

## THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, September 6, 2000

### Building for the future: Rhodes volunteers lay foundation for fulfillment of dream

By Susan Hughes

Assistant Editor

With cement poured and supplies unloaded, Rhodes' students and faculty members began construction on a new Habitat for Humanity house August 25, 2000. One of eight houses to be built during the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis Fall Building Blitz, volunteers spent the first weekend raising walls and roofing. In their second sponsorship of a Habitat house in the past four years, Rhodes teamed up with the Tennessee State Legislature, agreeing to provide volunteers for a house funded by the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. Grabbing hammer and nails, students set to work to continue the college's tradition of strong community service.

The house, along with Rhodes' opening convocation, marked the beginning of the college's celebration of its seventy-fifth year in Memphis. Volunteers received t-shirts commemorating both the seventy-fifth anniversary and Rhodes' continued involvement in Habitat for Humanity.

Early concerns about the low number of volunteers committed to the Friday groundbreaking proved unfounded, as Rhodes students and faculty provided enough volunteers to send reinforcements to other build sites in desperate need of people. In addition, students unloaded drinks donated by Delta Beverages and worked at the tool truck, filling in wherever someone needed an extra hand. For some, it was a ten hour day, as construction managers arrived before seven in the morning and left only after work ended for the day, around five.

During the weekend, the weather became a key concern for organizers, as volunteers faced temperatures topping one hundred degrees. Working to stay on schedule, they nonetheless took frequent water breaks, stopping all work on the roof during the afternoon hours because of the increased risk of heat-related illness. "We were a little worried because it was so hot outside during the first weekend, but we got a bunch of fresh volunteers every couple of hours and everyone stayed hydrated and had a

smile on their face," said Josh Welter, co-coordinator of the volunteer effort. Despite precautions by both Habitat and the individual house leaders, many volunteers succumbed to the stifling heat, with several leaving the site physically ill.

Familiar faces in the administration stopped by to lend a hand, as well. President Bill Troutt arrived early Saturday morning, as did Associate Dean of Student Affairs Charlie Landreth and Chaplain Billy Newton, working alongside community volunteers and Habitat homeowner Sharon Ghoston to realize Ghoston's goal of affordable housing for her children and disabled brother.

In an attempt to avoid health concerns, Sunday's build time was moved from one to five in the afternoon up to seven to twelve in the morning, as volunteers finished the roofing in preparation for a two week hiatus.

With this Fall Building Blitz, Habitat of Greater Memphis inaugurates a new work schedule—instead of working Saturdays and

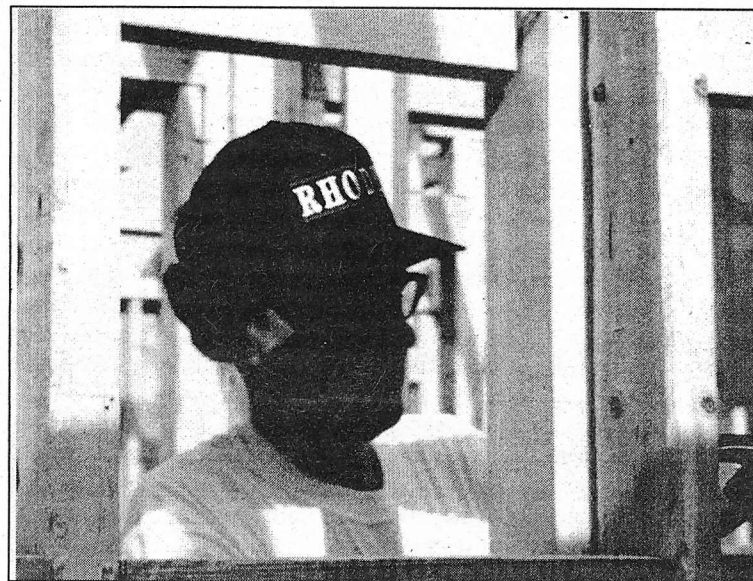


Photo by Susan Hughes

President of the College William Troutt joins student volunteers at the building site.

Sundays four straight weekends, volunteers work Friday, Saturday and Sunday the first weekend, and Saturdays each successive week. Work resumes this weekend, Septem-

ber 9, 7 a.m. - p.m. . Members of Rhodes College chapter of Habitat for Humanity will meet behind the mailroom at seven and one to take volunteers to the worksite.

### Dean search begins anew following interim appointment

By Drew Hughes

Editor-In-Chief

The college's search for a chief academic officer continues this year after none of the four finalists brought to campus last spring emerged as a clear-cut favorite.

During the summer, President Troutt appointed Associate Professor of Philosophy Robert Llewellyn, who served as associate dean of academic affairs for 13 years and acting dean in 1986-87, to fill the post on an interim basis.

The appointment of an interim dean was necessary to avoid losing a year of progress in the college's academic program. Llewellyn said,

"The college cannot afford to wait for the new dean of the college to be appointed. There is vital work to be done this year—the work of the educational development committee is a case in point—and we will be remiss if we do not attend to this work now.

"I personally want to be able to convey the work of the dean of academic affairs to the new dean of the college with the confidence that he or she can pick up where I leave off and continue the work already underway. He or she will not have to undo or to begin from scratch work on items that need attention," Llewellyn added.

Llewellyn appreciates the assistance of three faculty members in his work as interim dean of academic affairs.

Said Llewellyn, "My ability to function as the interim dean is made possible by the willingness of three of my faculty colleagues to join me in the work of the office of academic affairs. [Professor of Biology] Dr. John Olsen will help me with faculty personnel administration; [Associate Professor of English] Dr. Brian Shaffer will help me with faculty development; and [Associate Professor of Foreign Languages] Dr. Kathryn Wright will help me with student academic development. I

am so fortunate to have their assistance, and I hope that this experience in academic administration will be an exciting venture for them."

In addition to their new responsibilities, Olsen, Shaffer and Wright continue to teach full-time.

Meanwhile, the search for a dean of the college is still on. Search firm A.T. Kearney is responsible for identifying candidates for the position and will begin advertising in the next issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

A.T. Kearney will pass applications on to the Search Committee for the Dean of the College, chaired by Associate Professor of Psychology

Bette Ackerman. Ackerman and the committee's other members plan to begin reviewing the applications in the first week of October and to interview approximately 20 candidates in Memphis in late November.

Sometime between December 1 and mid-January the committee will

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# Opinion

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ALLISON TETREAU  
ELIZABETH BRALLIER



JOHN MARSHALL MOSSER  
IFC VICE PRESIDENT OF RUSH

Ah yes, it's that time of the year again. For most of us it's back to the grindstone, back to the schedule, back to our friends, and back to our dorms and apartments. For a whole new class of students it's "Welcome to college life!" Welcome to registration, to Ask Me's, to tight living spaces, to a new life of growth, independence, and opportunity. Welcome to rush?

The first two weeks of fall semester is formal rush, a time to recruit potential initiates into fraternities or sororities. There is no denying that campus chapters benefit from fall rush. The number of people from the freshman class who join that first week is higher than any other semester throughout their college career.

There are doubts as to whether the same number of people would choose to join if not given that option the first week and were forced to wait until spring semester. In the eyes of these organizations, fewer people means less money and the loss of campus presence. In addition to monetary gain, fall rush alleviates the potential commitment of time and energy put into a semester long recruitment.

The truth is that sororities already invest a semester in preparation for the week of fall rush. The time commitment that the chapters put into formal rush would be no greater if it were delayed to spring semester. Some are worried that delaying rush will encourage an entire semester of active first-year rushing. However, the logistics of a "Greek Free" first semester, when fall rush is already so surrounded by stringent rules and regulations, can be implemented and adjusted to by everyone.

In the end, the issue of spring rush should not focus on the hardships it may incur on the Greek system. The primary focus of a debate about spring rush should center on what best promotes the well-being of incoming first-year students.

Rhodes is a new home to the incoming first-years. They must learn the ropes - which building is which, what the rules are, and what there is to do after classes get out. Orientation does a great job of accomplishing these goals, but this is only one week before the rest of the student body arrives. The first-years have a scant week to get to know one another before they are thrust into a fully operating scholastic system, and into fall rush.

Many feel alienated from the rest of the campus if they do not participate in rush, which is seen and presented as the sole vehicle through which to meet people. Indeed, the first way most first-years meet upperclassmen is in a Greek format. They are immediately inducted into the Greek versus non-Greek dichotomy when they should be interacting on a level field with the rest of the student body.

For those students who do rush, there is always the chance that they will not receive bids from any chapter, leading to a feeling of rejection and exclusion. This feeling pertains not only to the Greek system, but to college life as a whole since rush is seen as the primary means of meeting people. These feelings can completely shape the direction of a person's college career since they now feel unwanted by the majority of their new home. If rush were deferred, students would have a larger foundation of support and stability with which to face this rejection. The rejection of the Greek system would not be magnified to that of the entire college because they would already have friends throughout the school.

