

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. LXXXVIII, No. 13

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

## Campus News...

All Stories Courtesy of U-Wire

Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, FL) recently chose for their president former Rhodes administrator Admiral David Harlow. Harlow served in several positions at Rhodes College, including Chancellor and Executive Vice-President. One of the original founders of the Memphis Literary Foundation and its first president, Harlow was also active in the Memphis chapter of the United Way. Harlow was interim president of the university from June 2000 until recently, when he became its 8<sup>th</sup> president.

Students of Princeton University (Philadelphia, PA) will no longer be obligated to take out loans to pay for their education. The university has agreed to replace all loans with grants and scholarships. This program is estimated to effect a quarter of the school's currently enrolled students. Princeton plans to dedicate \$16 million more to this year's scholarships and grants than last year, a feat made possible by a rapid growth in their endowment, which reached over \$8 billion this year. President of the University Judith Rodin hailed it as "another step towards diversifying [their] student population."

Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK) students are mourning the loss of their classmates after the January 27<sup>th</sup> plane crash that claimed the lives of two basketball players and six program personnel. Their chartered plane crashed in a snowstorm just outside of Denver in the early evening. No flight-data recorders have been found, and no distress calls were sent before the crash. OSU sports information director Steve Buzzard said Saturday said that the team will finish the season. OSU Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the players, trainers, and coaches."

## Rhodes to celebrate women End the Violence Week promotes awareness

By Mia Hood  
Staff Writer

The V-Day 2001 College Initiative has spread to the Rhodes campus. During the week of February 12-16, there will be several events to advance this initiative, whose causes include raising awareness about violence towards women, providing opportunities for education about women's health issues, and celebrating women in general.

According to its official mission statement, V-day is "a decision, an energy, a spirit, a day...for which annual theatrical and artistic events are produced in local, national, and international venues to raise money and to transform consciousness."

Since its genesis in 1998, V-Day has been centered around Eve Ensler's Obie Award winning play *The Vagina Monologues*, which is comprised of many interviews of women about their bodies. The play ranges widely in content: female genital mutilation, rape, incest, and menstrual cycles are among the topics with which it deals. Colleges and cities worldwide put on productions of the play.

## RCF, BSA join forces to promote Black History Month

By Katherine Whitfield  
Rhodes Christian Fellowship

February is Black History Month, the month in which individuals pay special notice to the richness, diversity, and progress of African-American achievement.

For Black History Month 2001, two student organizations on campus, the Black Student Association (BSA) and Rhodes Christian Fellowship (RCF), have decided to combine their efforts and co-sponsor the promotion and organization of awareness events. It is the hope of these two organizations that their collaborative efforts on this project will serve to demonstrate the love and respect that humans should afford one another by viewing individuals as equals and also as seen through the eyes of Christ.

Said Carson Weitnauer, president of RCF, "Rhodes Christian Fellowship

Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Calista Flockhart, Queen Latifah, and Jane Fonda will perform in New York's version in Madison Square Garden.

Here in Memphis, local women will perform the play on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The movement came to Rhodes through Jennifer Marshall ('03) and Kinney Coordinator Jessica Anschutz. Marshall had been working at Planned Parenthood when she found out about the V-Day initiative. Says Anschutz, "While working at planned parenthood, [Jennifer Marshall] approached me about bringing *The Vagina Monologues* to Rhodes. Then she approached the Bonner class of 2003, who have adopted V-Day as their class project for the semester."

Additionally, Marshall publicized her plans for Rhodes through the student bulletin board and e-mail. Since then, Marshall and Anschutz have been working to form a cast of readers out of Rhodes women.

Auditions on January 21<sup>st</sup> supplied the eighteen readers necessary

for a complete cast. The events at Rhodes will run through the week of February 12-16. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Beryl White from the Memphis Sexual Assault Center will be speaking about date rape at 7:00 p.m. in Rhea Lounge. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Rhodes students and faculty will have a rehearsed

reading of *The Vagina Monologues* at 7:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium. At 7:30 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Memphis Planned Parenthood will hold a discussion and lecture on women's health in the Rhea Lounge. Finally, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be another reading of *The Vagina Monologues* at 7:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium.

with a resignation of power, and power with a denial of love. It was this misinterpretation that caused the philosopher Nietzsche, who was a philosopher of the will to power, to reject the Christian concept of love... what is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and that love without power is sentimental and anemic...power at its best is love."

In keeping with the teachings of Dr. King, it is the hope that the co-sponsorship of Black History Month by BSA and RCF will reinforce the ideals upheld by this country's pledge, that we are indeed one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

See page 6 for a complete list of activities; any additional information will be posted around campus along with updates and reminders.



Photo by Miriam Dolin

Hannah Miller ('01) inbound the ball in Friday's game against DePauw. The Lady Lynx upset #1-ranked DePauw 72-68.

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MIA HOOD



## Memphis Scholars PRO & CON



RICKY SADOWSKI



The voices are still reverberating: the Memphis Scholars Program controversy lives on. And, after reading hundreds of bulletin board posts, attending the meeting on the topic, trying to interview, e-mail, or talk with every student with an opinion, the only voice still in question was my own. Immediately, I thought: yes, the scholarship is rewarding applicants who are not competitive; yes, the scholarship is unfairly denying money to more worthy students in financial need; yes, the scholarship, ironically, is seeking diversity in only one geographic region.

I was wrong. Or, at least, my reasoning was not sound. So many students—the white ones, the wealthy ones, mostly—have come forth to protest this program on grounds of unfairness. Comfortably, they exact these grounds while ignoring that financial disparity which has entitled them to their cozy upbringing. Life is not fair. And it is ever disheartening to witness those with the long end of life's stick protesting their supposed affliction due to diversity-based scholarships.

Ostensibly, the program's objective is to integrate Rhodes more into the Memphis community. But the Diversity Task Force's role in the scholarship was no secret. The penumbras of that explicit objective suggest that, because most of Memphis City Schools students are minorities, the program will further diversify the Rhodes campus. These dual objectives are not, as many have suggested, contradictory and hypocritical. True, Rhodes should and does seek geographic diversity, but to seek geographic diversity *and* racial diversity simultaneously doubles the admissions board's obstacle. Two problems are certain: Rhodes does not consistently attract students from other regions, and it does not attract minorities. So, with this effort, Rhodes can effectively improve one of these problems—the problem, I would argue, far more relevant to the liberal arts experience.

The more prevalent, qualifying argument against the scholarship is that its requirements are too low: 1100 on the SAT, 23 on the ACT, and a 2.5 GPA to maintain the scholarship once at Rhodes. Typical applicants with those standardized test scores would not be considered competitive. But these minimum requirements—that are, in fact, somewhat provisional—do not dictate the actual quality of this scholarship's applicants. The scores, I think, are necessarily low to account for Memphis City Schools' relatively poor preparation of its students. But these are numbers. They cannot possibly stand for the quality of the *individual* students that will apply for and win this scholarship. The numbers, in fact, do account for that very individuality of each candidate. Not many of us would want the numbers that are test scores and GPAs to construct the whole of our intellect, so it is absurd for us to label this group of students as simply a group who will lower Rhodes' standards.

But none of these arguments truly surmount the gut reaction that protestors of the scholarship feel. Ultimately, it reduces to this sentiment: I am more qualified than these students, and I did not get a full ride. They feel, fundamentally, that the scholarship is discriminatory. But the very process of admitting students is discriminatory: a college discriminates between those who are smart and those who are average, those who are active and those who are lazy, those who have high scores and those who have low ones. If a private college deems its most desired applicant as one who has high grades, high test scores, and an active extracurricular life, then the college seems to have noble goals. But if it deems their most desired student as one who has drive and determination and an eagerness to learn *and* who is from Memphis *and* who is most likely a minority, Rhodes suddenly is lowering its standards. The truth is that the highest and most noble goal of any liberal arts college is, as Naomi Long stated, "to be a microcosm of the real world."

Yes, this is unfair to non-Memphis students with drive and determination, but a college education—no less a *free* college education—is a privilege. With myriad educational options for all types of students, Rhodes has the opportunity—and, indeed, the obligation—to be selective among them based upon whatever criteria they prioritize. It is just as unfair to non-Memphians, in this case, as it is to those who are not smart enough, not driven enough, and generally not capable enough to be accepted at any college.

In fact, there is no other quality that better represents the real world than unfairness, and in this way Rhodes can best serve its students as a microcosm. In educational, professional, and personal realms, humans are constantly in a process of being examined, judged, and allocated to their appropriate slots by such avoidable and unavoidable qualities as skin color, wealth, intelligence, drive, attractiveness, courtesy, and vigor. This is what it is to be an operative human. Nothing about it is fair, but everything about it is necessary.

The new Memphis Scholars Program is not in the best interests of the school. The most striking problem is the low requirements for receiving and maintaining the scholarship. The intentions of the scholarship are also not addressed in a straightforward manner that would allow it to be more effective and less problematic. Finally, the scholarship intentions do not seem to be in line with what a learning institution should be focusing on.

The prerequisites for the scholarship are a 23 ACT or an 1100 SAT, both of which are well below our median 50% of students. The maintained GPA of 2.5 is also well below our average GPA, which is slightly over a 3.0. These requirements are an insult to all of the highly competitive Bellingrath and Hyde scholarship recipients that maintain above a 3.5. They are even more insulting to people who have much more competitive grades and scores and will never receive a dime from the school. When I applied to schools, just a few years ago, most were in the business of giving scholarships to students well above their average as a way to entice students to choose their institution over others. It would seem that our school is probably also using its funds to attract the students that it deems most desirable. Again, when I applied to schools, Rhodes convinced me to come here through its apparent desire to be a top-notch institution, perhaps even in the top tier that we have heard so much about the past year.

Apparently things have changed in the past two years and now we are making a compromise between our academic values and our desire to increase ties with Memphis and increase diversity. Although this scholarship idea was initiated by the Diversity Task Force, with the goal of increasing the amount of African-Americans, the scholarship apparently took on another goal as it went through the administration. Now it is also attempting to increase ties with the city. Actually, if you read what the school has on the website about the scholarship, it really only talks about the idea of increasing ties with the city. The scholarship really just gives preference to Memphis City School students without addressing its original goal. From my earlier assumptions about what scholarships are usually intended to do, it would seem that for some reason our college decided that they really like Memphians and need more of them. This does seem odd since, as a Memphian, I know there are a disproportionate number of us. It's even odder when you think that most schools, including Rhodes, from what I remember from Freshman orientation, are proud of their ability to draw students from other places.

In reality, it seems that the original intent of the scholarship, to increase the number of African-American students, is still present. It's just a little harder to find and a little watered-down since now the scholarship intended for African-Americans applies to everyone else. I don't have a problem with that since I detest racial discrimination, as I hope most people would in 2001, but I do feel it is a problem. It puts unnecessary restrictions on the scholarship, with the hopes of killing two birds with one stone.

