

The Weekly Student Newspaper of
Rhodes College

THE SOU' WESTER

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Review

Caroline Vance reviews
the new Christmas
flick, *Elf*, which stars
Will Ferrell as a man
who thinks he is an elf.

See **A&E**



Sports

Eric Hills discusses the
Grizzlies' latest three-
game winning streak
against the Dallas Mav-
ericks, the Orlando
Magic and the Los An-
geles Lakers.

See **Sports**

Rhodes professors address meanings of "success" in Iraq

By Calvert Tooley

In the lead-up to the war, the proponents sought to justify it as part of the war on terror or because Saddam's weapons of mass destruction posed a threat to the west. Since these justifications have been largely discredited, the administration has focused instead on the benefit done to the Iraqi people by removing Saddam. Along with this, the administration has focused on the long-term rebuilding of Iraq and the development of a democratic government.

In recent weeks, however, the Bush administration has been moving toward a quick exit strategy which would greatly decrease our influence in the country. This has led to criticism from Republican Senator John McCain, among others, who argues that we need to "stay the course" and see the job through in Iraq.

These debates all revolve around the question of what success means in this situation. Has the U.S. succeeded simply by removing Saddam? Or does success mean, as the Bush administration has argued, that we must help Iraq to westernize and democratize? And most importantly, if success is synonymous with Iraqi westernization, what steps should the U.S. take to achieve this?

To get an answer to these questions, *The Sou'wester* turned to three Rhodes professors who are experts on various aspects of the Iraq situation. Quintan Wiktorowicz teaches Interna-

tional Studies and specializes in Middle Eastern studies and democratization. Andrew Michta is also a member of the International Studies department, and one of his areas of specialization is U.S. foreign policy. Teresa Beckham teaches economics and specializes in international economics.

Professor Wiktorowicz accepts that western political and economic development in Iraq is a possibility, even though there are obvious difficulties and challenges. The situation is so fragile, however, that this development must be controlled and deliberate. Most importantly, argues Wiktorowicz, this development must take the needs of the Iraqis into account:

"I think that the primary concern of people in the Middle East is not necessarily that they simply desire freedom but is instead rooted in their day to day existence—their everyday lives. People are more concerned with how they can get enough food on the table or how they can secure employment. They are still concerned with limitations on freedom, but I think that is secondary."

Wiktorowicz maintains that it is important to take these priorities into account so as not to provoke more neo-colonial resentment. According to Wiktorowicz, "there is often times a sense among Iraqis that America is simply trying to impose its will—primarily through the use of force—on the Iraqi people." This amounts to "a kind of neo-

colonialism where America knows what is best for Iraq, and Iraqis are marginalized."

Wiktorowicz claims that this has increased the amount of armed resistance from al-Qaeda types and from supporters of Saddam Hussein. "There is general resentment growing, and it is increasing very rapidly against the American presence in general. We don't want it to get to a point where people to resent our presence to the extent that they start thinking that the conditions pre-war were better than the conditions post-war."

Another factor which has led to increased resentment and violence, according to Wiktorowicz, was the policy of completely removing any Baathist party members from political or military office.

"I think the idea of de-Baathesizing the country—getting all of the old remnants of the earlier regime out of politics and economics—will in the end probably destabilize the country. If you give former Baathist elements absolutely no choice whatsoever, you exclude them entirely from the process and argue that you are going to keep them unemployed and politically unempowered. Then there is no reason or incentive for them not to resort to force."

Given the degree of resentment throughout the whole society as well as the violent attacks on U.S. Soldiers by Baathists and al-Qaeda types, Wiktorowicz believes that Bush will have a tough job achieving anything he can call

"success" in Iraq. Bush has set the bar very high by insisting on creating a functioning democracy in Iraq, and it remains to be seen whether he can accomplish it.

For Professor Beckham, success (in the economic sense) will come after Iraq has achieved stability, rebuilt its infrastructure and solidified the value of property rights.

Stability is of paramount importance in order for any economic development to occur, which means that the question of significant economic development in Iraq will remain a moot one as long as there is so much terrorist violence in the country. Along with stability, a solid infrastructure is another pre-condition of development which Beckham sees as essential:

"If you don't have an infrastructure, you're not going to have any way to get the goods (oil) out of Iraq. Economically, it's going to be impossible for them to recover unless they have the roads, bridges, telephones, and the electricity, which they need just to function."

Rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure will be difficult because it was neglected for so long under Saddam's regime. Not only has it been damaged wars, but no funds have gone into rebuilding it.

The other pre-condition for real economic development is that the country "establishes first the legal institutions and property rights that are so fundamental to having an economy function."

Once these pre-conditions are in place, Beckham says Iraq must try to achieve different goals in the short run as opposed to the long run. In the short run, Iraq must depend on foreign investors to stimulate the economy. "The capital in Iraq is going to have to come from abroad because they don't have

any right now. They need the capital and the technology that foreign firms can bring."

Beckham argues that Iraq should not try to privatize too rapidly and should only proceed once they "have worked out a constitution and a legal framework in which businesses and individuals can operate."

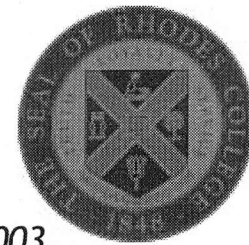
Professor Michta takes a much more grim view of the situation, and maintains that "if we set the goal in Iraq at democracy or nothing, I'm afraid we're setting ourselves up for failure." He thinks that those who argue that democracy and economic development can happen in Iraq are basing their views on false assumptions:

"These are assumptions that are a misinterpretation of what we have learned about democratization since 1945. The fact that the administration makes these comparisons between Germany and Japan and Iraq is totally misplaced."

Michta goes on to explain how there is no real Iraqi consensus in favor of democracy as there was in those two countries. He finds the idea that democracy will naturally take hold in Iraq and spread by osmosis "unconvincing." Instead of spreading democracy, Michta argues that we have created a "magnet for Jihadists" and that now there is a "target rich environment" for all terrorists in Iraq.

"I find it inexcusable that a military as sophisticated as ours is in a war of attrition. I have no doubt that we have the ability to endure taking casualties, but if that is the answer, what is the question?"

