

The Weekly Student Newspaper of  
Rhodes College

# THE SOU' WESTER

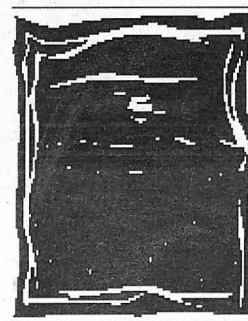


VOL. XC, No. 6

10.29.03

## Drama

The Laramie Project, a production of the McCoy Theatre, opens this weekend. Dollar night is Thursday, October 30.



See A&E

## Football

The Lynx football team won the Edmund Orgill Trophy in their game against Sewanee on October 18.

See Sports

## Politics and Education: A Question of Faculty Diversity at Rhodes College

By Caitlin Goodrich

"Maybe it's time to admit the obvious," columnist David Brooks writes in his article "People Like Us," published in the September issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. "We don't really care about diversity all that much in America, even though we talk about it a great deal . . . Instead, what I have seen all around the country is people making strenuous efforts to group themselves with people who are basically like themselves." Brooks' definition of diversity is all encompassing; it refers not only to racial differences but also to cultural, political, and even moral diversity as well. "The United States might be a diverse nation when considered as a whole," Brooks argues, "but block by block and institution by institution, it is a relatively homogeneous nation."

Brooks centers his analysis on elite universities, focusing particularly on political diversity among faculty and staff members. While these institutions often talk a great deal about diversity, Brooks maintains that, "elite universities are amazingly undiverse in their values, politics, and mores." Citing data obtained from a recent study conducted by the conservative Center for the Study of Popular Culture and the American Enterprise Institute, he contends that professors and administrators fail to represent the general population. Instead, Brooks believes that "professors in particular are drawn from a rather narrow segment of the population" - specifically the Democratic segment (the study reported that

90 percent of professors in the arts and sciences at the schools surveyed are registered Democrats). Conservative Republicans and evangelical Christians are not welcome at these institutions; they intuit the barriers excluding them from this field and cluster elsewhere with those like them. Brooks even goes so far as to accuse hiring committees of "subtly - even unconsciously - [screening] out such people they encounter." In short, Brooks argues that the institutions that claim to promote diversity in reality perpetuate longstanding patterns of homogeneity.

Eric Rauchway, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, recently responded to Brooks' analysis. In an article entitled "It's Academic," Rauchway acknowledges the validity of Brooks' argument in that academics do tend to "tilt Democratic," yet he maintains that the degree to which this tilt exists is far less pronounced than Brooks believes it to be. "According to political strategists for both parties," Rauchway states, "the entire pool of people from which academics are, of professional necessity, chosen - the pool of people holding advanced degrees" - tends toward the left, accounting for the slight political imbalance. Rauchway also calls into question the credibility of the study that Brooks references. "The researcher's choice of fields varies from one university to another, marring the comparability of the data," he says. And these "chosen fields" do not adequately characterize the faculties; rather, select departments (he names

Political Science and Women's Studies) constitute a great percentage of the total responses, producing misleading results.

"The truth about politics," Rauchway maintains, "is almost certainly much less exciting [than Brooks believe it to be]." He too comes armed with data to back up his argument, citing the most recent edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* almanac. According to this publication, 42.3% of faculty at colleges and universities label themselves liberal (5.3% far left); 34.3% describe themselves as "middle of the road," and 17.7% are conservatives (.3% far right). Hardly the imbalance Brooks suggests exists. Rauchway refutes Brooks thesis: "Academics aren't looking for like-minded people when they go a-hiring. We're looking for people we find it interesting to disagree with. That's what intellection is about - worrying over ideas and what they mean - not about signing up as a member of someone's team."

Given these two opposing arguments, the question remains. Where does Rhodes stand in all of this? Do we as an institution attract likeminded individuals as professors and staff members and subtly shun those with divergent beliefs, as Brooks would suggest? Or, as Rauchway contends, are we more diverse - looking for those with whom we can disagree? And what role does politics play in the hiring and tenure processes?

To answer these questions, a survey was recently sent to all

See Diversity, Page 5



Photo by Miriam Dolin

### Homecoming 2003

Matt Teague ('04) and Caitlin Goodrich ('04) were named Mr. and Ms. Rhodes at halftime of this year's Homecoming football game against Rose-Hulman. Pictured here with President and Mrs. Troutt, Teague and Goodrich exemplify the qualities inherent in an outstanding Rhodes student.

## How healthy are we? Issues of health in college students

By Michelle Hope

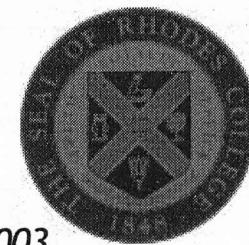
Most students do not realize just how challenging college life is until they get there; suddenly students are faced with having to manage their time, their schedules, and themselves independently, which is not an easy task. Moreover, the fact that this challenge remains throughout their academic career effectively leaves them continually susceptible to the overwhelming effects of various physical and psychological ailments. The most of common of these is stress, which can manifest both psychologically and physically. Either way, left unchecked, these issues can have serious, and sometimes even fatal, consequences.