I think in order to achieve the original goals and increase the standards, two scholarship programs would have to be made. Obviously a scholarship designed to increase ties with Memphis by allowing anyone in Memphis to apply would have a selection pool at least twice as large. By simple probability, a larger selection pool will yield a larger number of high-quality applicants. Also, another scholarship designed to increase the number of African-Americans could achieve the other goal by accepting African-American applicants from the entire country. Again, a larger selection pool means a larger amount of high-quality applicants. It would appear that by having two scholarship programs, the school would achieve both goals of the original scholarship more effectively (and I assume satisfy the advocates of it), and also allow an increase in standards to make most opponents happy.

I may be hard to please, even my own suggestion will not satisfy me completely. I have just put it forth as a reasonable compromise that would keep my opponents happy with the lesser of two evils. I will never be able to accept any scholarship program in which people are judged on the basis of race or hometown. I do not understand how the administration could put this scholarship in place and be able to face the Rhodes students that have better grades and scores after giving them the message that not only are they are less desired than Memphians with lower scores, but that the Memphians will be given a substantial financial incentive to come here. If the school feels that it is qualified to judge people on these criterion, the least I could ask would be that the program be designed in a manner that will best achieve its specific goals and acquire the best students possible.

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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 5 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives and at-large representatives from the student body.

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

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## Ashcroft may have us shakin' in our pews

MEG LAWLER  
IN SEARCH OF...



John Ashcroft. The name sends shivers...everywhere. Some people are holding their breath that Ashcroft's nomination for Attorney General is not a sneak-peek at our new president's conservative religious and moral agenda for the upcoming four years. I'm not holding mine. In fact, I'm incredibly nervous about the possibility that Ashcroft could serve as both judge and jury to endless controversial and sensitive issues.

Perhaps elections were different way back when. It seems, though, in this most recent presidential election, religion has already played a key role. The Clintons did attend church on occasion. We even saw the whole family walking from their limousine to the church entrance on television multiple times. But, nothing compares to the way religious undertones kept scooting up from

the backseat with W. and his motley crew during this election. Even Al Gore's team seemed pressed to position themselves on the religious up-and-up.

Bush wants to help fund religious-based charities. Noble goal. He defends his cabinet nominations as "good men...good Christians." Harmless. I'm not so scared of him. Really, it is just little, ole Dubya after all. I honestly didn't expect many of Bush's Cabinet nominations not to be men or Christian. Ashcroft, on the other hand, epitomizes the sentiment of cramming religious gunk into the moral fibers of America. Not against the religion part, just the actual cramming. He's not even meaning to do the cramming; I think John Ashcroft is simply being John Ashcroft.

Pick up a magazine or flip to CNN if you're not the slightest bit worried yet. Newsweek's front page described Ashcroft's confirmation as a Holy War, underscoring the unmistakable prevalence of Ashcroft's religious beliefs on his political rap sheet and personal background. I've tried to read up on the guy. Ashcroft has religious convictions,

attending church every Sunday (even throughout all four years at college — how many of us can claim that!), morally sound (no known scandals) and politically experienced (MO governor and senator). His daddy's a preacher, he writes hymns and outlawed drinking in the governor's mansion while in office. Pristine, but both sides lose in Holy Wars, in one way or another.

Ashcroft is a good, Christian man. It really is rare to find someone with such wholesome convictions after battling in political arenas for so long. I ask, how far is too far? Take one specific example from Ashcroft's political career, highlighted by Time magazine. Ashcroft spent years, yes years, battling with one man over his comatose child's right-to-die. The child apparently had no hope of recovery, but Ashcroft cited his religious convictions against murder for his support. Again, it's the cramming we are seeing here that's the problem. So it's one kid, one judgment call. If he's confirmed, the next kid or decision or imposition of religious beliefs onto others could be your own. I'd go somewhere else, but I owe bills in this

country at least through July 2002. Some of us are stuck.

There are many issues, not necessarily religious in nature, that concern Americans right now: abortion rights, gun control, gay rights, affirmative action and Supreme Court appointees. To Ashcroft, these are all religious issues. I'm not knocking the guy. For many people, moral decisions are informed explicitly by their religious views; not a bad system to go by at all. But don't forget that John Ashcroft's religiously evangelical roots inform his moral judgments, too. The catch: He could be the next Attorney General. Scary thought for any woman considering making decisions about her own body. Terrifying to a mother who sends her child to a violent school worrying every day about concealed weapons. Oh, and did I mention you can't be gay or non-White? I've raced through, but you get the gist.

He's proven true to himself — and to his God — time and time again; that is, until he tried to get confirmed. Currently, Ashcroft hopes to win over the slight majority he needs by appealing to more moderate views. A ploy? No, not John Ashcroft! But,

Ashcroft's speeches and quote lists from his past scream, "uncompromising." A man who fought for years over one child's right-to-die case doesn't change his mind overnight about partial-birth abortion.

Ultimately, the man has the right to believe what he wants. One cannot help but respect the endless scrutiny Ashcroft continues to endure due to his strong faith and even stronger political stances. And, of course, no one can expect leaders in power to believe exactly, or even remotely, in what they do (about half the nation is in a tight spot over that one right now). But in the Justice Department, come on y'all! It could be my own idealistically-minded, liberally-educated self that impedes me from seeing the joy, content, hell, even all-out humor in this nomination.

I've always pictured the Justice Department as...just. You know, statue of the blindfolded gal with the scales, innocent until proven guilty, all that jazz. There are already problems with the legal system. Why throw in a John Ashcroft, too? If you're still holding that breath, you may already be blue in the face.

## Never before seen on television...

SHAWNA MILLER  
RED HAWK FREE



This year television has really proven its creativity by offering us an amazing variety of shows based upon the same basic idea: our own reality. Ponder for a moment these hours of escape now or soon to be available to everyone with the right qualifications: owning a television.

The United Kingdom is producing a show in which an English family is relocated to an African mud hut in Swaziland. The 13-year-old has to walk 9 km to school where the teacher liberally applies big sticks to bare bottoms. In the U.S., producers are trying to work out logistics for a civilian-in-space series where the participants are weeded out at a Russian cosmonaut-training program. "Jail-break" will feature contestants attempting to break out of jail (surprise, surprise) while enduring many hardships. Already available are shows that we are all familiar with: Temptation Island, Survivor, The Mole, The Real

World, etc.

Unlike other commentators on this craze, I am not going to write about the morally degenerative effects that these shows might have on our society. Reality television is not depicting anything about life that we haven't seen before; it is simply recreating it in a highly concentrated, exaggerated form. For example, "Temptation Island" offers the audience a glimpse into the process by which infidelity might occur in relationships. Yet, every United States citizen has already been exposed to this scenario by either our own relations or that of our country's (personified by the former president).

In my opinion reality shows are being more honest about the entertainment value that they strive to capture. However, I do not believe that this frenzy is free from negative qualities. On the contrary, I believe it to be highly dangerous. Television companies are engaging in a vicious race to see who can show audiences the most extreme, most volatile, and most shocking scenes from "actual" human existence.

Unlike the movies and sitcoms that all of us watch, these reality-based shows must carry a sense of authenticity in or-

der to be accepted. What fascinates me is that all of these situations do happen to a certain extent in the "real" world before the cameras ever try to make them into an exciting series. Astronauts really are trained vigorously for years in order to win the chance to travel into space. There really are people in Swaziland that must endure extreme labor or lack of food and medicine. All of these scenarios push the human spirit to the very edge of collapsing, yet stations that portray actual events, such as the Discovery Channel, do not enjoy the same popularity that the major networks have with reality-based television.

The difference, of course, is that no one has yet died on Survivor, and we are fairly certain that if there were any real danger to the boy in Swaziland, the producers would pull him out. We are watching worlds that have only been manipulated slightly with a rose-colored tint, so slightly in fact that some people might forget that it is there at all. It is this all-important tint that separates televised biographies, nature and discovery shows, and the news from the genuine entertainment world. Everything on television is manipulated to greater or lesser degrees, yet these programs are attempting to maintain at least a small

degree of educational value for the audiences. It brings up the question about whether the characters believe it to be fabricated or real themselves.

Voyeurism is an act committed by everyone, not just those that watch television. Everyday we watch our peers at Rhodes, wondering about the differences between their lives and our own. It is a provocative theme that searches the deepest curiosities of the human mind. By argument voyeurism can beat real life any day of the week. It could make your own life look glorious, as in "his life is bad, there is no way that my life could be as bad as that loser's." It could also create an exciting addition to an otherwise boring life. Watching the Eco-Challenge shoots adrenaline throughout my body every year, yet it is an event that I would never dream of participating in. In every case voyeurism provides an escape, but it is an escape that will only make our butts much larger and our minds more apathetic.

The existence of reality-based television does not represent a brand-new crisis in the morals of television. In fact, Hollywood has merely undergone an evolution from producing movies about voyeurism, to producing outlets for the audiences' voyeurism. Hitchcock spoke

most eloquently about it in his classic "The Rear Window" with James Stewart and Grace Kelly. In it Stewart lives vicariously through his window because of an injury that confines him to his room. He becomes more involved in the lives that he is sneaking a peek into than his own. Hollywood jumped ahead with the theme in "Strange Days" with Ralph Fiennes. Fiennes is able to capture and sell human experiences, allowing the consumer to personally experience the life of a more exciting individual. Fiennes' experiment is based on technology and programming, while the movie "Being John Malkovich" eliminates any physical separation between the minds of two people.

Unfortunately, I must confess that I have been caught in the trap. I was able to stay away from any of the Survivor I series, but last night I watched Survivor 2 in preparation for this article. Some parts of it were way too melodramatic to even faintly resemble reality as least, not my own. Yet, there were moments when raw emotions came through to the camera, moments that caused me to snap at my roommate for silence. She banned me from the television for good reason: I talked about that stupid series all night.

## The inevitable failure of the European currency

By **Trey Thacher**  
Forum Editor

In October of last year, the European Central Bank intervened several times in the continual slide of its ailing currency, which is down almost 25 percent against the dollar since its inception in 1999. Europeans did get some relief in the value of the Euro, but only due to the election uncertainty and some financial analysts muttering the r-word here in the United States. So this still leaves many European Union officials scratching their heads about the outlook for European Monetary Union.

Despite this loss of nearly \$0.35 in the last two years, those in bed with the Euro seem confident that things will change: the single currency will shift global portfolios to Euro assets, depressing the value of the dollar relative to the Euro, and the new Euro zone will be a strong player in the global economy, reflecting the size of an integrated European market, some say.

These seem like lofty aspirations from a group with such a dismal history of unification on any front. The fact of the matter is that European Monetary Union (EMU) will not be a success. This is going to occur for two primary reasons.

First, EMU currently allows for no remedy for economic shocks that can occur. Before the arrival of the Euro, European countries could handle these shocks in three primary ways: interest rate adjustments, exchange rate intervention, and fiscal adjustment. In times of economic downturn, a nation's central bank would lower interest rates, which would lower the cost of borrowing, leading to increased investment and consumption. This would then renew economic growth within the country. The Euro, however, makes independent interest rate adjustments impossible because the national central banks all surrendered monetary authority to the ECB in 1999. Now, unless economic shocks hit all 11 countries simultaneously with the same magnitude, interest rate adjustments cannot be used.

