

THE SOU'WESTER

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Wednesday, January 30, 2002

Campus News American spirit enervates strongest union ever, says Bush

All Stories Courtesy of U-wire

Several hearing-impaired University of California-Berkeley (Berkeley, CA) and University of California-Davis (Davis, CA) students have filed a lawsuit against the University of California system, saying that they have not been provided adequate services. The university has denied the allegations included in the lawsuit filed earlier this month. UC maintains it is in full compliance with state regulations. University spokeswoman Mary Spletter said UC will be examining its policies. She declined to comment on when the investigation will take place.

Lawyers for New York University (New York, NY) filed a motion earlier this month requesting that the University's name be stricken from public legal documents naming it in a \$20 million sexual assault lawsuit, court records showed. NYU's attorneys filed a motion two weeks ago arguing that the University should be referred to as "Anonymous" in all public court documents to shield it from negative publicity surrounding the suit. The motion stated that because a judge allowed the plaintiff, a female student who was sexually assaulted in a dormitory bathroom to proceed anonymously for privacy reasons, the University should be able to do so as well. If a judge grants NYU's motion, all public court records will refer to the lawsuit as "Anonymous v. Anonymous."

A University of Florida (Gainesville, FL) adjunct professor was found dead Friday in her Gainesville apartment, apparently beaten to death with a baseball bat. Her 18-year-old adopted son, Gainesville High senior Tavares Eugene Williams, was arrested late Friday and charged with the murder of Barbara Roth, a member of the Political Science Department. According to an arrest report, Roth was dead on arrival and appeared to have trauma to her head and side of her face. After being charged with murder and hearing his Miranda rights, Williams admitted to detectives that he struck Roth in the head three times with a baseball bat.

By Amber Shaw
Copy/Layout Editor

The successful war on terrorism and an improving economy contributed to President George Bush's statement that the state of the union has "never been stronger." The hour-long State of the Union address Tuesday night celebrated America's efforts to eradicate terrorism and the increased patriotic spirit embraced by the country after the September 11 attacks. Bush's three goals of winning the war, protecting freedom, and reviving the economy were all addressed and emphasized throughout the speech.

A decisive victory over terrorism consumed a majority of Bush's address. Hamid Karzai, interim leader of Afghanistan, and Sima Samar, Afghan Minister of Women's Affairs, were present in the audience and recognized for advancing the eradication of Al Qaeda and the Taliban within the Middle East. Though Bush enforced that the war on terror was only just beginning, his opinion on the destruction of both the terrorist camps and the general Al Qaeda network were positive. Iraq, another problematic nation for the United States, was mentioned as a deterrent to the elimination of terrorists. An elaborate missile system to protect the U.S. and its allies was cited as one solu-

tion to homeland defense.

Heart-warming stories of a boy leaving his football at Ground Zero in New York for his lost father because "he didn't want to play football again until it could be with his dad" and a soldier's widow who said "semper fi my dear" at his memorial service dotted the address showing the more humanistic side of the war. The two female flight attendants who restrained attempted shoe-bomber Richard Reid on board the American Airlines flight last month were also acknowledged.

The economy and the current recession were also discussed. Bush stated that economic security and a smaller deficit are possible as long as Congress acts responsibly and watches spending. "Every American should have the dignity of a job," said Bush of his plan to decrease unemployment. Stable social security to benefit young workers' retirement accounts as well as a patients' bill of rights, including coverage of prescription drugs, also supplemented the domestic agenda. A call for increased unemployment benefits, healthcare benefits, and increased education spending also strengthened Bush's commitment to domestic prosperity.

Bush urged a bipartisan movement toward reaching all of the goals he discussed in his address. He pleaded for homeland security

Rhodes Activities Board announces spring semester events

By Georgianna Bowersox
Staff Writer

With the start of spring semester, several thoughts come to mind for a Rhodes student: chiefly, Rites of Spring. While this well-known and certainly well-attended event is surely not to be overlooked, Rhodes Activities Board has several other events planned to ease students into the new year.

The first campus-wide event already under way is a fight-to-the-death race also known as Assassins. Employing "creative killing," RAB Chair Megan Gaylord has undertaken this

project as a new addition to spring activities, hopefully to be continued in the future. "It's a sort of make-your-own bomb game in which people can get 'killed' with peanuts or even a banana," says Gaylord. Signups are currently taking place, and, to inspire students to join the fun, a prize is offered for the last assassin standing.

For those who prefer less intensive activities, RAB has booked the well-known comedy troupe Second City. Based in Chicago, Second City has served as a launching pad for several Saturday Night Live comedians such as Bill Murray and John



Photo by Miriam Dolin

Tennessee-based singer/songwriter Jennifer Daniels performed at Java City Wednesday, January 23. Rhodes Activities Board sponsored the event as part of their coffee house series.

through tracking U.S. visitors, combating illegal drugs, and doubling spending on intelligence and military protection. "Do not act as a Republican, not as a Democrat, but as an American," Bush implored Congress. Time and distance, he stated, will not make America safer unless we take action.

To complete the speech, Bush acknowledged his wife Laura for the strength she has provided him as well as the country in this difficult time. With an air of humility, Mrs. Bush

mouthed "you didn't have to do that," as she stood up graciously to be recognized. Such a statement embodied the theme of the evening: Americans performing actions that they did not have to do, but did in the spirit of enduring freedom. This spirit was reflected in a proposal for all Americans to complete 4000 hours of service to their neighbors or their country within their lifetime. Selfless acts serve goals larger than the individual, said Bush, and Americans must not let that opportunity pass.

Candy. Scheduled for February 16, this is an opportunity to see future stars in action, an event no comedy-lover should pass up.

Also planned for the month of February is the annual Faculty/Staff Dessert Cookoff on February 7 and Valentine's Day in the Rat. Claims Gaylord, "It's a time when the Rat will actually serve good food for once." Students with or without a sweetheart are invited to enjoy this gourmet meal served by candlelight.

With the onslaught of midterms in March, students will have a chance to enjoy the yearly Battle of the Bands wherein participating

groups contend for titles of Critic's Choice and People's Choice. This year, however, is unique in the respect that new provisions are in place to bring out the musically inclined on campus.

All bands participating are required to be at least half composed of Rhodes students in hopes to recruit homegrown talent.

See RAB,
Page 5

The enslavement of thought in a free society

By Patrick LaRochelle
Guest Columnist

Freedom of thought is a big deal in America. We like to challenge the religious, political, and social orthodoxies which exert their authority on us. Indeed, our country began in such a way, claiming independence from English rule. In the past century this freedom of thought has manifested itself most notably in an intellectual self-scrutiny of schizophrenic proportions, calling into question even the most firmly entrenched convictions of the American mind—moral and epistemological absolutes, the purity and superiority of democracy, the reality of truth, and the existence and relevance of a God whose territory seems now to have diminished to a mere phrase, an oft-ignored cliché on American coins and currency.