In order to alleviate this situation, Michta proposes that the U.S. move quickly to transfer power to an Iraqi government. He says



Wednesday, November 19, 2003



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 founded 1848

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NEAL MCGOUGH

Breakfast is awesome

Breakfast is awesome! I'll be honest, I pretty much stay irritated at Aramark; between the long dinner lines and the seemingly inane way that most of their services are run (a lesson learned from the Administration) they usually leave much to be desired, but breakfast is awesome.

This is really the first year that I've had a schedule that presented me with the opportunity to enjoy the early morning goodness served up by Ms. Minne Odell and the rest of the breakfast crew, and let me tell you it's the best part of my day.

Sometimes I feel like I get into a little bit of a rut, because my roommate and I seem always

to be eating the same things every morning: three hardboiled eggs, a cup of cottage cheese, bacon (or patty sausage if they have any), some fruit, and maybe hash browns, if it's the real potato kind. I like to switch it up every now and then though, just to keep my life super interesting and I'll get a waffle. I don't know where they get the waffle batter, but Bisquick has got nothing on it, and it's always fun to see some people try to operate the apparently daunting piece of machinery that is a waffle iron.

You can always count on Ms. Pat Patterson to greet you with a smile and a hearty "Good

morning!" It's hard to get so much out of many of our own parents sometimes. Some days they'll have something special on the grill like a breakfast burrito or the Rat's version of a McMuffin, but whoever it is behind the grille, you can rest assured that that omelet is going to be absolutely loaded, because that's just how much they care about their breakfast customers. They realize, and you should too, that they are providing us with the most important meal of the day.

Whether you are trying to pack on the protein pounds or are already joining the ranks of the American calorically chal-

lenged (that's PC for fat, and you know who you are), the Rat breakfast has something for you! And at the very least, you have the rest of the day to work it off.

So I encourage you, Rhodes College, to wake up that 45 minutes earlier and get your day started off on the right foot with a good breakfast from our very own Refectory--oh, but don't show up right at 8:00 because that's when I go, and I hate waiting in line.

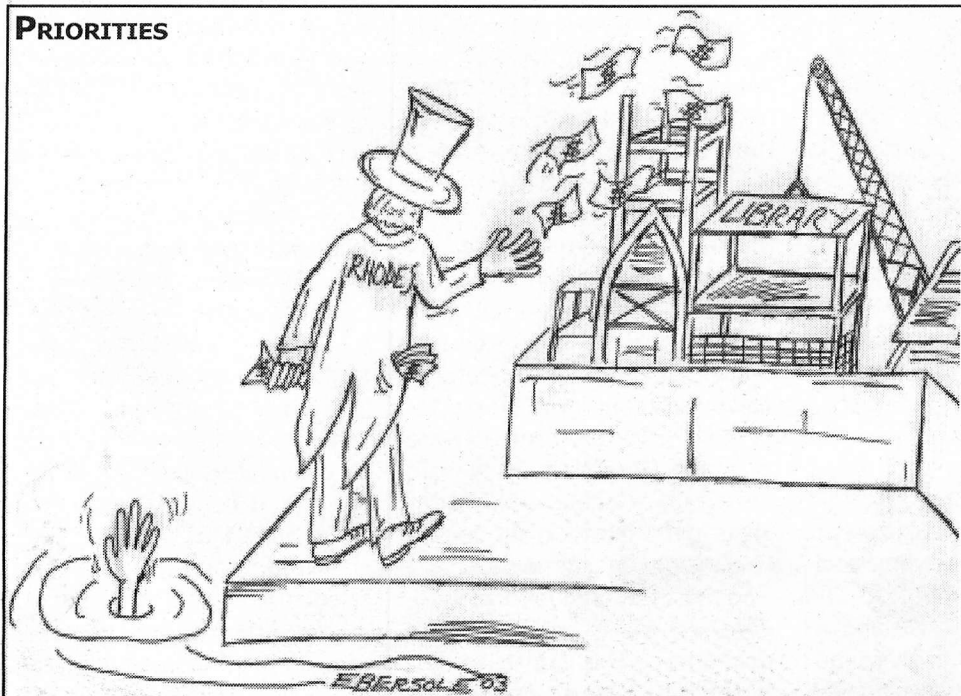
Rain? What a Surprise

It rains; it's inevitable in this world of ours. It rains a lot in Memphis, and when an occurrence like rain happens frequently, one would expect a natural ability to adapt to such conditions. This is not the case here at Rhodes College, because when it rains, it floods. You know, it doesn't even really have to rain; simply running the sprinkler system is enough to bring about an impressive deluge. It can also yield rather unsafe walking conditions due to the wise selection of slick slate and smoothed granite steps and pathways, and since walking is the main mode of transportation by students living on campus (except for maybe some of those referred to in the previous article), it would seem a problem worth addressing.

I myself have very nearly plummeted to the ground after checking my mail or walking underneath the portico of Kennedy Hall on the way to the Rat (for breakfast of course), and were it not for the youthful bounce in my step and quick reflexes I could have potentially been really hurt. With the number of prospective students and parents who tour this campus during the rainy winter season, I am awed that no such lawsuit-worthy mishap has occurred.

This is really a Memphis-wide problem, though. The drainage system set up by the city is deplorable, evidenced by the sheer vastness of standing water that I encountered driving along Poplar on the way to the University of Memphis one evening. Rain happens in major cities all the time, believe it or not, but I have never heard of a city that shuts down roads running under bridges because of scattered showers. Neither have I seen a city population's ability to effectively drive an automobile crumble so completely and suddenly as the people of Memphis at the sight of a storm cloud. I guess the main point of these comments is this: It's a dangerous world out there through no fault of your own, so please, do what you can to take care of yourselves.

PRIORITIES



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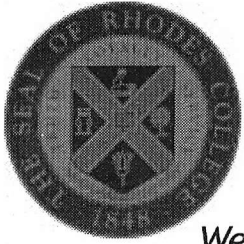
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Wednesday, November 19, 2003

PAGE 3
OPINION

EMILY COSTARIDES

Please tell me it is not a case of the hiccups

Once upon a time, words like "unemployment," "GDP," and "growth" were words for our parents or Professor Beckham-Gramm's Macroeconomics class. While matters of finance affected us indirectly, the only market that truly aroused our personal concern with its negative impact upon our pockets was the distorted one of used books at the Rhodes College bookstore.

If this economic state of mind is not a distant past to you, you are not a senior. However, if you find yourself discussing nothing but job applications and GRE/MCAT/LSAT scores even over Saturday night drinks, you are entering the world of reality, and if you are like many of your peers, it is probably not a voluntary action.