According to the American College Health Association, the number one cause of death among college students in America is road traffic accidents, the most common cause of which is drunk driving. Indeed, the freedom of college, the instance of peer

pressure, the increase in stress levels, and the inevitable feelings of homesickness can all lead to irresponsible drinking. Hingson et al report that 2.1 million students between the ages of 18 and 24 drove under the influence of alcohol last year and that 1,400 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes. More seriously, about 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall. In addition, due to the fact that alcohol tends to exacerbate feelings of depression rather than repressing them, between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking (Presley et al.).

See Health, Page 4





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CHRIS EBERSOLE OPINION EDITOR

## Definitely time to ease up

There must be something in the air. It seems that this time of year, when fall officially starts, is when the reality of school finally sets in. You can see it on the faces of students and professors, you can hear it in the silent calm on campus in the middle of the day, and you can feel it when, for no particular reason, you just do not feel like doing anything. Midterms have come out and it is finally time to get started on that term paper that once seemed so far away. As my roommates and I trudge through each day somewhat aimlessly, I wonder why we are all so glum, when this is perhaps one of the greatest times of the year.

This is that thin piece of school between Fall Break and Thanksgiving, only about a month long. This is when the projects are due, and when they really start piling it on. This is when professors and students seem to have differing ideas of what constitutes a holiday (and yes, Halloween counts). Nonetheless, if we stick this part out then a break will be here before we know it. And there is so much to do.

We are in the midst of football season, with some of the biggest rivalry games coming up. Excellent bands are rolling

through town nearly every weekend. There are elections just around the corner, if you are into that sort of thing. And the weather outside is pretty pleasant. Memphis may not get all the fall colors, but there is something to be said for doing things outdoors without breaking a sweat.

So get out there and do something already. Get a jump on your schoolwork or just blow it off for awhile. Make your weekends count and don't worry so much about class. A little concern is healthy, but then again, so is a little diversion. Some of us don't have so much of this "free college" time left, and I figure we ought to make the best of it. Someday we will long for this time between breaks, when the breaks themselves are no longer there.

With that said, it is definitely time for us to take it easy. Metaphorically, the glass is half full. The semester is already half over, and for most of us that means that our grades are already half determined. While that may or may not be a good thing, there is no use pining over something that cannot be changed. So cheer up, and if that seems impossible, then at least put a smile on your face. It looks like a funeral out there.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Graeme Adams, in clarifying his earlier statement, made a number of inconsistent assumptions that betray a degree of Eurocentricism. Especially of note are his statements: "Muslim fundamentalists/extremists view us as a threat because they think we threaten their religion" and "(Extremist Muslims) try with all their might to stand against us with no legitimate reason."

Now then, if the first statement is true - I'm no extremist Muslim, I don't know any extremist Muslims, and I don't think Mr. Adams is an extremist Muslim - then it would appear that his second statement would necessarily be false.

Think of Iraq. Saddam and Co. did not positively represent a threat to the U.S. But some of the more powerful individuals in this country felt as if Iraq threatened this nation. Whether or not the conclusion we all witnessed was appropriate, that's debatable.

But there can be no question that the conclusion did occur for legitimate reasons and beliefs, just as there can be no question that America was attacked for legitimate reasons and beliefs. What I am saying, then, is: Don't go calling anything you don't understand or don't agree with "illegitimate," Mr. Adams.

While we are speaking of things that Mr. Adams does not

understand: "Islam as a religion inherently contradicts the underlying values of democracy." Let us dissect this. In the sentence that immediately follows Mr. Adams insinuates (America is being pushy but "slowly, countries are recognizing the potential for...national improvement and ethical tolerance.") that countries America has been leaning on may one day realize democratic society. Images of a democratic Iraq immediately come to mind.

But then wait a second. Returning to one of the words Mr. Adams used, what does "contradict" mean exactly? To paraphrase historian Jacques Barzun, a contradiction entirely kills its opposite. Thus "Muslim religion is contradictory to democracy" means never, ever, ever will there be democracy in a Muslim society. So, Mr. Adams, either you are wrong about Muslim religion or the United States has no business attempting to take democracy to any Muslim country, whatsoever.

But to save Mr. Adams the trouble of having to admit either possibility, I'll go ahead and postulate why I think his statement is incorrect. In "The True Clash of Civilizations" (Foreign Policy, March-April 2003) by Inglehart and Norris, it is asserted that the real clash between the West and the East has not to do with democratic apperception, but more to do with gender equity. A World Values Survey showed that that

68% of western and eastern respondents approved of democratic performance; and 87% in the East, as opposed to 86% in the West agreed with the statement: "Democracy may have problems, but it's better than any other form of government." If Muslim religion is contradictory (remember, a killer of opposites) to democracy, would anybody in the East agree with this statement? Fine, some people in Japan would, but the number is 87%. The "contradiction" argument does not, I think, have any significant intellectual merit.