But has our free thought unwittingly sold itself into slavery? When I came to college, I thought education was all about seeking the truth. I confess that now I

have my doubts. Have we sold out? Have we become the very fundamentalist bigots that we are so fond of condemning? Maybe we need to do a little soul-searching here at Rhodes College.

Dr. Craig Blomberg, who spoke this weekend on the historical reliability of the New Testament, mentioned something that his college religion professor had said in class one day. The professor, with utmost seriousness, stated: "You cannot be a Christian fundamentalist without forfeiting your intellectual integrity." Dr. Blomberg decided to check out that claim. Now he is one of the many intellectuals who prove that man wrong.

That is not to say that if you look into the evidence you will immediately become a Christian. Far from it. However, let me ask you a question: Have you ever read a scholarly work on the evidence for Christianity by an expert who actually believes that Christianity is true? Did you even know that not all Christians embrace the Bible with "blind faith," that not all

churchgoers reject reason and evidence?

My contention is that the Bible is now the object of a new orthodoxy, and not—may I state clearly—a Christian orthodoxy. Instead, it seems that almost all secular (and sadly even church-affiliated) colleges and universities teach an extremely one-sided and myopic perspective on the Bible, a perspective that completely denies a wealth of recent scholarship. Ask those who heard Craig Blomberg. I think they will probably tell you that there is more evidence for Christianity than they formerly thought.

I want to emphasize that this is not a call for Rhodes College to commit intellectual suicide. On the contrary, I would submit that we—and not just us, but many colleges and universities—are actually on the brink of intellectual suicide already. Are we really thinking freely about religion, and more specifically, about Christianity? Or are we enslaved to an orthodoxy, whose ideology has insidiously placed some subjects and some bodies of

evidence off limits to free thought? Are we afraid to think freely about Jesus today?

Here is a profound thought: Is rebellion still rebellion if it has become the normal thing to do? I would submit that it has become too cool to be a rebel these days, at least in the ordinary sense of the word. Maybe the call of bravery is now different than we think. Maybe retro pants and marijuana with a little Darwin and Derrida thrown in have become the status quo. So here is my challenge: Be a genuine rebel. Give Jesus the intellectual respect that he deserves. I triple-dog-dare you.

Frankly, Jesus was a terrifying man. He was not just some itinerant coiner of aphorisms and proverbs that made people feel all warm and fuzzy. Anyone who thinks that obviously has not read the New Testament lately. Jesus Christ was a wee bit more hardcore than that. Yes, he was a man who healed. But he also said: "Go and sin no more." And that, I would submit, is a very scary thing to hear at a college campus.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

With a few rare exceptions, I have been extremely disappointed in the food service that Aramark provides. The Refectory and the Lynx Lair are both difficult, and nearly impossible, places for a vegetarian to eat. Vegetarian dishes seem to be a secondary concern to having multiple meat dishes at every meal. Vegetarian dishes, both entrees and side dishes, should be given first priority when designating a menu.

Vegetarians are vegetarians for a variety of reasons. Some believe that meat production is cruel to animals, and that group has volumes of evidence to support their claims. Some people are vegetarians due to health reasons, and that group has valid claims as well. The higher on the food chain an organism is, the more it will concentrate chemicals in tissue. For instance, a school of fish is poisoned with a non-lethal dose of mercury. When a shark or tuna eats hundreds of the smaller fish, the mercury from the smaller fish transfers to the larger one. A significant portion of the mercury, a poison, remains in the larger fish. For this

reason, the Food and Drug Administration has recommended that pregnant women not eat fish more than once a week. People who choose to eat meat are similarly concentrating poisons in their bodies, just as the animal they are eating did. Others choose to be vegetarians for environmental reasons, the environmental impact of eating meat from an industrial standpoint being significant.

Why should vegetarian dishes be given a priority? People who eat meat can, and often do, eat vegetarian dishes, but the converse is not true. If there are only two vegetarians eating at the Refectory every day, vegetarian dishes should still be given priority. I do not know of one person who has a problem not eating meat in every dish.

Servery B is not an acceptable place to stop with the vegetarian dishes. For instance, this servery is not open on the weekend, and the Servery A menu becomes even more limited. Are vegetarians not supposed to eat on the weekend? Last time I checked, I got just as hungry on Saturday as on Tuesday. Additionally, the same dishes are served at both lunch and dinner, making it difficult for vegetarians to maintain a balanced diet. The dishes

in Servery B also often contain meat, including the pasta and the pizza (where meat is often covered by cheese). The oriental line almost always has meat in it, and when it does not contain meat as the main component, it often has meat broth in it.

On January 15, the Refectory was serving pesto lasagna at lunch. An individual in front of me asked if the lasagna was vegetarian and the server replied that it was. When we got to the table, we discovered shrimp in the dish. People have the right to know what they are eating. This might not be a big deal to the average Rhodes student, but could be possibly deadly for someone with a shellfish allergy, for instance, and it is also offensive to a vegetarian. I talked to a manager twice. Only after showing him a shrimp was I able to confirm that the lasagna was seafood lasagna, and the lasagna was switched.

Given the state of food service for vegetarians at Rhodes, I would like to make the following requests:

1. Vegetarian food is given a priority in planning the menu in both the Refectory and Lynx Lair.
2. A list of ingredients is provided for every dish.
3. Hot vegetarian food is served at

every meal in both the Refectory and the Lynx Lair.

4. Vegan options are served at every meal.

5. Soy milk is added to the beverage choices.

6. Servers are informed if a dish contains meat, including all fish, shellfish, and mussels, and animal products.

7. All cooked and processed food is given a label indicating whether it is vegan, vegetarian, or contains meat. For instance, raw apples need not be labeled, but rice does, as it can be prepared in meat broth.

8. A representative of Aramark joins the Rhodes Planning Cooperative in order to allow for student, faculty, and administrative communication and coordination in vegetarian and environmental concerns surrounding Aramark.

Sincerely,
Joshua Low

Editor's note: Tim VanderMeersch of Rhodes Dining Services has agreed to meet with Joshua regarding his concerns.

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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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Responsibility to Civil Rights continues

KATIE FRANKLIN
Move it people



Three years ago, in the spring of 2000, I was an enthusiastic sophomore enrolled in several classes that stimulated my interest in race relations, namely African-American Religion with Dr. Ivory and History of the American South with Dr. Huebner.