As the Fall progresses, the hum of summer's birds and bees is relentlessly supplanted with that of a widespread anxiety as application deadline after application deadline come and go. You now realize that you should have sympathized with your parents when they discussed their grievances concerning the economy. After all, their sympathy may be all that you have if you join the great ranks of the unemployed upon graduation.

Despite the recent buzz surrounding news of the U.S. economic recovery, it seems that pessimism still plagues much of the business world. October may have seen the creation of 126,000 jobs and massive mergers, but is this upward trend permanent? No one but extreme Democratic presidential hopefuls seems to rule out entirely the possibility of long-term

improvement, but on the other hand, few people outside of the circle of die-hard Bush supporters would swear on their lives that the hard times are a thing of the past.

The Economist suggests that many businesses are still concerned with "cleaning up yesterday's messes," a reference to the corporate scandals that popped up as quickly and numerous as chicken pox in 2001 and 2002.

The New York Times speaks more closely to home for many Rhodes students, saying Atlanta will not be "popping corks" any time soon, despite an impressive increase in productivity and tax revenues.

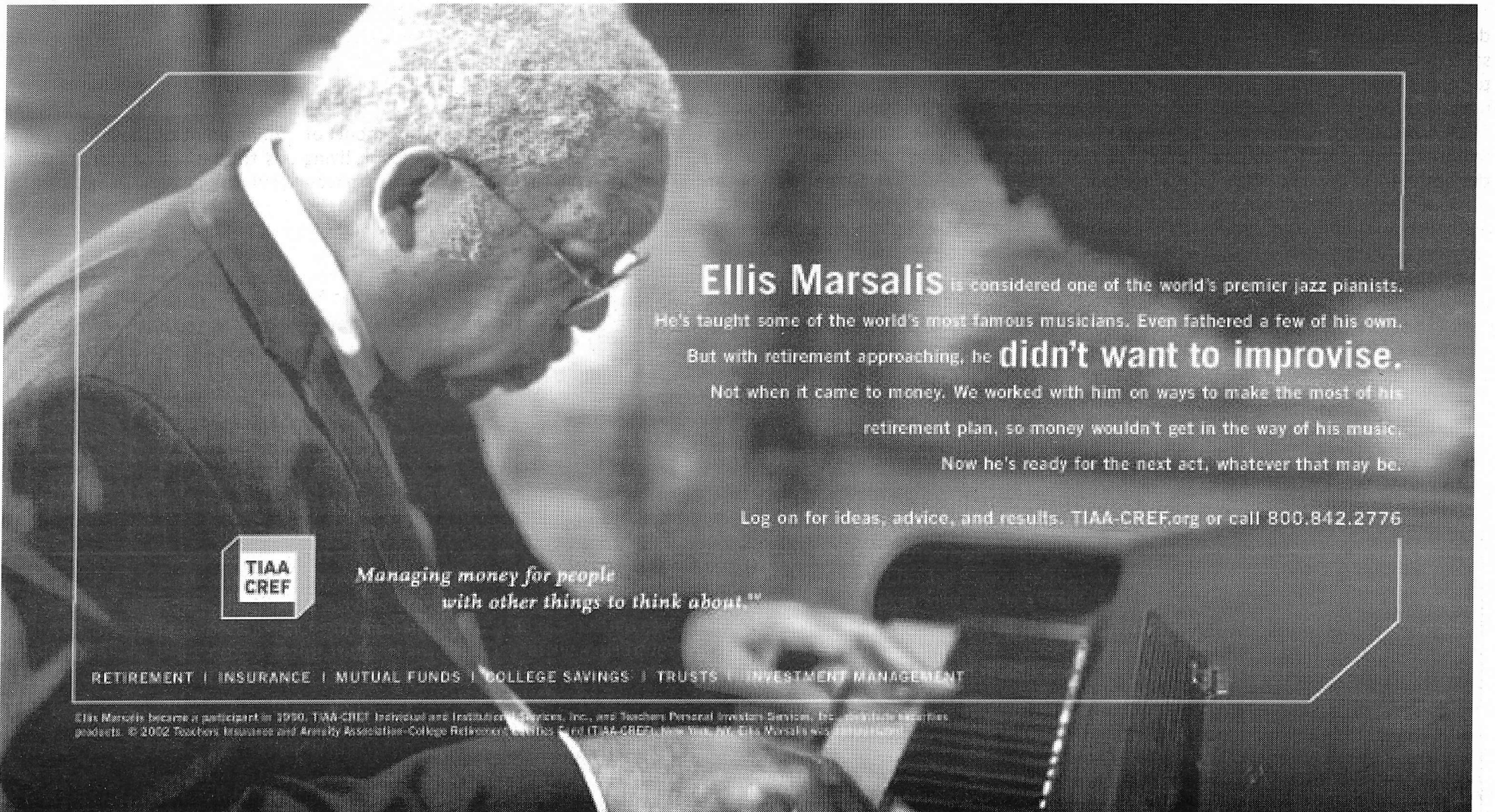
Security concerns also seem to dampen the risk-taking mood of corporate America as attacks persist in Iraq and al-Qaeda supposedly takes blame for the bombing

in Istanbul. Some economic analysts cite suppressed interest rates as a sign that the forecast is not all sunshine from here on out; others say that this gloomy prediction is unreasonable because interest rates are not low due to a lack of increasing demand for capital, but instead are a result of financing methods that have locked in extremely low interest rates.

No one seems to be able to tell us how we should determine our prospects of getting those dream-jobs that we envisioned ourselves having at the end of our expensive four-year commitment to a liberal-arts education. Politicians' spirits are rather obviously determined by partisanship, and the dialogue of presidential hopefuls is a greater patron of vague language than even the economic forecasts. Furthermore, there seems to be no way to avoid the uncertainty of the

economy, as competition for spots in graduate schools gets tougher as students decide they prefer graduate degrees to unemployment.

So where does that leave us? Basically, in the same place we were at the start of this opinion column: with our fingers crossed. If Wall Street cannot predict where we are in the business cycle, neither can I. So I will continue taking great interest in every application I can get a hold of, hoping that the miniscule probabilities that I will be one of the 126,000 to get one of those new jobs will add up to a number with at least a 'one' in the tenths' place. If I don't get so lucky, I guess I will still try to see a glass that is half full. After all, at least I won't have to worry about having a 401(k) plan erase any savings.



