

# THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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## Campus News...

All Stories Courtesy of U-Wire

Ruth J. Simmons, in a unanimous vote by the Brown Corporation on Thursday, was elected the 18<sup>th</sup> president of Brown University (Providence, RI). Ms. Simmons, the current president of Smith College in Northampton, MA, will be the first black president of an Ivy League school, and only the second woman president in the history of the League. She will also be Brown's first permanent female president. She received several standing ovations during her introduction and address to the Brown community, and stated that Brown should hone in on education of all students, regardless of their backgrounds, focusing on "excellent minds and not just fat purses."

A missing Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) student will be featured on Fox's "Million Dollar Mysteries" on Friday. Jill Behrman, then 19, was last seen on May 31<sup>st</sup>, riding her bike. She had just completed her freshman year at IU.

Behrman's father, Eric Behrman, hopes that "someone might see this program who could help us locate our daughter." A reward of \$50,000 has been posted in conjunction with the case, which is being investigated by local police and the FBI.

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) men are participating in the White Ribbon Campaign this week in an effort to end male violence against women. The event is celebrating its first anniversary on the campus this week, and began at the University of Montreal in 1989 after the massacre of fourteen women by a lone gunman. The campaign encourages the education of men about the seriousness of their actions. Says National Outreach Coordinator for the campaign Jack Gagliardi, "We battle everything from sexist jokes against women all the way up to murder." Says University of Michigan student Gary Brouhard, "I want to be proud to be a man."

## Sexual harassment: an issue on campus

By Margie Hall  
News Editor

The second entry of *The Sou'wester's* Campus Safety Log on October 26th read, "Williford Hall - Sexual Battery that was reported earlier in the week, reported to Memphis Police Department and is under investigation. Seven other students, besides the most recent victim, step forward also to witness similar incidents occurring with the suspect. The suspect was identified and is under investigation by the Memphis Police Department. The suspect was also removed from campus later this date. MPD on the scene throughout the day conducting its investigation. Investigation still ongoing by MPD."

This is all that has been said by Rhodes on the actual event. However, it does present another issue. The "A" keys allow access by both genders to all dorms at any time. The presence of the Honor Code allows students to feel secure about the safety of their belongings in such a trusting atmosphere. According to Mel Richey, Dean of Student Affairs, "In such a close environment, we must be careful of how we treat each other, and students must feel comfortable reporting behavior that makes them uncomfortable."

Rhodes does have a clearly stated sexual harassment policy, and it can be found in Section VI of the calendar handbook given to students every year. The policy differentiates between sexual harassment and sexual assault, defining sexual harassment as "unwelcome sexual behavior that a reasonable person would find offensive and that adversely affects the working, learning, social or residential environment." Sexual assault is defined as "sexual acts committed without the consent of the victim, by threat or intimidation or through use of the victim's mental or physical helplessness of which the accused was aware or should have been aware." In either case, such behavior will not be tolerated by the school.

In addition to clear definitions of standards for behavior, there are explicit methods of dealing with the problem once it has been acknowledged. Students are encouraged to first approach a lesser problem individually, by acknowledging the situation to the accused. If the individual feels the need for counseling, confidential service is available in the Health Center, the Chaplain's office, and the Counseling Center. For a more serious claim, mediation is available. In media-

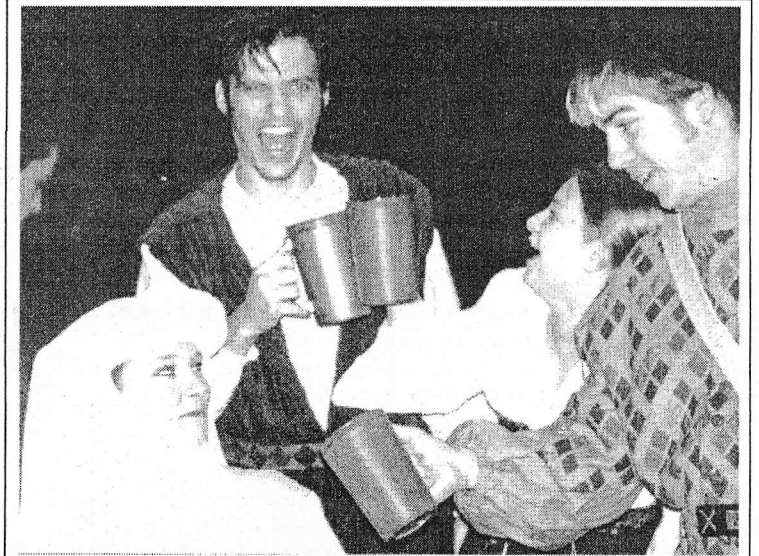


Photo by Miriam Dolin

Students perform Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales." The McCoy Theatre's fall musical extends through this weekend. See our review on p. 6.

tion, the event/ events become a matter of college record. The individuals involved discuss their understanding of the event with a trained mediator, who is assigned by the Dean. According to Dean Richey, mediation functions to "give closure" to an event of sexual harassment. In mediation, the students sign an agreement, and the Dean may impose sanctions on either party for violating the

agreement. If a student feels the need for formal action surrounding sexual harassment or assault, they may choose the option of Administrative Hearing, in which the matter goes

**See Assault,  
page 5**

## Controversy continues as Election 2000 draws out

By Aaron Tucker  
Staff Writer

### ANALYSIS

So, November 7th has passed and all the votes are in, yet we have not elected a new president. Everyone is wondering who will win the election and become president. This election was and continues to be very close and controversial. What did happen and why haven't we decided who will be inaugurated in January?

On election night the lead went back and forth; mistakes were made by the media by first calling Florida's electoral votes for Al Gore, then calling them for George Bush after a long and drawn-out night. Perhaps for the first time in history, one candidate, Gore, called and conceded the election to Bush and then called him back nearly an hour later and took back the concession. This election is an important moment of history. However,

that night has brought many questions to the forefront, as well as the possibility for severe problems in the transferring of power.

Rumors and misguided comments have been abundant. The lead in Florida is the crucial point now, as a win in that state would put either candidate over the required 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency. That lead is in question as it has gone from just over 1700 points in favor of Bush, to as low as under 300 points in favor of Bush, with absentee ballots still coming in that were postmarked on election day. There is also the issue over the irregular ballot in West Palm Beach. This ballot may have caused some confusion as that county, a Democrat stronghold, had over 3000 votes for Pat Buchanan and 19,000 ballots had two punches in them, causing them to be thrown out. Many claim that these irregularities show that the ballot

confused many people.

A judge will address complaints that people were not able to vote as they wished. The decision may follow many paths from there. The case may just be dismissed and the result upheld, a revote in the county could occur, or the judge may decide to allocate some of those irregular votes to Gore.

As all this is going on and recounts are being made all over Florida, a battle of words has been taking place between the Democrats and the Republicans. Bush has begun assigning his cabinet positions as he is sure that he will come out the winner of the election. In the meantime, the Democrats have supported the private suits asking for some resolution to voting irregularities. This support has prompted the Bush camp to criticize the Democrats and threaten recounts in other close states for retaliation. Warren Christopher, the former

Secretary of State, who is monitoring the recount in Florida for Gore, maintains that these recounts and legal issues are merely to ensure that the will of the people decides the next president.

So, as we earnestly wait to find out who will be our president for the next four years, we will continue to hear claims of fraud and irregularities along with attacks from both sides. The rest of the world is also looking at this election in awe as they see that even the United States, the birthplace and protector of democracy, has to face problems with elections. No matter which candidate ends up winning, there will remain a question in the mind of every American: is this really the person who won this election? That is the question that will remain unanswered and contested after the Electoral College casts its votes on December 18<sup>th</sup> and a new president is formally elected.



## Nobel Prize and the politics of Chinese literature

PROFESSOR  
MING DONG GU



Until 2000, the Nobel Prize of Literature never looked favorably on the Chinese language writers. This situation caused a Mr. Cao Changqing, a Chinese dissident fond of making sensational and sometimes absurd comments on the Chinese scene, to pronounce in 1999 that Chinese literature has suffered a century of failure because not a single Chinese writer has won the Nobel Prize of Literature.

His pronouncement would be correct if the Nobel Committee were the ultimate arbiter of literary taste and achievement. As though to play a joke on Mr. Cao, the Nobel Committee recently announced that the 2000 Nobel Prize of Literature has been awarded to a Chinese writer named Gao Xingjian.

The Nobel Committee's decision has surprised nearly everyone in and outside China. Who is Gao Xingjian? Practically few in China know this name. In my "Modern Chinese Literature" class, Brent, a student of mine, broke the news to the class, and asked me who this writer was. Amy, a Chinese sophomore who grew up and went to college in China until she recently came to Rhodes, confessed that she had never even heard of the name, not to mention having read any of his writings.

I briefly told them that he was a writer who was flourishing for some time in China in the 1980s. In late 1980s, his writings were found by the Chinese government to have deviated from the government policy and were consequently banned. Since then he disappeared from the Chinese literary scene. In the widely represented anthology of modern Chinese literature we were using, not a single piece of his writings is selected.

The decision even surprised Chinese writers who know of him. One of them said wryly, "the winning of the Prize is comparable to winning a lottery, and you never know who will get it." The surprise is quite understandable. His award-winning novel, *The Other Shore* (in Chinese it is called "Lingshan," which, literally translated, means "Soul Mountain") was not available in China. It was published in Taiwan, but only sold about 200 copies. Thus, when the news reached China and the Chinese reading public, the general response is a mixture of disbelief, pleasant surprise, and embarrassing silence. Those who have never heard of Gao Xingjian could hardly believe that an unknown writer should have won the prestigious prize.

The Chinese media kept silent, for the news certainly embarrassed the Chinese government, which banned his books. A Chinese official attributed Gao's winning of the award to international politics and dismissed its significance by saying that the Nobel Committee knows little about Chinese literature. Among Chinese writers, in spite of the surprise, most of them consider the award was conferred in the right direction, for it represents the Nobel Committee's belated homage to the achievement of Chinese literature. Still there is almost a unanimous opinion that a few other Chinese writers like Ba Jin, Bei Dao, Wang Meng, Li Rui, Jia Pingwa, and Mu Yan should have a priority.