On the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, NAACP leader Julian Bond came to Rhodes College. I left his program with a deep desire that I could have lived during the Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s so that I could have been a part of that movement. I called my parents that night and told them I wanted to join the NAACP and work for that organization when I got out of college, and they, as expected, nodded in support without saying too much of anything else.

Well, since January of 2000 I

have been on a sort of mini-quest, more of an inside journey than an outside journey, to figure out what I can do to help assuage the "race problem," as it has become to be known, in America. What I have come to realize is that I *am* a part of the Civil Rights Movement, even in 2002, by remembering daily the efforts of past justice-seekers and working to exemplify their credos in my thoughts and actions.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated annually at this season and is usually accompanied with programs and speeches, pictures of Dr. King, and a general renewed sense of struggle for the African-American community. In the past two years Rhodes has provided an excellent program to celebrate King's life with such powerful orators as Julian Bond and Michael Eric Dyson. Personally, I have found this annual program to be the most well funded event on Rhodes campus throughout the entire scholastic year.

Photographer Ernest Withers was the honored guest of the evening for this year's celebration,

and while his message about King was somewhat lacking, his photographs spoke louder than words. What struck me most about the program, however, was the reminder that this event warrants the annual occasion of more dark faces in the audience than light. I do not even want to think about how many were bribed to attend by some promise of extra credit from a professor, so leaving that aside I will just say that there suddenly seemed to be a comparable ratio of non-white to white students on Rhodes campus (you know, like they show on the website).

Did this mean that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is only of importance to the non-white portion of our society? Do we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. as something of the past, and as some dream that is exclusive to a single race?

Indeed, America has come a long way since the 1950s and '60s in race relations. We no longer have separate public restrooms for "colored" and "white;" we no longer attend officially segregated schools; and we will occasionally sanction

the union of a couple that is biracial. While these developments seem concrete and permanent for our generation, it is a fact that they are relatively recent phenomena. A movement for Civil Rights did not instantaneously erupt in 1954 – it had been an ongoing struggle since the day African slaves stepped foot on North American soil.

The dream that Dr. King spoke of was not exclusive to his generation, but was the dream of generations before him and generations after him. The fact is that although America today does not have officially segregated public areas and officially segregated schools, our society is still segregated. We still sit in clumps of black and clumps of white in public places. We still attend public schools that are composed primarily of students of our individual race. We are so obviously not finished with the struggle for racial equality, and yet we have allowed it to plateau.

In his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Dr. King wrote in 1963, "I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward

freedom is not the...Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who...prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice..." King's message here cannot be watered down to suit the agenda of our indifferent generation.

The movement for civil rights and racial equality is not one that can be achieved through the efforts of one half of the population. The struggle must be recalled every day by each of us, black *and* white. In 2002, I am a part of the Civil Rights Movement. In my personal journey, I have learned that as a caucasian member of humanity, it is my duty to remember daily the dream we commemorate each year and actively pursue it.

Our government can only do so much in helping to ameliorate the pangs of past discrimination; our community organizations can only superficially integrate our children and our cultures. The responsibility ultimately rests with each of us, as individuals, to maintain the daily struggle toward equal justice for all.

The American family can still be saved

CHAD JONES
Speed Racer



"I'm a single dad. I have custody of my son, and I haven't received one cent from the mother. Do I care? No, because I love my child. He didn't ask to be born, so I will take care of him and provide for him to the best of my ability. Everything I do for him is from love. He is a very happy child. Parental greed distorts the confidence of the child."

This quote appeared in a reader-submitted opinion column in *The Charleston Daily Mail* (my home newspaper) in the last week. While many of the snippets in the forum are humorous or random, there are a few, like this one, that merit additional consideration.

I applaud this man for his commitment to his son and his

willingness to provide loving care in spite of not receiving support from the mother (a quick disclaimer: I use the genders as they appear in the article, though it seems more frequent that the sexes are reversed in most of these same situations). Moreover, I am amazed how he neither resents his role nor the mother's abandonment. Clearly, this man feels something unique towards his child—a bond, as it were, that is conspicuously absent in many families.

This paternal bond is something extraordinarily special, and I believe this man to be right-on with his sentiments regarding a parent's implicit love for his or her child. Too often, it seems, the "family" deteriorates into a house of self-serving individuals. Evidence to support this claim is plentiful: radio ads for divorce lawyers, billboards encouraging women to seek refuge from domestic violence, and programs to steer young children away from

drugs, to list only a very few. Though I could (and would) never make the claim that "things are worse now than they once were," I certainly believe that ANY dissolution of the family is too much.

So what is the cause of this disbanding? The answer, I think, is simple enough while still being difficult to believe: dissolution in the parent's family. People thirst for life and would crawl through the desert for even a sip of it. However, when there is no water, they will drink anything that is offered to them instead, for they know no better. Remarkably, most children grow up and act towards their own progeny as their parents did to them. Why? Because that is the only way they know. This is how we observe generational patterns of domestic violence, apathy towards family, and abandonment.

Like a drug dependence, this problem is hard to resolve. The remedy lies in stopping the malicious cycle and casting its revolution in a new direction. In a sense,

that is what this man is trying to do for his son. This is effective because good patterns are perpetuated just as the bad.

It is in this way that the role of the family in a child's development is *über* important. In the region where I grew up, it was not necessarily the best-funded schools that produced the best students. Rather, the schools with the most parent interaction shaped the brightest children. Reading to the kids, helping out in the classroom, and serving as a mentor are critical for the enrichment of the children. Obviously the man is right: a parent's persistent love and attention makes a "very happy child." I add to this that very happy children grow into very happy parents.

I also think that he is correct when he says that, "parental greed distorts the confidence of the child." Growth, on all levels, requires a nutritive learning that is only achievable through some degree of assertive confidence. Imagine, for a moment, that no one thought you

were worth even a smile, let alone encouragement. I dare say that under these conditions, most of us would either turn our tails and flee or writhe in a pit of self-despair. This is a very unhappy life, indeed.

I dare say that most of us at Rhodes grew up as happy children in supportive homes. Therefore, it becomes easy for us to hold this man's story at arm's length, saying "yeah...yeah...yep...yeah...NEXT." However, it should not be dismissed, for his thoughts are not limited to the sphere of the parent-child, but also to that of friend-friend. When you take the risk of making a friend or falling in love, you assume the same responsibilities that the man did when he fathered a child.

Take care of your relationships and provide for them to the best of your ability. Greed destroys these relationships, confidence builds them. Remember that the things you *ought* to do are rarely the things that you *have* to do. Someday, if not already, the circle will come back around to you, too.