The final thing that I am compelled to mention is Mr. Adams statement about Sadaam's "open defiance" of the rest of the world vis-à-vis his disregard of the United Nations. I am among a few liberals on this campus. I will walk a fine line and simply point out the irony (and in my opinion, Eurocentricism) in the U.S. punishing Saddam because he defied the U.N. and the rest of the world, by in turn defying the U.N. and the rest of the world ourselves, in order that we could invade his country.

It seems to me, Mr. Adams, that in "open defiance" and many other statements you are a fan of circular logic. It is either that, or I am a stupid liberal that cannot understand even the most lucid of your conservative wisdom.

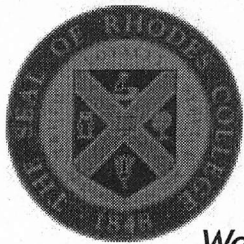
Evan Volgas  
 '07

*You cannot possibly agree  
 with everything written here*

*Or maybe we are just right  
 about everything*

*Send submissions to  
 sou'wester@rhodes.edu or mail  
 to box 3010*





Wednesday, October 29, 2003

PAGE 3  
**OPINION**

**MATT McBRIDE**

# *I am a projection of the Self: a lesson in solipsism*

After another hazy yet somehow fulfilling weekend in Oxford, MS, I again returned with rejuvenated intellect. I learned three new interesting facts: 1) my friend meant to say William Faulkner, not William Shatner, when he showed me the great southern writer's grave, 2) the Arkansas Razorbacks ARE as terrible at football as once was thought, and 3) I am a projection of your own self.

While the second statement needs no justification, the last one may need further explanation. The game eventually came to an end, and as we watched all of the "new money" yuppies celebrate their victory in The Grove, the inebriated Arkansan sitting next to me tried to justify the Razorbacks' loss. He said "You know, only the self exists, nothing

else. All of this is a creation of my imagination." It shocked me that he was actually trying to rationalize the outcome of a football game with a philosophical thought. "I'm a solipsist, ya' know," he continued. Well, I must admit, I didn't know.

*I was listening to this plastered philosopher speak, and then the scientist in me conjured up a thought that biology is the cause of life.*

So, what exactly is solipsism? What I've come to realize is that the biggest problem with solipsism is explaining it to another person. There are many definitions of the term, but essentially, it is a belief that the

self and its experiences are the only true reality, and that all other individuals and physical objects are an object of the consciousness, or a projection of the self. The way I see it, it implies that the world is created by subjectivity. Another complication is that this entire ar-

ticle, including this definition, was created by ME for me but since you are reading it, then it is also made by YOU for you. So, one of us doesn't actually exist.

Clearly, this is an irrefutable hypothesis, as it is im-

possible to validate any experiences that are not your own. Ergo, it is not possible to affirm than any entity, other than the self, is some sort of automation that merely seems to exist. Then again, there are problems in global modeling (integrated assessment modeling) due to the complexity that makes it impossible to validate the model and the theory it represents. But who am I to argue with that?

Nevertheless, I was listening to this plastered philosopher speak, and then the scientist in me conjured up a thought that biology is the cause of life. This would then mean that it is the cause of consciousness. Therefore, what reason is there to assume that scientific laws do not create valid consciousness other than your own?

He quoted Emerson: "We become what we think about all day long."

I then began to realize two things. First of all, this the most arrogant and ridiculous notion that I had ever encountered, and second, this purported scholar was obstructing my view of the drunken debutantes. In either case, I was not gaining much insight or amusement. After entertaining his befuddled rant for 20 minutes, I tried to explain to him that he was in denial, that Matt Jones and the Hogs are overrated. He then asked himself why he was constructing such a negative perception of his beloved team. Frustrated, I turned to him and said that if we think too much, we become hesitant. Then I slapped him.

Before he could get mad I told him that it was just his imagination.

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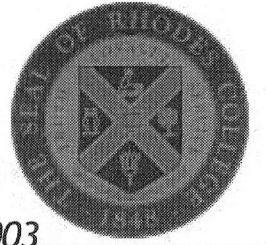
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Wednesday, October 29, 2003

# Staying healthy in college

Survey, continued from Page 1

This increase in the incidence of suicide is particularly harrowing. Since 1950, the suicide rate among females in college has doubled, while the rate among males has tripled, and the American Federation for the Prevention of Suicide estimates that suicide is the second biggest cause of death among college students. General depression, conflict and stress are the most common reasons for this. Heavy course loads, extracurricular activities and personal social lives can all leave students feeling overwhelmed and emotional. They may feel unable to cope or lonely or may be struggling with feelings of inadequacy or low self esteem as the result of low grades or conflict with friends or family. Either way, effective managing of stress is essential. Admittedly, this is a lot harder than it sounds, but eating properly, getting regular exercise, sleeping at least eight hours a night (and going to bed at the same time each day), managing one's schedule, taking time to have fun and talking through any problems with course professors or staff at the college counseling center are all ways to do this.