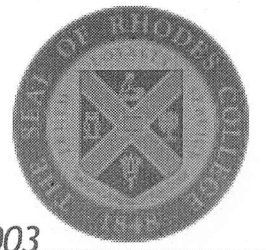
Ellis Marsalis is considered one of the world's premier jazz pianists. He's taught some of the world's most famous musicians. Even fathered a few of his own. But with retirement approaching, he **didn't want to improvise.** Not when it came to money. We worked with him on ways to make the most of his retirement plan, so money wouldn't get in the way of his music. Now he's ready for the next act, whatever that may be.

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Week in Review

International

ENGLAND George W. Bush recently became the first U.S. president to make a full state visit to Great Britain. In an address on Wednesday, he will justify and defend the invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq by arguing that war is sometimes necessary in the defense of a nation's ideals. In response to his three day visit, British officials hyped up security, while thousands of people--supporters and protesters alike--prepared to attend his speeches, as well as those of several prominent anti-war proponents. Despite authorities' fears of a possible attack by terrorists disguised as anti-war protestors, the demonstrators' rights were not restricted to any unusual degree.

AFGHANISTAN The United Nations refugee agency announced the removal of 30 international staff and the closure of a number of refugee centers. These actions may work to the detriment of tens of thousands of Afghan returnees. The decision to cut support was made following the murder of 29-year-old French national Bettina Goislard. According to a spokesperson for the former Afghan government, the Taliban planned the attack, and its guerillas were directly responsible for killing the Christian woman.

JAPAN On Monday, in response to supposed threats by al Qaeda that it would attack U.S. allies, the Japanese government issued another alert to Japanese citizens traveling or living abroad. An alert was also released on October 28 due to a suicide attack threat aimed at nations who have supported the U.S. in its relations with Iraq. The alert suggested that citizens avoid likely terrorist targets, remain cautious in crowded areas and be wary of their surroundings.

National

NEBRASKA According to the American Civil Liberties Union, discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS is still prevalent in rural America. The ACLU issued a report on the issue of discrimination and filed lawsuits for a 19-year-old woman who lost her job as a hostess in a restaurant when her employer discovered she had contracted HIV. The woman was also disadvantaged when the employer at her second job at a convenience store, which she had previously held for two years, significantly shortened her hours and forced her to wear gloves. The ACLU's report contained several other examples of AIDS-based discrimination in an effort to raise awareness about these issues.

MISSISSIPPI A tornado in Jackson damaged more than a dozen rural Mississippi homes on Tuesday as a series of storms moved through the area. According to Sandra Martin, a dispatcher with the Smith County Sheriff's department, there were no injuries, as people stayed inside their houses and mobile homes. Tornado warnings were issued across the state, which suffered from strong winds and intense rain.

ILLINOIS Emanuel Fleming was rushed to the hospital Monday--along with the phone booth he had been standing in. The doctors in the emergency room learned that Fleming had gotten his middle finger caught in the coin return slot while trying to retrieve his 50 cents after a failed call to his wife. Doctors administered pain killers, lubricant and a wooden device in order to ease his pain and free his finger. Fleming later remarked that the people he saw who knew him were laughing at him.

MONDAY SPECIAL



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3 Crispy Strips Meal

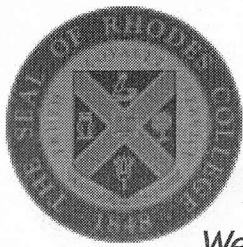
Meal Includes
Individual Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
Individual Cole Slaw and 1 Baked Biscuit

\$2.49
Plus Tax



Valid On Thursdays Only. Limited Time Offer. Not Valid With Any Other Special Offer.

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CampusSafety

11.8.03-11.14.03

11/8	NOTHING TO REPORT	
11/9	3:38 a.m.	Williford quad; noise complaint, officer responded, students complied without incident
11/10	5:03 p.m.	Refectory, fire alarm, smoke detector in Servery B, set off by oven, alarm was reset
11/12	2:30 p.m.	CBU officials on campus to study Campus Safety security systems.
11/13	12:50 p.m.	MPD Mounted Police Patrol on campus for a tour
11/14	NOTHING TO REPORT	

STATS:

ACCESSES: 65	ESCORTS: 15
VISITORS: 156	TOW: 0
CITATIONS: 27	BOOT: 0
PROPPED DOORS: 0	JUMP: 0

Honor Council Report

The following is a mid-term report of the Honor Council. So far in the 2003-2004 academic year, the Council has heard twelve cases total: six allegations of cheating, four allegations of plagiarism and two allegations of lying. The following are the results of the cases:

Students found "In Violation": 10
Students found "Not in Violation": 2

For those students found "In Violation," the following sanctions were given:

Probation: 2
Probation with creative sanctioning: 4
One-semester Suspension: 3
Two-semester Suspension: 1

Please remember that if you witness or have knowledge of an alleged violation of the Honor Code, you should report it immediately to Michael Lamb, President of the Honor Council (lamkm@rhodes.edu; x3347).

Iraq, continued from Page 1

we should stop talking about democracy or a constitution as a pre-condition and instead should ask ourselves whether "it is a government that can govern."

He argues that any Iraqi regime will do, as long as it is secular. His solution is to turn the country over "to clan leaders and tribal leaders and accept a possible outcome of a less than democratic Iraq, or even an authoritarian Iraq." This is because authoritarian, secular states

(such as Iraq under Saddam) are not conducive to Islamist terrorism. The other component of Michta's proposal is to withdraw all U.S. troops out of Iraq as soon as possible: "No matter how many times we say that we are liberating Iraq, to the Iraqi public, we are an outside force. If you reversed the situation and said our country was occupied by a foreign power, no matter how many times that power said they were here for benign purposes, you would look at it as an outside force."

Residence Life office urges students to donate blood for charity

By Caroline Vance

By this time in the year, most first-year students are bemoaning the arrival of the dreaded freshman fifteen. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors have long forgotten the days when those fifteen pounds were not part of the daily routine. So what advantages does weight gain have? It certainly inhibits the gainer's ability to fit into those "going out pants" and makes the trek to the gym a little bit harder to face. But Residence Life, the Red Cross and the Health Center present "Put Your Pounds to Use Day," otherwise known as the Red Cross Blood Drive, as a way for you to take advantage of a healthy weight.