Student Announcements

Forum On Sexuality To Encourage Respect (FOSTER) will go out on Saturday night, February 2, to Memphis' most prominently gay club, Backstreet. People can e-mail Jonathan Russom at RUSJM for details about the time and place to meet.

The final submission deadline for *The Southwestern Review* is February 1. *The Review* needs submissions, in art, fiction, and poetry. Written submissions can be e-mailed to Bob Arnold at ARNRF, and art submissions sent in the form of photographs to his campus mailbox, #1039.

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will hold a Candlemas Collegium on Saturday, February 2 at 8:00 a.m. Activities will include fencing, dancing, and eating. The Collegium will run all day at Oak Alley.

Want to experience a German-style Mardi Gras? The German Club will hold a Fasching Celebration on Thursday, February 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Lynx Lair. There will be free food and music. German beer can be purchased at the Lair with ID.

The Film Society invites everyone to the 9th annual Short Attention Span Film and Video Festival at the Brooks Museum. The show is a non-stop program of two-minute or shorter films and videos from around the world including animation, drama, comedy, science fiction, short documentary and poetry. This year's show features Michael Moore's "Testify"—a political statement on the 2000 elections—in collaboration with the band Rage Against the Machine. The museum will show the films on Sunday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m., and as part of First Wednesday on February 6 at 6:00 p.m. The films are free with Museum admission on Sunday and free on Wednesday.

Rhodes Christian Fellowship (RCF) will meet on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium. Chaplain Billy Newton will speak.

Second City comedy troupe will return to Rhodes. RAB will sponsor the event that will be held on Saturday, February 16 in Hardie Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

The Memphis RiverKings will play the Indianapolis Ice on Friday, February 15 at 7:05 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance by Tuesday, February 12 at the Activities Office in the Lynx Lair.

ResVoice discusses changes in residence halls

* Improvements Committee

By Pamela Casey
ResVoice member

As the direct link between campus residents and Physical Plant, ResVoice's Improvements Committee stayed very busy last semester. Most of our efforts have been focused on the new dorm, with many East Villagers finding that minor repairs and maintenance were necessary once they moved in and got settled into their brand-new apartments. In addition to these individual apartment concerns, our committee is in the process of working with ResLife to provide laundry baskets for the laundry rooms to decrease the ever-growing piles of clothes from day to day.

If you have questions or concerns about your dorm and have already talked with your RA, please feel free to contact any member of the Improvements Committee: Pamela Casey (Bellingrath), Michael Lyerly (White), Veena Rangaswami (Spann), Alia Shirani (Williford), or Lauren Winkates (East Village). We are always looking for new and efficient ways to improve the dorm experience while you are here at Rhodes.

* Policy Committee

By Daniel Fordham
ResVoice member

During the first semester, the ResVoice Committee has worked to make improvements in Resi-

dence Hall policy. One of the main issues of debate during the semester was the smoking policy. The committee considered various options for the enforcement of the current smoking policy, which states that the area "within forty (40) feet of the entrances to all buildings" is designated "No Smoking." Many inquiries were made about which campus agency is responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

Another responsibility of the policy committee was the assessment and investigation of damages that occurred in several residence halls. With an emphasis on curbing future acts of vandalism, the committee discussed different, and sometimes creative, punishment alternatives in those cases when the person(s) who caused the damage fails to come forward.

The third issue tackled by the committee was, collectively, the numerous problems associated with laundry facilities on campus. These problems include instances of students failing to remove laundry from the machines in a timely fashion, students removing the laundry of other students from the machines, and laundry facility availability. Workable solutions to these problems are still under review.

If you have suggestions for residence hall policy that should be revised, or residence hall policy that should exist but currently does not, please e-mail your comments to resvoice@rhodes.edu.

Recent rash of crashes on campus

By Margie Hall
Editor-in-Chief

Last week, at around 2:15 a.m., Chris VanDervort had what he called a "freak accident." He pulled over to let a friend out near a dorm and put on his flashers. When his friend opened the door to step out of the car, a student who happened to be driving by struck Chris's car and bent the rear door forward, damaging both vehicles fairly extensively.

Yesterday at around 1:00 p.m., a Rhodes student was turning left from the main entrance into campus onto University, and

wrecked with a southbound car on University. When both cars came to a halt, two Rhodes students' cars that were parked along the curb next to Stewart had been struck and were damaged. Cisco Bertorini's car, which was parked next to Stewart, was totaled and knocked onto the curb. He said of the intersection, "People fly down University; there are tons of wrecks there. I've seen two or three this year."

The solution? According to Cisco, "There needs to be a four-way stop, a caution light, or something to slow drivers down."

The Sou'wester wrongly credited Annie Givens for last week's ResVoice articles. Jen Labrecque wrote the PR Committee articles, and Heath Kemp wrote the Academic Initiatives article.

Campus Safety Log

1/21/02 TO 1/27/02



1/21/02	1:25 a.m.	Voorhies: Report of two intoxicated students vandalizing fire equipment. Campus Safety officers responding, could not locate the suspects. Under investigation
1/22/02	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
1/23/02	9:43 a.m.	Tutwiler west of University: Larceny from a vehicle: Stereo stolen. MPD notified
	1:05 p.m.	Control Desk - Lost wallet and money returned: turned over to owner
1/24/02	10:22 p.m.	Stewart Hall - Contraband investigation
1/25/02	2:40 a.m.	Glassell Hall - third floor: Use of firecrackers reported - under investigation
1/26/02	1:41 a.m.	East Village "A" - Vandalism to Ceiling - under investigation
	10:00 a.m.	Voorhies: Illness - Transported to Hospital
1/27/02	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	

STATS THIS WEEK:

PROPPED DOORS: 6
ACCESSES: 118
CITATIONS: 199
CARS TOWED: 0
BOOTS: 0

ESCORTS: 22
VISITORS: 768
JUMP STARTS: 5
A.V.: 0

Nominations for Clarence Day Awards due February 8

It is time once again to solicit nominations for the Clarence Day Teaching and Research/Creative Activity Awards to be presented at Awards Convocation, Tuesday, April 16.

Nominations for each award should be forwarded to the Office of the Dean of the College and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 8.

Each award brings recognition to a Rhodes colleague, and both provide substantial stipends to the recipients. Please take time to nominate someone you believe deserves such recognition. Complete information concerning the awards and faculty members who are eligible; past recipients can be found as a hot link on the Academics and Student Life websites.

The Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching

Full-time faculty members who have taught at least three years at Rhodes and who have not previously been awarded this prize are eligible for nomination.