The second way countries recovered from these asymmetric shocks was through exchange rate intervention. Before the Euro, a country could sell large quantities of its currency on the world market in times of economic downturn. This would devalue the currency and decrease the price of the country's goods abroad, thus increasing the demand for the country's goods worldwide and jumpstarting economic recovery. However, now that 11 countries are operating under a single currency, the option of selling Euros on the world market lies in the hands of one trans-national organization.

The third and final way that countries dealt with economic shock was through fiscal policy adjustments. During a recession, government spending usually rises because unemployment and welfare costs increase. Yet at the same time government tax receipts decrease because fewer people are working and wages stagnate. By running a deficit in this manner, a government introduces massive amounts of money into the economy, spurring consumption and economic growth once again. However, countries in the Euro zone must abide by the Stability and Growth Pact, which requires that government budget deficits be less than 3 percent of GDP. Even if the EU as a whole wished to use this to combat economic problems it would be impossible, because treaty forbids the EU to run a budget deficit. Therefore, fiscal policy adjustments can no longer be used to ward off economic shocks.

The supporters of the Euro often counter these claims by pointing to the United States and its federal system. They say that the U.S. is just as susceptible to asymmetric shocks, yet it never has major problems result from it even though the 50 states cannot exercise interest rate adjustments, foreign exchange intervention, or fiscal policy adjustments. These economic shocks within the U.S. are different for two reasons. First, the United States has a high degree of labor mobility. If one state is suffering, laborers can easily move to somewhere where they can find better working conditions. Simultaneously, this helps the state in recession by reducing unemployment. The

European workforce on the other hand is nowhere nearly as flexible. The EU contains 11 different languages and 15 different societies, whereas the United States shares a unifying language, a single government, an enormous and homogenous middle class, and a common cultural history. Americans often move from state to state in order to work, but only 5 million of the 370 million citizens of the EU live outside of the country in which they were born.

The second reason the EU differs from the U.S. with respect to economic shocks is that it lacks a fiscal transfer system. The single central government in the United States is capable of transferring large sums of money between the states. If one state is doing poorly, it will subsequently contribute less to national tax receipts, yet will receive more of the national expenditures. A state that is doing well will witness the opposite occurring; it will contribute more to national tax receipts, yet will receive less of the national expenditures. Therefore, one state is aiding in the recovery of another via the fiscal transfer system present on the national level. European countries have fiscal transfers within the countries, but only very small fiscal transfers occur between the Euro zone countries. Such transfers will never appear in the future because any politician who proposes such transfers is undoubtedly signing a political death warrant.

The second major ongoing risk to European monetary union is the fact that European political union is still in its early stages. The lack of a unified European central government poses two significant threats to the Euro. The first is that member states may become financially defiant. There is no authority that can impose necessary repercussions on a state that chooses to violate the Stability and Growth Pact. Therefore, a state could choose to ignore these regulations and choose to ignore the fines imposed by the EU. Fiscally conservative

countries would then be hurt by the strains on the capital market, which would cause the cost of borrowing to increase. This also introduces the possibility of a government becoming insolvent, which would destabilize all European economies.

The lack of a central government can also allow political tensions to undermine economic cooperation. Regional tensions and conflicts could halt policy meetings, disrupt financial markets, spark nationalism, and hinder stability and growth. All such events would damage the Euro's long-term credibility.

The founders of European monetary union are so focused on their utopian goals that they don't realize they are ignoring important aspects of Euro implementation. Rather than face up to the fact that the Euro in its current condition will be a failure, they are keeping their mouths shut and their fingers crossed as to the outcome.

Pressure from within Europe for change is the only hope for saving the Euro, but this is not likely to happen. Europe's leaders may actually prefer a weak Euro. A weak Euro helps exporters maintain their global market share, drives tourism, and supports economic performance in slow-growth areas. However, a recent poll by Forsa in Berlin has revealed that four out of five Germans have little or no faith in their new currency and a BVA poll published recently in France found that 58 percent of the French are worried about the Euro's weakness. This is the one sign of hope in an otherwise dismal situation. The people of Europe are beginning to speak out about their discontent with the Euro's performance. They are beginning to give credence to the scholars who have argued that the Euro is a bad idea and have begun to feel the inflationary pressure generated by the declining Euro. At this point, a movement by the people for the temporary halt of monetary union may be the only solution to this eminent problem.

Was Bush's ban on federal funding to international abortion clinics a sign that he is not willing to cooperate with the left?

**Is Clinton's true legacy behind him or still ahead of him?**

Does the new Memphis Scholars program actually promote diversity at Rhodes?

# Forum

What is the solution to the current energy crisis in the United States?

Should so much credit be given to Ray Lewis in light of his connections with a double murder?

**If you are interested in expressing your opinions in Forum, contact Trey at [souwester@rhodes.edu](mailto:souwester@rhodes.edu).**

## Campus Safety Log

1/22/01 TO 1/28/01



1/22	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED
1/23	8:55am Bellingrath – Suspicious person notice called in by resident. Campus Safety responded, unable to locate anyone in the area.
1/24	12:25pm Trezevant Hall – Fire Alarm: Checked okay, student popping popcorn. 6:30pm West Campus – Fire drills.
1/25	9:00pm Robinson Hall – Suspicious person called in by resident. Campus Safety searched entire building, unable to locate anyone in the area.
1/26	1:22am University Street – Vandalism two vehicles: Person(s) unknown shot out driver's side windows of two vehicles while parked on University. MPD on the scene and advised it was either a BB gun or Pellet gun that damaged the windows. 11:30pm Tutwiler – Spann Place: Noise complaint from residents west of Stewart/Sp Spann area.
1/27	1:35am Robb Hall – Vandalism – Fire extinguisher cabinet damaged. 1:57am Bellingrath – Noise complaint. 3:35am Bellingrath – Illness, Ambulance called, subject not transported. 3:51am Trezevant – Noise complaint.
1/28	12:40am Trezevant/Townsend walkway – Vandalism: window panes knocked out. 2:25am East Campus – Disturbance, Residence Life and Campus Safety called. Report filed. 3:35am Glassell, second floor – missing fire extinguisher. Located and replaced.

### STATS:

ACCESSES: 97	VISITORS: 1039
PROPPED DOORS: 4	ESCORTS: 23
JUMP STARTS: 3	CITATIONS: 94
ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS: 3	BOOTS: 2
TOWS: 0	

## Seidman lecturer seeks unity

By Page Thead  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, Harvard University scholar Dr. Robert D. Putnam gave a lecture entitled, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community." The latest in the M.L. Seidman Memorial Town Hall Lecture Series, Putnam has been a Professor of Public Policy at Harvard since 1979. He has been a member of the National Security Council, and has held various other positions on councils that work with international relations and programs that attempt to foster municipal unity within the scope of the U.S.

According to Dr. Putnam, there has been a definite decrease in our nation's social capital over the past four decades. Dr. Putnam used the term "social capital" to designate the populace's investment in social relations. The connections among citizens that determine this social capital have experienced a downfall; this is evident in records of individuals' participation in city meetings, petitions, volunteer organizations, and spend-

ing time with children. Human capital, the investment in training and education to increase an individual's productivity, is not as beneficial without the addition of social capital.

These two factors work together, as an individual is introduced to a social network, which acts beneficially for the individual as well as others who are affected by him/her. One example of insuring such security is in a neighborhood, in which individuals come together for social and protective purposes.

The years between 1945 and 1965 showed a significant increase in membership in organizations all over the country. After 1965, such memberships leveled off and began to decrease. Dr. Putnam's theory is supported with the discovery of two data archives containing surveys of Americans on their civic involvement over the last fifty years. This database shows a decrease in both formal and informal communal involvement. It also showed that Americans spend increasing amounts of time in front of the television, at the expense of spending time with children or hav-

ing a family dinner.

Dr. Putnam cited the growing proportion of lawyers to individuals, 41 to 10,000 in 1970 and nearly double that today, to indicate Americans' growing lack of trust for each other. He indicated that this is caused by a desire to have "everything legalized." Putnam also stated that the introduction of women into the work environment, as well as rigid work hours, longer commutes, and, again, time spent in front of the television, also work against community involvement, a hallmark of American life in the mid-twentieth century.

According to Dr. Putnam, a return to community involvement involves first, an increase in the involvement of parents in the lives of their children. He indicated that parental involvement must supercede that of the schools. He stated that activity in organizations increases quality of life and life expectancy, and connected lack of involvement to a ten-fold increase in reported cases of clinical depression in the last 50 years. Putnam calls for individual efforts towards a collective society to solve these problems.

## Dean candidates visit Rhodes

### Professor Ackerman declares Dean of College search almost over

By Ricky Sadowski  
Staff Writer

The search for a Dean of the College appears to be coming to a close soon. Professor Ackerman, who heads the Dean of College Search Committee, said that their report will go to President Troutt at the end of the week.

The committee is made up of 5 faculty members, 2 administrators, and John Ramsey, the Vice President of RSG.

The dean search began last year, when the school put a public ad in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, which is the publication used by most colleges to fill administrative positions. The committee solicited advice from the faculty and administration and

hired a professional consulting firm, A.T. Kerney, which is frequently used by top-level institutions to find candidates. President Troutt requested the use of this consulting firm because it had been very successful in previous searches.

These steps yielded approximately 100 applicants, of which the pool was narrowed down to about 20 applicants by the committee. About half of these were flown to Memphis for two-hour interviews and to see the college.

The committee was not the only source of input for the process, and all faculty and administrators were encouraged to give advice.

From these interviews, there were two clear choices: Walter Beale, the

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and William Wehrenberg, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Forestry at Clemson University.

These two candidates were each invited to campus for two days so that faculty and administrators could meet them and to give the candidates a feel for Memphis and Rhodes.

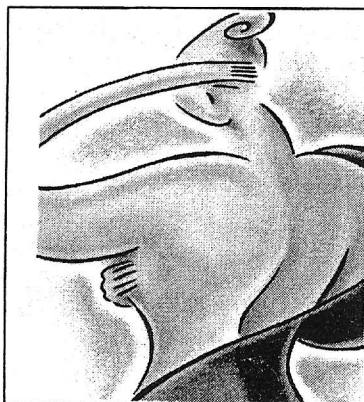
At this point, the committee is preparing their report for President Troutt. This report is not a recommendation to the President on which candidate the committee would prefer, but an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate to aid the president in making a decision. The report will consist of data the committee has gathered and advice from constituents.

When the report is submitted to the President at the end of this week, the search should be near its completion. President Troutt will likely have made his decision in about a week, and once the position is offered the search will end and the discussion of details will begin. These details will include what specific duties the dean will be responsible for, his salary, and any other special considerations that must be made.



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## Lecturer poses questions on nature of humanity

By Margie Hall  
News Editor

On Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Giles Gunn, a professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, gave a lecture on "The Interpretation of Otherness." According to Dr. Gunn, the lecture, the latest in the Phi Beta Kappa lecture series, goes "right to the heart

of the post-Modern predicament."