The Rhodes College counseling center is located in the Moore Moore Health Center and offers students free and confidential counseling with one of five counselors. In addition, it offers students the benefits of family and couples counseling, whereby students can work through their individual or relationship problems with their families or partners present. The center sees around 200 students per year and most commonly offers advice on issues such as managing stress levels, eating disorders, relationships, family conflict,

anxiety, depression and concerns about classes. In addition, the center can offer students advice on how to help a friend about whom they have concerns. As with the Health Center, referrals are available if students need services not offered by the college or if students express a preference of seeing someone outside of the college. Either way, all consultations are confidential.

With regard to stress, experts suggest that the first thing to do is to take a step back. Students should make a list of what needs to be done and then prioritize, deciding realistically what can be done and when. In addition, by taking better care of themselves physically, students can obtain a feeling of control over their lives, which ultimately enables them to better manage stress. This includes getting regular exercise (the government recommends thirty minutes of aerobic exercise three times a week, easily accomplished by taking one of the college's PE classes), which not only helps students relieve stress but also helps contribute to an overall feeling of physical wellness. Similarly, eating healthily better prepares the mind and body for the demands of college. This is a particular issue for college students who often find themselves in a situation where they can eat too much, too little or simply the wrong foods, if only because their eating habits go unchecked. Overall, students should limit their intake of sugar and fats and include at least five servings of fruit and vegetables and three servings of dairy (or dairy substitutes) in their diet. In addition, taking vitamins regularly is a great way to supplement this.

## MONDAY SPECIAL



# Chicken Fried Steak Meal

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## THURSDAY SPECIAL

# 3 Crispy Strips Meal

Meal Includes  
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Individual Cole Slaw  
and 1 Baked Biscuit

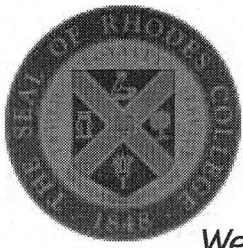
**\$2.49**  
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## CampusSafety

10.11.03-10.24.03

10/11	10:08pm	Bryan Campus Life Center, two suspicious males seen in the locker room area. Suspects fled before CS officers arrived.
10/12-10/15	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
10/16	11:25pm	Fraternity house, vandalism, report filed
10/17	3:10am	Tutwiler street, suspect attempt to steal the Campus Safety golf cart. CS officers chased suspect to the corner of Tutwiler and McLean, where suspect bailed out of cart and ran. CS golf cart was recovered.
	3:00pm	Rock legend Alice Cooper and crew on campus for filming in Palmer Hall, extra security officers are called in for this detail.
10/18-10/21	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
10/22	8:17am	MPD on campus, courtesy patrol
10/23	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
10/24	2:54am	Robinson dorm, fire alarm, someone activated a pull station in Blount hall, 1st floor. MFD arrived and escorted to location. MFD secured pull station and alarm system was reset.
	3:00pm	Palmer Hall; two reported thefts of wallets. MPD was notified and a report was filed.
	8:05pm	University street and North Parkway, vehicle accident, two people injured. MFD ambulance and MPD on scene. No one affiliated with Rhodes involved.

**STATS:**

ACCESSES: 154	ESCORTS: 53
VISITORS: 2939	JUMPS: 2
CITATIONS: 158	BOOT: 0
PROPPED DOORS: 3	TOW: 0

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## Survey raises questions of faculty diversity

*Survey, continued from Page 1*

faculty and staff members. They were asked to identify their political affiliation and list any religious or civic organization in which they participate. Thirty individuals from a wide range of departments responded. Of this group, 57% would describe themselves as Democrats; 40% are middle of the road or do not vote according to party lines, and 3% are Republican. Additionally, 53.3% of the faculty and staff surveyed belong to a religious group, and 71% claim to be involved in some sort of civic organization. As Rauchway would point out, given the minimal response to this survey, the resulting statistics cannot be said to be representative of the institution as a whole. Yet, these numbers do appear to support his thesis - perhaps Rhodes is not as unbalanced as Brooks might suggest.

A follow-up survey was sent to those faculty and staff who indicated in their initial responses that they would be will-

ing to comment further on the issue. These individuals were asked whether they felt that political or religious beliefs have any bearing on the hiring or tenure process at Rhodes and were encouraged to comment on diversity as a whole on campus.

"Speaking from my experience on search committees for Student Affairs," one individual commented, "I believe very strongly that politics do not play a role, conscious or unconscious, in the hiring process. I don't care whether an employee is a Republican or a Democrat. I care whether they are competent. I've known folks at both ends of the political spectrum who are good at what they do."

Another professor echoed this sentiment: "I don't think political or religious beliefs affect hiring or tenure at Rhodes. I feel Rhodes is reasonably diverse, especially as academia tends to go. I would also argue that at a school like Rhodes, which draws most of its students from middle to upper-

middle class households, there isn't too much chance most of those students will arrive without having been exposed to conservative belief structures. In other words, it may well be more important at a place like Rhodes that students not be able to graduate without at least some exposure to more liberal ideologies than they have grown up with."