The criteria for the award include demonstrated excellent in teaching over the past three years as reflected in student course evaluations, imaginative and creative pedagogy and currency in the subjects taught, and a strong record in motivating students toward advanced study in the award recipient's discipline.

The nominator should provide a written statement that describes how the nominee's teaching meets the criteria stated.

The Clarence Day Dean's Award for Research and Creative Activity

Full-time faculty members who have taught at least three years at Rhodes and who have not previously been awarded this prize are eligible for nomination.

The award recipient must have accomplished unusually significant professional work in the past three years. This work must consist of scholarly or research publication, artistic production or performance. This work must be judged to be an important contribution to the award recipient's discipline or related disciplines. This work must be demonstrated to have had an important effect on the award recipient's teaching, directly benefiting Rhodes students by its influence on course content or pedagogy.

Department chairs should assume a special responsibility for nominating department members who are likely to be strong candidates. The nomination should clearly identify the work that provides the basis for the nomination. If possible, the nominator should provide evidence that the work is of unusual significance and that it has influenced the nominee's teaching.

The world today: international news updates

By Frances Rabalais
Executive Assistant

Over seven hundred people died in Lagos, Nigeria when a fire caused a large explosion in an arms compound Sunday. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire, the death toll from which, as predicted, could reach over 2,000.

Most of the victims drowned in a nearby canal, fleeing the area. According to the Reuters Network, Defence Minister Theophilus Danjuma had ordered "the immediate relocation of the armory."

Twelve New York and New Jersey Port Authority workers were arrested on charges of larceny and false records, after it was discovered that they stole money intended for World Trade

Center victims. The employees claimed to be unemployed when applying for funds from the Red Cross and Safe Haven, charities which have helped victims of the terrorist attack. Benefits from \$100-\$3000 have been distributed to the Port Authority workers, who have now either resigned or been suspended from their positions.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush's daughter Noelle was arrested Tuesday after allegedly trying to fill a false prescription for Xanax, a sedative used in the club drug scene. She was charged with fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance. The Bush family asked the media to respect the family's privacy during the affair.

One hundred fifty-eight al Qaeda and Taliban fighters at

U.S. naval base Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, have been allowed to regrow their hair and beards, in following Muslim practices, and are being interrogated by U.S. officials. President Bush's decision not to call the detainees prisoners-of-war is supported by Afghanistan leader Hamid Karzai, who claims the detainees are criminals.

A 3.5-ton NASA satellite will drop from the sky some time Tuesday or Wednesday. Though scientists do not know the exact location of its landing, most of the satellite is expected to burn up in the atmosphere. The Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer, which lacks an onboard steering system, studied the extreme ultraviolet spectrum for NASA.

Information compiled from CNN.com.

From RAB, Page 1

Most importantly, at this time, the bands that will play at Rites of Spring will be announced. Also in the works for the month is an "Ibiza-type" Foam Party in which Gaylord foresees "... a large, big-party atmosphere and a killer crazy foam night."

Ending the year of activities in the month of April comes the highly anticipated Rites of Spring. Every Rhodes student should clear his/her calendar for the weekend of April 12 through April 14 as RAB brings to campus the students' choice of musicians and bands. For what is

traditionally considered the party of the year, RAB hopes not only to bring musicians to campus but also a "taste of Memphis." Local restaurants will bring their cuisine to campus, giving themselves a little exposure and giving students free food.

In addition, vendors will be present hawking everything from hermit crabs to clothing, a bungee run will be available, as will last year's popular inflatable jousting.

Both students and RAB members are looking forward to Rites, as member Kim Kirkpatrick states, "We are really excited about Rites and we are...open to suggestion." Gaylord adds, "We have a bunch of awesome stuff planned and students can e-mail their RAB representatives their choice of bands for Rites."

Ten New Songs presents cast of beautiful losers

by Ted Gentle
Staff Writer

It was the late 1960s. Leonard Cohen sat in a cafe, consoling a friend who had just lost his father to a debilitating illness. Cohen's mother had recently taken ill, and he was doing his best to offer consolation. The friend, moved by the incredible eloquence and compassion in Cohen's words, suddenly began to cry. Seeing this, Cohen jumped up, left the room, then returned with what he described as his famous blue raincoat.

"Cry in this," he said. "It soaks up tears."

Stories like this one are common in the folk songs of

Leonard Cohen, which include the now well-known "Famous Blue Raincoat." These darker themes have brought him a cult following ever since the late 1960s, when he cut his first masterpiece, *The Songs of Leonard Cohen*, and proceeded to produce a series of critically acclaimed albums leading up to the present day. He has also shown a literary prowess that far outweighs Bob Dylan's, penning a series of poetry books and novels before he ever entered a recording studio, including *Beautiful Losers*, one of the seminal generational novels of the 1960s.

The title of this book offers a key to finding an underlying thread in Cohen's varied body of work. He has told stories in many settings, the American frontier, deserted hotel rooms,

Hades, apartments in Montreal. He's moved from the deeply personal to the overtly political and back again, but at the center, there is always the same cast of suffering misfits, Cohen's beautiful losers. His main concern, ultimately, is with offering catharsis to those who are needy, and soaking up tears.

In the opening moments of his latest effort, *Ten New Songs*, Cohen makes reference to Robert Frost. "And maybe I had miles to drive/And promises to keep/You ditch it all to stay alive/A thousand kisses deep." Desperation is established immediately in this story of a waif's struggle to "get a fix" in the ominous Boogie Street. As always, Cohen stays true to his instincts as a beat poet, using sudden bluesy downshifts to emphasize

key words. "I'm turning tricks/I'm getting *fixed*/I'm back on Boogie Street/You lose your grip/And then you *slip*/Into the Masterpiece." His voice, once clear and mellifluous, is now deeply weathered and surrounded by cold chimes and synthesizers. Along with the usual Biblical imagery, references are made to sewers, alleyways, pawn shops, dealers, beggars, ranks of the homeless crouched in cardboard boxes, "the wretched and the meek." As with his previous two efforts, the atmosphere of this album is decidedly soiled and urban.

Even in the light of recent events, Cohen's ultimate goal is to criticize the lack of empathy in a commercialized, American society. In "The Land of Plenty," he intones "May the light of The

Land of Plenty/Shine on the truth, someday." Indeed, the entire album makes a point of taking those deprived of this light and moving them into the forefront, with Cohen himself at the center, offering a tale of personal heartbreak in "Alexandra Leaving." The album is persistent in keeping the anguish of its subjects ever-present, and yet Cohen never seems angry or critical as much as simply mournful, with a desire to make amends. Despite the harrowing subject matter, this music feels like an outstretched hand.