The lecture was concerned with rethinking the meaning of being an individual, and of the larger question of being a member of the collective human race.

On being an individual, Gunn assumed an identity of the self as a conception which is formed in tension with what is determined as "the other," or not the self.

In the early twentieth century, during times of widespread Western imperialism, Gunn says that these terms defining the self were "electionist and privileged," strictly differentiated from those defining the other, which tended to be patronizing or even dehumanizing.

As the century drew out and Western superiority as a doctrine was questioned, more inclusive lan-

guage was developed. However, according to Dr. Gunn, this language is "outworn," the cause being "the incommensurability of the human perspective." In other words, imperialist, elitist views of the other, [here non-Western cultures] are on their way to being dismissed, but the human identity as a collective species has yet to be established.

According to Gunn, evidence of this paradigm shift can be found in motivations for violence in recent years. He stated that recent sanctions for violence have been found in what is cherished, rather than the hated "other." In other words, individuals use violence to defend "social being" rather than to make conquests.

This indicates a struggle for identity centered in maintaining social existence, rather than an identity obtained through dominance. It is an identity based on the self, not on the negativity of the other.

According to Gunn, the resolution to this dilemma lies in deter-

mining "how [to make] the self more accountable to the other... without turning the other into a surrogate self." It is about resolving the self to the human race in general, but not about establishing overarching, universal characteristics. As many anthropologists believe race to be an entirely social construct, Gunn believes that universally human characteristics may not exist.

During this era of constant global flux, identities, and the other in tow, change frequently as well. According to Gunn, quoting a scholar-friend, a "prismatic" model of understanding the other is needed. The other does not necessarily reflect, but refracts the characteristics of the self. Gunn referred to this as "kinship with the enemy."

According to Gunn, As identities change with the changing of social environment, a fluid concept of the self, and its relation to the other, is needed.

## RAB coffeehouses will display student talent, build community

By Eve Strain  
Scene Editor

RAB president Ana Perez ('01) is excited about the latest project put together by the organization: coffeehouse nights in Java City, where students can showcase their own talents in front of their fellow students. "I really want the students to make it theirs," she said.

The coffeehouse idea has been in development for months now; the launch will be an open mike night on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:07 p.m. RAB plans to host a coffeehouse every other Wednesday night for the rest of the semester.

In the past, RAB has had bands play at coffeehouse-type settings. Now, however, the focus is more on

the Battle of the Bands spirit—Rhodes students playing for other Rhodes students. Perez commented, "We started noticing that if you get people that somebody knows [personally], everybody comes."

Students can sign up in the refectory to perform. Acts can include singing, dancing, reading poetry, playing an instrument, or any other talent. "If you don't perform with a group, no one will know what kind of talent you have," Perez said.

At later coffeehouses, RAB is sponsoring more Last Lectures by professors and college officials. Dr. and Mrs. Troutt are slated to give a Last Lecture in April around the first anniversary of his inauguration as president of Rhodes. The Troutts' speech will take

place on a Sunday, to allow more people to show up. The regular coffeehouses take place on Wednesday nights. According to results from the RAB survey, students want an activity in the middle of the week.

The next coffeehouse will take place on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the night is a love/hate poetry coffeehouse. RAB has plans for procuring judges and prizes for best and worst poems. The 28<sup>th</sup> of February sees a Last Lecture. Rhodes Activities Board also plans on bringing in international musicians for international week. By then, Perez said, "hopefully it will have caught on."

If you have suggestions for the coffeehouse, email rab@rhodes.edu or perak@rhodes.edu.

## Senior "exit" course to integrate the Rhodes experience

By Drew Hughes  
Editor-in-Chief

Career Services, the Chaplain's Office and the Office of Academic Affairs have collaborated to create a new class for seniors: "Sojourners: A Vocation Capstone." The course is not for credit, and will be offered during the second half of the spring semester.

In an e-mail to the Class of 2001, Director of Career Services Sandi George Tracy said, "The major goal of the class is to form a community of seniors who will reflect together on their academic, extra-curricular, and spiritual experiences at Rhodes with an eye toward integrating these various aspects of the college experience."

Julie King Murphy, Church-related Ministry Coordinator, along with Associate Professor of Religious Studies Steve Haynes and Assistant Director of Career Services Jennifer Winstead, is one of the driving forces behind the new program. "Students tend to feel that their lives are very fragmented," Murphy said. "Our plan is to show students how to look at four years of college in an integrative way, to see the connections between their

experiences."

"Sojourners: A Vocation Capstone" will be team-taught by representatives of the faculty, the Chaplain's office and the Office of Career Services. Alumni will also be invited to join the course discussions in order to provide some perspective on life after Rhodes.

"The vocation capstone class sounds like a great opportunity for seniors," says Catherine Neely ('01). "We're all involved in a variety of activities here, but it's not often that we take the time to see how our activities relate to one another. This class will provide a chance to reflect on four years at Rhodes and to examine how our time here has shaped us. It'll be a chance to think about how what we have done in college might relate to a greater calling after college."

"I've always thought that Rhodes should offer a senior 'exit' course, perhaps allowing for students to reflect upon their experiences at Rhodes and to prepare for life after college," says Amanda Flaim ('01). "I'm interested in this course not only because I hope it will enlighten me as to which path I should take career-wise, but also because I am

looking forward to coming full-circle with my classmates, people I have watched grow over these last four years, and who have helped me to grow and change for the better."

Murphy also emphasized that this year's program is a pilot course. "This is the first time this has been done," she said. "Students who participate will have an opportunity to shape the direction the course will take."

"Sojourners: A Vocation Capstone" will meet each Wednesday after Spring Break from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. No more than twenty students will be allowed to enroll in the course.

Interested seniors may apply via e-mail to Julie King Murphy ([murphyj@rhodes.edu](mailto:murphyj@rhodes.edu)) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please include your name, e-mail address, telephone number, major/minor, and campus box #, along with your response to the following question: "What do you hope to gain/learn from your involvement in 'Sojourners: A Vocation Capstone'?"

Participants will be notified by February 12<sup>th</sup>. An introductory session will follow on Wednesday, February 21, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Black History Month: the complete schedule

Below is a list of the month's programs and activities; any additional information will be posted around campus along with updates and reminders.

- February 1: Opening Program @ 6:00 p.m., Blount Auditorium
- February 4: Soul Food (Dinner and Movie) @ 4:00 p.m., Orgill Room
- February 8-10: "Soul of a People"- BSA Black Repertoire @ 8:00 p.m.
- February 14: McCoy Theater/BSA Sing-A-Grams (Valentine's Day.)
- February 15: Movie Night, location TBA
- February 19: Movie Night, location TBA
- February 22-25: "Soul of a People"- BSA Black Repertoire @ 8:00 p.m., McCoy Theater
- February 24: BSA March on Rhodes Campus @ 12:00 p.m.

## Don't wait until graduation to publish!

*Confluence: The Rhodes College Journal  
of the Humanities & Social Sciences*

We're accepting research papers and critical essays for the 2001 edition. Submit Word or WordPerfect Rich Text Format (rtf) files to the *Confluence* In-box under Student Organizations on the Academic Volume by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Blemish reveals the art of imperfection

### Memphis College of Art's new exhibit explores issues of physicality, femininity

By Jessica Tackett  
Staff Writer

Memphis College of Art is currently housing an interesting, if not uniquely grotesque, display of bodily imperfections in an exhibition appropriately named *Blemish*.

"The blemish is an irksome reminder of our imperfection, our frailty, our vulnerability and our mutability," said David McCarthy, Rhodes Associate Professor of Art History and author of the exhibition's catalogue.

Far from being aesthetically pleasing, *Blemish* focuses instead on the unattractiveness of the human body through its physicality.

"In making the imperfect human body the subject of their work, the artists in this exhibition draw attention to an anti-ideal... the blemish is now an honored subject given pride of place within

our museums and galleries," said McCarthy.

Nine artists, using a variety of media, are featured in *Blemish*, and each magnifies the blemish as a reflection of self and society. Ann Chamberlain, visiting artist at the College, creates sculptural pieces that focus on a combination of scientific documentation and female domesticity.

Chamberlain describes her piece, *Vital Signs*, as an exploration of "the construction of female identity and the fragile balance between pathology and health." Chamberlain uses deep pigments and embroidery thread on fabric to bring medical evidence of thumbprints and chromosomes close to home.

Cynthia Thompson, MCA Assistant Professor of Paper and Book Arts and curator for *Blemish* magnifies the flaws of the skin

and its unwillingness to remain perfect. Her piece, *Untitled*, uses hand-made linen paper to create an uncanny resemblance to swollen skin or a bump.

Thompson's *Heirlooms* reminds the viewer of scarred or burned skin that is enlarged to bring the grotesque to the front. Its title suggestively hints that the blemish, an unfavorable trait, is inherited just like beautiful skin and perfect teeth. According to Thompson, "The work reveals and conceals a sense of woundedness that goes unaccounted for. Things that create body shame are put on exhibition. In my work, I am examining the cultural construction of femininity, beauty, and standards of attractiveness."

Another featured artist is Julia Cozens, who exhibits three pieces in *Blemish*, each looking much like a virus or disease magnified under

a microscope. *Infection* and *Physi-cal Culture*, made from vinyl acetate and pigment on panel are closely related to the pathological aspect of the blemish as something not only "ugly," but harmful as well.

Byron Kim's *Cosmetic Portrait Series* works in a similar manner. Each piece consists of an oval of custom blended cosmetics on handmade paper. They are distinguished from one another by their titles (three women's names) and by the lighter and darker shades that represent them. The idea is simple: Kim calls upon the issue of race and its classification as a blemish. Kim's work questions what the identity of a woman becomes when she is reduced to her skin color.

Laura Anderson Barbata, Seong Chun, Gail Deery, Stuart Netsky, and Anne Wilson are also

represented in *Blemish*. Their work spans from Barbata's faceless paintings to Chun's text crocheted on paper to Deery's blotches of pigmented pulp resembling human skin.

*Blemish* brings the imperfections and flaws of the human body to the front in an exhibition that wonderfully questions the body's ability to withstand the test of time. Visually stimulating, *Blemish* is both beautiful and grotesque, mirroring the body itself and challenging the traditional standards of beauty.

The exhibition lasts through February 3, 2001. Memphis College of Art is located behind the Brooks Museum in Overton Park. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the *Blemish* exhibition on the second floor. Student exhibitions, which are always worth visiting, are on the first floor.

## Cowboy Mouth delights Memphis fans

### Popular southern band puts on energetic show at New Daisy Theatre

By Emily Costarides  
Staff Writer

Friday night brought good music to Beale Street's New Daisy Theater, when Cowboy Mouth made a stop while traveling the Southeast on their annual Mardi Gras Tour. Cowboy Mouth has gained a faithful following in Memphis and has strengthened ties by performing everywhere from Beale Street to Rhodes' own Rites of Spring festival.