The choice of Gao Xingjian is an astute one. The Nobel Prize selection has always been criticized for its choices. To a certain degree, the criticism is justified. In the past century, the Nobel Prize Committee made many good choices. But regretfully, quite a few acknowledged literary masters in the world were ignored. Among them are such internationally renowned Western masters as James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, Franz Kafka, Virginia Woolf, not to mention great writers in China like Lu Xun, Lao She, Shen Congwen, Ba Jin, and Mao Dun. Sometimes, the choices bordered on folly. Bertrand Russell was awarded the prize for his philosophical writings; Winston Churchill for his history on World War II. Gao Xingjian's winning the award has caused some Chinese readers to say that the decision has thoroughly robbed the Prize of its credibility.

When a reporter from the *US News and World Report* approached me to ask for my response, I told him that compared with other more deserving Chinese writers, Gao has several advantages. First, in spite of the vigorous denial by the Nobel Committee, political consideration plays a part in the decision. After the 1989 student democratic movement in Tiananmen Square, Gao openly denounced the Chinese government, and wrote and staged a play describing the life of exiled Chinese dissidents who fled from China.

For this and other political activities, the Chinese government declared

Gao a persona non grata. And among the Nobel Committee members, the only person who knows Chinese language and literature was denied entry into China for his support of Chinese dissidents. Even if the selection genuinely has nothing to do with politics, people would still relate the award to politics in view of the past records of awarding the prize to dissidents. After all, nothing escapes politics. The award is certainly a political statement even if no conscious political motivation swayed the decision.

Second, Gao Xingjian's writing has an edge over those of other Chinese writers in its writing technique and literary style. Gao graduated from college with a major in French. He has a command of Western literature rarely equaled by other Chinese writers. He was among the first to introduce Western avant-gardist writings and modernist writing techniques to China. His early writings showed a heavy influence of Western Modernist and absurdist writings. His award-winning fiction also displays visible Western writing influence, which obviously appeals to the Nobel judges.

Third, Gao is now a French citizen, who has resided in Western Europe since 1987. While his writings are not available in China, they are translated into different foreign languages, and have been highly praised by some Western literary critics. Literature is a language art. The Chinese language uses a writing system which totally differs from alphabetic European languages. When Chinese writings are translated into European languages, much of its literary qualities become lost. Gao Xingjian's writing, however, can be translated into European languages without much loss. Finally, the Nobel Committee has long been accused of being Eurocentric and ignoring Chinese literature. They have been under pressure to move contrary to the accusation. Thus, all the deciding factors favored Gao Xingjian.

Gao Xingjian was born in Jiangxi Province, China in 1940. From early childhood, he was steeped in the culturally and aesthetically enriching atmosphere of his family. Encouraged by his educated mother, he began to pursue traditional and Western forms of art early in his life. He recalled that even during the war years when his family had to move from place to place, the family always carried a piano with them. He is a person of multiple talents.

The Nobel Committee selected him for his fiction, but he is also a famous playwright. In the 1980s, his plays were hot in China. Some literary critics compare him to Cao Yu, the founder and greatest master of modern Chinese drama. So far, he has produced 18 plays collected in four books. His fiction composition includes the award-winning novel, another novel, *A Man's Bible*, and a collection of novellas. Like many Western literary masters, Gao Xingjian is also a perspicacious literary critic who shows avid interest in writing techniques. He wrote a number of critical and theoretical works. Finally, he is a talented painter. During his self-imposed exile, he relied heavily on his painting skill to support himself.

What sort of writing is Gao Xingjian's prize-winning novel, *The Other Shore*? Thematically, it is a novel about a pilgrimage to a sacred mountain in Southwest China. But it is not a religious pilgrimage. It is a spiritual search for a paradise of the soul, a utopia where the protagonists hope to be free from the strife of this mundane world. The central action of the storyline is based on the author's wanderings in the remote mountain regions of the southern and southwestern China. The novel consists of a series of stories woven into a whole, with multiple protagonists, who represent different facets of the same searching self.

Technically, the novel embodies an artistic search, which weaves folklore and everyday events, fiction and reality, fantasy and memory; alternates between self and other, past and present, time and space; and mixes narration and lyricism, traditional Chinese techniques and postmodern Western techniques. The novel as a whole works like a meticulously constructed monument that overwhelms the reader with its multiple dimensions, sublime grandeur, delicate beauty, and dreamlike visions.

Some Chinese readers regret that Gao renounced his Chinese citizenship, because strictly speaking, he does not count as a genuine Chinese writer. In my opinion, citizenship is not that important. In the history of American literature, T. S. Eliot and Henry James renounced their U.S. citizenship and became English subjects. No one would deprive them of their rightful places in the American pantheon of literature just because they were no longer U.S. citizens. Any great literary work does not belong to a single nation. It is part of the spiritual wealth for humanity. Though Gao Xingjian is a French citizen, the fact that his novel was on a Chinese subject, completed in China, and written in Chinese language testifies to his Chineseness.

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

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## The signs are back, but the issue never left

BOYD  
ABRE LOS OJOS



Yes, the signs are back. For those of you who still have not quite caught on, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week is back. So are the signs, now better than ever. Each sign is cited, stamped, and even includes a catchy motivational-inspirational message at the bottom: "You can make a difference." Furthermore, over half the signs were printed on recycled paper. Yet sadly, I'm sure that is still not enough for the critics.

*Every day in the developing world, over 15,250 children die of preventable diseases associated with malnutrition.*

*Every 3.6 seconds, someone dies of hunger. 75% are children.*

*Today 10% of children in developing countries die before the age of five.*

Originally, I wanted this column to be revolutionary, a fiery indictment of the Rhodes masses and our comfortable consumptive lifestyles. I planned to spark a controversy that would cause hundreds to write letters to the editor in reply, attacking my

audacity and lofty leftist rhetoric. Alas, I am afraid I am not up to the task. Nor am I sure whether that is a worthy task to undertake.

*Working 40 hours per week, the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Memphis, TN is \$10.42 per hour. Someone working at minimum wage would have to work 81 hours per week to afford the same apartment.*

*In 1998, children accounted for 25% of the urban homeless population.*

The purpose of this week is to challenge, inform, and motivate each and every Rhodes student to take action against hunger and homelessness on a global and local level. In the words of one homeless man in D.C., "They're dying out there." They want to live.

*In the last 50 years, almost 400 million people worldwide have died of hunger and poor sanitation.*

*22% of the urban homeless are employed.*

*Besides death, chronic malnutrition also causes impaired vision, listlessness, stunted growth, and greatly increased susceptibility to disease.*

We can make a difference. But we're not going to do it by arguing about the value of an awareness cam-

paign. Don't waste your time. This week is not about the signs. It's about moving people to action.

*Families with children constitute 40% of the homeless population.*

Many hunger experts believe that ultimately the best way to reduce hunger is through education. Educated people are best able to break out of the cycle of poverty that causes hunger.

At the latest estimate, there were 10,000 homeless people in Memphis. That is more than six times the number of students at Rhodes. Add to that the number of homeless people in the world. Then add to that sum the number of persons who live with chronic hunger in the world. That is a tremendous number of people in this world living with unmet subsistence needs. I have no idea what the final total is, but I know it's one that intimidates, humiliates, and scares me.

*One out of every seven people on earth goes hungry.*

*It is estimated that some 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, about 100 times as many as those who actually die of it each year.*

This campus does a great deal of service to the Memphis community. But so many of us, myself included, fail to look beyond our service to the

causes that create the conditions we confront, the systematic and structural inequalities that exist within our economic and governmental system.

*1.9 million seniors must choose between buying food and buying needed medicine.*

*8,659,000 children in the U.S. live in working poor families.*

*30% of homeless people are veterans.*

I am particularly disturbed by the lack of attention the issues of hunger and homelessness received in the recent election. I do not remember having heard housing or food stamps brought up once during the debates. It is not as if the situation has gotten better. It has gotten worse. For a nation that declared a war on poverty some years ago, we have done pretty poorly.

*On any given night in America, there are more than 750,000 people without homes, yet only 250,000 shelter beds.*

*4% of US households experience hunger. 6% of US households are at risk of hunger.*

*In 1999, 31 million Americans were food insecure despite the booming economy. 12 million of these Americans were children.*

I do not think that hunger and homelessness are going to be eradi-

cated from the world in my lifetime. However, I do think the situation can be improved significantly. But it requires the commitment of each of us to action. We need to focus that action so that it goes beyond being a mere Band-Aid for the problems that exist. We need to delve deep within ourselves, then attack the circumstances that lead to the creation of such conditions.

*The wealthiest fifth of the world's people consume 86% of all goods and services, while the poorest fifth consumes one percent.*

*There is enough food produced in the world to feed every man, woman, and child.*

In closing, I want to issue a personal challenge to every person who reads this column to participate in one of the remaining events of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week. You can make a difference—apply that ability. Make a difference not just this week, but for all the weeks to come.

*About 24,000 people die every day from hunger or hunger-related causes.*

*According to the 1996 World Food Summit, 840 million people live in the condition of chronic persistent hunger, one-seventh of our human family.*

## Beware the Greeting Gang

BOB COLEMAN  
YOU SAY  
YOU WANT A  
REVOLUTION?



It was just the other day that I was called into the office of Professor Greg Krosnes for a meeting. I thought it was about class, and I was sure he was concerned with my inability to act. I came to find out it's something much more vital and visceral in nature, something that affects us all. Here's the transcript of the proceedings that I like to call: "The G.G. tapes."

Bob Coleman: Hey Greg, what's up?

Professor Greg Krosnes: Oh, something's been bothering me.

BC: What's that?

