

The Weekly Student Newspaper of
Rhodes College

THE SOU' WESTER



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Review

Andrew O'Brian
reviews Paul
Abascal's movie
Paparazzi, starring
Cole Hauser and
Robin Tunney.

SeeScene



Sports

Edward Lane writes
about the successful re-
turn of Washington
Redskins player Joe
Gibbs.

SeeSports

English department forum discusses the future of criticism

Rhodes community gathers for third annual English department forum

By Meg Brodman

The Rhodes English Department hosted its first forum of the year in which members of the department and the Rhodes community gathered to consider the future of literary criticism in light of constant social change. The panelists for this event were Professors Gordon Bigelow, Leslie Petty, Susan Uselmann, and Marshall Boswell, with Professor Cynthia Marshall serving as the moderator.

The event began with an introduction by Professor Marshall, who offered a brief description of the nature of criticism and its relation to society and public discourse. She pointed to the power of literary critique as a mode of shaping ideas, and in turn, shaping how we as a society understand language.

In the context of the current social environment, including the aftermath of the September 11th attacks and the upcoming presidential election, Professor Marshall commented that "issues of how we frame truth and cer-

tainty, good and evil, have taken on greater vividness in our public discourse." Consequently, the importance of language in today's society calls for an examination of literary criticism and its future.

In conjunction with this concept, the four panelists then spoke about the new topics, themes, and problems surrounding literary criticism today.

Professor Bigelow began the discussion with a presentation entitled "The History of *Kritik*." He opened his talk by stating that literary criticism today is in a moment of transition, evolving from the "moment of exuberance" occurring through the 1980s and 1990s. He countered the notion that this "moment of exuberance" brought new methods and theories, suggesting instead that this period was a "continuation of traditional scholarship."

In order to shape our understanding of criticism today, Bigelow stated that it is important to look at the history of scholarship. Inspired by the work of the German

theorist Emmanuel Kant, Professor Bigelow offered two ideas on literary critique. He suggested that first, criticism discovers all the conditions of possibility for a literary work, specifically how that work came into being and the various social influences on that piece of literature. Second, literary critique should have both negative and positive elements. It should examine what is problematic in a work, but also focus on the positive principles in that area of study.

Bigelow then offered three affirmative principles in criticism that are important to a discussion of its future. He concluded that criticism points to the fundamentally social nature of human life. In turn, culture becomes a powerful medium to transmit ideas and that language becomes the vehicle of those ideas.

Professor Boswell followed this discussion with his presentation, entitled "A Return to Truth: or, What Happens When the Hermeneutics of Suspicion Fall in the Wrong

Forum, continued on Page 4

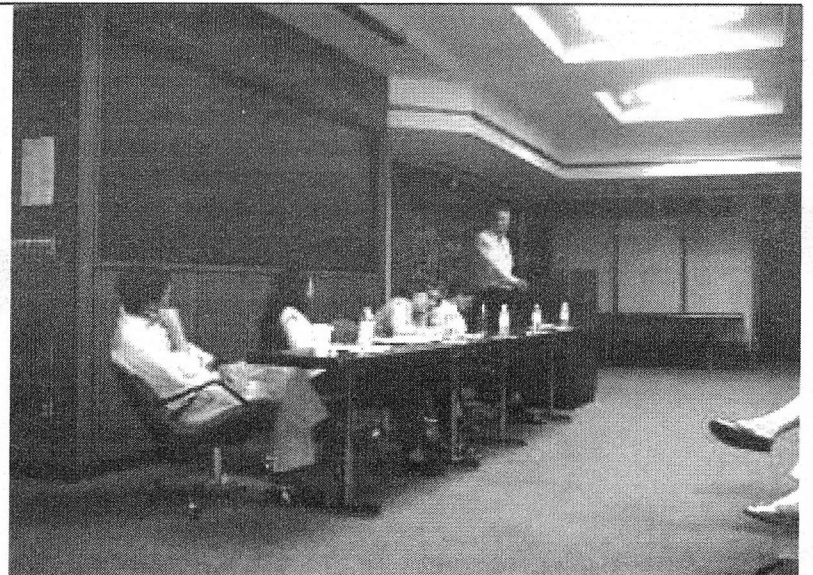


Photo by Kristyn Parker

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GATHER FOR THIRD ANNUAL FORUM

The Rhodes community joins Professors Marshall, Bigelow, Boswell, Petty and Uselmann to discuss the future of literary criticism

Office of Student Activities hosts second annual Leadership Conference

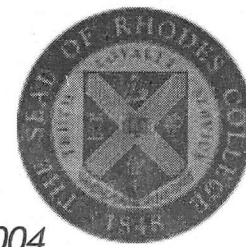
By Michelle Hope

On Saturday September 11, 2004, Rhodes College held its second annual Leadership Conference in Buchman Hall, hosted by the office of Student Activities. A group of around thirty student leaders joined together to attend a series of information sessions aimed at providing students with the necessary tools and skills for holding such positions on campus. Among those groups represented at the conference

were leaders from *Residence Voice*, *GROUP*, *HOLA*, *Rhodes Activities Board*, *College Democrats*, *Black Student Association*, *Bible Study*, *Sigma Tau Delta*, *Contents Under Pressure*, *FOSTER*, *Woolsocks*, *The Sou'wester*, and a number of up and coming groups (such as a new dance group) as well as members of the various sororities and fraternities on campus.