It is this compassion, ironically, that gives the album its edge. *Ten New Songs* refuses to turn away from its downtrodden subjects. Their uncompromised images remain with us, as clear as ten snapshots.

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* hits Memphis: The Orpheum presents a novice-friendly opera to the public

by Amber Shaw
Copy and Layout Editor

At the mention of the word *opera*, most people run and hide in fear. The idea of sitting in a theatre for three hours and listening to a fat lady sing in a foreign language is often terrifying and repulsive. However, such a stereotypical view of the art form excludes exceptions to this rule.

When the fluffy bunnies and other woodland animals scamper across the stage, the viewer knows that *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, performed January 25 and 26 at the Orpheum, is not one's typical opera.

Often described as a perfect first opera for children, *The Magic Flute* does not include many of the common plot aspects that make opera gloomy.

Set in a mythical land filled with magical instruments and cult-like temples, *The Magic Flute* is more reminiscent of a video game or cartoon show than a famous opera. A less-than-developed plot line involves more humorous characteristics than the suicides

so often littering the third acts of opera. The bird-like character Papageno dons a colorful feathery costume and never quite follows the rules set forth for him. Papageno's eventual wife is equally as bird-like and the little bird children bring an extra hint of schmaltz to the curtain call.

"I found the little hatching egg children delightful," said Adam Richardson ('04).

The hero Tamino also contributes to the light-hearted nature of the opera by naively following the order set by the Queen of the Night. A trio of servants to the Queen completes the comedic nature of the opera by fighting over Tamino and performing little magic tricks to bend the plot's events.

Though the lack of serious plot was not an overall detraction from *The Magic Flute's* quality, the fact that Opera Memphis' staging of it was done in an English translation rather than the original German did detract from the impact of the staging. While some relished that they could enjoy an opera in English, the opera enthusiast and those looking for a more cultural entertainment opportunity were frequently disappointed at the change.

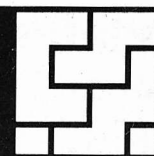
Not clearly advertised as such, the surprise announcement that the evening's performance was in English shocked the cluster of Rhodes' students sitting in the balcony.

"As a German student, I was thrilled at the opportunity to hear a German opera in person," said Elizabeth Maxey ('05), "but,

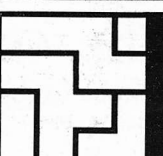
when I found out that the performance was an English translation, the performance diminished in its quality."

Whether the derivation from a typical opera were positive or negative to the viewer, *The Magic Flute* boldly redefines the operatic stereotype.

The Sou'wester wrongly credited Anna Mullins for last week's *Harry Potter* article. The author was Elizabeth Muller.



Rhodes Puzzler



#27 (January 30, 2002)

Last week's movie pass winner: Rhianna Shabsin

Find the longest English word that can be spelled out by moving from letter to adjacent letter horizontally, vertically or diagonally, but not repeating any letter.

X	G	A	J	Y
K	N	V	B	P
C	D	L	R	F
E	H	I	T	U
M	W	S	O	Q

The Rhodes Puzzler is sponsored by the Math/CS Department of Rhodes College. Send your solution (with name!) to puzzler@rhodes.edu, or place a Word or text document named "<your name>.doc" in the Puzzler folder located on the Academic Volume, or turn in a hard copy to Kennan Shelton, 318 Ohlendorf. All solutions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. A weekly winner will be randomly chosen from all correct entries to receive two free movie passes, donated by Malco Theatres. See the Rhodes Puzzler Page at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/puzzler.html>.

Barksdale's: A safe place for sheep

by Dave Hurt
Staff Writer

Between the heavy traffic of Cooper and Courtland sits an old boarded and barred building with a tarred roof and a fluorescent Coke sign that reads in faded cursive "Barksdale's Family Restaurant." Among the busy commerce and ongoing change of Midtown, this little, tan block of a building sits and waits like a mossy stone perched in observance of the river's fury. For thirty-four years people have changed the calendar on their walls, changed their wardrobes, even changed their spouses, and yet Barksdale's has just watched and waited. Indeed, upon entering, I get the feeling that Barksdale's has been waiting, been waiting for me, for this moment when my hand turns the gilded knob and my foot treads the dirty red carpet of the vestibule.

The inside proves unassuming: wood-paneled, grease-stained. One side of the walls is devoted to paintings of

the wild: a deer surprised by my entrance, ducks in flight. On the other hangs the occasional autograph of a Memphis "celebrity," the triumvirate, Elvis, Penny, Jerry the King, and a piece of sports memorabilia from a failed sports franchise between. The bespeckled, chrome tables and bar are reminiscent of a drug-store soda shop that vanished from the city at the same time as segregation. (The building was in fact a soda shop at one time, among other things.) On the table sits an aluminum napkin dispenser, a bottle of Vampire Hot Sauce (made just up the street from Transylvania, Louisiana) and a bottle of wood-capped Panola Pepper sauce. The menu offers mostly the staples of southern cuisine: meatloaf, country fried steak, pork chops, turnip greens, cole slaw and corn bread, daily lunch specials, or hot plate lunches for \$6.25. But the atmosphere promises to be more interesting than the culinary possibilities

A man sits across from me with a



Photo by Dave Hurt

Pictured above is Barksdale's Family Restaurant, which serves old style Southern fare in a relaxed, home-like atmosphere. It is located on the corner of Cooper and Courtland, in the heart of Midtown.

Red Man Chew cap and an industrial uniform complete with nametag. Another man slouches catty-corner with his head wrapped in a large sports sock holding melting ice in place. Water drips down to his black coffee. A fife would complete his ensemble. Behind my table a waitress with thinning hair leans back and squawks while puffing on an ultralight. The cook, Tommie Jones, who has been working here for twenty-seven years, slams the soup bell. She continues to squawk and continues to lose hair. Guess it's her break. Luckily she is not our waitress. Our waitress does come in a very short time (one of the advantages of plate lunches) and deposits our

orders on the white-speckled tabletop. The fare proves passable, if not better than expected. My meat loaf is hot, and my cole slaw is cold. The tea is sweet, and they hold the gravy upon request. But there is something more about this place than just the food. But what is it? Perhaps the name will help.

A straightforward investigation reveals that the name Barksdale comes simply from its first location on Barksdale Street, a street covered over by the expansion of the old Main library, resulting in the restaurant's move to its present location on South Cooper.

An etymological investigation, however, shows the name Barksdale can have

a number of meanings. Literally translated it might mean "place of leather production." But seeing that leather production and food do not bring to mind appetizing associations, let us opt for the more poetic meaning, "a dale or valley surrounded by wood that is ideal for shepherding."