Surely, there are those who disagree with the above statements yet, due to a lack of representative data, no one conclusion can be drawn from this analysis. It does, however, raise interesting questions. Are we at Rhodes more or less diverse than we believe ourselves to be? And to what extent do religion and politics affect our educations here? Do we cluster in like groups as Brooks suggests, or do we, in the constant search for knowledge, challenge ourselves to step outside of the box and create a dialogue with those from whom we differ? The question is yours to answer.

*Health, continued from Page 4*

The college Health Center at Rhodes is accredited by the American College Health Association and provides students with an extensive range of services, which deal not only with physical ailments, but also those that are psychological, including stress. The Health Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.; RN Patty Sterba is on duty until 4:30 p.m., and physician appointments are available between 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 (male physicians available Monday and Friday, and female physicians available Tuesday through Thursday).

Appointments are recommended but not essential and walk-ins are welcome. Basic lab work (including streptococcus testing, mononucleosis testing, flu testing, urinalysis, blood sugar testing, STD tests, and pap smears) are done on site. In addition, the center offers basic

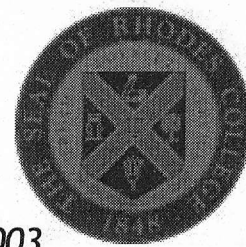
gynecological care including pelvic exams, the prescription of birth control, and, if necessary, emergency contraception. All visits are billed to the students insurance, although students should be aware of the type and restrictions of their particular plan and provider. In addition, immunizations for flu (\$10), meningitis (\$60), Hepatitis B (\$60) and Tetanus (\$10) are offered. Students are advised to be aware of their own health issues and should visit the Health Center if they are sick with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a harsh cough, especially if the symptoms persist for more than 24 hours.

Overall, staying healthy and happy while in college is never as easy as it sounds, but Rhodes College provides a wealth of services to aid students in this department. Staying physically healthy through regular self exams and doctor-performed physical exams is essential to good mental health, just as careful managing

and balancing of one's schedule and social calendar is essential to reducing stress levels. The Health Center can help with this. The one thing that the Health Center cannot do however is deal with emergencies. (These should be taken to campus security or UT Bowld's Emergency Room, where a Rhodes attending doctor will then be called.)

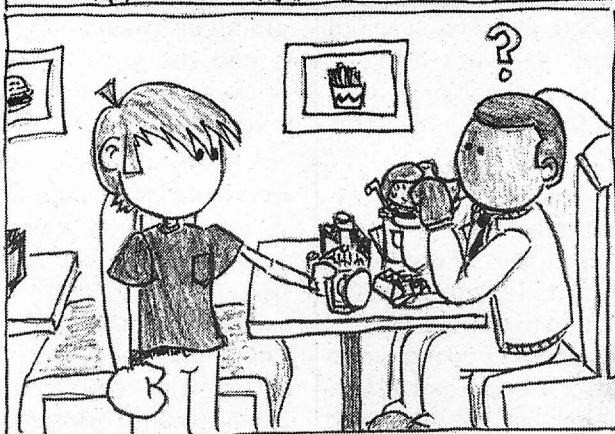
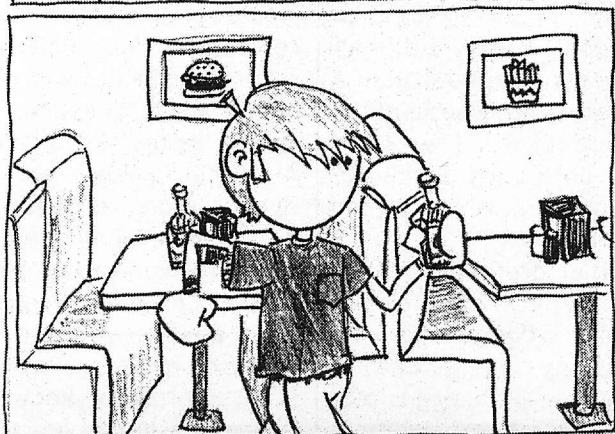
It seems then that education is the best way to stay healthy in college. Students should take full advantage of the services offered (they are, after all, paying for them) and should visit the health center for more information. Above all, students should remember that in a college as small as Rhodes the best thing that students can do for themselves and their friends is to look out for each other, to ensure that friends and classmates remain safe and healthy in the hope that they will reciprocate and ensure their safety in return.





Wednesday, October 29, 2003

THIS WEEKEND. by LOGAN WHEELER.



## The Laramie Project and Equus set to open at McCoy Theatre

By Autumn Brice

In the next few weeks, mark your calendars for the premiere of two extraordinary plays at the McCoy Theatre. *The Laramie Project*, by Moises Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theater Project, and directed by Kyle Hatley, opens Friday, October 31, with a Dollar Night for Rhodes students Thursday, October 30.