The Conference began with a continental breakfast before a brief introduction from Cynthia Polk-Johnson, the di-

Leadership, continued on Page 4



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OPINION

Wednesday, September 15, 2004



THE SOU'WESTER
founded 1848

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CASEY PERKINS

Gun lovers, criminals celebrate

Last Monday, September 13th, the ten-year-old Federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which prohibits the "manufacture, transfer, and possession" of nineteen types of semi-automatic guns known as assault weapons expired. For the last ten years, the assault weapons ban has been a nuisance to criminals, gun lobbyists and irresponsible gun dealers. The ban on these military-style weapons began under President Ford and was supported by Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Clinton.

As a presidential candidate four years ago, in an effort to appeal to moderates, George Bush expressed his support for the ban and promised to renew it if Congress presented him a bill. Despite his promises, President Bush has made no effort to push lawmakers to extend the law. Why is this so? Because Bush, like many other politicians, is feeling the heat from the National Rifle Association, which has pushed for the end of the ban ever since it was signed into law by President Clinton in 1994. The National Rifle Association calls John Kerry the most anti-guns presidential candidate in history and has refused to endorse Presi-

dent Bush until after the ban expires. Bush, who has built his entire campaign on his leadership in the war against terror, has chosen to ignore a piece of legislation that is vital to homeland security and fighting domestic terrorism. Recent reports have shown that Al-Qaeda manuals captured in Afghanistan urged its members to obtain high-powered guns in the United States. Of course, the will of the people and doing the right thing always takes second priority to winning elections.

The NRA is opposed to just about any restrictions on gun ownership and has flexed its political muscle in recent elections. The gun lobby has done an incredible job of attacking and defeating candidates who do not vote its way. Gun rights groups have given more than \$17 million in campaign contributions in the last 15 years. Gun control groups have spent a mere \$1.7 million. Gun rights activists have claimed that the law did not work because it was full of loopholes. The law is admittedly flawed with many loopholes; however these loopholes were devised by the very critics themselves.

The ban is one of the most popular pieces of legislation in history. Surveys have re-

peatedly shown public support of the ban to be between 66 and 80 percent. Even in Texas, where more than half the population owns a gun, a summer poll showed 80 percent of Texans wanting the ban to continue. The surveys also consistently show more than half of gun owners across the country, and a third of NRA members want an extension on the ban.

A study by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms found a 66 percent drop in the use of assault weapons in criminal activity compared to the previous five years.

Why is public support so strong? It's common sense. There is no legitimate reason for law-abiding citizens to own these weapons. Criminals, on the other hand, become substantially more dangerous with easier access to these weapons. Increasing the availability of these weapons makes it easier for them to flood the streets. Assault weapons have absolutely no role in recreation or hunting. Nobody needs 30 rounds of clips for hunting, protection, or target shooting. It's common sense that America's streets are less safe when you take cops off the streets and put semi-automatic military style assault weapons back on them. The

law has been in effect for the last ten years and no hunter can say the ban has taken his guns away. Hunters do not need an AK-47, an Uzi, or Tec-9 to enjoy their pastime. The law in no way denies the people of their second amendment rights which states that a militia can defend itself. Until now at least, there has been a line between military and civilian guns. Like other rights, there are limits to what is reasonable. For example, the right to bear arms does not apply to missiles or tanks.

Lifting the ban allows these guns to flood the streets more easily and become even more dangerous with large-capacity magazines. Some states have their own laws prohibiting the use of these weapons. But lifting the federal law will make it consid-

erably easier to carry these guns across state lines. These military weapons have no legitimate use other than to kill large numbers of people swiftly and effectively. Law enforcement officials want the ban to continue because they are always outgunned when criminals are armed with these semiautomatic weapons. The firepower of these weapons has the strength to penetrate body armor worn by law enforcement officials. It also lessens the need for them to carry their own assault weapons.

In the words of President Bush, there is no reason for such weapons to be on the streets. While swearing to protect Americans, it is his empty rhetoric and inaction that once again compromises the safety of the American people.

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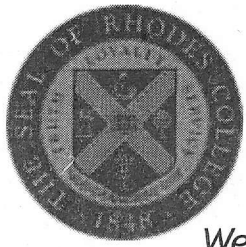
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Wednesday, September 15, 2004

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OPINION

TIFFANY WILDING

Making Rhodes home

Attention transfer students, today we will be evaluating just how well you are fitting in at Rhodes. Please take the *How Rhodes Are You?* quiz, and submit your scores by Monday.