First-years end up devoting an inordinate amount of time and energy into chapters they know little about. A delayed, spring rush would give first-years the opportunity to learn what a particular fraternity or sorority is about before committing oneself to it completely. Two weeks of formal rush first thing in the semester is simply not enough time to get to know any given Greek chapter. Nor is it enough time for a sorority or fraternity to get a good idea of the personalities they are inviting into their folds. Granted, actual initiation is delayed, but trying to leave a system in which one's entire social structure is entrenched is next to impossible. Most acquaintances that a first-year pledge has made have been within the Greek system. First-years should get to know people first and talk about sisterhood and brotherhood with friends second.

Then there is the issue of academic performance. Before first-years have the chance to understand what a college workload entails, they join an organization that takes up a great deal of their time and commitments. In addition to course loads, there is also the issue of non-Greek campus clubs and organizations, sports, community service, etc. Many first-years get so caught up in fall rush that their ability to participate in or learn about other extracurricular activities is severely delayed. The SACK fair takes place in the middle of formal rush, and many don't have the opportunity to go, let alone attend organizational meetings.

College marks a new level of independence and discovery of the self. Why leap into defining oneself in terms of people and values they may not be 100% sure about? Find yourself, or at least understand what it is you are doing before structuring your values and ideas around a new organization.

Get to know your campus and classmates first and then feel confident that the choice you have made has been your own.

Contrary to popular opinion we do have spring rush. The IFC recognizes the ability of any man to join a fraternity at any time during the academic year, in any year of his undergraduate education, provided that he meets certain scholastic standards. We encourage year-round recruitment, in some form, in order to increase the strength of the individual chapters and the Rhodes Greek system as a whole. The fact that formal rush events occur early in the fall eliminates several problems associated with a semester wait for those individuals who desire to join a fraternal organization, and statistics indicate that a majority of the student body at Rhodes does.

Preventing fall rush is a bad idea for the fraternities because they, unlike all other student organizations, have to pay the bills associated with maintaining a residence. One advantage to the existing system, then, is that it allows fraternities to remain financially solvent by replacing graduated members as soon as possible. This increases the likelihood that each organization will have the resources necessary to remain active and maintain their buildings. Good for the fraternities and the College.

Another problem that arises with a spring formal rush is that it either requires that there be strict rules against rushing for the first semester, or it morphs a structured, two-week event into an unstructured, semester-long session. The problem with the first is that more than half of the student body is in a Greek organization, and a majority of their activities revolve around that organization or their connections to its members: intramural sports, study groups, philanthropic activities, or stress-relieving recreational activities.

"Silence" or "Neutrality" rules, which exist at many colleges that mandate a second semester rush, would effectively prevent first-years' involvement in such activities with the members of the Greek system. Such exclusion is not in the interest of a college with a transfer rate as high as the one that exists at Rhodes. Involving first-years immediately in extracurricular activities increases student retention, and should begin as soon as possible. Beneficial for the fraternities and the College.

In addition, all of the stress and pressure that exists for the members of Greek organizations as well as their prospective members for the short period of formal rush, would extend throughout the semester and contribute heavily to poor academic performance and attendance. Anyone who has experienced rush as an active member knows this, as do many of the professors who note decreased performance in their students for the first week of classes. Extending such behavior would be detrimental to the academic success of the students involved and infuriating for the faculty. Bad for the Greek system and the College.

Yet another regulatory problem arises with the much-derided issue of "Dry Rush." Forcing a second semester formal rush opens the door for an administration that seems to be becoming increasingly conservative, and increasingly willing to implement Orwellian supervision policies, to impose a dry activity policy for half of the academic year. This, of course, will probably lead to a dry campus and then to the transfer of half of the existing student body. Or, more problematically, to students taking all such activities off-campus where they will then be more likely to drive while intoxicated. Bad for the Greek system, and very bad for the College.

Increased retention is the primary reason colleges allow a system directed at social interaction and recreation to exist at their institution, whose primary purpose is higher education. Although astronomical percentages of both our campus leadership positions and US government leadership are Greek, the average person perceives only the stereotypes of "Animal House," or "PCU," or worse. Those neighbors who prevent us from having what hundreds of thousands of high schools across the nation own—a lighted stadium—would like nothing better for everyone at Rhodes to go to bed at 9 p.m. on Saturday nights.

Fall rush catches almost all of the people who are interested in joining a fraternity, over half the campus, and the vast majority of those who pledge a fraternity graduate 4 years later still members. Granted it seems chaotic and there are certain people who make the wrong choices because of the shortness of the period. But fraternities do not initiate members until second semester (to determine academic eligibility), which gives all students who pledge a fraternity ample opportunity to reconsider and change their decision.

There are some perceived benefits of a second semester rush, but I believe that they are outweighed by the Greek organizations' financial needs and possible semester-long stress, as well as the college's interests in student retention and academic performance by upperclass students. Examine the Greek numbers in: retention, involvement in leadership positions and campus organizations, GPAs above the "all student average," and financial contributions to the college after graduation. Finally, examine the most accurate measure of the effectiveness of our particular rush system: compare the percentage of students at Rhodes who are and enjoy being Greek to other similar schools. Do this and you'll see: we're already doing it right.

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As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. It is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

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

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

## REACHING THE SOU'WESTER

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## Attention all underclassmen...

BOYD  
ABRE LOS OJOS



Attention all first-years, sophomores, and even you juniors. A word of friendly advice: LEAVE. LEAVE RHODES. LEAVE THE COUNTRY. AND LEAVE NOW.

Okay, well maybe not now. Next semester then. Or the one after that. Just make sure you do it before you graduate. If you don't, you are making a grave mistake.

Getting outside this wrought-iron bubble and spending a semester abroad is without a doubt one of the best moves you can make in your college career. I know my semester in Chile was for mine.

Studying abroad is an experience that will challenge you, stimulate you, and force you to grow in ways that no average semester of Rat food, all-nighters in the math library, and frat parties can ever do. It gives you a new perspective from which to view your own culture and allows for experiences that would

otherwise be impossible here in Memphis, let alone the U.S.

Watching "La Roca" (The Rock) on WWF Smackdown dubbed in Spanish is a kind of delicious irony you have to experience for yourself to appreciate. Trust me.

What does a liberal arts education mean? It means that you are challenged to think in new and different ways. In my opinion, given the previous statement, any liberal arts education is incomplete without the study abroad experience. Furthermore, to make use of a few worn-out clichés, the "information revolution" and the "global village" in which we find ourselves make it necessary, now more than ever, to promote an awareness and appreciation of multiculturalism.

The fact of the matter is, ladies and gentlemen, that being able to think multiculturally will not only be a valuable job skill, but a valuable life skill in the new era we have entered.

It's not that hard, really. Just go see Katherine Owen Richardson over on second floor Palmer in the International Programs office. Tell her Boyd sent you. If you have an idea of where you might like to go, there's a good chance that

Rhodes will have a program there. If we don't, that shouldn't stop you. If a program there exists, there's still a good chance that you can go. All you need to do is get it approved by the school and make sure you can get credit for your classes. That's it.

The study abroad experience isn't for everyone, I will admit that. It requires an openness of mind to new customs and beliefs that is sometimes difficult to find in a culture like ours that can foster a kind of "I-know-I'm-right-and-the-hell-with-you-if-you-don't-like-it" mentality.

Not to mention the fact that it often requires a willingness to eat whatever is on your plate. To keep my host mother happy, I managed to consume a number of plates of "guatitas" (little stomach bits) and "uvre" (cow udder) throughout the year. Not to toot my own horn, but I managed a smile the whole time, too.

Try not to limit yourself to just British Studies either. I am aware that it is a wonderful program, and many of my friends have had incredible experiences while studying at Oxford; but as far as I can tell, the program is essentially "Rhodes in England," and in my opin-

ion doesn't seem to provide the kind of immersion experience I'm endorsing.

Should you choose to do British Studies, this doesn't mean you can't study abroad during the year; after all, the program only lasts for the summer. However, if you have to choose between one or the other, the immersion experience is, in my opinion, by far a more valuable and challenging experience.

Now for some words on culture shock. It does happen. And I'm not talking about the culture shock you can go through in your host country. I'm talking about the culture shock you go through once you return home to the U.S.

When I left this past semester for Chile, I managed the adjustment process to Chilean culture fairly well, without any large problems. To be honest, the hardest thing to get used to was the bus system in Santiago. First I had to learn how to tell where a bus was headed, then I had to adjust to the speed at which it went, an entirely different matter. Bus drivers in Chile live out their fantasies of Grand Prix racing on a daily basis.

The hardest adjustment for me has been the adjustment to home and "gringo" culture. After an in-depth im-

mersion experience, I suppose that is to be expected. Things which I would have thought nothing about before now perplex me. Why do we have so many different types of candy bars? Why is the international news section of nearly every paper in the U.S. limited to only a couple of pages? Who the hell is Sisqo? And what the hell is the Thong Song?

It's true. In my absence, I missed out on some things which are now forever a part of American pop culture. But I don't regret it. In fact, I almost revel in it. I don't think I'll ever get the words to the Thong Song down, but I can sing Joe Vasconcellos forwards and backwards—not to mention a few mean sambatunes as well.