GK: Well, you know how when you're walking down the hall or the street on campus and you see someone walking towards you, and you know that you're going to have to pass, and there's going to be that awkward moment right in the middle

when you pass each other?

BC: Yeah.

GK: Well, it irks me and just makes me sad when that person purposefully ignores you, or looks the other way just to avoid making eye contact with you. I mean, it's really rude to dismiss someone, and I wish that there was at least the comfort level on this campus that would allow people to say hi, or at least...acknowledge that the other person is there! Doesn't that bother you?

BC: Actually, yeah, that does bother me. How hard is it to just nod your head, or say hello?

GK: Exactly. It's easy. When I went here back in 1985 it was a great sense of comfort to me as a freshman — which is what we were called back then — that everyone said "Hi!" Or at least acknowledged me so that I could say "Hi!" to them...I'm telling you, it was a great dynamic we had.

BC: Have you ever thought that maybe it's 'cause you're a professor that people do it to you?

GK: Do you think?

BC: Not really, I was just asking if you've ever thought about it.

GK: I guess not.

BC: Okay, then. I seem to remember you bringing this up in your Improvisation class last year.

GK: I bring it up in all my classes. People need to learn.

BC: So what do your current classes have to say about it?

GK: Actually, my Acting class is forming "The Greeting Gang," which is going to find the chronic offenders of this malady, and we're going to penalize them.

BC: Who uses the word malady these days?

GK: What?

BC: I said: "How are you going to penalize them?"

GK: Well, some of the people want to trip them, other people just want to confront them and make them uncomfortable, and there are two or three people who want to just beat the tar out of them. They actually make the rest of the class kind of uncomfortable...I might have to take them aside and have a chat, if you get my drift.

BC: I understand. But isn't the Greeting Gang kind of extreme?

GK: We don't need weak people in the Greeting Gang, Bob. Are you weak or are you strong?

BC: Does my grade in Acting class depend on it?

GK: Well, I would never admit to that...

BC: I can be strong.

GK: Good.

BC: So how do you plan on letting people know?

GK: Well, you DO write a column for *The Sou'wester*, do you not?

BC: I do...

GK: And you CAN write about anything you want, right?

BC: Right...

GK: And you ARE worried about your Acting grade, right?

BC: I guess I could write my next article on it.

GK: Wonderful. Now Bob.

BC: Yes?

GK: Let's have a pop quiz. Hello, Bob!

BC: What? I'm not foll...Hi there, Professor Krosnes! It's really great to see you today! How are your

classes? Are you feeling well? I love your wrestling shoes!

GK: Bob.

BC: Yessir?

GK: You're acting again. Save it for class.

BC: Gotcha.

GK: You're dismissed.

I walked out of that office a little bit scared, but understanding what needed to be done. So let the G.G. tapes be a two-fold lesson for the lot of you.

The first lesson is that you should always be nice and polite around this campus, because it creates an awesome atmosphere that is a joy to experience.

The second lesson is that even a somewhat humor-based article such as this one can have a decent point that we can all understand. Be nice to your fellow Rhodents and please don't steal their backpacks; because that's even ruder than ignoring them.

So, as *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* taught us: "Be excellent to each other," and someone give me back my backpack already.



## Gays v. the Boy Scouts of America

By Megan Gaylord  
Staff Writer

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent; these are twelve words that have been a large part of my life since I was in the fourth grade. For those of you who don't know them, they are the words of the Boy Scout Law. Would it be possible for the actions of one man to threaten the sanctity of these values by demanding the admission of gays into the Scouting program?

I grew up in a scouting family, camping on the weekend, and I have worked the past six summers at a summer camp run by the Boy Scouts of America. It is a family legacy for me. My grandmother, grandfather, my father, all were strong advocates for the program. Scouting became hereditary. When my father retired from the Army, he started working for the Boy Scouts of America, coordinating the scouting program for part of one of the 300 councils as a District Executive. Scouting literally is my life, as I was surrounded by it and raised based on the values of the program. My whole family history and legacy was called into question and the future of a program that I love was almost destroyed this past June by the actions of one man.

Case number 99-699, the Boy Scouts of America vs. James Dale was placed in the hands of the Supreme Court after a short one-hour hearing. James Dale had been a scout leader with a troop in Sandy Hook, New Jersey and was attending Rutgers University. Dale had been active in the Boy Scouts' programs since he was eight. It was a large part of his life; but his life started to change at college, where he came out of the closet, sharing his sexual preference with his friends, family, and college community. He grew active in the university's lesbian and gay organization, becoming a co-president his sophomore year. It was when Dale appeared on the front page of the local town's newspaper in a story about a workshop for gay youth that controversy spread in the scouting community. In 1990, he received a letter in the mail stating that his membership had been revoked, without stating a reason. The Boy Scouts assumed he would know why his membership had been denied. Dale then started a long process of suing the Boy Scouts of America for membership reinstatement. The case eventually was heard by the Supreme Court, ten years after his membership was denied. His cause was turned into an event celebrated in the media. It was another chance for gay rights to be a leading story on the evening news and in magazines like *Rolling Stone*, which ran an illustration of a Boy Scout leader being burned at the stake.

You might wonder why the Supreme Court's decision would affect you. This case was not about being gay, no matter what the media said. The media took great lengths to parade gay rights, but that was not even close to what the case was about. The main argument of the case was whether private organizations have the right to determine their membership. It was about whether or not an organization can hold membership standards that people in their organization must meet. The United States military does: they have "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." They hold their membership to a standard, and they are a government run institution. If the court decided in favor of Dale, then every private organization that has membership standards would be liable for lawsuits. Roughly fifty percent of the students here on campus are members of private organizations: fraternities and sororities. Greek organizations would have faced lawsuits from people who were denied membership. The standards that we hold for membership would be thrown away, allowing anyone to sue their way into an organization. This would hold true for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Rifle Association (NRA), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Members of the

KKK could become members of the NAACP. Known hate crime committers could become members of the organizations that try to stop the hate, because the organization would have no legal right to hold their membership to standards. What is most shocking is that homosexual rights organizations such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLADD) and the Rainbow Coalition would then not be able to control their own membership. Just like the NAACP, they would legally have to admit people who were committers of sexual discrimination. They were fighting and triumphing a case that would destroy their own membership.

This leads me to Dale himself. Dale publicly admits that he loves the scouting program and that it is very dear to him. If it was as dear to him as he proclaims, then he would have let the case go and accepted that he should do the best thing for the program. I think the fact that he carried the case so far, during the ten years of his membership denial, is a direct sign that he doesn't hold as much loyalty (the second point of the scout law) as he proclaims. They say if you really love something, then the truest test is to let it go. Dale's personal pursuit of membership affected the rest of the organizations members. Almost forty-eight percent (47.33%, almost 1.5 million scouts and adult volunteers) of scouting membership is directly sponsored by a church or religious organization. Six of the top ten chartering (sponsoring) organizations are religiously based (United Methodists, Mormons, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists). Some of the churches watched this very closely, because they would have discontinued their relationship with scouting had

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*This case was not about being gay, no matter what the media said.*

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open homosexuals been allowed to gain membership. The month before the decision was announced, I attended an Eagle Scout Banquet where a friend of mine earned the highest honor that only one percent of the scouting membership earns. He was a Mormon scout that had grown up in the program, which was completely intertwined with the male youth of the church and their obligations to God and community. At the end of the ceremony their minister announced that the next weekend was a time for fasting and prayer nationwide, and asked God to guide the justices in their decision. There are more than 412,000 Mormon Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts faced losing that much of their membership because of Dale's lack of true loyalty.

James Dale lost his case, but regardless of the legal decision, irreparable damage has been done to the relationship that the scouting program has with other organizations. The Boy Scouts of America, who proclaimed that "America was returning to the values that Scouting never left" faced losing membership despite the verdict. Since the outcome, scouting has lost funding from the United Way (who contributed \$83.7 million in 1996) and they have had some public schools and PTAs (18.9% or 648,680 members) discontinue their sponsorship. This has only bred more court cases that are currently going on and became a political issue in the Virginia Senate election. State parks and schools have stopped allowing the scouting program to use their facilities, which is discrimination because they allow other organizations that determine their membership based on moral standards to continue usage. The Boy Scouts has several lawsuits against the double standard enforced by the groups. The Virginia Senate candidates, George Allen and Chuck Robb, answered a question in their debate days before the election about scout troops not being

allowed to use state parks for recreation and events. Scouting might have won, but in the long run they are still losing.

My personal opinion was placed on trial with Dale's case because one of my good friends growing up was bisexual. She and I both shared almost everything in common, regardless of her sexuality. She held a lot of the same moral opinions that I did. This past summer she and I argued at length over this issue, but the truth remains that the Boy Scouts of America did what was right. James Dale is quoted as saying that "[Scouting] was about being the best person you could be." Scouting involves a close physical relationship, at times, in activities such as canoeing, camping, and rock climbing. If a scout knows that his leader is a homosexual, he might feel uncomfortable, and therefore would not be able to be the best person he could be in the scouting program. That scout might not get as much out of the program, because he is worried about the relationship with his leader. The message of scouting that Dale affirms is exactly what his membership questions.

The scouting program goes at length to uphold strong moral values in a sex free environment. They have a program called *Youth Protection*, that leaders must take to ensure the physical safety of youth and to help stop child abuse. The youth themselves also have an age level appropriate video that they watch and discuss with their parents about child abuse. The program has certain standards they meet to help protect youth and allow them to address certain issues within the family context. The idea of discussing issues in the family context is also a part of rank advancement and merit badges. To be honored as an Eagle Scout, a young man must take a merit badge called Family Life, in which the last requirement is to address with their parents the issues of drugs, growth, development, and making proper sexual choices. The leaders do not display any sexual attitudes or personas. All the moral decision is with the family, which James Dale's sexual preference violates. Being overtly sexual in any manner, whether gay or straight, is grounds for losing membership. Sexual anything is a personal matter and does not belong in scouting. When asked about personal issues, leaders are directed to keep personal information and issues private. For example, if a camper asked me if I had a boyfriend, I would simply reply that it was personal and it was the end of the issue.