And it strikes me as I sit here in this little, tan block of a building, surrounded by the Red Man, the sockhead, and the thinning hair lady, that what Barksdale means is exactly what Barksdale's Family Restaurant is—a place of refuge for us sheep. A dry place with comfort food, old photos and people that are worse off than me.

Fraternities * Sororities * Clubs * Student Groups

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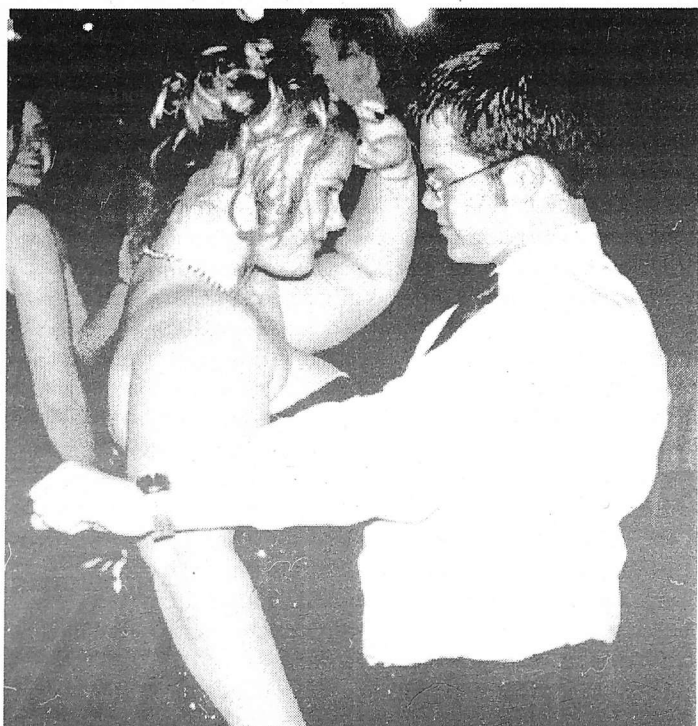


Photo by Mriam Dolin

Dancin' the night away: Rhodes students enjoyed a night of dancing, food and fun at Saturday night's Panhellenic Formal, which is an annual event.

Mayuri: The newest in all Indian cuisines

By Natalia Nagree
Staff Writer

On Union toward downtown and squished underneath a motel lies Mayuri. Yes, another Indian restaurant! Ignore the busy street, hospital, motel, and concrete parking lot because past those glass doors lies flavours, spices, and aroma: the results of a large selection of north and south Indian food.

In case you are wondering, North Indian food and South Indian food have as much as Sushi and Italian have in common—close to nothing.

This is the only restaurant in Memphis that serves both styles and is definitely worth a try. Start with dosa's and idlies from the South Indian section. Dosa's are crepe like things made on a large, thick, hot metal plate. Once made they can take any type of stuffing, like crepes. Idlies are steamed rice cakes (very healthy) that are eaten with different sauces; a grainy coconut kind and a spicy soup kind called Rasam. I recommend the Rasam as a soup, too.

For those that need more substance, move on to a thali meal. It is a plate with bowls filled with dal, curd, rasam and other dishes that you get to choose. All this comes with naan, rice, and a choice of dessert. End all of this with Gulab

Jambun, popularly called brown balls in sugar syrup in the U.S. and a mango lassi drink.

The servers are helpful and are quite willing to work with accents. The spicing is just right and the portions are generous.

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PIZZA
PIE IN THE SKY
"For a change from the ordinary."

Lynx fall twice in Indiana

By Matthew Pate
Staff Writer

The Rhodes College men's basketball team traveled to Indiana last weekend to face conference foes DePauw University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Lynx were coming off of a sweep last weekend of Oglethorpe and nationally-ranked Millsaps, and looked to add to their developing winning streak.

On Friday night, the Lynx faced off with the Engineers of Rose-Hulman, who had previously lost 71-67 to rival DePauw on January 17. In their last match-up, Rhodes fell 73-63 at Mallory and looked to avenge the loss. However, victory was not to be for the Lynx as Rose-Hulman jumped out to a 6-0 lead at the beginning of the game and did not look back, holding the Lynx to only nineteen first-half points in establishing a 31-19 lead at the half.

The offensive woes for the Lynx continued after the break as the Engi-

neers pushed their lead to twenty within the first five minutes of the second half and did not allow Rhodes to get any closer than fourteen the rest of the way. While the Lynx starters only totaled nineteen points together for the entire game, four Engineer starters notched double-figure statistics in the 75-51 victory.

The Lynx traveled to DePauw on Sunday to face the number eight team in Division III, and number two in the South Region. The Lynx knew that they could play with the Tigers, having lost by only four points in Memphis earlier this year. Ready to face the challenge, the Lynx used their emotions to carry them through a rocky start to stay with the SCAC-leading Tigers for the first ten minutes of the half. However, that could not last forever and the Tigers put together a 10-0 run to take a eight-point advantage at the half.

Having recovered during the half-time break, the Lynx again came storming out of the gates, cutting the Tiger lead to three early in the second

half. This ended when the Tiger's depth and team speed proved to be too much for the Lynx to overcome in the end, as the Tigers used their transition game to break the game wide open with a 22-2 run. The Lynx fought back behind the hot shooting of Bryan Baird ('03), who scored sixteen points in the second half, but could only get as close as ten as the Tigers won 78-67.

This weekend, the Lynx look to make up for two earlier losses of the season playing host to Centre College (12-5, 6-4 SCAC) and the University of the South (9-8, 4-6 SCAC).

Lynx Basketball
vs. Centre

Friday, February 1

Women at 6:00 p.m.
Men at 8:00 p.m.

Mallory Gymnasium

Women's Basketball drops one, rallies over Rose-Hulman

By Brian Clark
Athletics Department

The women's basketball team (10-8, 7-4 SCAC) took one of two games last weekend on a road trip to Indiana. On Friday night, the Lynx won easily 75-55 over Rose-Hulman, despite being down by two points at halftime. Coming into the game, the Engineers had an overall record of 4-12 (3-6 SCAC). The Lynx had defeated Rose-Hulman earlier this season at home by 31 points. Clearly, the Lynx were to win this game by a comfortable margin.

In the first half, the Lynx shot 33.3 percent (9-27) from the floor. This was a concern, but the team responded after halftime and ended up shooting 43.6 percent (24-55) from the floor for the game. The Lynx were led in scoring and rebounding by forward Kerry Wingo ('02). Wingo had 21 points on the night, eleven of these points from the free throw line. Wingo grabbed a team-high seven rebounds in the game. Rhodes has not lost to Rose-Hulman since they joined the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference during the 1998-1999 season.