I may have missed out on Rites, but I made it to the Chilean national soccer game versus Paraguay, which Chile won with a few spectacular goals that sent an entire packed stadium into roaring cheers of "Viva Chile!" and other not-so-nice Spanish phrases directed at the Paraguayans. So yeah, I missed a few things, but I don't regret it a bit.

Allow me to reiterate: if you are a first-year, sophomore, or even a junior, LEAVE.

Just remember to come back.

## ¿Necesitan hablar solamente en inglés?

SARA SLOCUM  
POLYGLOT



Popular culture has noted the "Latin Explosion" in the trends of 2000, but beyond the music, dance and style of Latin America there is also a large influx of Spanish-speaking immigrants into America.

Statistics and demographic studies intimate that in coming years Latinos will in fact no longer be minorities, and will be the majority population of America. Does this send chills up your spine? Make you feel like writing to your government to reverse this upcoming shift of power (in terms of numbers)? If this is your reaction, I hope you take the time to reflect upon the repercussions of this attitude on America.

In the past few years in California and several other border states, laws have been proposed which prohibit teaching in Spanish in public schools, and eliminate or severely restrict the ability for illegal aliens to attain health services and education, to name a few.

These laws reduce the life chances of Latino immigrants, as limited access to health care and education clearly make a relatively comfortable quality of life and social advancement nearly impossible.

Are not the current Americans shooting themselves in the foot by ensuring that the future majority population in America will have had lower education and quality of life?

Memphis is a unique city in that the majority population is African-American. Despite the unusual demographics, the power structure remains tilted primarily in favor of wealthy whites.

Despite the "white flight" to the suburbs east of Memphis, the wealth and power of Memphis remains centered out of the outlying communities of the elite.

Out of the main population of Memphis proper, there is an underrepresentation in terms of access to wealth and power. Quite possibly in the future, the same racial prejudices in our social structure will continue to hold power in its current position, despite the change in racial proportions of the population. Beyond concern over whether the rich and

powerful are going to be knocked from their pedestals, what about the status of America?

America, self-defined as the greatest nation in the world, is currently slipping in its actual comparability to other countries. Sweden and Denmark surpass us in health care, if you value everyone's ability to access it. Public education is also challenged as American students' tests scores decline. I could go on, but I hope this is enough to clarify my point that Americans are not living the ideal life.

The American dream of prosperity through hard work persists, and the unique locale of wealthy nation with underdeveloped neighbors continues to draw immigrants (I am referring to the southern border here and not Canada.).

What is to be done for immigrants today? America's composition is being changed from the traditional European base as increasing numbers of Latinos, Asian, Middle and Eastern Europeans are arriving. So Americans must ask what the most effective means to addressing this change will be.

One possible answer to this question is addressed on a local level by Latino Memphis Connection (LMC). LMC is a non-profit agency that has been estab-

lished to assist the growing Latino population in Memphis. The services provided include English as a Second Language classes throughout Memphis, translators at various health clinics, periodic information fairs on jobs, taxes, the legal system, housing and other issues, as well as other advocacy for Latinos.

English skills are seen by LMC as essential for the improvement of Latinos' lives in Memphis. English is necessary to the acquisition of higher paying, higher status employment, in addition to allowing Latinos to operate within the greater society more completely.

Simultaneously, people who are bilingual are highly desired in the job market. Businesses and service agencies are recognizing the need to offer services in other languages to reach further into the American population. LMC is going to begin a project to teach basic Spanish skills to local service agencies so that they can offer their services more completely to all Memphians.

Controversy surrounds the issue of language in America. English is our national language, and is seen as the universal language. Many Americans stubbornly refuse to learn other languages, and expect immigrants to con-

form.

Have you ever heard the sentiment "They came to America, they should learn to speak English" expressed? Are we realistic in expecting others to learn our language and not reciprocate to learn other languages ourselves?

I see the solution as necessarily containing efforts to learn on both sides, not to expect one group to conform to the other but rather for the lines dividing groups to be crossed and made less distinct. I think we have more to learn by being open to other cultures and perspectives than would supposedly be lost if our culture is not preserved.

Obviously this is a dilution of the issues to fit within the format of this column. Issues of immigration and the limitations caused by racial suppression are not confined to the issue of Latinos, or entirely the fault of those of us who are not multilingual. However, the fear of differences in others needs to be carefully examined to ensure unfair biases and opportunities are not perpetuated.

If you wish to volunteer to assist the increased life chances of immigrants to America, please contact Latino-Memphis Connection at 272-2822 or Jeremy Boyd, head of Latino and ESL Kinney Coordinator.



## Dean Search, from page 1

invite three to six finalists to campus for formal visits. All members of the Rhodes community will have the opportunity to meet the finalists at an open question-and-answer forum. After the campus visits, the search committee will make its recommendation to President Troutt.

The failure of last spring's search was in part due to beginning the process so late. "Last

year, we got started late, in late January. When the finalists visited campus, everyone—students, faculty and administrators—was asked to fill out an evaluation after meeting the finalists.

"What the committee found was that we didn't have a clear favorite. They [the finalists] all had definite strengths, but each had some relative weaknesses," said Ackerman.

But this year's search has every reason to succeed. "We're ahead of schedule now, in that most of these searches take

place in the fall. In addition, I believe the faculty and the administration have a clearer idea what we are looking for," Ackerman said.

The members of the search committee include Ackerman, Associate Professor of Religious Studies Ellen Armour, Assistant Professor of Art Victor Coonin, Dean of Information Services Bob Johnson, Associate Professor of History Jim Lanier, RSG Vice President John Ramsey ('02), Dean of Student Affairs Mel Richey and Associate Professor of Biology Chuck Stinemetz.

The search process is an expensive one, but extending the process does not increase A.T. Kearney's fee, which is one-third the dean's first year salary. The search firm receives payment based solely on completing the job, not on the time required for the search.

The sizeable investment is for the good of the college, according to President Troutt. "At the outset of this search, we talked a great deal about its scope and importance. Everyone agreed that this appointment is extremely important, that it calls for a truly national search and that we should invest

the time and resources necessary to secure a great Dean of the College to serve Rhodes students, faculty, and staff," Troutt said.

"The biggest expense of the dean's search is the enormous commitment of time and energy Rhodes people have made to this search. Hopefully, most of our investment of time is behind us and will pay off in the appointment of an extraordinary academic leader. The search has produced some real benefit in bringing context and clarity to our aspirations for Rhodes and its academic program. I believe this national search will also bring to Rhodes the very best Dean of the College," he added.

Ackerman agrees. "This is an important position," she said. "It has been elevated from the previous position of Dean of Academic Affairs at the president's discretion. It should be a pivotal position because it signals that the academic interests of the college will be at the center of all the college's decisions, and the individual occupying the position will probably be in charge when the president is away."

What the committee is searching for is a candidate that fulfills a variety of requirements. "This person needs to be very experienced in administration, a published scholar, an active teacher, a spokesperson for the faculty, and comfortable meeting with the board [of trustees]," said Ackerman.

"The success of the college over the next ten years could depend on the person selected for this position. We all have high aspirations for the college. Is it a lot of money to spend? I think it's an important investment for the college," she added.

For students interested in voicing their concerns about the Dean of the College search, RSG Vice President John Ramsey ('02) is the person to contact.

Ramsey understands the importance of this position and welcomes input from the student body. "Students have a vested interest in the selection of this new member of the Rhodes community," he said.

"I encourage all students to contact me with questions or concerns about this process and the needed attributes, from the student viewpoint, for the new dean."

## Campus Safety Log

8/28/00 to 9/3/00



- 8/28 2:45am Fire Extinguisher missing Townsend
- 8/29 2:02am Robinson - Alarm - checked okay, false alarm  
8:35am North side of Palmer - Mulch fire in flower beds - extinguished (possibly by cigarette)  
9:00pm Fraternity Row - Noise complaint from off campus - MPD on the scene - Organizations complied
- 8/30 1:55am McCoy Lot - Traffic accident - no injuries  
10:20pm Bellingrath - Illness reported, treated and released
- 8/31 NOTHING UNUSUAL TO REPORT
- 9/1 NOTHING UNUSUAL TO REPORT
- 9/2 1:15pm Fraternity Row - Injury reported - treated and released  
9:01pm Williford - Alarm - checked okay - false alarm
- 9/3 2:04am Spann Place - Larceny of property reported  
2:50am White Hall - Alarm - false  
2:25am White Hall - Fire Extinguisher vandalized - under investigation

### STATS

ACCESSES: 126  
VISITORS: 2,737  
PROPPED DOORS: 2  
ESCORTS: 27  
JUMP STARTS: 3  
CITATIONS: 96  
ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS: 1

## Mayor presides at opening convocation marking 75th anniversary of college's move to Memphis

By Maggie Goodman  
Staff Writer

Fall 2000 marks a special anniversary in the life of Rhodes: the 75th anniversary of the college's move to Memphis.