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of the Boy Scouts of America, an organization that has celebrated ninety years of commitment to youth and moral values. Despite my personal belief that there is nothing wrong with being homosexual, I do not bring that with me into my work with the scouting program. James Dale was not willing to keep his personal life private. This case wasn't about being straight or gay. It was about the right of an organization to maintain a sex-free organization, and to deny membership to people who do not subscribe to their same policy and their stand to keep young men "Physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." We'll have to wait and see what the damage amounts to, once the dust settles after James Dale's betrayal. But the light of scouting will still continue to shine among the dust and confusion.

**Express your opinions in . . .**

# Forum

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

**All Rhodents are welcome to participate.**

**Interested? E-mail Trey Thacher at THAFB.**



## Campus Safety Log

11/6/00 TO 11/12/00



11/6/00	12:30pm Refectory – Backpack reported missing. Report taken.
11/7/00	NOTHING REPORTED
11/8/00	NOTHING REPORTED
11/9/00	9:50pm McCoy Theater – Vandalism of fountain: soap in fountain - had to be drained and cleaned. 11:50pm Voorhies-Townsend – Burning odor complaint - determined to be incense burning.
11/10/00	2:07am Faculty/Staff Parking Buckman Lot: Parking signs stolen, videos being reviewed. 7:55am Palmer Hall: Suspicious juveniles reported in the area looking at bikes. Campus Safety located and checked both suspects. They were released and escorted off campus. 2:45pm North Parkway/University – Two suspicious persons appearing to look into cars on University. Campus Safety followed out of area. Note: one was driving a small red compact car. 8:00pm Fraternity Row – unregistered party. Dean and DOCS contacted. Sponsors identified.
11/11/00	12:20am Briggs Loading Dock area: Fight reported on bus returning students from an off-campus party. Bus found to be overcrowded with people pushing and shoving. Campus Safety requested to scene to stop disturbance. 2:28am Williford Hall, Noise complaint: Campus Safety requested music to be turned down. 3:48am Townsend, second floor: Disturbance and fight reported. Campus Safety and Residence Life responded. Broken up by Campus Safety. Under investigation by DOCS at this time.
11/12/00	12:05am Fraternity Row – unregistered party. Sponsors identified. 1:55am Robb Hall – noise complaint – requested music to be turned down. 8:12am Briggs/Robinson parking lot: parking lot signs uprooted and vandalized. 3:45pm Stewart Parking Lot: Suspicious juvenile. Detained by Campus Safety and escorted off property.

### STATS

ACCESSES: 106  
VISITORS: 1,314  
PROPPED DOORS: 5  
ESCORTS: 18  
JUMP STARTS: 10  
CITATIONS: 67  
ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS: 0  
BOOTS: 2

## Parker Palmer inspires campus with wise words

By Brian Powell  
Staff Writer

Nationally recognized writer, educator, and public speaker Parker J. Palmer made his way onto the Rhodes campus this past Thursday, November 9, 2000, to speak in McCallum Ballroom. The speech was entitled "The Company of Strangers: Education and the Renewal of the Public Life."

The most intriguing aspect of Palmer's speech was his ability to effectively capture and address many aspects of our personal life and then bridge those aspects to our public life and more importantly, to our societal life. A basic outline of the thesis he presented is paraphrased as follows: the quality of life for our society as individuals, but more importantly, as a whole, depends on the ability of strangers to be able to work with one another. According to Palmer, there are three basic realms to societal life: on one extreme you have the private realm, and on the other extreme you have the political realm. Somewhere in the middle, there used to lie a public realm; however, Palmer argues that this middle realm which acts as a threshold to bind and to protect the political and private realms has

become suffocated over the years. Also, if this public realm continues to be choked, then we pollute our society and our quality of life. In time, we have grown to avoid this public realm because we fear the "strangers" that it is composed of. It is this fear that Mr. Palmer argues is destroying our society as a whole, and consequently, our own selves as well.

Palmer defined the term "stranger" as anyone other than us. As individuals we have grown to fear anyone other than ourselves. According to Palmer, it is our job as a society and as individuals to try to re-incorporate the public realm. We need to eliminate our declining regard to strangers because once the company of strangers disappears, so too does the society in which they live.

According to Palmer, this revival begins with each individual. It needs to commence with releasing the security wall they have built around themselves from strangers.

Palmer encourages individuals to get involved in community life if they are not. This can be done through community service, public/group organizations, social gatherings, etc. Palmer stated that

giving back to the community does not always mean volunteering. Sometimes giving back simply means treating the community around you with your presence – just being there says a lot.

Palmer says many of us could learn a lot, as he did, from his encounter with a New York taxi cab driver. The cab driver told Parker that you really get to know the public being a taxi cab driver. They teach you a lot about life, and if you don't get to know the public, then you deprive yourself of the most priceless and necessary education that exists. The public is what keeps you alive. It's true, you never know who's getting into the cab, but nevertheless, you meet lots of people.

## Assault, from p. 1

before a board chosen from outside the Rhodes community and trained in such matters. The college performs an investigation of the matter, and determines the need for a trial. All information learned in the hearing and the outcome itself are kept confidential. If the situation is particularly serious, Dean Richey stated that the college "has authority and will work rapidly to take action" if students' safety is in question.

Dean Richey encourages students to report such behavior to her office. Sexual harassment should be reported because it may help to identify and stop a problem before it reaches greater magnitude, and because it gives the college an accurate idea of any problematic situations on campus. Dean Richey emphasizes that Rhodes "tries to be sensitive and walk students through the process in as comfortable a manner as possible." Students who decide to report are encouraged to bring a trusted friend to help them through the process.

Robert Dove, Director of the Student Counseling Center, emphasizes the importance of reporting invasive behavior of a sexual nature for another reason. He said, "We should work to create an environment in our daily lives that does not silently acquiesce to sexual harassment." When we do not take action, according to Mr. Dove, we allow this kind of behavior to continue with impunity.

For victims of sexual assault, he emphasizes that it is not their fault. According to Mr. Dove, "We live in a society that tends to place the blame on the victim." He also mentioned the importance of supportive friends through such a trial, and the decision to prosecute.

## RSG Update

Dear Student Body,

In the last three weeks, RSG has only met once to collaboratively discuss issues. We took a week off to attend the Homecoming Pep Rally, and again to attend Parker Palmer's lecture. We decided early in the year that missing school-wide events in order to meet was anti-productive and against what we were ultimately out to accomplish: connection and communication with the student body.

This is not to say that we have not been working hard. We have gotten some solid work done. In my first letter, I informed you that we were working on extending library hours and BCLC hours, both of which were ending in budgetary concerns. Though the budget will not allow for year-round extension of library hours, during finals they will be extended and will include 24 hour access during the heat of that week. Furthermore, effective next semester, the gym hours will be extended to 11 p.m. on a trial basis. Of course, if it goes unused, there will be no such extension in the future.

RSG will soon be discussing the first resolutions of the year. The Aca-

demic Affairs Committee will be presenting a resolution that would call for change in the current Pass/Fail option. A similar resolution has been brought in previous years, but we have taken extra care to get faculty input this time in hopes that this effort may result in success this time. The new system would allow a student to set a target grade for a Pass/Fail class; if reached the student would get the targeted letter grade; if not, the grade would be either P or F.

The second resolution is in regard to the meal plan and possible bonuses, trade-offs, etc. The idea for the resolution came from student concern and the researching of 50 schools to see how their meal plans work. The resolution does not mention food service, but simply the price and options of the current actual meal plan.

On a final note: As the student representative on the Dean of College Search Committee, I would like to inform you that we have narrowed down dozens of applications to a final nine. They look very promising and we will be bringing them in for interviews this weekend. I will keep you updated as more progress occurs.

John Ramsey RSG VP



# Arts & Entertainment

## The Canterbury Tales provides good, bawdy fun

By Anna Teekell  
Staff Writer

Monty Python would have killed for this script. It's evident in the playbill first, with songs like "I Have a Noble Cock," and "Hymen, Hymen" (which is actually quite a lovely melody in the voice of Anders Reynolds). Nevill Coghill and Martin Starkie's musical adaptation of Geoffrey Chaucer's 14<sup>th</sup>-century *The Canterbury Tales* is not your English 261 Chaucer (the play opens with Matt Reed reading the prologue in Middle English . . . until he flips the book upside down, high-school Shakespeare style, and continues in modern English). But it might be Chaucer as Chaucer intended it.

Director Greg Krosnes warned me that the play would be "a bawdy

romp," and indeed it is. The play features a versatile cast, who jump into different roles—and often different genders—as the Canterbury pilgrims' tales are enacted.

The set is bare and triangular; with designer David Jilg's clever incorporation of props, the cast can build almost anything out of ingenuity, boxes, and boards, including a dancing bed.

Depending on which side of the stage one sits, there's a chance in "The Miller's Tale" of catching a glimpse of Shelley Stenshol's bloomers or a double shot Matt Reed's bare behind. If Matt and Shelley are to make up for their exhibitionism, they do it in song, for the two sing well together.

Other notable vocal performances come from Daniel Anglin

as the nerdy Squire and Kristjen Lundberg as the irritable Prioress. Notable for trying is Dave Hurt, who as the Host made me wonder what he was doing in a musical, but when he reappears as the curmudg-

eon/nymphomaniac January, his rendition of "If She Has Never Loved Before," becomes the black comedic height of the play.

If you are up for two hours of sexual innuendos and drunkenness

(the best of Angela Springer and Joe Vescovo, respectively), go see *The Canterbury Tales* at the McCoy this weekend. You'll be rewarded with laughter and some impressive acting.

## Goya at Clough-Hanson

By Seth Jones  
Staff Writer

Francisco de Goya's "Los Desastres de la guerra" or "The Disasters of War" etchings stand as one of the most dramatic indictments of how the horrors of warfare are inflicted on a civilian population.