Compared to "jambalaya" by *Rolling Stone* magazine, the style of this New Orleans band is difficult to categorize, as it stirs in everything from folk to punk. The band's eclectic style attracted an eclectic crowd as well, packing the house with screaming four-year-olds, college students, and chain-clad rockers alike.

The opening act, punk band Bare Jr., held their own ground by bringing in quite a few fans and shamelessly begging them to grab at least a free CD on their way out the door.

After what seemed an eternity, Cowboy Mouth finally took the stage, playing mostly hits from

their album "Is Anybody Out There?" Lead singer Fred LeBlanc dominated the stage with his enormous physical and musical presence, sweating away at the drums while belting out lyrics over the screams of overly excited high-schoolers.

Interestingly, though LeBlanc usually took the lead vocals, Cowboy Mouth actually has three band members that alternate singing the lead. And as if three were not enough, a four-year-old girl (who apparently knew every single word to every single song), was later pulled on stage to sing a few verses.

As a fan of Cowboy Mouth, a band who plays often in my hometown of Mobile, AL, I personally thought that they put on a great show. They made a point of keeping the audience involved.

Kyle Cutright ('03) recalls Cowboy Mouth getting the crowd really excited at Memphis in May last year, too, proving that their ability to entertain is not restricted to specific times or venues.

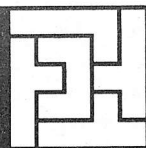
First-time listener Sezen Ogyar ('04), a fan of punk music, actually preferred Bare Jr., to Cowboy Mouth.

"I liked the voice of the lead singer, and the drummer was hot," said Ogyar (feel free to contact her if you'd like to see a picture). "But I liked Cowboy Mouth's stage presence. Having the lead singer

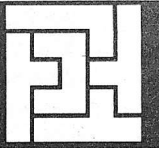
as the drummer was unique," she added.

Overall, the performance was impressive, though I admit my friends and I left early anyway. Had the New Daisy maybe not

charged an arm and a leg for water in a sweltering environment, we might have hung out longer. But due to the hot and crowded conditions, we left even before the four-year-old.



## Rhodes Puzzler



#12, January 31, 2001  
4 points

Last week's Malco movie pass winner: *John Norfleet*

Here's a new way to count on your fingers: Start with the thumb on your left hand and call it 1. Your index finger is 2, middle finger is 3, ring finger is 4 and little finger is 5. Now reverse directions—6 is on your ring finger, 7 is on your middle finger, 8 is your index finger and 9 is your thumb. Reverse directions again—index finger for 10, middle finger for 11, ring finger for 12 and so on. Continue to reverse back and forth (20 will be counted on your ring finger) as you count higher and higher.

What finger will you be on when you have counted to 2000?

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

## Eat your heart out, Cleveland: Rock and Soul Museum celebrates the blues

By Anne Barrow and Mary Knauer  
Staff Writers

If you're looking for a rhinestone-studded Elvis shrine, steer clear of the Smithsonian's Memphis Rock and Soul Museum. However, if you're seeking a cultural timeline with a really cool soundtrack, this is your place. Open since April 2000, this warehouse-style museum features relics from Memphis' musical past, from Al Green's preachin' robe to the soundboard of Elvis' first recording.

Memphis was selected by the Smithsonian Institute as the most influential music center of the nation over New Orleans, Detroit, and Nashville. Many Memphians take for granted this city's rich cultural heritage and role in the tremendous changes in the past century.

This is the natural home for this museum because, as the Smithsonian Institution states, "In the quest to identify the roots of American music, all roads lead to Memphis." As shown by the Rock and Soul Museum, historical change

and music went hand in hand, and music united the races during times of tension.

The museum traces music from the 1920s to the 1970s, featuring not only a colorful soundtrack of popular hits and musical relics of each era, but also historical background and social conditions of each era. It highlights the culture and society of the time that made the music what it was and gave it soul. We went to the museum expecting to be amazed at seeing firsthand relics like B.B. King's "Lucille" guitar, but left with deeper respect and amazement at the obstacles these musicians overcame.

We had the pleasure of visiting with the Museum's director, Jimmy Ogle, whose enthusiasm for delta music is contagious. Upon entering the museum you are given a headset with a compact disk that allows you to tour at your own pace. Exhibits are labeled by numbers, and each has a small speech recorded on your CD.

In addition, there are several lists of songs by original performers cor-

responding to each time period. If it suits you, you can stay and listen to "Let's Stay Together" until you run out of batteries or you're locked in to spend the night curled up under Ike Turner's first piano.

If you're interested in hearing first-hand video interviews with musical giants on life and performing in these turbulent times, head to 145 Lt. George W. Lee Avenue (a block behind Beale). Museum by day, this three-story warehouse can be your party venue at night. But remember, they're open every day from 10 a.m.—6 p.m. to take you on a musically guided journey through the past eight decades. For an amazing \$8.50 you can take a tour that can last anywhere from 45 minutes to 4 hours. It's guaranteed to make you appreciate the importance of Memphis and leave you tappin' your foot to the heartbeat of the Mississippi Delta.

Our sentiments on The Rock and Soul Museum are best described by the words of Jerry Lee Lewis: There's a "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On!"

## "Pop art" gives Rhodes students part-time fun and profit

By Eve Strain  
Scene Editor

Rhodes students have a way of finding creative sources of income. Not many think about utilizing the skill of twisting balloons into various shapes to entertain people, but among those who have are Jennifer Morris ('02) and Emily Bays ('01). They work for the Balloonabilities Company.

Balloonabilities was started in California by a broke college student who was able to parlay a sideline into a major business operating in several states. Bartlett resident Leeann Sanchez bought the rights to Balloonabilities East and now owns most of the company except for the original division in California.

Training to work in the balloon-twisting business takes a varied number of hours. Morris received nine hours training and was the first person in Memphis to be a part of the Balloonabilities business. When Sanchez bought the company and moved to the area, she advertised in the Career Appeal, the monthly

publication of Career Services. Morris responded to the ad first and worked for the company for a year and a half before training her then-hallmate, Bays. Morris has worked making balloon creations for approximately three years, and Bays has been on the job since August 2000.

The students make the rounds of restaurants in the Memphis area, such as Red Lobster, Joe's Crabshack, and Don Pablo's, for about three hours on weekend nights. Balloonabilities employees makes money exclusively from tips, because the company contracts out to restaurants; balloon-twisters get paid an hourly wage when performing at special events, such as Exxon Customer Appreciation Day and birthday parties.

Workers wear black slacks and button-up white shirts. "We're very professional, no clowns," Bays said. However, the balloons are, as one can imagine, colorful: she has two shades per traditional color to provide more choice for the kids who want them to make animals. The children or other balloon-recipient

chooses the size, the color, the type, and the expression of a creation.

How difficult can it be to make something out of a balloon? An employee must know how much air to put in the balloon and how much pressure the balloon will take. "It's all practice—it gets to where you can tell whether it's going to pop," Morris said.

In the job overall, "there's lots of entertaining involved," said Bays. Workers usually approach people in restaurants who have just ordered or who are waiting for the check, and always ask the permission of the parents before offering to make a balloon animal for a child.

"The job isn't hard, although walking around for long shifts is tiring, and it's hard to be cheerful and energetic constantly," Bays said. "But it's a good part-time job for a college student."

Both students agree that the hours are extremely flexible. "I love it. Lots of variety, no co-workers, and you get to meet interesting people. There's a lot of personal interaction," Morris said.

The only items needed to make

## RSG Auction

Rhodes Student Government is hosting an auction to raise money for Senior Week. The auction will take place on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in Hardie Auditorium at 7 p.m. The festivities will last until 8 or 8:30 p.m. There will be free food, refreshments, doorprizes, and a raffle. The items donated to be sold so far include:

- Dinner for two at President Troutt's house
- Parking in the President's space for one week
- 10 free drinks at Java City
- Dinner for 6 in the Davis Room
- Park anywhere on campus for one month
- Golf cart escort for the day
- Free commuter meal ticket
- Gift certificate to Lynx Lair
- Personal cheer by the cheerleaders
- Serenade by Lipstick on Your Collar
- Music CD from the Music Department
- Parking in Dean of Acad. Affairs space for one week
- Computer-board wall clock
- 20 Random Acts of Kindness
- Gift Certificate to Paulette's
- Horseback riding lesson at Windcrest Farm
- Car Wash
- Dinner for 6 by the Tri-Delts
- Week long extension for English senior papers and projects
- The seniors on the men's basketball team
- Three pairs of backstage passes to Rites of Spring (one pair per night)

Other items are still being collected. To see the full array, be sure to attend the auction and get you some!

## Upcoming Campus Events

- 2/9: Special Hearts Dance, 6 p.m., Lynx Lair
- Blues Rock musician Corey Harris, 8:30 p.m., BCLC multisports forum
- 2/10: Virtual reality comes to Rhodes! 12-4 p.m. in the BCLC
- 2/12: Date rape discussion, 7 p.m., Rhea Lounge
- 2/13: "The Vagina Monologues," 7:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium
- 2/14: RAB's Valentine's Day dinner in the refectory
- Love/Hate Poetry at the RAB coffeehouse, 8 p.m., Briggs
- 2/15: Lecture and discussion on women's health, 7 p.m., Rhea Lounge
- "How to Plan a Wedding" - a wedding planner speaks on how to plan the perfect wedding, followed by a showing of "The Wedding Singer." 8:30 p.m.
- 2/16: "The Vagina Monologues," 7:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium

balloon animals are a pair of hands and a balloon pump. The balloon is placed over a nozzle at one end, and a simple hand pump is operated at the other to inflate the balloon. The possibilities for animals are wide-reaching. Bays and Morris make new poses, animals, and color combina-

tions to individualize their work for the customer. Some favorite things to make with balloons include a motorcycle, a monkey in a palm tree (which can also be made into a hat), a tiger, and a ballerina. "My favorite animal is the pig," Morris said. "He's got character."



## Men's basketball struggles at home

By Stu Johnston  
Staff Writer

This weekend was a tough one for Rhodes men's basketball, as the Lynx fell victim to two of the conference's more talented teams. DePauw took out the injury-plagued Lynx with their scintillating shooting touch in a 73-61 decision in Mallory Gym on Friday evening, and Rose-Hulman exhibited a stifling defense on their way to a 69-51 win on Sunday afternoon.

Rhodes went into Friday night without two key members of their frontcourt. Ross Armstrong ('01) and Patrick Yoder ('01) both spent the game on the bench with injuries, and Rhodes felt the effects as DePauw jumped out to a 27-12 lead in the first twelve minutes. The Tigers were on fire from the field, hitting more than 60% of their shots in the first half, and the Lynx could not find the basket. DePauw sent two and three men at Neal Power ('01) every time he touched the basketball, and they still managed to keep a tight hold on Rhodes' perimeter game.

However, Bryan Baird ('03) changed all that. With eight minutes to go in the half, he went on a tear, the likes of which many in the crowd had never witnessed—live or on television. Baird scored thirteen consecutive points for the Lynx, hitting four three pointers and a free throw. The fourth shot came from the left corner, directly in front of the Rhodes student section.