Rhodes was founded in Clarksville, Tenn. in 1848. Under the leadership of President Charles E. Diehl, the college (then known as Southwestern) moved to Memphis and officially opened on Sept. 24, 1925. At that time, Rhodes had 406 students and seven buildings.

Now 75 years later, Rhodes is regarded as one of the nation's best national liberal arts colleges and possibly its most beautiful college campus. Rhodes' 75th anniversary kicked off with one of the college's largest enrollments ever, more than 1,500 students, including more than 420 first-year students.

The entire campus community has celebrated Rhodes' 75th anniversary in Memphis with several events and activities.

With the college's long history of service to the community, it is fitting that the first official event of the 75th anniversary celebration was

the annual Kinney Fair, altered and renamed the SACK fair just this year. Despite the new name, the tradition of the years before stood. Hundreds of students filed into the "quad" to find various campus activities and community service projects that suited their taste.

Following the fair was a campus-wide picnic for students, faculty, staff and neighborhood children.

Nearly 80 percent of Rhodes students are involved in some type of community service that ranges from operating a soup kitchen to helping the poor to working with children at elementary schools. The picnic and these activities reflect the relationship that this campus shares with the fine city of Memphis.

On Friday, Aug. 25, Rhodes President William E. Troutt officially kicked off the semester and welcomed back all students and faculty at Opening Convocation at 10 a.m. in the Bryan Campus Life Center Ballroom. Memphis Mayor W.W. Herrenton spoke and proclaimed the day "Rhodes

Day in Memphis." Dr. Scott Morris, founder and director of Memphis' Church Health Center, received an honorary degree from the college.

The weekend of Aug. 25-26, the Rhodes Kinney Program and the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity began building a new house for a homeless family in Memphis.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Tennessee General Assembly.

The Rhodes student chapter of Habitat was one of the first college chapters in the United States, and in 1988 was one of the first to build a Habitat home. Since then, several hundred Rhodes students, faculty and staff have worked together to build three other homes.

The Rhodes 75th anniversary celebration will conclude with homecoming weekend, Oct. 20-22. Events will feature the planting of a "75th anniversary" tree, the unveiling of the latest portrait in the faculty portrait series, the traditional football game and a dance for both alumni and students.

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## Rushees, members notice effects of dry rush

By Mia Hood  
Staff Writer

At recent rush parties, frat boys, sorority sisters, and rushees couldn't help but notice—and often bemoan—the towering liters of Sprite, Coke, diet Coke, and Pepsi in the stead of beer. This rush was undoubtedly a dry one.

Contrary to what most people believe, the dry rush policy has been implemented by every national sorority and fraternity for the past ten years.

Director of Student Activities Joe Petri says of the new, more definitive policies: "Dry rush is not a new policy. [This year], we've stepped up a little bit in explaining what the policy means as far as why it was necessary." According to Petri, the policy in the past has been ambiguous as to when people can and cannot drink. Often, on-campus parties would be dry, but rush participants would go elsewhere for alcohol either prior to or after these parties.

But, in fact, some party attendees have sidestepped the dry rush regulations.

This year, Freshman sorority

rushee Sienna Spooner commented, "As much as dry rush is honorable in theory, rush can never truly be dry because students will just get alcohol before the parties if they wish to."

Compared to previous years, however, all participants in the rush process this year felt the policy's force dictating the social circumstances of their parties.

One sophomore fraternity brother noted, "Dry rush is giving people a false idea of what Greek parties are like. Having no alcohol at parties is just misleading, and everyone's complaining."

Indeed, walking through any given rush event this year, one certainly heard the jesting murmur and complaints buzzing about among participants. Here, clearly, the laments were abundant, and the alcohol, scarce.

All said, many participants in the rush process have only positive words for the tighter policies. Petri notes that some advantages of a dry rush are "everything from no more pressure to stay up until 5:00 am in the morning to [sororities and fraternities] saving a ton of money in their budgets."

The most observable benefit that the no-alcohol policy offers is that it allows the rushees, sororities, and fraternities to know—and remember—each other better.

And the sororities and fraternities have confronted the tighter restriction surprisingly well. Says Panhellenic Council Vice President of Rush Stephanie Oakes, "[Dry rush] has been very successful. It has taken the pressure off having to prove yourself and puts the focus more on the rushee than anyone else."

Rushees who, in previous years, may have felt the obligation to drink at parties can now, according to some, stay sober and stay on the invites list.

Says rushee John Sexton "Dry rush is a good idea because it gives both parties involved a better sense of who their rush candidates and future brothers really are. Walking around drunk will not let you get an accurate image of the fraternity you are about to dedicate your entire life to." And for that, if for nothing else, most everyone is grateful.



Photo by Sara Mason

Members of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority participate in skit party as part of this year's dry rush.

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## College Greens: A new political force on Rhodes campus

By Beth Purves  
Staff Writer

The newly formed College Green organization met on Sunday afternoon to discuss its activities for the fall semester. For the first part of the semester College Green will be working with the Green Party of Tennessee to assist the campaigns of Green Party candidates Ralph Nader for President and Tom Burrell for U.S. Senate.

College Green plans to hold a campaign kick-off meeting to familiarize students with the Green Party candidates. They would also like to have a disability education event. A large part of College Green's drive to elect Ralph Nader and Tom Burrell will be voter registration. They hope to register a

large number of Rhodes community members.

They will be holding an absentee voter party as the election nears. They are also considering holding a protest during the first Presidential Debate, scheduled for October 3. Ralph Nader will not be included in this debate. College Green would also like to have a Campus House-Party to discuss the political ideals of the Green Party.

College Green was founded this year by Josh Low ('04). Low has been involved with the Green Party in the past. When considering the choices for president, Ralph Nader seemed the best to him. Nader opposes the Death Penalty, has a productive environmental position, and advocates fair trade instead of free trade. Says

Low, "Without a real choice in the two major parties, I felt that there was a need for an alternative within Rhodes."

College Green hopes to remain active even after the presidential election. There is a superfund site near campus that the group is concerned about. Although the government has declared the area environmentally unhealthy, it has not deemed it dirty enough to clean up. Meanwhile, neighborhood children are playing near the area. College Green would like to get involved in this issue. Low also hopes that College Green will run candidates for Student Government, help with other national Green Party candidates, and do lobbying within Rhodes and without.

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## Passion: An exhibit for the senses

### Southern artist Les Christensen brings her unique work to Clough-Hanson

By Jessica Tackett  
Staff Writer

Walk into the Clough-Hanson Gallery and two large shapes stand before you. Wondering what these forms could be, you move closer to the center of the room and realize that they are gigantic wings. Yet these wings do not resemble anything you remember seeing before, with their roughly scaled appearance. You step even closer and suddenly realize these wings are made of...shoes?

Les Christensen's sculpture *Why Should I Walk If I Have Wings to Fly?* certainly makes an impression on the viewer with its construction of women's shoes in the form of giant pegasus-looking wings. Seemingly unrelated objects and symbols are set together for an effect that conjures up both pleasant and disturbing thoughts. In *Why Should I Walk If I Have Wings to Fly?* the deeply worn soles of women's pumps bring to mind middle-class working women, each individualized by the patterns of wear and tear of her shoes. The title of the piece, however, begs to free these women from their tiresome jobs by joining them together in a pair of massive wings and letting them fly away.

Christensen's artistic training took place at Arkansas State

University, the University of Iowa, and Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht in the Netherlands. Her unique artwork has been featured in galleries around the world, from the mid-South to New York City to Europe, and she has been the recipient of many awards and honors.

In addition to the impressive *oeuvre* Christensen has created for her exhibitions, she has also done the cover illustrations for several magazines and books (including Rhodes professor Ellen Armour's *Deconstruction, Feminist Theology, and the Problem of Difference*). Throughout the years, her work has proved challenging and provocative, startling and strangely beautiful.

Christensen's work seems to be a series of juxtaposed objects and subject matter that challenge the traditional role or use of the object with its newer role. It is this theme of contrast that runs predominantly throughout Christensen's work. She takes poetic images of flight, beauty, passion, and chivalry and places them with found industrial objects such as spoons, shoes, nails, staples, tacks, broken glass, and plates.

In *Shield #7*, Christensen sculpts a shiny red round shield out of fake fingernails. It is both surprising and beautiful at once,

with its oddly chosen materials. Perhaps Christensen is commenting on the duality of beauty as something glamorous and strong, yet also a cover-up acting as a shield or protection for the fragile wearer.

Another piece, similarly entitled *Shield*, holds a deeper meaning as well, contrasting the rough exterior of lead and wood to the fragile interior of the human soul.

Christensen challenges the traditional use of china plates with a sculpture entitled *Memories*. Broken pieces of white china plates conjure up familial issues: the "broken" household that has been glued back together in a haphazard, mosaic arrangement. *Memories* recalls how the mind captures bits and pieces of information, some pleasant and others not as pleasant. Christensen's use of simplified, minimalistic materials paired with complicated titles is what make her pieces come alive.