Beginning with an opening reception on November 17<sup>th</sup>, a sample of 40 these prints will be on display at the Clough-Hanson gallery in the exhibit "Disasters of War" by Goya: Selections.

"We are very excited to have an artist as internationally renowned as Goya in our gallery," commented gallery director Marina Pacini.

Goya was an important artist in 18<sup>th</sup> century Spain, earning the prestigious title of first painter to the king. But at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Napoleon sent troops into Spain under the pretext of invading Portugal and called Ferdinand VII, the king of Spain, to France to discuss the situation.

With Spain's ruler out of the country, Napoleon plotted to install his brother Joseph as monarch of Spain. When the Spanish populace heard rumors of this plot, they began a bloody uprising in May of 1808.

The ensuing war gave rise to the word "guerrilla" as Spaniards conducted hit-and-run "little wars" against the French armies. The French, faced with no iden-

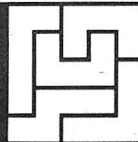
tifiable enemy, reacted with atrocities against the civilian population. In 1810, Goya, then deaf and in his mid-sixties, began the sketches for "Disasters of War" as his reactions to the violence, condemning both sides for caring little about the human suffering amidst the lawlessness and famine.

The completed prints depict scenes of rape, starvation, and mutilation of the dead and also include allegorical portrayals of grotesque demons and the death of lady Truth. Goya's commentary is recorded in short captions that give insight to his outrage: "Why?"; despair: "And there's nothing one can do about it"; and sarcasm: "What a feat! With dead men!"

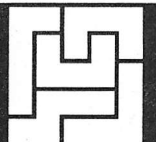
In 1814, the war ended and Ferdinand was reinstated as king of Spain. Yet, the king's oppressive policies prevented Goya from publishing such a scathing criticism as his "Disasters of War" series during his own lifetime. Instead, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts finally published eighty of the etchings in 1863, thirty-five years after Goya's death.

The forty prints displayed at the Clough-Hanson gallery are from the fourth edition in 1906 and are on loan from the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia, as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Anderson.

The exhibit runs from November 15<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Rhodes Puzzler



#9, November 15, 2000  
5 points

Last week's Malco movie pass winner: Doug Lemme

12	\$				
16	#	@			
11	&	%	&		
40	\$	#	@	\$	
	36	X	10	12	

Each symbol represents a number—the numbers at the end of the columns and rows are the sums of the symbols in that column or row. What is X?

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), 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 Ohiendorf. All solutions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. A weekly winner will be randomly chosen to receive two free movie passes, donated by Malco Theatres. Semester winners will each receive gift certificates for dinner at a local restaurant. For a complete set of rules, see the Rhodes Puzzler homepage at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/puzzler.html>.

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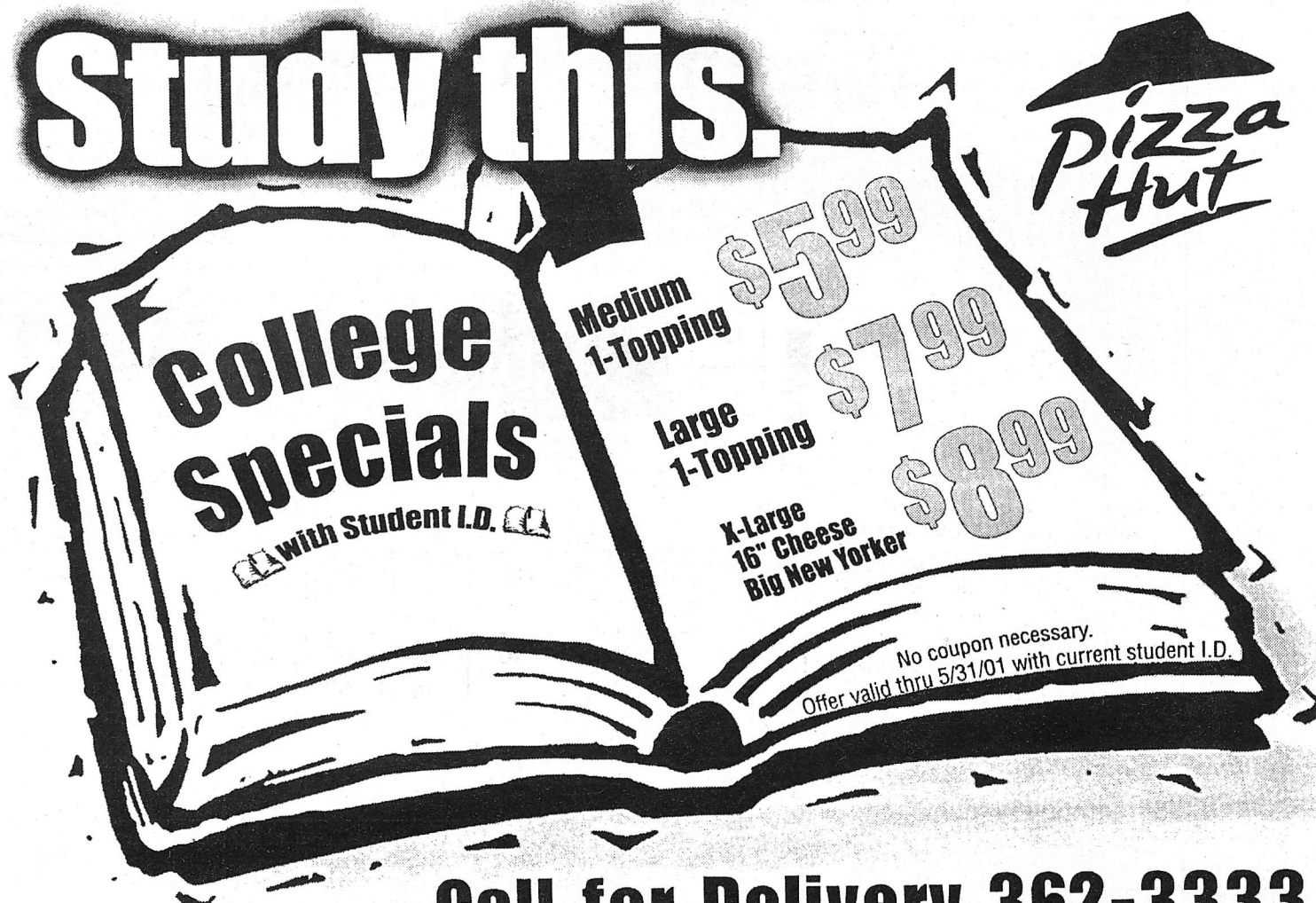
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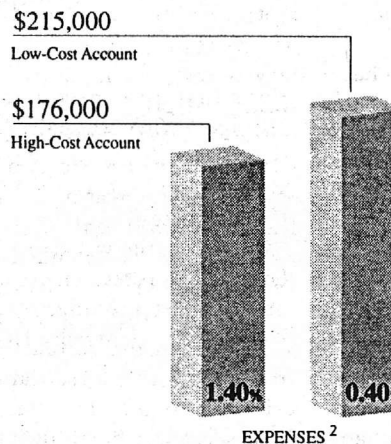
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## Seniors bid farewell to football team

By Stu Johnston  
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Lynx football had a very different face. There was no Coach Joe White, there was no Class of 2001, and the attitude surrounding Lynx football was negative at best. Fans only got excited when Sewanee came to town, and talk of conference titles was met with a smirk.

Then came the fall of 1997 and the arrival of the Class of 2001. The group of seniors that will graduate next spring was instrumental in bringing the football program back to respectability. After a 6-3 campaign last fall, Rhodes seemed primed for a run at the SCAC title. Their defensive nucleus returned, as did some proven offensive firepower, and the freshman class looked impres-

sive. Rhodes burst out of the gate with victories over DePauw, Maryville, and Centre. However, three straight losses to Washington, Rose-Hulman, and Sewanee left the Lynx reeling. The loss at previously winless Rose-Hulman was the low point of the season. Rhodes lost quarterback Gary Rockne ('04) three plays into their first series and never recovered. The season's stretch turned out positive with Rhodes taking two out of three, the last one a double overtime thriller over Millsaps.

The season ended appropriately in a defensive war with the Millsaps Majors. Despite 173 yards rushing from tailback Bernard Quinn ('01), neither team managed to score in regulation. After trading field goals in the first overtime, the Lynx defense held Millsaps to a field goal. Linebacker Brad Hearne

('01) commented, "Coming out on top of a goal line stand at the 2 yard line in OT is the perfect way for a defensive player to end his career."

The Class of 2001, although they were not able to achieve all of their goals, started a solid football tradition. Rhodes football will miss them sorely, but the reciprocal is also true. "I will miss the competition most of all, as well as getting to be around such a great group of guys," said linebacker C.W. Sheehan. The outlook for next fall is very bright, as Rockne and Coby Cagle ('03) will both return to action. Tailback Kevin Gennusa ('03) and middle linebacker Chris Huff ('02) lead the returning offensive and defensive players, respectively. They look to improve on this year's 5-4 mark and carry on the tradition that the Class of 2001 has started.

## The Lynx rugby team has a solid start

By Jim Mueller  
Staff Writer

The Rhodes rugby team is headed in a new direction this year. Under the leadership of Captain Cletus Brown ('01), things have become more organized. The present "ruggers" still suffer from being kicked off campus and Snowden Field. However, after finding a field to play on, some great fan support, and dedicated players, Rhodes Rugby has become a well-respected team in their league. With many returning players from last season and some experienced new players, the team will only get better.

This season, the pack players are stronger than ever. Key returning players, such as Chris Alexander ('03), Scott Findley ('03), Harry Lehair ('02),

John Kauffman ('02), and Brown bring strength and leadership to the pack. The pack also added crucial newcomers Matt Wegmann ('04), Drew Burke ('04), and James Eben ('04).