If you weigh as much as 110 pounds, you are eligible to donate a pint of your blood to charity. That's right, to charity! If your parents have insinuated that you may lose your living stipend unless you become one of the "eighty percent" of Rhodes students involved with community service, this is the opportunity for you! The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on campus on Tuesday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., taking donations from all healthy people over the

age of seventeen and over the weight of 110 pounds.

If you are worried that you may not be healthy enough to donate blood and that you might have to do the "walk of shame" out of the bloodmobile in front of all the healthy donors, have no fear! Just check out these guidelines before you go. The Red Cross will politely refuse your offer of blood if you:

- have HIV or AIDS or are at risk of having HIV or AIDS;
- are currently under treatment for cancer or have had a recurrence of the same kind of cancer;
- have a fever, sore throat or productive cough;
- have donated blood in the eight weeks before December 2;
- have suffered from an epileptic seizure in the past three months;
- have suffered from a heart attack in the past six months;
- have hepatitis or have ever used a needle to take illegal drugs;
- have used cocaine in the past year;
- have had a blood transfusion, tattoo, non-sterile piercing or blood contact with an open wound in the past year;
- have been bitten by a human in the past year (this means a real bite, one that broke the skin);

- have been vaccinated for or exposed to Rubella, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Meningitis or Measles in the past four weeks;
- have spent more than 3 months in the United Kingdom or more than six months in Europe; or
- have had mad cow disease (seriously).

There is no drug testing involved with donating blood; people who have used marijuana may donate if they are not under the influence at the time of the donation.

If you are still hesitant about the donation process, think about this: One pint of blood may save the lives of up to four people. That, and the Red Cross will give you a teddy bear after you donate, which you may opt to keep or donate back to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Think of all the good you can do — make five people happy, or seven, if you count your parents, or eight, if you count yourself.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on campus on Tuesday, December 2 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Call the Moore Moore Health Center at x3895 to set up an appointment. Red Cross will provide a pizza party for the floor with the most participating residents.

FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION FROM RSG

One of the main goals of RSG's Administration and External Services subcommittee is to increase the quality of the food service provided to students through Aramark.

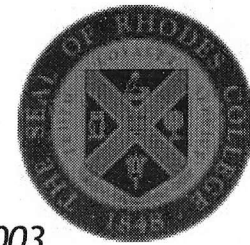
While the quality of the food service staff is mainly the responsibility of Aramark, the students have the ability to affect the quality of this service through their attitudes towards both the Aramark employees and the service they receive in general. In order to cultivate the relationship between students and the food service staff, RSG sponsored "Aramark Appreciation Day" on October 30. While RSG encourages students to be grateful for the services provided by Aramark on a regular basis, this day emphasizes even more the importance of such attitudes. Con-

gratulations to CiCi and Leon, who were selected by students as their favorite Aramark employees. Both will be receiving gift certificates to Huey's in honor of their hard work.

In order to elicit student opinion concerning the Rat and Lair, a group composed of several Rhodes students and RSG representatives met with the director of Aramark, Mary Kingery, on October 28. The group enjoyed an elegant Aramark-catered dinner while brainstorming possible modifications to the current dining system. Kingery graciously acknowledged all comments and offered possible solutions to various concerns, including that of a more efficient meal plan. Many complained that meal hours do not adequately serve class schedules and also that the new Lair menu does not fully utilize the meal plan.

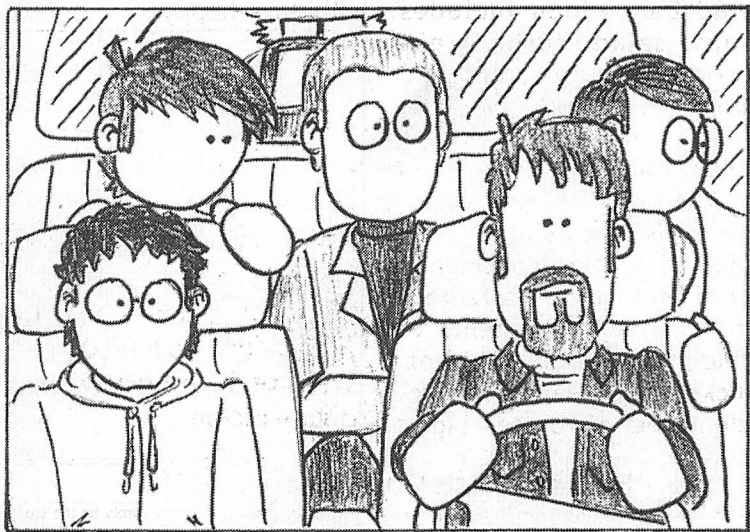
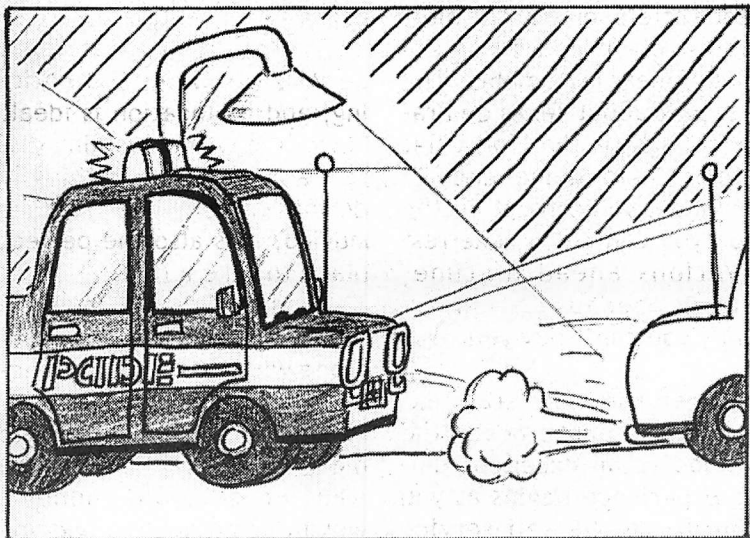
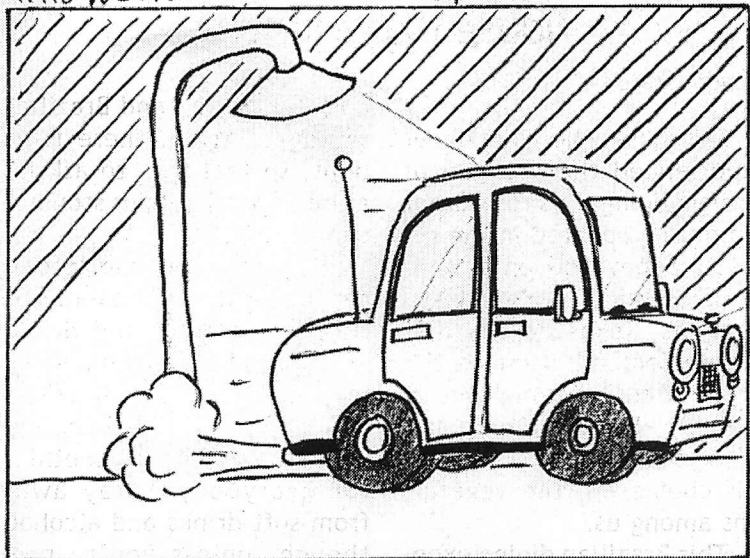
More extensive research will be required to appropriately correct these current problems; however, Aramark is cooperative in attending to the students' needs. Students should look forward to seeing such improvements as a smoothie bar in Java City, wine tastings and vegetarian samplings in the Rat, five-course dinners, and a variety of new types of food. Mary also wanted to remind the student body to submit any favorite recipes for the Rat to prepare.