Perhaps the most evocative are Christensen's hearts. *Envy #1* and *Envy #2* are both beautiful sparkling emerald sculptures given their characteristics by broken glass. The green color obviously relates to the titles, and the symbolism of the heart composed of broken glass makes the viewer aware that these crystallized and hardened hearts, al-

though beautiful, have been hurt or have the potential to hurt someone else.

*Passion*, the exhibit's title piece, is a large red heart covered in broken bottlenecks hung on hooks that gleams from the differently colored glass.

*You Don't Love Me (Yet)* is formed from broken-off ceramic coffee cup handles, perhaps suggesting that the owner of the heart is not an easy person to grasp.

All of Christensen's work

seems to suggest that not everything is at once what it seems; it suggests that beauty can lie and that symbolism is of great importance. A stimulating experience, *Passion* forces the viewer to rethink the traditional uses of everyday objects and marvel at both the beautiful and the sinister.

*Les Christensen's Passion will be at Rhodes' Clough-Hanson Gallery from August 29 - September 28.*

## Rah-Rah-Ridiculous Bring It On lacks originality

By Meredith Harrison  
Staff Writer

*Bring It On*, a film about high school cheerleading, was enjoyable but dumb. Performances were decent, but undermined by a trite and predictable plot.

The main character, Torrance (Kirsten Dunst, from *Interview with the Vampire* and the more recent, critically-acclaimed *The Virgin Suicides*) takes over as the captain of her five-time champion cheerleading squad. When she finds out (thanks to new-girl Missy, played by Eliza Dushku) that the previous captain had stolen all of the routines from an inner-city cheerleading squad, Torrance is faced with the challenge of starting back at square one. Her team, the Toros, can no longer use these routines in competitions--and the girls from the inner-city squad are angry and challenge the Toros to try to win without the stolen cheers.

To make matters worse, Torrance's romantic life is a

mess: she is torn between her college boyfriend (a former cheerleader) and Cliff (the new guy in town, played by eye candy Jesse Bradford).

*Bring It On* seemed to be in the same genre as *American Pie* or *Varsity Blues*: just another American movie geared toward teenagers. This movie left me wondering (as did the other two), "whose high school was really like that?!" Not mine, that's for sure.

While I enjoyed this film, the dialogue seemed very unrealistic and the plot a bit lacking. Dunst and the rest of the cast seem to have had fun with the film; its mediocrity is mostly due to a contrived, predictable storyline.

But if you are looking for a mindless movie or just like to laugh at cheerleaders, then *Bring It On* is for you. All of the people I saw it with seemed to think it was hilarious, so go see for yourself. If nothing else, Jesse Bradford is a pleasure for the eyes!

## Rhodes Puzzler

#1, September 6, 2000  
5 points

In the following sum, each letter stands for a single digit, from 0 to 9, and different letters represent different digits. What digits do each of the letters represent?

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{COCA} \\ + \text{COLA} \\ \hline \text{SODA} \end{array}$$

Submit your answer (with your name!) to Kennan Shelton, Math/CS Dept., by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. You can enter by placing a Word or text document named "<your name>.doc" in the *Shelton In-Box* folder (in Faculty Folders of the Academic Volume) or by turning in a hard copy solution at 318 Ohlendorf. Each week, a winner will be randomly chosen from all correct entries to receive two free movie passes, donated by Malco Theatres. At the end of the semester, the top two scorers and a third randomly chosen entry will each receive gift certificates for dinner at a local restaurant. For a complete set of rules, see the Rhodes Puzzler homepage at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/puzzler.html>.

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## AutoZone Park continues Memphis baseball tradition

By Jordan Beswick  
Staff Writer

Baseball has always been the nation's pastime, but it has always been an activity associated with the major leagues. Unfortunately, for baseball fans in Memphis, there is no major league home team to root for. This is where the Memphis Redbirds come in.

The Redbirds, or some form of AAA ball, have existed in Memphis for years. Professional baseball first came to Memphis in 1877 with the Memphis Reds. This team, however, didn't even survive its first full season.

Local baseball continued with more successful teams. In the days of the Negro Leagues, the Red Socks found a home here. In 1915 the Memphis Chickasaws were formed. The "Chicks" brought a new cause for enthusiasm for baseball to the city; during the 1980s, game attendance set record highs. But then they moved to Jackson, TN and the city was once again left

without a team to cheer for. The Redbirds came from Louisville, KY, and completed their first season here in 1998.

In preparation for the coming of the Redbirds, the management decided to build a new multi-million dollar stadium. Construction on AutoZone Park began in February 1999; although there were many who doubted that the stadium would ever be completed, it was ready for games in April 2000.

In essence, there is not a bad seat in the house. There is an open concourse that allows every fan to have a clear view of the playing field, and lawn seats are also available. For those fans who are more interested in demonstrating their wealth than in actually watching the game, there are 48 suites available, each equipped with air conditioning and specialty foods. Another seating option is one of the two party decks. For the tailgater in all of us, the park comes equipped with three pre-game balconies.

The Redbirds are run by the Memphis Redbirds Baseball Foundation, the only organization in the country that both owns and operates a sports team and facility. This basically means that the majority of all the profits earned at games are put directly back into the foundation—it is a not-for-profit outfit. The foundation uses this money to pay for everything, including new uniforms, concessions, and support for two youth programs: RBI and STRIPES.

RBI (Returning Baseball to the Inner-City) is a summer camp for children, while STRIPES (Sports Teams Returning to the Public Education System) operates during the school year, giving middle school children the opportunity to play on sports teams. Both programs use baseball and softball as forms of outreach to the youth of Memphis.

Children and families are two groups that the Redbirds seem to focus on. The games at

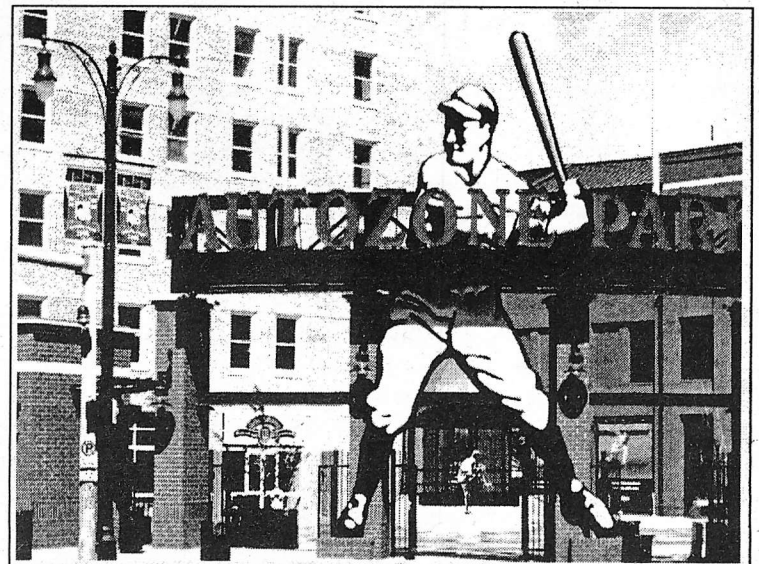


Photo by Scott Holmes

**AutoZone Park, home of the Redbirds, recently drew a crowd of approximately 17,000 baseball fans.**

AutoZone Park have been promoted as a family event, a place to take the kids and not have to worry about what they will see or hear. The promotion has succeeded wonderfully. On any given game night, there can be

found crowds of people all heading to the gates at the corner of Third and Madison in downtown Memphis.

Whoever would have thought that the minor leagues could be so popular?

## Improvements to Overton Square: a biased look

By Eve Strain  
Scene Editor

Overton Square has a snazzy new website, imaginatively called [overtonsquare.com](http://overtonsquare.com). It has fancy animated graphics, stylized photos that don't tell much about the range of businesses located in the

area, and an artistic rendition of the eventual look of the place, but on the whole it is not very informative. Most likely it is still under construction, just as Overton Square is undergoing expansion itself. In the last several months, the Malco Studio on the Square movie theater and Bosco's Squared have

both opened, adding two more reasons why Overton Square is a favored destination for people looking for food and entertainment.

Popular eating establishments such as T.G.I. Friday's, the Memphis Pizza Café, Paulette's, and Golden India are joined by

Bosco's Squared. This venture is another of the Bosco's Beer chain of restaurants—one is located in Germantown, and another is in Nashville. Bosco's Squared has a nice environment for casual drinking and relaxed conversation; it seems so far to be inhabited by middle-aged tourists whose red sport coupes fill the somewhat small parking lot. Luckily the adjoining parking lots of the Studio on the Square and other businesses can more than accommodate the student patron's SUV. The lunch prices range between seven and ten dollars, depending on whether you want a sandwich or the pasta of the day; the dinner entrees are above the \$10 range. The drinks menu is somewhat larger than the food menu, but the meals are varied—and rather tasty.