Altogether, the pack has overcome size disadvantages and dominated many matches. Returning player Jim Mueller ('03) and newcomers Keich Whicker ('02), Peter Igoe ('04), Wes Robinson ('04), Matt Fletcher ('04), and "Kenya" have made the Rhodes rugby wingers a tough bunch to stop.

The first few games went smoothly with some great wins over Mississippi State and the Memphis Blues. The Division II National champs, Arkansas State University,

took advantage of their size and strength and gave Rhodes a tough loss. Rhodes fought valiantly in defeat in the ASU rematch and earned the respect of their opponent.

Despite a few injuries to key players, the team looks to improve even more with the addition of some new guys next semester. The rugby team prepares to face Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Murray State, and then travel to the Mardi Gras tournament next semester.

If the team keeps improving as it has, rugby could have an undefeated record next semester. Also, the team is looking forward to coming back to campus soon and has worked hard with Mike Renwick to improve relations with the school.

## Cross country finishes 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Kosta Dalageorgas  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Lynx men and women's cross country teams competed at the Southeast Regional meet which Christopher Newport University hosted in Newport News, Virginia. The Lynx teams rebounded from the disappointing SCAC conference meet to finish second. Both the men and women narrowly lost to Emory University.

Brian McCarthy ('03), who has arguably had the best season of any Rhodes cross country athlete in the program's history, ran a strong race to lead the men's team and finished third overall among the tough regional competition. McCarthy ran 25:52 for the 8K distance, which is the fastest time in team history.

John Knight ('02), ran a personal best of 26:34, and co-captain Kosta Dalageorgas ('01), in his last cross country race, followed closely behind Knight. McCarthy, Knight, Dalageorgas, Mark Loeffler ('02), and co-captain Virren Malhotra ('01) earned All Regional honors, and McCarthy advanced to the NCAA Division III National Meet this Saturday.

Lydia Gibson ('02) led the women's team which ran an aggressive race against Emory University. Gibson ran a personal season best of 18:20 for the 5K course to finish in second place overall. Amy Paine ('03), Betsy Bogler ('03) and Lori Steger ('03) formed a tough, no-nonsense pack for the women's squad. Gibson, Paine, Bogler, Steger, and Katie Castille ('02) received All-Regional Honors, and Gibson advanced to the National meet.

The Lynx cross country teams graduate two men and retain all of the members of the women's team for next season. Co-captain Virren Malhotra observed, "If you want to 'play,' join any sport and do just that. In Rhodes cross country, we don't play, we wage a war. That's why we are the most successful team in SCAC history." McCarthy and Gibson are looking forward to having strong races at the National Meet this Saturday.

With a young team returning for next season, the Lynx have an excellent opportunity to defeat DePauw at SCAC Conference and Emory at the Regional level, and advance to the next level of competition where they can prove their mettle among the nation's top cross country programs.

## Swim team gets new coach

By Brad Damaré  
Staff Writer

The Lynx varsity swim team started off the season with a bang with the men's team scoring their first victory and the women's team pulling a strong second place finish at the Lindenwood University Tri-Meet on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The other teams competing at the meet were Lindenwood University and Knox College.

The victory was a welcome event after a season that can best be described as tumultuous. Following the abrupt loss of their swimming and diving team coach to a job opportunity in upstate New York, the Lynx struggled for a short time with no coach at all, until the team finally stumbled on a willing replacement, the retired Memphis legend, Dick Faden.

Faden, a one time Olympic hopeful himself in the breaststroke and butterfly events, had been teaching physical education classes at the University of Memphis when he found out about the job opening.

Eager to return to swimming, Faden began his tenure as interim coach at Rhodes, a mere two weeks before the Lindenwood meet. His decision could not have come at a better time for the Lynx swimmers.

"We really needed this kind of

showing after everything that's happened this semester," said team member Jennifer Durovchic ('01). "Though we've had trouble bouncing back from the changeover, we all exceeded our expectations and even managed to surprise ourselves—it helped to boost morale and unify the team in a way that we couldn't have done otherwise."

The women's team fought a tough battle, beating Knox College by nearly double that team's score, but slipping to Lindenwood University by a few mere points. Karyn Spence ('03), 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1000 yard freestyle; Kelley Savage ('03), 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200 yard freestyle; and Julie Mediamolle ('02), 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100 yard freestyle and the 500 yard freestyle all earned top places.

The men's team managed to squeak by in a competition that remained at a dead heat for the entire day. In the end, the men's 65 points were just enough to get an edge over Lindenwood University's 64 points and Knox College's 62.

Top scorers for the men's team were Chad Jones ('03), 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1000 freestyle and the 500 yard freestyle; and Jon Wood ('02), 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100 yard butterfly.

The Lynx travel to Little Rock, Arkansas to compete in the University of Arkansas, Little Rock's Christmas Invitational on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# Kaplan gets you in.

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## Hey man, give me a dollar

BOB ARNOLD  
Outside TigerMart



Hey there. How you doing today? Nice out, ain't it? I love this weather.

Listen, I got a little problem on my hands. I was thinking maybe you could help me out. See, I'm trying to get to Saratoga – it's in Florida, my aunt lives there – and my car's broken down. I need a new engine block and I can't really afford one right now. I was sort of hoping you could help me out.

I'm really sorry. This is embarrassing, you know? I'm not used to asking people for money, and I really hate to –

No, I'm pretty sure Saratoga is in Florida. My aunt lives there, like I told you. She owns a little fast-food chain down there. It's called – what's it called? Jack-In-the-Box. That's what it is. You've heard of it? Well, she's holding a position open for me – district manager, I think, for the southeast part of the country. It's a great job, you know, it's just that now with my car like this I'm having trouble getting down there.

My car? It's right around the corner there. See that blue Honda? Yeah, that's mine. Got it used a few years back and –

Oh, man, who is that? Look at that guy! What's he doing? He's getting in – he's *driving away* with my car! Can you believe this? Hey! Stop! That's my car!

Wow. I wonder how he got a key. Well, looks like my car's been stolen now. I don't guess he'll get far, what with the cracked engine block and all.

Yeah, it doesn't make sense that it started for him and it wouldn't for me. But that's life, you know? *C'est la vie.*

I can call the police later. It's no big deal.

Seriously, I just don't like to worry about little things, you know? Stress will kill you, I swear it will. My aunt died of a heart attack 'cause she let little things like stolen cars stress her out.

No, not the aunt in Saratoga. Different one.

I swear it's in Florida. I've been there, you know? Lots of times. You're thinking of Sarasota. That's in California. I'm not headed to California.

Look, man, you could help me out so much if you'd just loan me a dollar. One dollar, that's all I'm ask-

ing. You can write down your address and when I get my first paycheck I'll mail it back to you. Or I can send you a coupon for free tacos or something. I got a sure thing at Taco Bell.

No, I'm pretty sure I said Taco Bell. My aunt owns a chain of them, you know?

I see you got a Rhodes College license plate. It's a great school. My dad went there. That's where he got

tors say he was born without a small intestine. He needs help, but I can't pay for the hospital bills until I get this job. And I can't get this job until I can get down to Saratoga, and I'm asking for just a little help. We're talking about my kid, man. *My kid.* He's eight years old and the smartest first grader you'll ever meet. In fact, you can meet him if you want to, he's over in the car.

Oh, crap. Yeah, I guess I should

for a while? I'll mail it back to you! I swear I will! The second I pull into Saratoga!

Look, it's *in Florida*, okay? I swear it is! I been there!

Hey, you don't know who you could be refusing here. Think about that, huh? Maybe I'm a millionaire in disguise. You know? Or a rock star. Maybe I'm Jesus Christ! You ever think of that? If Jesus Christ came up and asked for a dollar to get to freaking SARATOGA, FLORIDA, would you tell him no? Of course not! Especially if he had a sick kid and a brokedown car, right?

I *know* he could perform miracles, that's not the *point*. The point is, maybe this is a test. You know? Maybe your eternal salvation hinges on you coughing up one lousy dollar so I can get out of here and down to Florida!

It is in Florida! I'd bet you a dollar!

No, that's just an *expression*. Look, if I had a dollar to bet I wouldn't be *asking* you for one! Okay? Help a brother out! I'll take whatever you got! Your car, your watch, whatever! Come *on*, man – think of me as Jesus!

*Forget it, okay?* Damn! Just forget it!

If I wanted to work this hard for a dollar, I'd get a freaking *job*.

## Maybe your eternal salvation hinges on you coughing up one lousy dollar!

his engineering degree, you know? He's an architect. And he played football for them when they won the national championship. When was that? Sixty-three? Ninety-four? I don't remember.

No, look, maybe you do have an atlas in your car, but I know where I'm going, okay? Saratoga. *Florida*. On the coast. My aunt owns some condos there, she's going to hook me up. It's a pretty sweet deal. You should visit sometime.

So hey, man, how about that dollar? I haven't eaten in three days, you know? Three days! And my kid – I got a kid who's sick. He's got stomach troubles. Real bad, too – the doc-

go ahead and call the police. But stress, man, you know? Can't let it get to you.

No, those are just mosquito bites on my arm. I swear. I been sleeping outside, you know? And sometimes in my car. I don't know if bites usually look like that, maybe they're infected. See how they're clustered around my veins? Mosquitoes, man, they go right for the veins.

Are they in my eyebrows too? Man, I'm in a real bad way here. How about a dollar, huh?

You don't? How are you going to buy anything inside the store then?

Oh, okay, do you think maybe I could just borrow your credit card

## Williford, water, and woe

JAMIE EUBANKS  
Wet N' Wild



As a Williford resident, I am not subject to many amenities. We haven't spacious rooms or a comprehensible floor plan, but with a generous four showers to every sixteen girls, we have the option of bathing whenever we wish, and that's luxury enough for us.

It seems, however, that the fates are no longer content to leave this cruel joke of a residence hall at its current level of discomfort: our water heater has malfunctioned.