Aramark, in conjunction with RSG, is arranging a five-course gourmet meal for approximately 90 students on November 19. Students who attend will be served by their favorite student government representatives. Such dinners will become regular occurrences if enough interest is shown.



THIS WEEKEND

by LOLIAN WHEELER.



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Rhodes music dazzles during the holiday season

By Autumn Brice

This December, the Rhodes Music Department continues its tradition of excellence during the holiday season. Give your ears a break from the clicking of the keyboard and mark your calendars for the following events:

Rhodes Orchestra Concert, featuring the Student String Quartet and Woodwind Ensemble. The performance takes place Monday, November 24, at 8 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Rhodes MasterSingers Chorale, under the direction of Tim Sharp, will present J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" on Sunday, December 7 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cathedral, located at 1695 Central Avenue. The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. and is free. You can catch this performance again on Sunday, December 14, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church as part of their

German Christmas celebration. Trinity Lutheran is located at 210 Washington Avenue, and admission is free. The Chorale will also perform Bach's works on Sunday, December 21, at 2:30 p.m. at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, located at 4338 Park Avenue. The concert is free to students.

Tim Sharp, conducting the Rhodes Singers, and Mona Kreitner, conducting the Rhodes Women's Chorus, present "Christmas at St. Mary's" on Tuesday, December 9, an annual Memphis holiday tradition celebrating its 17th year. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, 700 Poplar Avenue. The Singers will perform "Mid-Winter Songs" and "O Magnum Mysterium" by the 2002 Springfield Lecturer, Morton Lauridsen, as well as "What Sweeter Music" by John Rutter. The Women's Chorus will perform "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. Marion Schaffer, harpist,

and David Ramsey, pianist/organist, accompany the Singers and Women's Chorus in this magnificent event.

The Rhodes Singers (Tim Sharp, conductor; David Ramsey, organist) also present "A Service of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, December 14, at The Church of the Holy Communion, 4645 Walnut Grove. The concert begins at 5:30 p.m. and is free.

Don't forget to pick up a copy of *Christmas at St. Mary's Vol. III*, available in the Rhodes Bookstore. This CD includes the 2002 performance of Christmas at St. Mary's as well as works by Morten Lauridsen. Proceeds benefit the Rhodes Singers and Rhodes MasterSingers Chorale, who will travel to New York on June 13, 2004, to perform the music of Morten Lauridsen at Carnegie Hall.

Information compiled by the Rhodes Communications Department

Elf: The best Christmas movie of the season?

By Caroline Vance

When I saw the trailer for Will Ferrell's new movie *Elf*, I cringed inwardly. The preview showed an oversized elf (Ferrell) wandering through New York City wearing yellow tights, a green felt tunic and a vacant stare. And that pretty much sums up the movie. "Vacant" really is a good word to describe the character development, line delivery and plot of the movie. And yet, I'm saddened by that revelation, because *Elf* had enormous potential to be a great film of the heartwarming holiday genre.

Ferrell appears as Buddy the Elf, a human who lives among elves almost from birth and has no skills besides spreading Christmas cheer and making Etch-a-Sketches rather slowly. Too slowly, as a matter of fact; because of his inability to produce the toys at an elfish rate, Buddy realizes that he is not, in fact, an elf, and sets out to find his real father in New York City. His father, Walter (James Caan), is a cold-hearted children's book publisher whose

name appears on Santa's "naughty list," a fate worse than death as far as the elves (and Buddy) are concerned.

With such a serious character flaw, it seems obvious that Walter should be hesitant to accept the thirty-year-old Buddy as his son, despite Buddy's best attempts (these include delivering lingerie to Walter's office and cooking him spaghetti for breakfast). And although Ferrell does his best to convince us that Buddy is a lovable, happy creature, I can't say that I really blame Walter for rejecting Buddy — he's just annoying. The "man in tights" joke gets old after the first twenty minutes, and Buddy's obsession with sweets (he pours syrup on the aforementioned breakfast spaghetti) isn't amusing — it's disgusting.

The movie does have its good moments. As viewers of *Night at the Roxbury* and *Old School* probably remember, Ferrell has a knack for physical comedy, and his first run-in with a yellow cab is hilarious. And Bob Newhart in

tights is infinitely more charming than Ferrell. Another cast standout is Zoey Deschanel, who plays Jovey, Buddy's love interest. The role does not give Deschanel a chance to prove her merit as an actress, but her singing is not dubbed, and that is a refreshing touch. And family audiences will probably appreciate the rather conspicuous absence of locker-room humor.

I did laugh at this movie, although sometimes I didn't know if I was laughing at the clever writing (doubtful) or the deplorable state of Ferrell's career (more likely). Still, though, I laughed. At the end of the movie, Buddy somewhat predictably saves the day, spreading the spirit of Christmas and reaffirming the existence of Santa Claus. Is that all that we can ask of a Christmas movie? I guess so. Right now, *Elf* is the best Christmas movie of the season, but it's also the only Christmas movie that has been released. So Santa, if you do exist, my Christmas wish is for a better movie.



Wednesday, November 19, 2003

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Maggie Goodman

Thanksgiving break will soon be upon us. To most, this auspicious occasion means a time of family togetherness, pumpkin pie, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, chock full of ungodly floats ridden by B-list celebrities. Al Roker and high school bands aside, this day has been for me, and I am sure for others, a day generally looked upon with positive and warm thoughts.