Another new kid on the block, the Studio on the Square, has been open since May of 2000. It attracts cinema buffs who don't choose to drive to the Wolfchase theater every weekend by presenting independent, crossover, classic, and local film fare. Movies to be shown there up until Friday include "Blood Simple," "Cecil B. Demented," "The Cell," "Love's Labour's Lost," and "Saving Grace". The movies change every few weeks;

the lineup for the weekend includes a locally-made film. The theater features a wine and cappuccino bar, imported beer, an outdoor patio, and a varied menu as far as refreshment menus go. Stadium seating and five screens are among its other charms. Tickets can be purchased by calling 725-7151.

While the Bosco's and the new theater are at least linked up on the website, a boutique that adds a dash of spice to the tourist-friendly area is woefully neglected. Moondance is a small shop that sells the usual kind of harmless non-mainstream items that you'd find in other stores similarly permeated with the smell of incense—hand-made pieces of jewelry, slogan-sporting T-shirts, velvety sunglasses, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century kitsch fashioned as refrigerator magnets, and braided candles. It is located behind the Madison Street block of Overton Square businesses; you can recognize it by the handbills for various events taped to the glass walls and doors.

Overton Square itself is located on the corner of Madison and Cooper. (That information isn't even available on the website.)



Photo by Scott Holmes

**Bosco's Squared restaurant, located on Madison, is one of the new businesses opening up on Overton Square.**



## Defense propels Lynx football to victory

By Stu Johnston  
Staff Writer

Buoyed by four interceptions from an aggressive defense, Rhodes won its first football game 17-12 over the DePauw Tigers at home last Saturday September, 2. C.W. Sheehan ('01) led the way with two crucial fourth quarter picks, and Corliss Givens ('01) and Sylvester Chisom ('01) also ended DePauw drives with interceptions.

After trading punts with Rhodes, DePauw opened the scoring with a thirty-nine yard drive and subsequent thirty-one yard field goal. The Tigers appeared to have seized the early momentum after another Rhodes punt, but on the third play of the DePauw drive, Corliss Givens intercepted a pass and returned it thirty-three yards for a touchdown. That put the Lynx up 7-3.

DePauw closed out the first quarter scoring by marching 87 yards in just ten plays for their second score and a 10-7 lead, but Rhodes

answered six minutes into the second quarter with a 3-yard scoring plunge from Kevin Gennusa ('03). The half ended with several stalled drives for both teams and Rhodes led 14-10.

Givens' interception foreshadowed a second half dominated by both defenses. Rhodes was the only team to mount a successful scoring drive, marching 34 yards in seven plays for an Andy English field goal. The game was in doubt, however, until the final minute of play.

After surrendering a safety with 9:15 to play, the Lynx lead was cut to 17-12. Sheehan made his first interception two plays after the ensuing kickoff, negating any momentum DePauw might have seized from their defensive score.

The second one proved to be the clincher. DePauw was threatening to score, having moved the ball into Rhodes territory, but the Lynx defense held firm, forcing a fourth down situation for DePauw at the Lynx 30-yard-line. The Tigers decided to try a little trickery—a throwback pass from the

halfback to the quarterback. They didn't account for outside linebacker Sheehan, who read the play perfectly and sealed the deal for Rhodes with his second interception.

"The defense made big plays all night that the offense was able to feed off of," said Givens. Defensive ends Ryan Parry ('02) and Coby Cagle ('03), along with the other defensive linemen, kept pressure on the quarterback all night. Although they weren't able to register any sacks, their constant pressure contributed to the big plays made in the secondary.

"We took advantage of their mistakes," said Cagle. "There were a couple of times that we were in scary situations and one of our players made a big play that got our offense back on the field. We now need to sharpen up our technique and consistently make big plays so we are not put in those scary situations."

The offensive leaders for the Lynx included Gary Rockne ('04), who showed impressive scrambling ability, when he was able to get away from a ferocious Tiger pass rush. He gained 71 yards on 11 carries, but lost 38 as a result of five sacks. Hays Mathis ('02) provided speed and excitement by completing a reverse pass for 45 yards to Parker Richardson ('04) and taking another reverse 17 yards on the ground.

Next week, Rhodes takes on Maryville College. Maryville returns twelve starters, six on offense and six on defense, from an impressive 7-3 season last fall. Maryville is not affiliated with a conference, but they play Rhodes, Millsaps, and Centre, all members of the SCAC.

## Women's soccer in tourney

By Heather Best  
Staff Writer

The Rhodes women's soccer team opened its season this Labor Day weekend with a tournament here on their home field. They faced off against Wilmington on Saturday and Ohio Northern on Sunday. With so much returning talent (they graduated no seniors last spring), the team felt very enthusiastic about the upcoming season.

But the Lynx struggled on Saturday with the heat and their level of concentration. They suffered a devastating defeat, 8-0. It was a frustrating loss for all the girls, who have all seen the capabilities of this new team that simply didn't come together on Saturday.

However, this disappointing outcome against Wilmington provoked Rhodes to come out fighting against Ohio Northern on Sunday. The Lynx controlled the ball and the pace of play for much of the game. Frustrating the

Ohio Northern Polar Bears, they went into halftime down by only one goal, 2-1 thanks to a beautiful goal by Lilli Bewley ('03) off of a free kick. It remained a one goal game after Rhodes countered ON's third goal as Erin Henderlight ('01) connected with Elaine Odle ('04) on a cross. Rhodes' intensity lapsed briefly though, and Ohio Northern capitalized, leaving the home team's spirits shaken. The final score was a disappointing 7-2.

Still, Coach Whiteley maintains a hopeful outlook for the season. "Honestly, it was a rough weekend for us. We played so well on Sunday, and the score certainly did not reflect the way the game was played," she says. "But as a team we're much further along right now than we were at this time last year, so that's encouraging." The team will use this week to regroup, work out some of the causes for lapses, and prepare to take it to Harding and Christian Brothers next weekend.

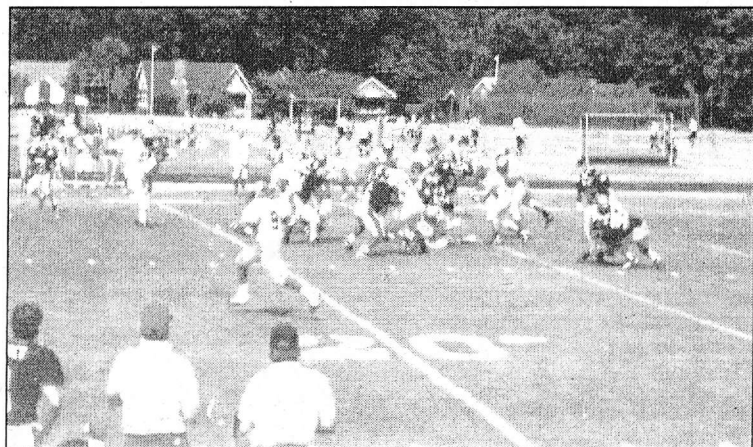


Photo by Jordan Badgett

Lynx defense leads win in home opener against DePauw, 17-12!

## Cross country places second in Plough Park

By Kosta Dalageorgas  
Staff Writer

The men and women's Rhodes cross country teams kicked off their season at Shelby Farms in the Plough Park Invitational on Friday, September 7. The weather conditions presented a formidable challenge to the runners. Competition included teams from the Division I level who provided a good test for the Lynx squads.

The Lynx did very well in the men's race and finished second out of the nine teams at the invitational. They maintained a tight pack of runners and placed their top seven finishers among the top twenty-five overall runners of the race. Brian McCarthy ('03) ran an outstanding race to finish fourth overall with a time of 21:56 for the four mile distance. Kosta Dalageorgas ('01), John Knight ('02), and Joel Harris ('03) fol-

lowed behind McCarthy for Rhodes. Virren Malhotra ('01), Patrick LaRochelle ('02), and Mark "Pinto-Bean" Loeffler ('02) placed for the Lynx by rounding out the top seven runners. The men ran a strong first race of the season and beat good Division I competition including the University of Mississippi.

The Lynx women did an excellent job in their race and also finished second. Lydia Gibson ('02) started her season on a powerful note and led the women's team. Gibson finished second overall at the meet, with a time of 11:57 for the two mile distance. Amy Paine ('03), last year's 800-meter and pole vault specialist, ran strong in the front pack. Marie Brandweide ('04), Lori Steger ('03), and Betsy Bogler ('03) ran solid races in the middle of the Lynx pack. Leah

Coffman ('04) and Emily Barko ('03) make up the rest of the top seven Rhodes' runners. The women finished runners-up to Division I Southeast Missouri.

Of the race Brian McCarthy commented, "I thought that the meet was a great opener for the team. We ran in just about the toughest conditions possible, and the entire team proved that they could handle all of nature's obstacles. The meet showed that we are going to have an excellent year."

Captain Virren Malhotra added, "We all have plenty of tuning up to do, but it was definitely good to see our runners perform well. I'm hoping to see some good fan support at our home meet on October 7. Come November, both the men and women's teams will be primed to defend our conference titles."