The boiler burst Thursday morning, leaving the irate freshmen that are forced to inhabit this infamous labyrinth that much angrier, and, with a pronounced decrease in our propensity to bathe, that much less appealing to the olfactory senses. It seems highly unlikely that all

the clichéd problems of a college dorm should be coincidentally compounded upon us; the only conclusion one can draw is that the cosmos have aligned against us in an attempt to crush us. Such a bleak outlook on life is hard to swallow. What, after all, have we done to elicit such cruelty

lieve that, though there is no outward sign of transgression among the Williford girls, we are indeed hiding a dark secret. Perhaps fate is not altogether unjustified in striking us with misfortune. After all, the Sodomites didn't think they were doing anything wrong either.

**Perhaps fate is not altogether unjustified in striking us with misfortune. After all, the Sodomites didn't think they were doing anything wrong either.**

from the powers that be? One would be inclined to say, "Nothing. We have done nothing to provoke the gods, and we wish they'd leave us alone. Furthermore," one would continue, "we wish you'd stop talking smack about us."

But I wasn't talking smack.

The defensive behavior of this hypothetical speaker leads me to be-

The question of our actual need for supernatural reproof aside, there is a force on our side which has the strength to protect us from the whims of the infinite: Physical Plant.

I have personally been witness to the magic and sheer power of this elite band of individuals when my television was in need of repair. Only three days after I placed a work or-

der to have my cable fixed, a divine creature in Physical Plant garb came to my room and, using only a pair of tweezers and a boundless supply of know-how, brought me from a one-channel hell to a three-channel paradise.

For a long time I thought all of Physical Plant was as infallible as this gentleman proved himself to be, but I have learned otherwise.

On Thursday afternoon, when I first found the message about the burst water boiler on my voicemail, I was told that Physical Plant would have the problem taken care of by the afternoon. I had no reason to doubt that, given my past experience, but in the afternoon, I was told that we would have no hot water for two more days. There was much weeping and tearing of clothes at that point; for I understood that Physical Plant was no longer the formidable power it once was.

I pray for our nation when even our repairmen cannot save us from the whims of the petty deities.

Woe be to Williford, for there is no hope.

## PERSONALS

SWM seeks rich SWM who would be willing to be seduced and murdered for his money. Age is not an issue. Must be willing to amend last will and testament on demand. Susan, 843-3285.

SWM seeks just about anybody. If you are alive and can read this, I will probably date you. Meet me in Fisher Garden at nine tonight; I hear it's a pretty romantic spot.

I SAW YOU last week at the Rat. Our hands touched as we reached for the honey mustard. You giggled and adjusted your hairnet. I love you.

I SAW YOU at the graveyard last Tuesday at midnight. You: Dark cloak and dirty shovel. Me: Brown coat and shocked expression. I don't particularly want to meet you, I just want to know why you were digging up my mother.



## TWO PEOPLE ARGUING OVER SOMETHING

The views in these columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rhode'ster staff. In fact, if you're large and violent, we agree with whatever you say.

### Independents' Day

By John Ramsey ('02)

This past weekend, upon the conclusion of my Saturday night weeping, a friend asked me, "John, if you want a social life, why don't you get it over with and join a fraternity?" But "Oh, no!" I say. Oh, no indeed! It will be a cold day in Hell before you catch me dead in one of those groups of guys surrounded by all those girls at those parties they throw all the time. Not me; that's the low life. Fraternities are useless. That's why I didn't want to get a bid anyway.

There are so many positive things about being Independent. Firstly, I do not have to pay dues to associate myself with a certain group of people. Just by not paying this fee, I save close to 50 dollars a month. With all this extra money, I can afford the calls I make to my mom every Friday night. How would I do that if I had to pay fees to a fraternity? Furthermore, unlike Greek members, I have Monday nights from 6 to 7 wide open. This gives me a distinct advantage over Greek members in many aspects. I am able to keep a constant update on TBS' reruns of Matlock, first and foremost. Aside from this, if there was ever a party on a Monday night from 6 to 7, I could go and Greek members couldn't. Or if there was a class, I could take it, and they couldn't. When seen this way, it seems almost silly to be in a fraternity.

Personally, I value my individuality, and being Independent means I do not have to conform to anything. I can be my own person. When I park my SUV in front of the frat houses and tilt my dirty white baseball cap-clad head back to drink my Evian water, I think "Thank you, Jesus, for making me a non-conformist." Then I go play Nintendo.

Perhaps the most valuable thing about being Independent is that I have the constant freedom to pick my friends. I do not have to sit a table with certain people just because we are associated by the same Greek letters. In fact, this enables me to sit alone in the Rat at practically every meal. Furthermore, I am able to be very selective in whom I decide can be my friends. And I have chosen both of them very carefully. Chris, Simon, if you are reading this, please call me. I am getting lonely. And you are missing Matlock. Four Square is just not the same without you.

My point is this: there are all these benefits to being Independent that are constantly overlooked, and there is no way for Independents to share them together. So I have devised a plan. We should pick a meeting time for all of us to get to know each other. I do not want to miss quality television programming, so let's meet Thursday nights. But here's the deal: don't come unless you bring a couple of bucks so we can pool our money together and have a pretty decent party. Are you with me? Good. Only invite Independents, we want to make certain that we keep our theme of inclusiveness. We must show our Independence! Oh, and dress nice too. Someone bring the beer. Anyone have a good idea for a theme?

### We only haze indies

By Bob Coleman ('01)

When Bob Arnold told me that John Ramsey was going to write an article about the joys of being an independent here at Rhodes, I felt that it was my duty as the only fraternity member on the Rhode'ster staff to defend the Greek system. In doing this, I hope to bring insight to the positive aspects of fraternity life, as well as defending it from the holier-than-thou social commentary of that gosh-darned independent, Mr. Ramsey.

One huge positive about being Greek is the fact that you are immediately cast in a lot of other people who are very similar to yourself. I know for a fact that as soon as I pledged a fraternity, I almost forgot who I was for a while because there were so many other people there just like me, and we all sat at the same table to boot. And to make things better, I was *immediately* taught to dislike people in the other fraternities! I had been on campus for around two weeks, and I already knew who my enemies were. Let's see you get *that* kind of information without Greek life.

And then there are the parties: the wonderful parties with the colorful themes. There's the drunk toga swap, the drunk pajama swap, the drunk camouflage swap, the drunk drunks swap — the variations can go on for an eternity!

Another great thing about being in a fraternity is that we treat everyone with respect. Fraternities in general are usually a pretty diverse lot, open to all sorts of people, and always look at everyone with a consistently unbiased and completely impartial eye. That's why it really bothers me when those stupid and ugly independents bring up pointless factoids like "horrible beatings" and "forced alcoholic binges." I mean, it's pretty clear that those ignorant indies are *waaaay* off the topic.

Look, I choose to be strictly non-alcoholic, and as for the beatings, let's be honest. Doesn't *everyone* need a beating sometimes? I can't tell you how many times I've been talking to people and I've heard someone say: "That guy needs a beating," or "Ex-Professor Tammy Barker needs a beating." And it's true! That guy *did* need a beating. Tammy Barker *did* need a beating. The only problem is that unless you're in a *fraternity*, you will never see that beating happen. It's really a form of bonding.

See, that's what the independent crowd here at this school will always be ignorant of. Fraternities have and promote brotherhood. Would I be able to call someone my brother without them beating me or spitting on me? Would I be able to call someone my brother without them forcing me to drink alcohol, even if I don't believe in it? Of course not. And just think, all of this only costs a medium-sized fee per month!

Why, just the other day one of my brothers remarked: "I can't believe I'm paying money for this."

"I know!" I told him. "Isn't it great?"

Rhode'ster  
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FROM THE NOVEL BY  
Keith Knop

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(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)  
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Jessica Hoffman

*What is it about writing for the Rhode'ster that makes one so attractive to the opposite sex? Ask around — all of our writers experience a marked increase in nookie after submitting stories! Why can't you take advantage of this increase in sex appeal? There's good news, friends: you can. Anyone at all can write for the Rhode'ster. Except, of course, illiterates. Who, by the way, we make fun of quite freely here. I mean, how will they ever know? Send stories or story ideas to arnrf@rhodes.edu.*

## Rhodes strives for perpetual autumn

By Kalman Bencsath  
Rhode'ster Al Roker

Fall is in the air, and here at Rhodes it's truly a breathtaking sight. The gothic buildings with hand laid stone, each a marvel of function and design; the dense foliage all over campus, a beautifully decorative medley of leaves, all red and orange and yellow; the fat little squirrels gathering acorns and ice cream cones before the winter — these are all indications of how truly blessed we are here.

In fact, our college campus is one that critics nationwide have called "a masterpiece of nature and vision." So inspiring was the commentary from which this quote came that school officials have in-

corporated into Rhodes' Mission Statement a clause promising that Rhodes will be, "for all students and at all times, a place where the natural ambience whispers autumn's name."

What this purty talk means is that approximately three million dollars of Rhodes' annual endowment will be taken and placed into the hands of the new Mission 37 subsidiary of Physical Plant, which will be responsible for maintaining the grounds of the campus in a state of autumn year-round.

While students are having Thanksgiving dinner in the comforts of their own homes, workers will be laboring around the clock to maintain the delicate equilibrium Mother Nature strives to create. Some workers will be responsible for painting the colors of Golden

Orange and Delicious Apple Red back onto the browned leaves, while other workers bury acorns shipped from the Deep South so that squirrels can dig them up.

Seeking out a couple of these Mission 37 proletariats, this reporter asked for a description of the difficult task. The response:

"Well, my job is to put these fallen leaves back on those trees."

A second employee, when asked, responded, "Yeah, I'm supposed to pull these leaves off this tree." Simply amazing.

When students return from Thanksgiving Break, the school will not look as it has in years past. No bare trees, no dead flowers; only the ballet of Physical Plant workers

struggling to keep up the appearance of fall. According to Brian Foshee, Director of Physical Plant, the college hopes to be able to buy a large weather machine in order to maintain conditions at a constant 48 degrees, overcast.