But not this year.

If you are a member of the Class of 2004, you have the same dark cloud hanging over your head at this moment that I do. Six words. "What are you doing after graduation?" Dear reader, just typing these words at this moment evokes an overwhelming need to vomit within me.

What are we to do? Within the campus community, everyone is very aware that asking this question is a horrible faux pas. However, at family occasions, this question is fair game. Not only that, it seems that this phrase is asked with such zeal and enjoyment by family members, one begins to wonder if they have been waiting for the past four years just to see you squirm at the sound of it. I mean, we're seniors in college—are we really supposed to know? [Note: The author is painfully aware that she is sup-

posed to know, but let her live in her own fantasyland.]

I am dreading the thought of walking into my grandmother's house, a safe and happy place (unless Uncle Doug shows up—sorry, I digress) and sitting down to a wonderful meal and hearing those fateful words being uttered from someone's mouth. Everyone will turn and stare as I try to conjure up some magical plan sent down from above like rhetorical manna from God. They wait, and I open my mouth and immediately state some idea of what I would like to do. Midway through this statement, I will read the faces of my unimpressed relatives and then decide to lose the whole "lifetime dream plan" and begin to shovel them a pile of crap about wanting to go to law school or doing PR or the like. Ah, what is a girl to do?

Well, kids, this is the plan. You can copy it if you'd like. In fact, I would be more than happy to help. When asked what my future entails, I'm going to reply with some outlandish and retarded scheme that will shut my relatives up. Here are a few examples of ludicrous "future plans" that I hope can help us all.

Option One: "Well, family, following graduation I plan to take this big box. Then I'll duct tape a black

tarp to it. I'll begin to search for a nice alleyway, and then I'm thinking, well, here it is: I'm going to live in the big box for a while and explore that whole lifestyle and subterranean culture. You know, to help me become a better person and all."

Option Two: "You know how I love to cook. I think it would be really cool to start a restaurant. I am thinking a soul food kind of thing. A fried chicken joint would be so neat. I would call it, *We're Not Cluckin' Around.*"

Option Three: "I've still got a few months to get pregnant by some really rich guy. That will set me for life, won't it?"

Option Four: "I think I want to do Teach for America. However, America called and apparently they don't want me. Guess that takes care of that plan; see Option One."

Option Five: "Oh, didn't you guys know? I'm not graduating this year after all. Apparently D is for done and F is for fifth year. Who knew?"

Hope this helps everyone. I plan to test this out myself. When asked what I am doing, I plan to just scare the hell out of whoever is asking that moronic question. We'll see how it goes.

Texas de Brazil: a Brazilian steak-house experience

By Patrick Hoover

For those who have never experienced the intrigue of foreign dining, this restaurant is a must. Located in the recently renovated entertainment district of downtown Memphis, Texas de Brazil is the perfect addition to the already flourishing nightlife of Peabody Place. The only diners who won't be happy with this choice are the vegetarians among us.

This Brazilian dining experience offers some of the most exquisitely prepared selections of meat in Memphis. The best part about Texas de Brazil, though, is that for a flat rate of \$30 for dinner and \$15 for lunch, you can get all the food you can eat. Make reservations ahead of time, though, because around 7 p.m., you can't buy your way in.

After the wait staff explains the dining process, the prelude to an excellent dining experience begins as you venture to the self-service salad bar, which includes soups, salad, sushi, fresh Portobello mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes, as well as sandwich meats and various flavored breads.

When you are ready to begin receiving cuts of meat, a troop of waiters continually roams through the restaurant with choice assortments of grilled certified Angus beef, chicken of all varieties, succulent cuts of roasted lamb,

pork tenderloin and Brazilian sausage. Again, there is no limit, so feel free to ask for as much food as your stomach can handle.

If there is any room left after the plethora of meats you receive, dessert and drinks are always on the menu. Ranging from traditional Brazilian flan to Americanized cheesecake, there truly is something for everybody. Stay away from soft drinks and alcohol, though, unless you're prepared to pay extra.

The atmosphere at Texas de Brazil is warm and enticing, and its location is ideal. Since it is within walking distance of nearly everything in downtown Memphis, including Muvico, it is also the perfect place to take a date.

Texas de Brazil is an excellent restaurant for an evening alone with that special someone or even as an opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving-style meal with your friends. If you want to get your money's worth, come hungry, and you will leave happy.

Texas de Brazil Churrascaria

Genre: Brazilian
Prices: \$15 for lunch, \$30 for dinner (drinks and dessert a la carte)
Location: 150 Peabody Pl.
Phone: (901) 526-7600
Website: <http://www.texasdebrasil.com>

Need Christmas present ideas? Review a CD and you can keep it!

The *Sou'wester* has the following CDs:

Angie Aparo, *For Stars and Moon*

Broadcast Oblivion, *Transmita Olvido*

Dave Matthews, *Some Devil*

Contact brian@rhodes.edu for details.

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

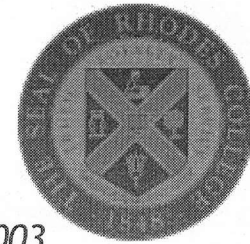
As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in the second floor of Briggs Student Center every Monday evening at 8 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

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

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Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Senior selected to Academic All-American team

By *Camelia Trahan*

Senior Laura Borg, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, and a graduate of Henry Clay High School, has been selected to the 2003 Verizon District VI Volleyball Division Academic All-American Team, as chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Rhodes is a member of District VI, which is made up of the states of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama.

Borg, a middle blocker for the 23-15 (11-7 SCAC) fourth finished Lynx, holds a 3.79 GPA majoring in Biology and Religious Studies. She was named to the third team, although one conference student-athlete was named to the second team.

On the season, Borg has been named SCAC Player of the Week for week seven as se-

lected by the conference office; a Rhodes first since Kate Maffei was honored during the fifth week of 1996.

Borg's honor comes just after a stellar performance in Danville, Kentucky, where the Lynx volleyball team won 3-2. In the game Borg garnered her second double-double of the season with 13 kills and 10 digs against the Stormy Petrels. She also had a season high of 26 assists over Millsaps.