As Baird put the shot in the air, the Tiger assigned to keep him in check committed a hard foul—to no avail. The shot swished through the net, and Baird hit the free throw to

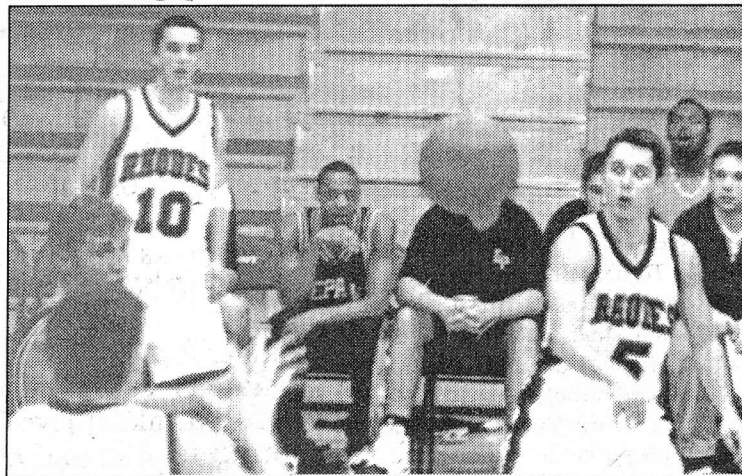


Photo by Mjriam Dolin  
Bryan Baird ('03), who scored 31 points on ten three-pointers, makes a pass to Austin Lutz ('04) in the 73-51 loss to DePauw on Friday night.

make it a four-point play. The DePauw lead had evaporated by half-time, as the Lynx outscored DePauw 20-5 in the last eight minutes of the half.

DePauw proved too strong and too deep in the second half, however. Although Baird continued to hit from long range, finishing the game with 10 three-point field goals, DePauw's hot shooting continued. They finished the game 29 of 46 from the floor (63%), and it seemed they had an answer for anything and everything Rhodes could do.

The statistical leaders for the Lynx were Baird and Power with 31 and 12 points, respectively. Power also corralled seven rebounds.

On Sunday, Rose-Hulman defeated Rhodes for the second time this season. Earlier in the year, the Lynx lost to the Fighting Engineers in overtime, 71-62. This time, the hard-nosed defense of Rose-Hulman contributed to a subpar shooting per-

formance by Rhodes (28.6% for the game, including 3 for 18 from three-point range), and the Lynx ultimately succumbed to a 69-51 defeat, their second lowest scoring output of the season.

The weekend the Lynx had is a testament to the strength of their conference opponents. Any conference victory is precious, and injuries make those sought-after victories ever tougher to come by. DePauw and Rose-Hulman are typical of the teams in the upper half of the conference—physically tough and fundamentally sound on both ends of the floor.

Rhodes has a chance to finish strongly, though. Three of the next four games are against teams that are below them in the standings—Sewanee, Hendrix, and Oglethorpe—and the other is against Centre, a team Rhodes defeated handily earlier in the season. Then they complete their season with a pair of games in Texas, playing Trinity and Southwestern.

## Ravens stifle Giants in Super Bowl, 34-7

By Jeremy Smith  
Sports Editor

On Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Baltimore Ravens demolished the New York Giants, 34-7. The lopsided game was nothing like the low-scoring defensive battle that many people predicted. The experts expected the Ravens defense to excel; however, no one foresaw the offensive breakdown that plagued the Giants.

Ray Lewis had another dominant game, and he added the Super Bowl MVP award to his NFL Defensive Player of the Year honor. With this performance, Lewis became the first middle linebacker ever named as the Super Bowl MVP.

Taking nothing away from Lewis' intimidating play, the entire Ravens defense easily qualified for MVP honors. The Ravens held the Giants to a paltry 66 rushing yards and only 149 yards over-

all.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Giants quarterback Kerry Collins had a dreadful game. He tied a Super Bowl record with four interceptions, including a pickoff that Duane Starks returned 49 yards for a touchdown to propel the Ravens to a 17-0 lead late in the third quarter.

Overall, Collins completed only 15 of 39 passes for a measly 112 yards.

Ravens quarterback Trent Dilfer played a solid, if unspectacular, game and completed 12 of 25 pass attempts, including a 38-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Brandon Stokley which jumpstarted the Ravens to a 7-0 lead. Baltimore running back Jamal Lewis had an excellent game, including 102 tough, hard-nosed yards and one touchdown.

The demoralizing blow to the Giants' comeback chances occurred late in the third quarter. Ron Dixon's 97-yard

kickoff return for a touchdown closed Baltimore's lead to 17-7 with over a quarter left to play.

Yet, on the ensuing kickoff, Jermaine Lewis devastated the Giants' comeback hopes by returning the kick for an 84-yard touchdown. The Giants could not effectively recover from that shocking shift in momentum.

Another noteworthy fact about the game, which reflects the defensive dominance and lackluster offensive performances, is that the Ravens and Giants set a new Super Bowl record for the most total punts with 21: eleven by the Giants and ten by the Ravens.

While the score was vastly different than what was predicted here last Wednesday and by various other publications, it definitely proved correct that defense, special teams, and turnovers would make the difference in the outcome.

## Lady Lynx topple DePauw, 72-68

By Hannah Miller  
Staff Writer

Coming into the game against DePauw on Friday night, the Lynx knew what they were up against. Rhodes, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the SCAC at the beginning of the season, faced DePauw, ranked first.

A Rhodes victory would be a huge upset, and that is exactly what happened. Rhodes won by a final score of 72 to 68.

The game got off to a quick start as Rhodes jumped ahead 11-3 in the first five minutes. After battling the entire first half, with DePauw and Rhodes exchanging the lead, Rhodes retreated to the locker room with a 14-point advantage.

"We played an excellent first half, but we knew that the key to beating this team was to come out strong in the second half and not let them go on a run," said Kerry Wingo ('02) who led the team with 20 points and 6 rebounds.

Rhodes came out of the locker room ready to go, building their lead to a high of 21 points.

In the last five minutes of the game, however, the Tigers grabbed five offensive boards and made a string of key shots to shrink the gap. This definitely made the game more interesting, but DePauw's efforts were not enough to defeat the Lynx.

Assistant Coach Samantha Wolinski enthused, "This is a huge win for the program. It lets everyone know that we are the real deal, and that we are going to be a contender from here on out."

In addition to Wingo's twenty points, Jessie Hunt ('02) put in sixteen points and grabbed eight rebounds, while Sarah Miles ('01) and Hannah Miller ('01) scored fourteen points each. Point guard Rosemary Boner ('03) led the team in two categories, with six assists and eight rebounds.

Miles emphasized, "This was definitely the sweetest victory I've been a part of since I have been playing basketball at Rhodes."

After the victory against DePauw, playing Rose-Hulman on Sunday was a very tough challenge.

Focusing on Rose-Hulman was especially difficult since Rose-Hulman had yet to win a conference game this season.

Wolinski commented, "It's

emotionally hard to get up for another game right after a win like DePauw, especially against a much weaker team.

"Rose-Hulman knew that we were tired and could use that to their advantage. We played hard, though, and it just shows how strong of a team we are that we were able to put a solid win together."

The Lynx solidly defeated the Fighting Engineers by 15 points, with a final score of 84-69. Miller led the team with 21 points and 10 rebounds, Wingo scored 16 points and grabbed 7 boards, Hunt had 15 points and 9 rebounds, and Leah Speaker ('04) added 13 points.

Heading into two away games this weekend against Centre and Sewanee with a 12-6 record, the Lynx look to add two more wins to their conference record.

Last time around at home against Centre and Sewanee, Rhodes ended the weekend 1-1, beating Centre and losing to Sewanee by three points.

Centre, the only other team in the SCAC to beat DePauw this year, will be a very hard team to beat again. It will be especially tough to defeat Centre on the Colonels' home court. Furthermore, avenging the loss against Sewanee will be just as much of a challenge for the surging Lady Lynx.

Coach Sara Chase adds, "Beating DePauw gives us a lot more confidence as a team. Having a win like that, especially going into the Centre/Sewanee weekend, is exactly what we needed."

"Although we always knew we were a good team, knocking off the number one team in the conference helps prove that."

If Rhodes comes home with two victories this weekend, it is possible that they could find themselves sitting in the #2 or #3 spot in the conference, a huge improvement from their 7<sup>th</sup> place pre-season ranking.

After the Centre and Sewanee road trip, the Lynx face Hendrix, Oglethorpe, and Millsaps in three straight home conference battles.

Finally, the Rhodes women's basketball team wraps up its regular conference schedule in Texas against Trinity and Southwestern on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Killing people for fun and profit

DEATH  
Grass is Greener



I've been thinking about starting my own business.

Here's why: Over the past few centuries, I've really started feeling the monotony of my job. As much as I hate to point fingers (especially icy cold fingers of doom like mine), I have to blame progress. Not only have advances in general knowledge and medical technology left me feeling totally unwanted, they've also cut down on the amount of creativity I can use in my day-to-day routine.

I mean, I *loved* consumption, you know? *Loved* it!

Combine that with the fact that I'm doing all this work as a volunteer — without time off for *holidays* even — and you're sure to understand my disgust. More and more, I've come to realize that offering my services freely and indiscriminately isn't just exhausting for me; any Econ major will tell you that it's also bad business.

(Okay, so it's not *all* volunteer —

I do have a pretty sweet deal worked out with Phillip Morris. But that's on the side.)

I rarely sleep any more — until the situation in the Middle East calms down, I'll *never* get any rest — but when I do, I dream about my childhood days in sunny Ann Arbor, Michigan. Summer afternoons I would sit diligently by the sidewalk with a cooler full of lemonade and a hand-lettered sign that typically started out reading "10 cents," but,

***These memories recall for me a latent entrepreneurial spirit that has always dwelt deep within the large gaping pit I have in place of a heart.***

as the day went on, would be edited to read "5 cents," "2.5 cents," and, ultimately, "Free." My lemonade was never very popular; I guess I can understand, as lemons tend to wither and rot when I touch them. Usually my merchant days would end with my younger brother Famine drinking all the lemonade and my older brother War beating me with a stick, just because I happened to be there.

So maybe my childhood was less than idyllic. Still, these memories recall for me a latent entrepreneurial spirit that has always dwelt deep within the large gaping pit I have in place of a heart. They also sparked an epiphany: I'm *handing out* something that *everybody uses!*

Well, dear reader, no more. From now on, if you want my services, you gotta pay for 'em. It's a concept that capitalists borrowed from prostitutes, and if it's good enough for

them then by golly it's good enough for me.

In my spare time I'm working on a website, through which I hope to market my business. The process will be painless and simple: point, click, and die, all for a flat rate of \$59.95, billed discreetly to your Visa or MasterCard (*definitely* no COD). What could be simpler?

I can even time it out to fit each

customer's schedule. Picture this: a doctor goes to tell an elderly patient that her arthritis is clearing up. As he's giving her the diagnosis — Bam! She *dies!* Of course she planned it all in advance, but he wouldn't know! What a great way to get some much-needed laughs on the way out the proverbial door!

