was true? President Troutt is nothing but a clever photomanipulation that Patrick did one weekend. I think Troutt is really a combination of George Bush, Sr., and a young Peter O'Toole. You know the *Lawrence of Arabia* Peter and not the *My Favorite Year* one? I remember when I showed it to ole' Diamond Jim; he laughed himself silly."

"I exist. Really, I do," proclaimed President Troutt upon hearing the news that he was nothing but a photomanipulation. "I had a small identity crisis back in the mid-70s, but who didn't? I mean, it was the age of disco and everything. That doesn't mean that I'm not a real person."

"Yeah, most of the stuff in *The Rhode'ster* is made up," declared Hathcock. "I try to make it mean if I can. I also try to be hurtful whenever I can. I like to inflict pain on others.

It makes feel better about myself whenever I can make others feel small."

"Barrett is a hurtful, hurtful person," stated Jill Peterfeso. When asked further about Hathcock, Peterfeso stormed away from the lunch table with big green Lambert's mug in hand.

"The *Rhode'ster* is irresponsible journalism," proclaimed publications commissioner Andrew Shulman who was too busy playing video games in the pub center to be disturbed any further.

The plans for *The Rhode'ster* are still unclear at this time. Sophomore Bob Arnold has been named as the editor of the section for next year. Arnold promises more hard news and truth for the section.

"The lies stop with me," Arnold declared in a press release earlier this week. "Nothing but truth will be printed in the hallowed pages of *The Rhode'ster*. The atrocities of Shipe and Hathcock stop with me. Let me as-

sure the entire Rhodes community that I have integrity."

Hathcock and Shipe have been sufficiently punished for their sins against the Rhodes community. Hathcock was forced to write a note stating that he "did something wrong" and that he was "sorry," and was then required to place it in every student's mailbox. Shipe was forced to write this horribly self-reflective article. Neither Shipe nor Hathcock have apologized for their behavior, and at the time of publication neither planned to.

"I like to hurt people," Hathcock reiterated.

However, the damage from *The Rhode'ster* articles is slight, considering that 9 out of 10 students still do not know that the campus has a newspaper.

"What's *The Rhode'ster*?" asked one unidentified female sophomore. "Oh, you mean that's not a mistake when they print those pages upside down. That's supposed to be funny? Who knew?"