The background for *Laramie*: a young gay man named Matthew Shepard was found tied to a fence outside Laramie, Wyoming on October 7, 1998, severely beaten and left to die. Members of the Tectonic Theater Project visited the town in November of that year, interviewing both friends and strangers in the aftermath of the terrible crime. *Laramie* addresses the issues surround-

ing the murder that has become a symbol of America's intolerance.

*Equus*, by Peter Shaffer (*Amadeus*), and directed by Cookie Ewing, opens Friday, November 7 at the McCoy (Dollar Night is Thursday, November 6). *Equus* is the story of a struggling psychiatrist and his patient, a young boy who has blinded six horses in a moment of rage and paranoid fear. The story evolves slowly and painfully as the gentle doctor tries to discover the impetus for such a hateful, violent act. Peter Shaffer's excellent, nuanced script and his unusual staging instructions make this play an invaluable addition to the 2003-04 McCoy season.

Call Margo Raiford for ticket information at 843-3838 or 843-3839.

**The Laramie Project**  
by Moises Kaufman and the  
Tectonic Theater Project  
directed by Kyle Hatley

**Dates:**

October 31, November 1,  
November 13, November 14,  
November 22, November 23

All performances at 7:30

**Equus**

by Peter Shaffer  
directed by Cookie Ewing

**Dates:**

November 7, November 8,  
November 15, November 16,  
November 21, November 21

All performances at 7:30

**The McCoy Box Office**  
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Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons  
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## RHODES PUZZLER

#36 (October 29, 2003)

Last week's movie pass winner: *No one!*

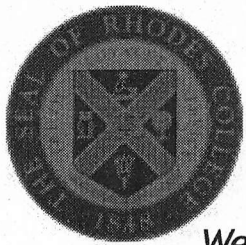
A troop of Barbary pirates have hidden five treasure chests on an island. To help them remember where the chests are located, they have divided the island into a grid of twenty-five squares and have noted in some of the squares how many chests are in adjacent squares. For example, the 2 in square E3 indicates that there are chests hidden in exactly two adjacent squares: D2, D3, D4 or E5. Each chest is in a different square and no chest is in a square with a number.

Given the grid information shown, where are the five chests hidden?

	1	2	3	4	5
A			2	2	
B		1			
C	1		3		3
D	1				1
E		1	2		1

The Rhodes Puzzler sponsored by the Math/CS Department of Rhodes College. Send your solution (with your name!) to [shelton@rhodes.edu](mailto:shelton@rhodes.edu) or turn in a hard copy to Kennan Shelton, 318 Ohlendorf. All solutions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Sunday. 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>.





Wednesday, October 29, 2003

# Dinner & a Movie

This week, Autumn Brice sings the praises of indie movie *Bubba Ho-Tep*, and Leah Kaye reviews the Jamaican-Mexican restaurant *You 'R' What 'U' Eat*.

## Elvis and the art of TCB

By Autumn Brice

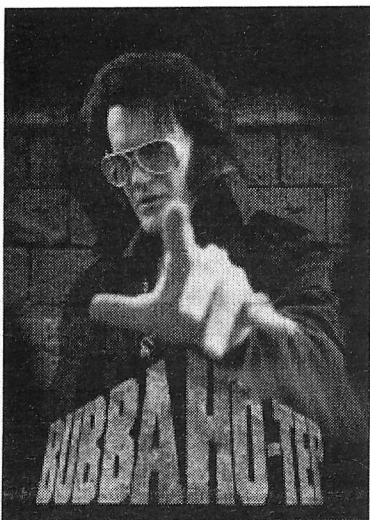


photo courtesy of www.bubbahotep.com  
Bruce Campbell, as Elvis Presley, fights an evil mummy in *Bubba Ho-Tep*, a film by Don Coscarelli.

Elvis. JFK. An evil soul-sucking mummy in a cowboy costume. If this doesn't convince you that you need to see *Bubba Ho-Tep* (directed by Don Coscarelli, based on the short story by Joe R. Lansdale), nothing will.

The premise is simple. An aging, infirm Elvis Presley (Bruce Campbell) lies in a retirement home in East Texas. Filled with regret at how he has lived his life, and dissatisfied with his physical and sexual limitations (many of his voiceovers bemoan his inability to produce an erection), Elvis spends his days sleeping and making use of his bedpan. He wonders if his decision to switch places with a famous Elvis impersonator was a wise one, and if Priscilla would take him back if she knew he were still alive.

No one in the rest home believes that he is the former King of Rock 'n' Roll - no one, that is, but Jack (Ossie Davis), the man down the hall who

claims to be former President John F. Kennedy (when Elvis points out that JFK was white and Jack is black, Jack responds, "They dyed me this color!").

Here's where the plot takes off. Old folks are dying almost every night, and Elvis and JFK are growing increasingly concerned about the scuttling noises they hear in the deserted hallways at night. Eventually, the two encounter their nemesis - a mummy who comes up from the creek at night to feed on the souls of the elderly.