## Volleyball starts on the road

By Lauren Ferrera  
Staff Writer

To start off the season with a "bang," the Rhodes women's volleyball team traveled to Earlham College in Earlham, Indiana, Coach Samantha Wolinski's alma mater to play in the Coca-Cola Quaker Classic. Accompanying the volleyball team was the Rhodes women's field hockey team who had a tournament there as well. The journey was a bit longer than expected—around nine hours, give or take...mostly take—but the challenge was still ahead of them.

The Coca-Cola Quaker tournament began on Friday, September 1, and ended on Saturday, September 2. Eight teams participated in the tournament: Albion, Capitol, Defiance, Earlham, Hanover, Heidelberg, Rhodes (woo hoo!), and Guilford. The Rhodes volleyball team played their first match on Friday afternoon against Albion. They battled it out through four very strong games of the match: Albion defeated Rhodes in the first and second game 9-15, 10-15, but lost to Rhodes in the third 15-9, which prompted the fourth game. However, Albion defeated Rhodes in the fourth by a score of 11-15, thus winning the match.

Immediately following the Rhodes-Albion match, the Lynx battled Capitol. Although Rhodes did not leave with a win for the day, they were still pumped up for yet

another best-three-out-of-five. This match ended in an intense three games with scores of 12-15, 14-16, and 9-15. Needless to say, the Rhodes Lynx gave them a run for their money.

On the last day of the tournament, Rhodes took on Franklin. The Lynx won the first game 15-8, but fell to Franklin in the next three games with scores of 6-15, 6-15, and 8-15. After three strong matches, Rhodes was not about to give up and leave without a win. The final game on Saturday was against Guilford, and the team knew it was time to give it their all. They did just that: the Lynx shut down Guilford in three very strong and fast games, scoring 15-13, 15-5, and 15-8.

After a long, intense tournament, Coach Wolinski felt confident about the team's performance. She said, "Overall, I was very happy with the way we played, and we definitely had the stronger pool. But, we do have room for improvement." And when asked about her feelings for the upcoming season, she commented, "I think right now, we are at a much higher level than last year, and we will only get better as a team."

This upcoming weekend, the Lynx will play in the Millsaps Tournament, September 8-9. The Lynx look to use this tournament to gain momentum for the season.





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## Anyone want to make out in Fisher Gardens?

BOB ARNOLD  
Sheer Desperation



Certain myths surround the Rhodes College campus. Ever since I was a freshman I have heard curious stories about our school, many of them widely believed despite a notable lack of supporting evidence. Some claim, for instance, that Campus Safety has a video camera constantly monitoring the Lynx statue. Others swear that the McCoy is haunted by an angry rushee who took her own life on Bid Day. And somewhere, I am told, there are a handful of Biology majors who actually enjoy their Biology classes.

These stories are not only part of our college's lore — they serve as a kind of thread that binds us, through shared oral tradition, into a community.

Here's another: I have heard, and repeatedly, that Fisher Gardens is notorious as a make-out spot.

Now, I've strolled around campus once or twice in my college career. And every time I end up in Fisher Gardens, it's totally — and I mean *totally* — devoid of any intimate couples. (Unless, of course, you count that statue of the boy and the stork, which I don't. I *think* that what's going on there is completely platonic; still, they're together in the Gardens so often that I'm starting to get suspicious.)

As a big proponent of collegiate tradition, this upsets me. And the longer I sit concealed in the bushes with my night vision goggles, the more upset I become.

How can a college as universally lauded as Rhodes continue to be respected if it has no designated places for its students to go and get some? How can we draw in a diverse student body and energetic professors if all the action on campus is taking place behind closed dorm room doors? Imagine how much spicier an ARO Tour would be if guides could say of the Gardens: "Here's where you'll finally find out what third base is like."

The good news, friends, is that something can be done.

I propose to restore Fisher Gardens to its former glory. I want to recapture the essence of what it should be — and of what it once was, years ago, in my tiny and awestruck freshman mind. But I'm going to need some help.

What I am asking is that someone — or several someones — work with me to substantiate the Makeout

for me to catch my breath — but other than that, my fellow soldiers, we must fight on, untiring, and return this sacred Rhodes myth into a frequent and intrusive tradition.

Honestly, who do we think we're fooling? It's a scientifically proven fact that a large number of people truly enjoy making out with another person. And many, many couples frequently engage in such activity. Your friends, your neighbors, most likely

to hide such actions? Why do we lock our doors, crawl up under our sheets? How can we openly brag to our envious and less fortunate friends about actions that we are actually *afraid* to perform in public?

I guess what I'm advocating is free love. It's one of my favorite things in the world, right up alongside good music and mud wrestling. If the world were just, which it isn't, there would be a days-long outdoor gathering built around these three ideals. Until that happens, my current plan will have to do.

A signup sheet will soon be available in the *Rhode'ster* office. Hourly shifts will be offered to those that pass a (purely superficial) visual screening; feel free to sign up for as many shifts as you like. And bring some Chapstick. I prefer cherry.

I truly hate that it's come to this. But the dignity of our campus must be upheld, and if this is the only way to do it then it must be done. I, for one, am willing to make the sacrifice.

Don't do me for me. Do me for your school.

***How can a college as universally lauded as Rhodes continue to be respected if it has no designated places for its students to go and get some?***

Myth that surrounds the Gardens. All it would take is some serious and easily observable nookie at the right times. Of course, no one can really say exactly when the "right times" are, so it would be better to have something going on almost constantly. Obviously there would be periodic breaks for meals and naps and

even members of your family — they all enjoy getting some phat play. True, many who get it don't really *deserve* it (you know who you are); still, the fact remains that all can enjoy it. Making out is one of the few activities that the human race can agree on. That and war.

Why, then, do we feel the need

## Please don't mistake me for Jesus

MATT REED  
Second Coming



As I got older, it became more of a power trip, but it was still tiring. After gym class, all the other guys would expect the shower stream to part around me, even though I tried — Jesus Christ (not me), I tried — to convince them that that wasn't even Jesus. It was Moses who parted water like that.

And it didn't end there with the water bit. In high school I was asked constantly to make the water fountains shoot Chardonnay instead. By

running, yelling some choice words that would have gotten him into serious trouble with Jesus anyway.

A public announcement like this will probably end that security, I know. But I just can't take it anymore. If I have to lay hands on one more old person, I'm going to scream. I mean, where do people get this idea? Don't churches teach that whole Ascension into Heaven bit anymore?

Now, there may be some Doubt-

very subtle differences, but work with me here...

Jesus: Son of God.  
Matt: Son of Martha.

Jesus: Movies have been made about him.

Matt: Case studies have been made about him.

Jesus: Hung out with liars, thieves, and prostitutes.

Matt: Member of Contents Under Pressure. (I said some of these were subtle.)

Jesus: "I came not to change the Law, but to fulfill it."

Matt: "Hi, I'm an R.A."

Jesus: Turns the other cheek.

Matt: Moons people.

Jesus: "Blessed are the poor..."

Matt: Rhodes student.

Jesus: Lived among people of many different ethnic backgrounds.

Matt: Rhodes student.

Jesus: Rose from the dead.

Matt: Won't wake up before noon.

Jesus: "What Would Jesus Do?"

Matt: "What Won't Matt Do?"

Jesus: Asked that God's cup be taken from him.

Matt: "Pass the beer."

Jesus: Became upset with vendors in a temple.

Matt: Became upset when Taco Bell gave him a Gordita instead of a Chalupa.

Jesus: Wore a crown of thorns.

Matt: Wears a backwards cap on bad hair days.

Jesus: Was crucified, died, and was buried.

Matt: Once had a near-death experience after choking on a Pop-Tart.

Jesus: His duty to God prevented him from having sex.

Matt: His physical appearance prevents him from having sex.

Moreover, there are obvious differences involving our haircuts, our tastes in music, and our opinions on the boxers vs. briefs issue.

I hope this clears up any remaining confusion. Thank you all for your time.

***To be perfectly honest, I have no idea how this whole thing got started. Ever since I was eight or nine years old, people have been mistaking me for the Son of Man.***

the teachers, even!

I will admit, bearing a strong resemblance to Our Lord and Savior has had some advantages. The one time I got mugged, the guy stuck a gun to my back and demanded my money. I just turned around to face him, looked skyward and said, "Father, forgive him, for he knows not what he does," and the guy took off

ing Thomases out there that won't believe me. I can hear them now, saying, "Oh, Jesus, stop playing around. We know you faked your ascension to get out of the spotlight, just like Princess Di faked her own death."

Well, to prove my case, I have compiled a list of differences between myself and the Prince of Peace. I realize that some of these are

All right. This has to stop. Everything has gotten way out of hand, and I have something to announce.

I am not Jesus.

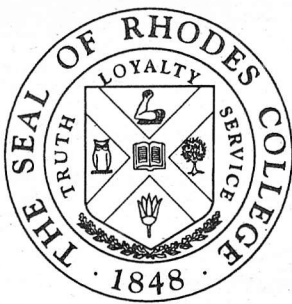
I know this will come a great shock to many, and I hope you can understand how sorry I am to disappoint such a large number of people, but I'm just getting sick of this. I'd like to be able to go out to eat or walk around the mall without having people run up to me and ask for advice on major decisions or miracle healings for their stupid little kids.