If you can't tell, I'm also trying to change my image. No more of this gloom and doom stuff — I want people to see me for the hip, fun-lovin' dude that I am. You want to drop dead in the middle of a business meeting? Two seconds before you amend your will to include a brand-new spouse? No problem!

(Gallows humor, some would say, but of course I can't help it. The gallows are just damn funny.)

But don't let the frills blind you to the quality or nature of the product. It is, quite simply, Death for Sale. I understand that I'll be taking business away from gun shops and drug dealers, but hey, it's dog-eat-dog out there.

Think about the positives. For one, violent crime would all but disappear: if you can't kill anybody, what good will a gun do in a holdup? Wars would also be simplified, as it would really just come down to who

has enough cash to kill all the other guy's soldiers. I'm thinking of working out some kind of group discount. Or maybe some version of frequent flyer miles.

That was a joke.

But all of this planning begs the question: *Will people buy what I'm selling?*

Maybe not. My concern began to grow when I thought of those free-spirited, high-on-life types who would be *thrilled* to stay on Earth for eons with no desire to leave. No way they would *ever* pay for my services.

But then I also realized how obnoxious these people are, and it occurred to me that their friends and families would be more than happy to pay for their tickets to the Other Side. So all systems are go.

Right now I'm brainstorming for a company name. And a logo, too. I was going to just use a picture of myself, but if they all turn out like that one on the left then I'd better think again (Man, does *anybody* take a good Faces picture?). All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

If this doesn't work, I guess I'll be forced to return to my original idea, which is performing at little kids' birthday parties. Kind of sad, I realize, but hey, desperate times...

## Goodbye to ichy friends

KATHERINE  
WHITFIELD  
Something Fishy



I'm not the type of person who gets angry often. Usually I can keep my temper fairly well in check, reverting to screams and shouts only when absolutely necessary. Sure, I've had my moments — pulled some hair, slashed some tires, over-watered a few houseplants on purpose — but who hasn't?

Aside from these rare episodes, I'm a fairly rational individual, often times lucid and for the most part quite easygoing. In fact, up until recently I would have said there was no one occurrence in my life that pushed me totally over the edge, causing my sanity to tip and sway like one of those infernal Weeble people, hinging itself on the brink of reality and looming dangerously near a total breakdown. But regrettably, friends, I can no longer make this claim about myself.

The incident that triggered my

mental collapse and this ensuing diatribe was the tragic and untimely death of my quadmate's pet fish Faulkner. Having had Faulkner for only a few weeks, my neighbor (referred to here as Karoline to protect her identity) was devastated at the news of his passing. No foul play was detected in the investigation into Faulkner's death, but Karoline continued to blame herself. My quadmates and I gave a 21-flush salute to our fallen comrade, but Karoline remained inconsolable.

Witnessing first-hand my companion's bereavement over her lifeless friend, I began to question the reasoning behind allowing residents to possess only those pets with the absolute shortest of life spans. Certain that our school would take definite interest in a matter which subjected many of its students to unnecessary grief, I did some delving in to the issue.

After several days of intently poring over volumes after volumes of outtakes from the student handbook, I found a leaflet addressing the question of pets in the dorms containing a surprisingly candid quote

from Robert Dove, Director of the Student Counseling Center. Said Dove, "Most people think we have this 'fish only' policy due to the logistics of housing almost all other ordinary pets. Man, no way. We used to allow all kinds of crazy stuff — dogs, llamas, Albanian wombats — you name it. But we found that having these lovable creatures greatly increased the morale of the students,

***My quadmates and I gave a 21-flush salute to our fallen comrade, but Karoline remained inconsolable.***

and in my department, high morale is what we refer to as the Big No-No. The solution was simple: limit the longevity of student pets, and lower the morale."

Shocked and angered by my findings, I headed off for the carnival, determined that if Karoline couldn't have a pet that would live longer than a wet hamster in a deep freeze, at least she could have another one that would die soon. 2 hours, 39

dollars, and 117 ping-pong balls later, I tossed my way into a winner's paradise, becoming the proud owner of a brand new fish. The carnie (supposedly short for "devil incarnate") scooped my prize away from his fishy family, plopped him into a tiny baggie, and handed him to me. I turned to walk away, but the carnival worker grabbed me by the shoulder and said, "You be sure to transfer

that little feller soon. They only live for an hour or so in these here bags."

As I gazed into my fish's tiny black eyes, I saw a fear strike deeper than any I've ever known. Somehow I could sense that he knew of his possible fate, that he knew his entire future rested on my decision to either hurry home or linger at the fair. I watched him, no longer casually swimming about but rather pacing round and round, gills frantically

puffing water in lieu of a much-needed cigarette, helplessly sealed into his aquatic tomb by a twist-tie.

Something inside of me snapped. Overcome with rage, I grabbed the entire tank full of victims, thrust it into my car, and sped back to school. Upon my arrival, I dumped all of the fish into the fountain in front of the McCoy, all the time screaming, "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom to swim anew!" To my horror, the precious creatures all died instantly, poisoned by the soap residue lacing the water as a result of the previous vandalism of said fountain.

My grief for my departed associates might have been less severe had the entrée in the Rat not suspiciously been Jalapeño Catfish at every meal over the 6 days which followed.

One might interpret this article as a warning against the catfish, but it's not. I like the catfish. Instead, this is merely the forum for my simple request: Please do not put soap in the fountain. The repercussions could be greater than you know.

Thank you.

## Rone branded "neenerhead"

By Matt Reed  
Rhode'ster Name Caller

The already-tense atmosphere in Palmer Hall was made more uncomfortable by a proclamation from President Troutt last Thursday officially declaring Director of Special Projects John Rone to be a "neenerhead."

In addition to 'neenerhead,' Rone sometimes exudes the qualities of a 'stupidface,' 'pottyhead,' and appears to have 'cheesebreath,' according to the proclamation, which was signed by Troutt at the end of the day Thursday.

On Friday morning the proclamation was read at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, and copies were floating around the offices of Palmer Hall along with photographs of Carol Casey's drunken bar brawl at the recent faculty/staff Christmas party.

The argument between Troutt and Rone evidently began last October, when Rone alleges that Troutt stole a Rat steak from his tray. In response, Rone drew an imaginary line across the table, which Troutt crossed "repeatedly and deliberately," according to several witnesses.

But the carnage did not stop there. During a crucial meeting with the Board of Trustees, Rone

apparently interrupted Troutt's presentation on rising tuition costs to sing "a very loud and rather crude" song about Troutt's mother, according to eyewitness accounts. Troutt then began making faces at Rone, and then the two briefly exchanged blows, became visibly upset, and left the room in opposite directions.

"They both fight like girls," one of the Board members was heard to say.

The fued was later complicated when Troutt left a dead rat in Rone's office chair. By way of retaliation, Rone stated publicly that Troutt "likes" a girl named Carole, and that Troutt was a "buttface" and Rone would shortly be "telling."

When Rone brought the fued to the attention of the Tennessee Board of Education, both participants were asked in a letter to take "a long time out," and were asked to "sit in your offices and really think about what you've done."

The conflict showed signs of lifting last month, when Troutt and Rone were seen to be trading lunches at the Lynx Lair. But by issuing the recent proclamation, Troutt seems determined not to let Rone off so easily.

"They're impossible," commented Assistant to the President Loyd Templeton. "Some days I just drop them off at Charlie Landreth's house and let *him* deal with them."

## RSG UPDATE

Dear Students:  
RSG has had a difficult week — mainly because it is very difficult to pretend to be doing something all the time.

First and foremost, I would like to report on the status of the Dean of College Search. We have given up all hope of finding a new dean. Instead, the salary that would have gone to the Dean of College will now be divided equally among the members of the Dean of College Search Committee. Knowing this from the beginning, we never actually worked to find a new dean. Instead we all picked a friend or family member to come visit us at the expense of the college. We did not publicize the visit of Dean of College candidate Richard Ramsey, the struggling actor-turned-Dean-Candidate, but a great time was had by all when he came. It's been a fun two years, and we are all happy with our final decision.

This brings me to the next issue to be discussed: the price of the new dorm. Yes, it is more expensive than other dorms, but I am no longer looking into the issue be-

cause (thanks to the absence of a new dean) I can now afford it. And if it don't affect me, I don't care. You want things to go your way — you run for office next year.

At our last meeting, we had a tie for our record-high student body attendance. In fact, for the 14th week straight, absolutely no one showed up. In light of this, we have discussed the idea of having our meetings on the bulletin board, so that students will not actually have to make an effort to give their opinions. Because if anyone knows how annoying it is to have to give effort, it's the student government.

Look, I know no one is reading this. There is actually no point in my writing this RSG Update. No one actually cares about what resolution was passed and when. At the most, a student may be interested to see if the Vice-President of Student Government knows to not split his infinitives. I hate this school and the students that go to it.

Thank you all,  
-John Ramsey, RSG VP

## Rhode'ster Staff

DOROTHY  
Bob Arnold

THE SCARECROW  
Matt Reed

THE TIN MAN  
Drew Hughes

THE COWARDLY LION  
Jamie Eubanks

GLENDA, THE GOOD WITCH  
Katherine Whitfield

THE FLYING MONKEYS  
Drew Hughes  
Susan Hughes

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN  
Jessica Hoffman

Person 1: "I sure like pears."  
Person 2: "Pears? Who likes pears anymore? Nobody, that's who! You sure are stupid!"  
Person 1 (aside): "Say what you will, arrogant one! When my Rhode'ster article comes out, everyone on campus will know that you suffer from genital warts! Mwahahahaha!"

Our writers wield power!  
Anybody can write for the Rhode'ster — faculty and staff included (Yep — that's a direct challenge)!

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

## Students get sex appeal for Christmas

By Jamie Eubanks  
Rhode'ster Fashion Censor

When the three wise men heard of the birth of the baby Jesus, they decided to show their joy and obedience to God by bringing the child frankincense, myrrh, and gold: the former two being perfumes that scientists have now determined did not always smell like dung, and the latter a precious metal that has been linked to the etymology of such words as *consarnit*.

This earliest of Christmas traditions, that of bearing gifts which will make the recipient more attractive and acceptable, is arguably the only meaningful holiday sentiment that we have retained in our modern frenzy to temper our secular decorations with vaguely religious greeting cards and teach our children the significance of candy canes.

Even in a school as small as Rhodes College, one can see the effects of a spiritually fulfilling Christmas break on college stu-

dents.

As soon as people started pouring back onto campus after the break, there was a marked increase in fashion sense and big-city foppishness.

Freshman Caroline Vance can be seen around campus sporting her faith in a pink calf-length pea coat. When asked what made her think she could wear a pink coat like some sort of frickin' New York fancy-pants, Vance responded, "You're just bitter, gray coat." Vance's unwillingness to cooperate left this reporter with no recourse but to bust her one in the grill and steal the aforementioned item for investigative purposes.

While the new wardrobes that most students brought with them to school are a good indication of the yuletide increase in self-worth attained over the break, some people have gone above and beyond to augment their inner goodness.