Needless to say, not everybody is pleased with the new mission statement — the people who enjoy the other three seasons, for instance. In fact, some people are suspicious about the whole business of the subsidiary Mission 37. But rest assured that all of this was decided upon by very reliable decision-makers, led by none other than President Troutt himself.

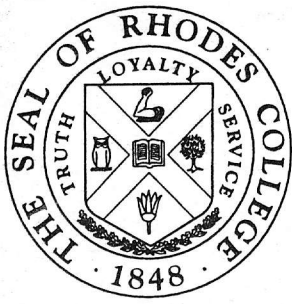
"National ranking of 38? We can do better than that!" President Troutt

is reported to have exclaimed at the most recent Board of Trustees meeting. Trustees and students alike have questioned whether this is truly the way of improving our national ranking, pointing instead to such things as our selectivity rating, our diversity rank, and our tenure process.

In response to such concerns from the trustees and students, Troutt simply replied, "Now, now, I think I know what counts in making Rhodes a better place. I am President of the damn thing, after all." Troutt then shifted the discussion to this year's graduation speakers, which reportedly include Roseanne Barr, Chevy Chase and Bullwinkle.

"Now," Troutt continued, "let's get rid of that pesky month of June."





# THE RHODE'STER

The Parody Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

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

Page 12

## Campus News...

All stories right out of MYAS

CNN News reports that the recent nationwide push for voter registration resulted in increased participation in the recent presidential election, most notably from voters in the 18-25 age range. It also resulted in a huge surge of unlikely write-in candidates. "The members of Lynyrd Skynyrd won the electoral college votes in four Southern states," reported James Earl Jones, in that cool deep voice of his, "and evidently James Bond won Tennessee."

Underage drinking is on the rise again among college students. According to a new poll from the Be A Responsible Friend committee, a non-profit organization based in Coors, WI, binge drinking has again surpassed urinating as the most common activity among America's youth. "College kids are very impressionable," commented BARF president Ted Kennedy. "We had a decline in binge drinking in the early nineties, but kids are getting it in their heads again that hanging out in bars is the cool thing to do." What led to this resurgence of the barhopping mentality? "Mostly Catherine Neelly and Ashley Diaz," explained Kennedy.

Here at Rhodes, professor Chris Wetzel surprised his Explanations of the Paranormal class by revealing that the scientific explanations for paranormal events offered by the class are, in actuality, "just a bunch of things I made up." Moreover, Wetzel admitted that he has, in fact, been dead since February.

Also at Rhodes, junior Jennifer Morris finished all her homework and went to bed early last Tuesday night. Ordinarily such an event would be in no way newsworthy, but Morris has asked very nicely that we at least mention her in the *Rhode'ster*, and when a hottie asks you to do something, by God, you do it.

The latest meeting of the Hendrix College Protestors' club was met with a picket line consisting of its own members. "This is just getting silly," their president commented.

Somewhere in the world, at this very moment, somebody is having the most intense, mind-blowing orgasm of his or her life — and it's not you.

Just something to think about.

## Voter Anti-Registration drive reports excellent results

By Keith Knop  
*Rhode'ster* Ballot Counter

A few days ago, a nebulous sigh of apathy rose from the nation as some guy apparently defeated some other guy in some sort of political thing. As organizer of our local student Voter Anti-Registration Drive, Eve Strain ('01) is particularly proud of that sigh, and listens to a tape recording of it as she goes to sleep at night.

"Politics has always been an important issue to me," she said. "Flee like rats from the sinking ship of state, that's my motto."

The drive was created because Strain and many other like-minded students felt that the 18-25 demographic sector was coming dangerously close to caring about the fate of the nation.

Not everyone was optimistic about the group's chances of success, citing how notoriously difficult it is to motivate college students to remain indifferent toward political issues.

Critics were quick to point out the spate of protests and rallies that have plagued college campuses for decades. But Strain feels that the trend has finally begun to shift.

## Campus Safety hires carjackers to control parking problems

By Scott Holmes  
*Rhode'ster* Roadrager

It need not be mentioned that parking on the Rhodes College campus has become increasingly difficult recently due to the large amount of construction, the large number of currently enrolled students, and the presence of much larger cars. According to Director Ralph Hatley, Campus Safety (the same guys who leave those wonderful yellow gift-certificates for \$20 at the bursar's office on your windshield) has resorted to guerrilla tactics to help alleviate the problem.

In a recent interview, Hatley commented that "You're all going to pay," to which he added, "By the way, don't eat the chicken." Although we are still looking for reasons why not to eat the chicken, it has become very clear that we are all going to pay. Just how much, we still do not know.

After many weeks of brainstorming and figure-checking, Campus

"Obviously," she said, "we realize that there are always going to be a few people who follow the issues and stay abreast of the news, and maybe even know the candidates' names. But we hope to encourage the youth of America to make as little impact as possible. The message we're trying to get out here is, 'This is really more trouble than it's worth.'"

And what a valuable message that is. "I nearly voted," confessed senior Susan Hughes. "I'm so grateful that Eve was there to convince me that I had far more valuable things to do with my time than fill out some pansy little ballot. Hey, isn't that a funny word? Ballot. Ballot. It kinda sounds like ballet, but not really."

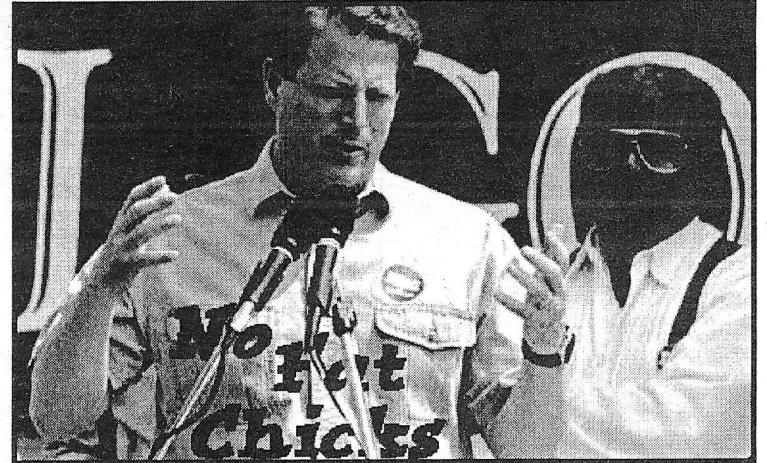
In order to foment a sense of despair about the registration process, Strain positioned moody, hostile, and uninformed volunteers in the Rat, armed with informative pamphlets with all the pages glued shut.

"That was a good one," said Strain. "Even the ones who cared eventually gave up. I really consider it a minor stroke of genius." In addition, the group provided registration forms written in an arcane combi-

Safety finally decided that the hiring of car thieves was the best plan of action, and certainly the cheapest. "It just made perfect sense," commented Hatley. "The citizens of the Rhodes community deserve to find parking spaces conveniently waiting for them when they drive from Voorhies to the mail room. We figured hiring professionals was the best way to solve the problem."

Campus safety is being hailed for their brilliant use of Memphis' natural resources. RAB is getting in on the fun by co-sponsoring a new event with ResLife. "Where the hell is my car Thursdays" will be a fun and adventurous way for students who suspect their cars have been stolen to scour campus looking for them.

There will also be contests in the amphitheater to see who can complete insurance claim forms and police reports fastest. The winner will receive a month-long bus pass.



Speculation as to why presidential hopeful Al Gore lost his expected advantage in Florida ceased with the emergence of this photo, taken during a campaign stop in Orlando. "His attire is simply embarrassing," commented opponent George W. Bush. "Not only is it offensive, it's also all misspelled."

nation of Cyrillic letters, hiragana, and symbols from the Zapf Dingbats typeface.

"That was brilliant," said volunteer Jennifer Durovchic ('01). "The forms looked like an explosion in a noodle factory. No one knew if they were registering to vote or signing themselves into indentured servitude, and I think the requirement that the forms be signed in blood really helped scare off a lot of people."

To see just how far the drive managed to penetrate into student consciousness, we asked political science major Jeremy Smith ('01) to summarize the issues at stake in this

election.

"I seem to recall something about the gold standard," he said. "And taxation without, uh... uh... representation? Yeah. And something about Vietnam, but that might have been the last election, I'm not sure."

We have no idea whether he knew what he was talking about or not. Hell, he could have claimed the election was about nostril hair and wading boots and we wouldn't have known the difference.

"That means a lot to me," replied Strain, when we said so to her. "My work has not been in vain. Eek."

"We are looking forward to working with everyone to help our students feel less at home and more at Memphis," commented Director of Residence Life Carol Casey, just before breaking a bottle on the sidewalk.

Fear not, students from Memphis: ResLife will make sure that you do not feel at home either. Casey reports that they are busy working on a way to make you feel like you are in Texas.

When asked about other ways to solve the parking problem, Hatley screamed, "The squirrels! The squirrels, the squirrels!" and then hid beneath his desk.

After waking, he explained that they were currently working on plans to turn Stewart into a "Park-n-Sleep" dorm. This would involve tearing down (pushing really hard) on Stewart. After the rubble and drug paraphernalia have been cleared away, students will be al-

lowed to park on the remaining concrete slab and sleep in the comfort of their own cars. Students without cars will be allowed to sleep under other students' cars.

Hatley also detailed the "George W. Bush" back up plan.

"It's the simplest of all. If G.W. becomes president, we would file for a federal grant to give every student at least one gun. We feel that if every student were armed, they would have no trouble finding a place to park."

Casey informed us that arming every student was already part of her plan to make Memphis students feel like they were in Texas. "Not only will it make Mock Trial rounds more interesting, it will also keep roommate disagreements to a minimum," she commented.

Students can expect to start seeing these changes around campus in the next couple of weeks. They should not expect to see the election outcome any time this year.