Borg ends her collegiate career with an impressive stat line of 1321 kills, 28 assists, 90 serve aces, 771 digs and 156 block shots in 3551 total attempts after playing in 473 games, which earns her a bid in five areas in school history; including shattering the record of former teammate and graduate assistant coach Jackie Ehrentraut, who played in 474 games.

Grizzlies on three game winning streak, beating Lakers, Magic and Mavericks

By *Eric Hills*
Sports Analyst

Last Monday night, the Los Angeles Lakers came into Memphis with five wins on the season. They left with five wins. That's right; our Grizzlies did the unthinkable and beat the Lakers by ten, 105-95. This moral victory is exactly what the Grizzlies needed after losing all three games during their previous road trip, falling to Phoenix, Utah and Portland. Playoff talk has been looming since the Grizzlies ended the preseason with a 6-1 record. Seeing as the Grizzlies are members of the dominate Western Conference, earning a playoff bid will not be an easy task. However, neither was beating the Lakers.

When the Grizzlies beat San Antonio earlier this season, Spurs fans were quick to mention that neither Tim Duncan nor Tony Parker were in the game. (Duncan left during the first quarter with an injury) Last Monday night, however; the Lakers had the entire "Dream Team" on the court. The Grizz looked good from the opening stretch. This has been their Achilles heel this season, as Memphis has found itself playing catch-up basketball in the second half after letting opponents blow them out early.

Pau Gasol led the scoring for the Grizzlies with 22 points. Lorenzen Wright and James Posey each added 15 for the good guys and Jason Williams had a stellar point-guard performance with ten points, eight assists and five steals. The turnovers were deadly for the Lakers, as they committed a season high 23. The Grizzlies were able to hold Shaq O'Neal to just twenty points. The inside plays of Jake Tsakalidis and Gasol kept the Lakers' center under his season average. The Grizzlies had six scorers in double figures.

The Lakers opened the fourth in a nerve-wrecking

manner, as the Grizzlies could not throw the ball in the ocean for the first five minutes. They cut a sixteen point lead down to seven before Shane Battier delivered the play of the game. Heavily guarded and eventually fouled by Kobe Bryant, Battier popped a baseline three pointer that fell in and preserved the lead for the rest of the game. The Lakers had given the fans a scare and a reminder of the twenty-three point comeback the Lakers had last year at the Pyramid.

I was at the game and while I was disappointed in the number of Lakers fans on hand (especially those wearing Kobe Bryant jerseys), I felt the transition of Memphis into a sports town. Any new franchise has the difficult task of creating a fan base. Monday night's sell-out crowd began to feel what this team feels, playoffs. I have very little doubt that the Lakers will not be NBA champions come June. They will end the season with a number of losses that I can count on my two hands. One of those came against our Grizzlies.

Memphis has since carried the momentum from this victory over the Lakers into their next two games against Orlando and Dallas. Orlando has had early season mishaps and has struggled to find their game that earned them a playoff spot last season. The Grizzlies will take any victory they can, especially on the road. A late scoring run in the fourth quarter helped seal another double digit win for Memphis, as they improved to 4-4 on the season.

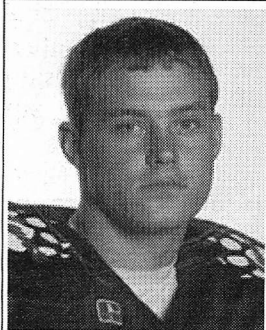
They were not done. The Dallas Mavericks met the Grizzlies at the Pyramid this past Saturday. Memphis, even at home, was clearly the underdog going into this game. The Mavericks had a strong team last year, earning a high spot in the playoffs. The franchise has added even more talent this

year with the addition of some of the Eastern Conference's better players. The Mavericks were not prepared for the Memphis team that showed up to play.

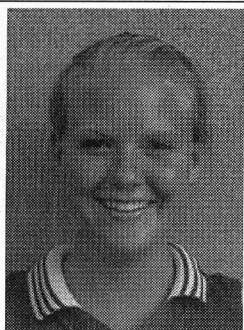
Clinging to a three point lead late, Grizzly forward James Posey had two free throws that could have ended the game. However, these two teams needed more than forty-eight minutes to decide the winner. Missing both free throws, Dallas had a chance to tie it up and send it to overtime. Antoine Walker, the former Kentucky Wildcat star, shot a three pointer as the buzzer sounded. The ball rattled around the rim, bounced up to the ceiling, and fell through the net. Free basketball. This crowd silencer seemed to shift the advantage to the Mavericks, but the heart of the Grizzlies was too strong to give up that easily. They outscored the Mavericks 13-6 in overtime, making the final score 108-101.

I do believe that our hometown Grizzlies will be in the postseason for the first time in franchise history. This ego-free team listens to its wisdom-filled coach, Hubie Brown. Last year, this team acquired Brown after the start of the regular season. He inherited a 0-8 record, proceeded to lose his first five games while adjusting, and then won twenty eight out of the next sixty nine games. As a member of the Western Conference, earning a playoff slot will not be an easy task; however, they have already beat Los Angeles, Dallas, San Antonio and Houston. The toughest part of their schedule lies in these first seventeen games. They are playing above .500 at the moment. They have found a winning formula, and if this continues, the Grizzlies will be playing in the postseason in their final year at the Pyramid.

October Athletes of the Month



Matt Dement



Lee Thomas

By *Camelia Trahan*

The SAAC October Female Athlete of the Month, senior Lee Thomas, has taken field hockey at Rhodes College to a completely different level of competition since its inception in 1998. From her freshman year, Thomas has been one of the top scorers in the Great Lakes Region. With her help, Rhodes has been regionally ranked as high third in the Great Lakes. Her achievements include Career all-Time Leader in points Scored with 95 pts, Career All-Time Leader in Goals Scored with 41, Career All-Time Leader in Assists with 13, Single Season Record for Goals Scored with 17, and Single Season Record for Points Scored with 38, as well as leader in scoring for the

Great Lakes region for the 2003 season, with 2.09 points per game. Thomas was also selected to participate in the North/South Senior All-Star Game in November of 2003. She was also a three-time Great Lakes All Region First Team member, a four-time All KIT First Team member and a three-time All KIT Tournament Team member.

On the men's side, the SAAC October Male Athlete of the Month is wide-receiver Matt Dement. He had 14 catches for 170 yards against Washington University to set a new school single game reception record. For the 2003 season Dement finished the season with 53 catches for 690 yards to lead the Lynx. Dement is a junior from Brighton, Tennessee.