After a day off, the Lynx took the court against the top ranked team in the conference, the DePauw Tigers. DePauw entered the game with a fourteen-game winning streak and an

overall record of 15-2, with ten wins and no losses in conference play. The teams went back and forth in the first half with DePauw taking a four-point lead into the locker room. Anna Kizer ('03) had a hot second half and ended up leading the Lynx in scoring with 24 points. The other two players for Rhodes to score in double figures were Wingo and Jessie Hunt ('02), with nineteen points and thirteen points, respectively. One of the big differences in the game was DePauw got 33 points from its bench compared to only eight by Rhodes, but the Lynx overpowered the Tigers making points off of turnovers. Rhodes scored 25 points off of twenty turnovers by DePauw, but fell narrowly 73-68.

"It was a very exciting basketball game," said coach Sam Wolinski. "I'm very proud of the team and the energy and effort they gave during the game."

Rhodes is back in action at home this weekend as they take on conference rivals Centre and Sewanee. Rhodes starts the weekend with a rematch with Centre on Friday night at 6 p.m. Centre, sitting above the Lynx in the conference standings, won earlier this season 76-71. With a win on Friday Rhodes would move into third place in the conference ahead of their opponent. They also face Sewanee, whom they beat at the beginning of the month, on Sunday at 3 p.m.

Preview of Super Bowl XXXVI

No contest: the Rams are going to win big

By Stu Johnston
Staff Writer

Both teams that had a chance to beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl this year have already been eliminated. The Ravens, with their stifling defense, may have been able to slow down the Rams' offense, and the Steelers, with their twenty-first century version of the Steel Curtain, coupled with Jerome Bettis, could have offered some resistance to "The Greatest Show on Earth."

But the Patriots? Please. Their only legitimate argument for a chance in Sunday's Super Bowl is the presence of Drew Bledsoe. The former Washington State quarterback has had a career full of ups and downs, and has never really fulfilled his billing as a sure success in the NFL. He has talent to spare and has been under fire in the spotlight before, in the Super Bowl no less, but his injury this season renders him rusty at best. Only last week did he come back to lead his team—after a four-month hiatus—to victory. Fifteen games is a long time to be benched, and he is unlikely to be in top form, physically or mentally, for Sunday's game.

Regardless of whether he is ready, he is severely overmatched by his counterpart. Kurt Warner, the league's Most Valuable Player, has a receiving corps for the ages at his disposal. Torry Holt, Isaac Bruce, Az-Zahir Hakim, and Ricky Proehl are all talented pass catchers and

excellent route runners; they have to be the latter to get to play in Coach Mike Martz's precision scheme. Bruce and Holt are the leaders of the pack, each catching more than 1000 yards worth of passes this fall.

Then there is the X-factor. Warner may be the MVP, but Marshall Faulk is arguably the best all-purpose back ever to play professional football. He is the centerpiece for the best offensive machine in recent memory. Faulk rushed for twelve touchdowns and nearly 1400 yards in the regular season—despite missing at least two games with an injury. As if this were not demoralizing enough for opponents, he led the Rams in receptions with 83 and scored nine touchdowns receiving.

But defense wins championships, right? Fine. Add the second ranked defense in the league to one of the top offenses (418 yards per game during the regular season) in NFL history, and a Super Bowl championship is the only acceptable result. London Fletcher and Grant Wistrom lead a star-studded defense that yielded only 279 yards per contest. Rookie linebacker Tommy Polley has been a pleasant surprise, leading the team with fifteen solo tackles in the two playoff games, and nickel back Dre' Bly led the team with six interceptions.

So do not expect the unexpected. St. Louis will prevail. New England

will have exceeded all reasonable expectations if there is an exciting, competitive football game to watch between the commercials.

Maybe the Patriots will lose by less than fourteen

By John Zeannah
Sports Editor

Somehow the New England Patriots have made it into the Super Bowl this year. After beginning the season 1-3 and with their star quarterback Drew Bledsoe benched due to injury, no one predicted that the Patriots would even make the playoffs. At that point all Coach Bill Belichick could hope for was to keep his job, until he discovered Tom Brady. From there, the Pats won ten of twelve games and young Brady landed himself a spot on the Pro Bowl roster.

After two outstanding performances against the Oakland Raiders at home and, in the AFC Championship game, the Pittsburgh Steelers on the road, the Patriots now face the Rams for the Super Bowl title. The odds are not in their favor by a total of two touchdowns, and some analysts are calling this game one of the worst mismatches in Super Bowl history. But I have some faith in the severe underdog, I think they will at least beat the spread of fourteen points.

It may be pointless to compare statistics of the two teams. Looking at regu-

lar season individual and team numbers, it is obvious that the Rams are the superior team. The Patriots have no Marshall Faulk, their equivalent is Antowain Smith, who finished the regular season with over 1100 yards and twelve touchdowns rushing, but he is no Faulk. Brady, in his first season as starting quarterback, finished with the sixth highest QB rating—but he is no Kurt Warner, who finished first.

But the Patriots have shown improvement in the postseason. Offensively the team ranks fifth among all playoff teams with 312 yards and twenty points per game. Adding Wide Receiver Troy Brown to the lineup again last Sunday has only made this offense better. Other than his 121 yards receiving, Brown ran back a punt early in the game to put the Patriots on the board first and in the second half recovered a blocked kick, lateraling it to Antwan Harris who scored the second special teams touchdown of the game. Another stellar special teams performance by the Patriots could unexpectedly weaken the Rams.

Defensively the Patriots are ranked third in the postseason, giving up only

268 yards and fifteen points per game. Even though special teams secured the Pats' victory in Pittsburgh and a solid performance out of Tom Brady (or Drew Bledsoe) will be imperative for the Patriots to have a chance in this game, the X-factor has to lie in the defense because they are going against the self-proclaimed "Greatest Show on Earth."

Consistent and tenacious performances are required out of cornerbacks Otis Smith and Ty Law and safeties Lawyer Milloy and Tebucky Jones against the pass. Equal play must also come from the linebackers, who were led by Roman Phifer on Sunday with six tackles, and from the defensive line to contain Marshall Faulk. They have already proven that they can compete with Faulk by holding Steeler Jerome Bettis to only eight yards on Sunday—but he is no Faulk either.

So now the Patriots go to the Super Bowl for only the third time in franchise history, all three in New Orleans. But they will need a lot more than charm to take home the title. Maybe they should just shoot for losing by less than fourteen points.