Though the plot of the film revolves around the two geezers' battle against the Egyptian Soul Sucker (identified by JFK's handy book, *The Everyday Man or Woman's Guide to the Soul*) who eats the souls of old folks, digests them and eventually eliminates them in the visitors' toilet, *Ho-Tep* is not a silly horror flick - not entirely, at least. It is equal parts toilet humor and pathos, mixing hilarious dialogue with both startling realism and awful special effects (the scuttling scarab beetles, for instance, look like they could be wind-up toys). Such a mix of brilliant and terrible is hard to find these days.

The heart of the film lies in Campbell's performance, a hilarious yet oddly moving portrayal of the pitfalls of age. This is where *Ho-Tep* succeeds. Campbell makes you feel for Elvis, despite his vulgarity, despite his past transgressions, even despite his terrible, terrible movies. His wry, defeated voiceovers are surprisingly introspective. They make you laugh, of course, but they also make

you distinctly uncomfortable (for instance, when Elvis concludes that the pus-filled growth on the part of his anatomy where it is most unwelcome must be cancer). How a movie that prominently features a cowboy-attired mummy manages to be both poignant and sincere is still a mystery to me, but it's a mystery that I'm not sure I want to figure out. *Bubba Ho-Tep* works, not as a horror flick, not even as a comedy, but somewhere in between.

Campbell is also the most convincing on-screen Elvis I've ever seen. He has the costumes, the gaudy glasses and the catchphrases (TCB=takin' care of business, Elvis-style), but, more importantly, he makes the audience believe that he is the decrepit King. The mannerisms are spot-on. The voice, the lip curl, and the cocksure bravado that makes a triumphant entrance toward the end of the film are all there. Mention of a peanut butter-and-banana sandwich? Check. Use of the phrase "Thank you...thank you very much"? You bet.

The supporting cast is fun to watch as well. Nurses, retirement home managers, and funeral home employees take their roles as seriously as Campbell and Davis do, and provide some of the film's funniest moments. Ella Joyce, as Elvis's patronizing nurse, is particularly enjoyable.

*Bubba Ho-Tep* will complete its run in Memphis this week as part of the 2003 Indie Film Festival, so get down to Peabody Place as soon as you can to get your fill of Elvis, JFK and the evil undead mummy who brings them together.

## Barbeque with a tropical twist

By Leah Kaye

With hard-earned summer money well gone, students must find places to eat that are cheap and nearby. You 'R' What 'U' Eat, serving Jamaican and Mexican food on Highland across the street from Newby's offers just that.

I was admittedly won over when I walked in the door and UB40 was playing throughout the room, but if that does not sell you like it sold me, the food and service are also pretty good. The owners of the restaurant are actually Jamaican, so that's a start.

The atmosphere is extremely casual, and it is run much the same as the sub sandwich shop that it replaced. Order at the counter and pay in advance. The waitress offered us all samples of the homemade drinks they made, including ginger punch and sorrel punch, which is made from the hibiscus flower. Both were very good, but nearly too sweet to drink an entire cup; make sure to get ice.

The food itself provided some new, exotic flavors. The jerk chicken was flavored with something like a sweet barbeque sauce with a tropical twist. There was a sauce on the side that was supposed to be spicier, but it was more lemon-peppery and not as spicy as expected. The portions were generous; what was supposed to be three-piece jerk chicken ended up being four-piece, but that may have had something to do

with us being the only three people in the restaurant.

Also on the menu are: curry chicken, escovitch fish, brown stew oxtail, and some Mexican dishes, like tamales and quesadillas. The prices for these dishes are quite reasonable, even cheap; they range from \$3-11 for dinner (the jerk chicken, for instance, is only \$4.99). You 'R' What 'U' Eat also serves a Caribbean lunch buffet for only \$4.50, which is a very good way to try some new foods without breaking the wallet.

Frederick and Bernice Pinnock, the owners of You 'R' What 'U' Eat (which takes the place of Mestizos, which took the place of a sub shop), chose the perfect location for their restaurant. On Highland, mere blocks from the University of Memphis and only ten minutes from Rhodes, the restaurant provides plentiful, tasty food at extremely reasonable prices.

The Jamaican food, and the punch, are definitely worth checking out, but if the food does not please you in the end, and you are anything like me, you would have paid \$7 anyway just to hear "Red, Red Wine" and "Fools Rush In," Rasta-style.

### You 'R' What 'U' Eat

Genre: Jamaican-Mexican  
Prices: mostly under \$10  
Location: 546 S. Highland  
Phone: (901) 327-9808

### 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, October 29, 2003



**VOLLEYBALL WINS AT SCAC DIVISIONAL** Photo by Miriam Dolin

Setter Sarah McAdams ('06) serves a ball during a Lynx volleyball home game in the SCAC Cross Divisional played over the Homecoming Weekend of October 10-12. The team defeated all three of its opponents during the weekend.

## Volleyball splits two at SCAC divisional

By Camelia Trahan

Rhodes' volleyball team split two matches at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Cross East Divisional in Conway, Arkansas.