Freshman Sarah Hall, for example, returned to school with a smart, sassy haircut: a flirtatious bob that would have made a big splash at the Nativity of Christ. It is rumored that Hall had been planning this endeavor for some

time prior to Christmas, and had been, in fact, growing her hair out in order to make it into a wig for children undergoing chemotherapy.

The selflessness and charity of her act, especially in light of its pre-holiday conception and merely fortuitous Christmas-time fruition, leave some wondering if Hall grasps the true meaning of the season: to come back to school looking like you've been really cool all along and no one noticed before because they were all wieners.

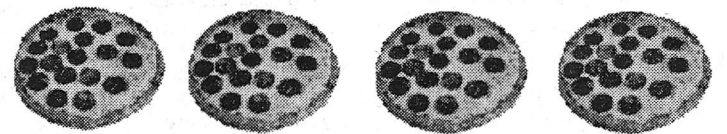
Even worse than this misappropriation of holiday spirit, some students, like freshman Jamie Eubanks, appeared to have missed the Self-Improvement boat entirely, and instead ended up taking a short trip to Squaresville over the break.

With no new image, the defensive Eubanks grasped for straws: "I have a new shirt. It's fuzzy. I'm hip. DON'T JUDGE ME!" Later in the interview, Eubanks broke down and repented from her heathen lack of concern for her appearance. She is willing to change her ways, but she asks that her fellow students help her

in her struggle by donating expensive new clothes and shoes to her... just until she has the spiritual wherewithal to make it on her own.

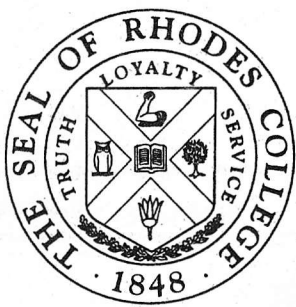
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# THE RHODE'STER

The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

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

Page 12

## Scientists conclude: Rhodes built on Eden!

By Bob Arnold  
Rhode'ster Rib Doctor

If students feel that attending Rhodes is like living in paradise, they may be more right than they realize.

"We now have pretty convincing proof that the Rhodes campus is actually built on the site of the original Garden of Eden," explained Sociology professor Tom McGowan. "Up until recently we thought this land was originally a nuclear waste dump, so naturally we're pretty excited."

The proof surfaced when East Village construction workers unearthed several curious relics on the campus, including a half-eaten apple, a skeleton missing a rib, and an enormous plaque reading "Welcome to Eden. Be Nice or Leave."

"We're pretty sure it was written in the Lord's Hand," explained McGowan. "All who touched it were instantly reduced to a pile of smoldering ash. Plus, God tends to dot His i's with little smiley faces."

Naturally, such a discovery is sending shockwaves through the scientific community, especially as Creationists have long placed the Garden in the Middle East. How does McGowan account for this apparent error?

"Evidently, previous researchers have just been making a very, very

large mistake," McGowan responded.

"It's strange," he continued. "I've never known so many people to be so horribly wrong about something." McGowan then finished applying a "Thank God for Bush" sticker to the bumper of his car.

If the incredible theory is indeed true, then evidently some time around 4003 B.C. the Angel with the Flaming Sword was replaced with the less-conspicuous Snowden Gatehouse.

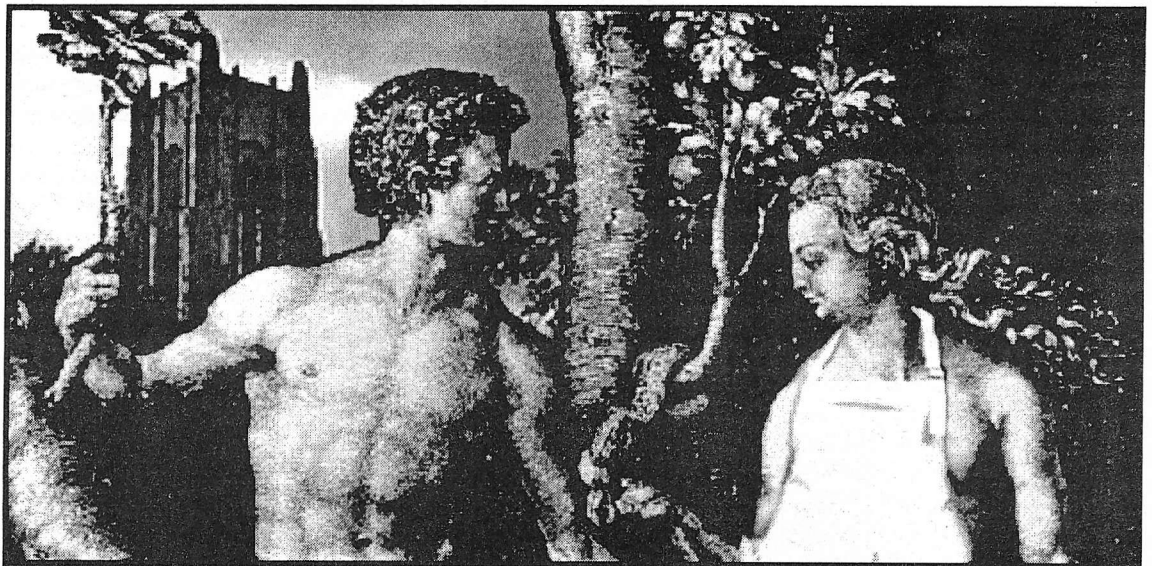
Asked why the Almighty would make such a move, Director of Campus Safety and potential Archangel in disguise Ralph Hatley surmised that, "He was probably falling asleep on the job. Either that or he wasn't paying attention, just waving people through the gates and not even checking for the Mark of Cain. I have no doubt that God was right to fire him."

"Nor," he added, "should you."

Red-faced evolutionists are now busy peeling those little Darwin fish off the backs of their cars.

"Dammit," mused Evolution professor John Olsen. "You just never really know, do you? I guess now we have to go back and double-check the Flat Earth theory. I mean, just in case."

Other faculty members are a little more excited about the news.



**DO YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?** — In this artist's rendition, Eve offers Adam an apple from the Tree of Knowledge, thus simultaneously causing the Fall of Man and initiating a long tradition of foodservice here at Rhodes. That service today continues through the ministry of Aramark. And God saw that it was generally pretty good, except when they serve breakfast at dinnertime, and on weekends when Servery B is closed.

"I think it's great," commented Brian Shaffer, an Associate Professor of English at the college. "It means I can come to work tomorrow wearing a fig leaf — and *only* a fig leaf."

Shaffer then attempted to expound on the symbolic role of Eden throughout literary history, but he was interrupted by loud retching noises from the rest of the English Department.

"Oh, you were *begging* for it at the last Christmas party!" Shaffer shouted down the hall.

Some students seem to be taking the news with a healthy dose of skepticism.

"Rhodes College is *nothing* like

Paradise," fumed Neel Gupta, a senior and a regular contributor to the college's bulletin board. "The administration here isn't doing *anything* right. We should look to more successful liberal arts colleges to garner the kind of knowledge we need to effect worthwhile change. Here, try this apple."

Now that the campus has been declared Holy Ground, Dean of Student Affairs Mel Richey warns students to prepare for a few "small altercations," perhaps including bombings and border skirmishes.

"Throughout history," Richey explained, "war and religion have always been like peanut butter and

jelly."

Meaning war prevents religion from sticking to the roof of your mouth?

"Um.... No," replied Richey. "Hey, there's a tree here I think you should find."

Despite these concerns, most of the campus is positively thrilled with the news.

"I always knew Rhodes was a holy place," commented freshman Spencer Pharr. "When I came to visit I thought it must be heaven, because there were lots of old people walking around looking dazed. Then my tour guide explained that it was just Homecoming Weekend."

## Rites needs more drinking, debauchery, says Hatley

By Drew Hughes  
Rhode'ster Beer Goggler

In another stunning revelation from the Rites of Spring Task Force, Ralph Hatley, Director of Campus Safety, announced that he may be forced to lay off several officers as this year's Rites of Spring approaches. According to Hatley, Rhodes students have not taken full advantage of the opportunities that Rites has offered in recent years.

"I've seen a steady decline in drunken acts of violence over the Rites weekend in recent years," Hatley says. "Without some campus-wide effort to increase debauchery, vandalism and general mayhem, I don't expect there to be enough for [Campus Safety officers] to do," Hatley said.

At last week's meeting of the

Rites Task Force, Hatley pointed to statistics circulated by the Office of Student Affairs to illustrate his point.

"See here?" Hatley said. "Mel [Richey, Dean of Student Affairs] says that 'in Glassell Hall, a water fountain was pulled off the wall, the window in a door was broken, a fire alarm was pulled and students' white boards were vandalized.'"

"I'm thinking, 'Is that all? That's not even a normal weekend in Glassell,'" said Hatley.

"Is Mel threatening to end Rites because of these few acts of vandalism? I, for one, feel more threatened by the fact that Rhodes students just don't seem to be having enough fun."

Controversial remarks like this are nothing new from Hatley, long branded a maverick among the campus security world. Doubts about the

Campus Safety Director's sincerity are complicating the issue further.

"I wonder if Hatley's comments have anything to do with the search for someone to head the college's new Office of Campus Fun," said local police sergeant Jack Slaughter. "I got a tip to investigate the woodshed on Old Man McCracken's property. Maybe I'll find a lead there."

Hatley denies any ulterior motive, asserting that his sincerity is, well, sincere. "I have no ulterior motive. My sincerity is, well, sincere," Hatley explained. "To accuse me of wanting to leave my \$20,000 per year position as Director of Campus safety for the \$175,000 per year post of Dean of Campus Fun is preposterous. I love my job."

"Moreover, I'm not at all interested in the Skee-Ball machine that

has been purchased for the new dean's office. Those pictures were manipulated — someone put my head on someone else's body."

The pictures show a man looking curiously like Hatley playing Skee-Ball in his underwear, with a girl on each arm, sipping through a straw connected to a beer helmet.

Bill Chisholm ('03) knows not which Hatley to believe. "I went by Hatley's office to contest a parking ticket, but he was on the phone. I overheard him telling someone how he'd like 'to cut loose, let my hair down every now and then.' Or maybe it was just 'Yes, honey, I'll get the milk on my way home.'"

Hatley maintains that his primary interest is in seeing Rhodes students get the most out of their Rites weekend. "C'mon, my officers

didn't find a single person peeing in the bushes on campus. We can do better than that. And as long as I'm working at Rhodes, whether it be as Director of Campus Safety or, God forbid, as the Dean of whatever that new office is, I'll be looking out for the welfare of Rhodes students."

This year's Rites of Spring, the annual three-day festival of live music that takes place in the Frazier-Jelke Amphitheatre and is organized by the Rhodes Activities Board, is scheduled for April 6-8. The highly secretive list of musical acts scheduled to perform will be announced in mid-March but has been rumored to include such recent and highly sought-after hit-makers as Johnny Bravo, The (Bacon Cheeseburger) Hot Pockets, Four Guys with Blond Hair, and Steely Dan.