To be perfectly honest, I have no idea how this whole thing got started. Ever since I was eight or nine years old, people have been mistaking me for the Son of Man. Let me tell you, when you walk into your fourth grade classroom for the first time and the entire class drops to its knees in reverence (except for that atheist Billy, the little heathen bastard), it can be kind of embarrassing.









# THE RHODE'STER

The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

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

Page 12

## Rhodes to incoming freshmen: "Go away!"

By Bob Arnold  
Rhode'ster Welcome Mat

Freshman Orientation at Rhodes went in a bold new direction this year, with the typical social mixers and getting-to-know-you games dropped in favor of a much less welcoming atmosphere.

"This year's Orientation theme is 'No One Here Likes You,'" explained Marie Lindquist, Director of Student Orientation. "I thought it would be fun to go against the trend of a friendly, reassuring Orientation."

Several drastic changes occurred as a result of this decision. Move-In found the Peer Assistants dressed not in their usual "Ask Me!" shirts but in tube tops reading "Ask That Other Guy!" or "Ask That Chick Over There!" Failing to pick up on the scheme, several freshmen ran in circles for hours and were later hospitalized for heat exhaustion.

The intense heat during Move-In was courtesy of the Lord God, who also got in on the fun. "I raised the temperature on the campus about 150 degrees," explained the Heavenly King. "It was a subtle hint to the freshmen that life at Rhodes

will be, for them, much like life in Hell."

"I don't usually get involved in things like this," added The Almighty God and Father, "but I owed Loyd Templeton a favor."

In another shocking twist, the Orientation staple Mud Games were replaced by the Too Good For You Games, in which rowdy administrators partied hearty while lonely freshmen watched from behind a barbed wire fence.

"We just wanted to make them realize that there are some places you're just not cool enough to be," commented Lindquist, who called the Games a great success. "We really saved the Greek system a lot of trouble."

Also included in the days-long program were gladiatorial death matches in the amphitheater and the "You Sure Are Ugly" Hour.

But, according to many, the last straw came at the Parents' Goodbye in Fisher Gardens.

"They ran it like a funeral," reported one anonymous but sufficiently terrified freshman. "They had little gravestones for each of us, and we had to watch our parents put

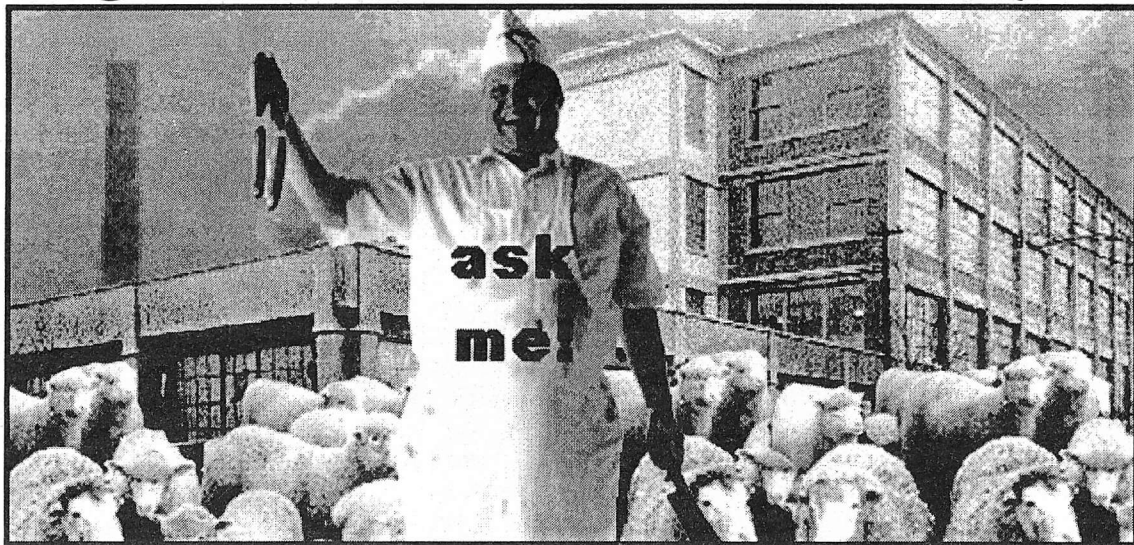


Photo by Upton Sinclair

An unidentified Peer Assistant helps a group of Freshmen into their new dorm during Move-In.

flowers on them and cry."

According to *Rhode'ster* analysts, 76% of the freshman class left after the first two hours of Anti-Orientation. Another 15% departed after witnessing one round of "Walk the Plank" during Cruise-In. The remaining 11% were rounded up and drowned in the Alburty Pool.

When asked how the rejection of an entire class affected the housing situation and campus life in general,

Director of Residence Life Carol Casey simply cackled and blew cigar smoke in this reporter's face.

The total success of Freshman Anti-Orientation begs the question: are similar programs planned for upperclassmen?

"We feel we can be more direct with the returning students," commented Dean of Student Affairs Mel Richey. "They show up, we say 'Go home,' and they're out of here

in three minutes."

With no students on campus for the 2000-2001 school year, the administration will soon shut down, and Palmer will be converted into a gigantic bathhouse/discotheque for the faculty. Needless to say, all classes will be cancelled, except for Professor Ekstrom's Geology 111 class, which still meets at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a three-hour lab on Tuesday afternoons.

## Texas first-years instructed not to bring relatives' bodies to Rhodes

### Visitation by demonic spirit prompts policy reminder

By Kalman Benscath  
Rhode'ster Pea Soup Expert

Events exploded this past weekend when the site of East Village, the new dorm behind Trezevant and Voorhies, was flooded with "a strange and unholy light," according to Director of Residence Life Carol Casey. Shortly after the ethereal display, a loud popping sound was heard across campus, accompanied by the screams of those unwitting first-years who were unfortunate enough to be sucked into another realm.

College Chaplain Billy Newton, as a representative of the Presbyterian faith, refused to affirm whether or not this other realm was, in fact, Purgatory, and said only that it was "Purgatory-like."

The incident began when Head R.A. Susan Hughes received a phone call from a Voorhies resident for what seemed like a routine check.

At approximately 9 p.m. Satur-

day, Kelley Thompson of Voorhies heard some "moaning and scratching coming from the Voorhies chapel."

Hughes responded to the complaint by flinging open the chapel door and yelling "R.A.! I'm coming in!" Several eyewitnesses report that Hughes then entered the chapel and the door slammed shut behind her.

Hughes didn't encounter what she expected. "I thought there might be some couple in there making out," she commented later, "or maybe two dog-creatures awaiting the arrival of an evil otherworldly goddess. But nothing like this."

Eyewitnesses report that Hughes' startled cries could be heard coming from within as she attempted to vanquish the unholy element found there. Baffled listeners reported hearing "By the power of the Church of Christ, leave this chapel!" after which another, much deeper voice was

heard "chuckling for at least five minutes," Thompson claims.

The strange demonic voice finally calmed enough to respond, says Hughes, by commenting that it would "continue to laugh until you get some real power in here." Unfortunately, no representative of demonstrative power could be found, as all the Catholics on campus were out drinking that night.

Word of the strange events soon spread throughout the Rhodes community, and by 9:08 p.m. a large crowd had gathered by the Voorhies chapel. The crowd milled about excitedly outside the door, and cries of "What's going on? Is someone making out in there?" could be heard every few minutes.

Hughes denies allegations that she became "more than friendly" with the diabolical being, but what exactly went on behind the closed chapel doors is still a subject of great speculation on campus.

After a great deal of banging around, Hughes triumphantly emerged from the chapel, having given up on God and resorted to a simple, old-fashioned butt-kicking. With a grin, Hughes declared, "This chapel is clean."

However, further complications arose shortly thereafter, when the houses on sorority row were noisily devoured by a gaping pit in the earth originating at the construction site behind Voorhies and Trezevant. Campus Safety officers arriving on the scene found the grisly, ripe remains of more than ten dozen men, all dressed in prison uniforms, half-buried in the construction area.

"Wow. This is big," Officer Sasson exclaimed, just as the ground rumbled once again and the crowd began to scatter. Stragglers were caught by strong winds — or perhaps an invisible hand — and hurled into a bluish vortex that appeared above the construction site and

eventually engulfed the entire area, leaving only a crater in the earth.

Sources can only speculate why the otherworldly power specifically targeted the campus sorority houses. "I bet it fell through rush at some point," commented an anonymous representative from the Panhellenic Council. "It seems to have a few problems socializing."

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Charlie Landreth was notified of the situation and sent a voicemail reminding all first-years from Texas that it was against college policy for them to bring any state-executed relatives, whether justly or unjustly executed, and bury them on campus.

"Wait until George W. takes over," one disgusted Texan was heard to growl.

Later this week, Newton will be conducting a memorial service for those who perished in the mishap. Sadly, East Village's date of completion has been set back two weeks.