In match one, the Lynx defeated Millsaps College in four games in their first match of the day. Sophomore Gretchen Bufe led the way with five aces. Sarah McAdams had 26 assists and 17 digs. Kathyne Giovannini added 13 kills and three solo block shots. Megan Bartels and Hallye Hall each had 11 kills, respectively.

"In game one, we looked a bit nervous; I think after the first game, we were able to hit the ball very well," said head coach Sam Lambert.

In the second match of the day, Rhodes lost in three- 20-30, 21-30, 26-30- to Southwestern University. In a heart breaking loss, McAdams posted 19 assists, 17 digs and four kills. Middle blocker Megan Bartels grabbed eight kills. Junior Rachel Novotny was the only Lynx to record solo block

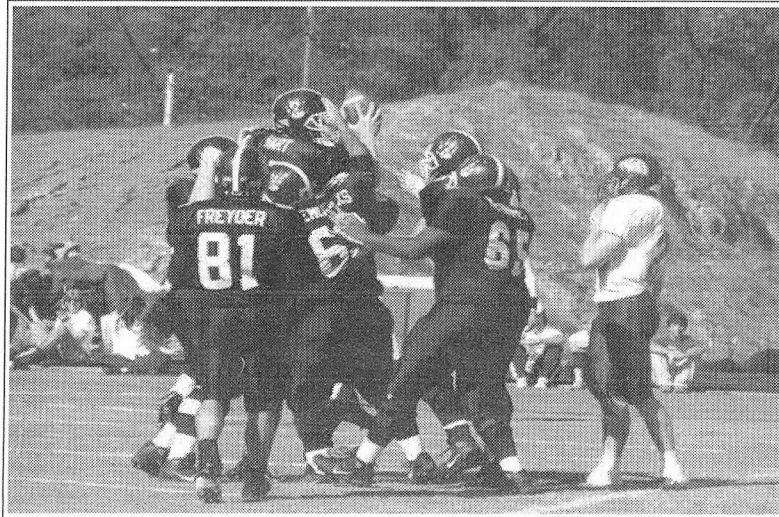
shots; she had two in the set-back.

On day two, the Lynx fell to national ranked Trinity in three sets- 20-30, 18-30, 19-30. Defense specialist Amanda Swanstrom posted 11 digs. Bufe added two serve aces. Senior Laura Borg, who did not play on day one, summited nine kills and four digs in 27 total attempts, a team high.

"We communicated very well on the floor; McFly [McAdams] did a great job in setting plays," said Lambert. In the win against host Hendrix, McAdams grabbed a triple double with 12 kills, 28 assists, 18 digs and three errors. Borg had 13 kills followed by Swanstrom with 19 digs.

Capping off the weekend in a stellar performance, McAdams marked her 3<sup>rd</sup> triple double of the season; she was the only Lynx to profile such performance. In addition, she has recorded her fourth error-free double-double game that came against Southwestern (a career best, so far).

Rhodes is now 20-13 and 8-5 in league play. The Lynx will have one week off before heading to Danville, Kentucky, to play their last regular season games at the SCAC Cross hosted by Centre College.



### RHODES DEFEATS SEWANEE, WINS EDMUND ORGILL TROPHY

Photo by Camelia Trahan  
In a win over the Sewanee Tigers on October 18, 2003, Rhodes' Matt Hart ('04) celebrates one of his two touchdowns. The Lynx went on to claim a 34-14 win and the Edmund Orgill Trophy. Rhodes junior quarterback Daniel Swanstrom threw four touchdown passes and ran for another to lead the Lynx to the victory. Other standouts included senior linebacker Josh Sadler, who led the Lynx with 14 tackles. Overall, the Lynx allowed only 182 yards on 74 plays. Rhodes recorded 16 tackles for loss in the contest, and sophomore defensive end Daniel Brunner had another big day, recording six solo tackles, three tackles for loss, one pass breakup, one quarterback sack and a fumble recovery.

## Football rallies, defeats Colorado College

By Camelia Trahan

The Rhodes football team rallied from a 13-0 first quarter deficit to defeat the Colorado College Tigers 46-19 in Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Rhodes used the third quarter to overtake the Tigers and win their third consecutive game.

Trailing 19-17 at halftime, the Lynx took the lead for good on a touchdown pass from quarterback Daniel Swanstrom ('05) to wide-

receiver Matt Dement ('05). Swanstrom, the total offense leader in the SCAC, had another big day for the Lynx, completing 18 of 27 passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns. Swanstrom also led all Lynx rushers with 10 rushes for 84 yards and scored two touchdowns rushing. Rhodes outscored Colorado College 22-0 in the third quarter alone.

Junior Lynx defensive back Rory Faver came up big for the defense in the third quarter, inter-

cepting a Jay Macias pass in the end zone that kept the Lynx in front of the Tigers 25-19. Faver had two interceptions for the day, giving him four picks for the season. He also returned two punts for 75 yards and had seven tackles. The win also gives the Lynx (5-3, 2-2) some momentum heading into a big SCAC match up this weekend, when the nationally ranked Trinity Tigers come to Memphis.

The loss drops Colorado College to 2-5 on the season.

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