Can someone please answer three questions for me: 1) Who is this Bill Lewis kid? 2) Why can't I ever find my way out of Williford? 3) Why isn't Blount Auditorium in Blount? The fact that other transfer students and I can't answer these simple questions clearly shows that recent transfers aren't that Rhodes yet.

Yes, I'll admit it, I'm a transfer student. I've been on campus for three weeks now,

and I've already wiped out while walking to class, missed my 8 o'clock because I wiped out, and have seen so many Dave Matthews posters that I'm starting to think he's sexy (for an old bald man). Yes, Rhodes has been quite an experience thus far.

Whenever I am introduced to another Rhodes student for the first time, the phrase "she's a transfer student" always accompanies my introductions. This, of course, is followed by the question "Why did you transfer?" I won't mention the name of my former school, but I will tell you it's in our SCAC con-

ference. I'll also tell you it's located in the middle of nowhere, a 35-minute drive to the nearest Dairy Queen and an hour drive to the nearest city. What the town does have, however, is a Super Wal-Mart, open 24 hours a day. It's actually the second biggest Wal-Mart in the country, or so I was told on an orientation tour of the campus. It's perfect for all late-night trips, especially when some kid broke your aviator sunglasses and you just have to have another pair. What is there to do off campus in this small college town? Expend your Friday night energies cow tipping or

walk around the giant Wal-Mart—I'm supposed to spend four years of my life here? I think it's safe to say that the past three weeks that I have spent in Memphis have been somewhat fabulous comparatively.

I live with another transfer student who went to a big name state school for her freshman year. I think I should mention it's one of the biggest party schools in the nation. While she was partying at the bars, and the football games, I was hanging out at the fraternities eating Jell-O and drinking punch. Somehow our roommate evolutions matched and they stuck us both in Neely with a friendly ghost and easy access to the Rat. The downside of missing the housing selection lottery is that the two of us are stuck living in a single sized room equipped with one closet and

one dresser. Yes, it did take the physical plant a whopping two weeks to furnish us with another dresser, but we got by and we are still getting by (barely) with one closet. Getting past the inconveniences of college, we both love Rhodes. She loves it for its smallness and I love it for its atmosphere. Not knowing your way around isn't as bad when you are with someone else who is just as lost. Needless to say, we are both learning just how Rhodes we really are. Missing the Habitat of Humanity meeting because we couldn't find Blount Auditorium set us back a few points, but we are slowly gaining. You very Rhodes kids better watch out; give us until the end of this semester and we will be telling you the answers to the *How Rhodes Are You?* quiz.

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Forum, continued from Page 1

Hands?" In his talk, Boswell called for the literary community to preserve the power and meaning of words by becoming the "guardians of our language." He argued that public discourse is no longer related to the current state of social realities, and that words are becoming less and less descriptive of how things really are. He claimed that language has become "surreal" and "stupefying," specifically in relation to political discourse and the ways in which politicians manipulate language.

According to Boswell, the debate on the meaning of the word "is" during former President Clinton's impeachment hearings is evidence enough that language has lost something in the midst of social discourse. In response to the current state of language, Boswell asserted that scholars should reaffirm their "commitment to clarity" through their study of literature.

Professor Petty offered her insight in a presentation entitled "Moving Beyond Hagiography: Gender Criticism in the Twenty-first Century." In her discussion she defined her use of the word "hagiography" to mean "any sort of idealizing or signifying narrative." Her use of this term was in reference to writing feminist criticism while avoiding the idealizing of authors or ideas. In her research of gender studies and 19th century literature, she found that "separate spheres of ideology" exist in which men and women have natural spheres of influence. She argued that this separation creates a tendency to generalize or idealize each sphere, but that this practice should be avoided in criticism.

Furthermore, Petty argued that literary criticism should escape these separate sphere paradigms altogether, and a

"post-hagiographic model" would demonstrate a fluidity of the social realm. She concluded that the future of criticism lives in the American magazine and journal culture, as well as the Internet. These progressive methods of research have become the mediums for expanding access to ideas, and Petty encouraged the use of these methods of research.

Professor Uselmann concluded the presentations with her project, entitled "The Limits of Politics." In this presentation, Uselmann discussed both the politics of the literary profession, as well as the role of literary criticism in broader society. She called for literary criticism and literature itself to be renewed as valuable participants in the social world. The "social utility" of criticism, as she named it, can only be enhanced when literary critique becomes a part of society, rather than a separate group. As a medievalist, Uselmann referred to the issue of contemporary relevance for the literature in her research. Referencing the works of literary critics like Matthew Arnold, she addressed the relationship between a text and its social context, concluding that a text transcends history, and that critique itself must see a distinction between its text and its context. Like the other panelists, Uselmann stressed the importance of language as the medium through which knowledge emerges.

In the question and answer session that followed the presentations, the panelists concluded that critical theory is still "alive and kicking," and that the literary profession must reaffirm its commitment to preserving language and influencing social discourse. Thus it becomes apparent just how important literary criticism is to the present and the fu-

ture. Indeed, though generally thought of in historic terms given the way that literary criticism is used to investigate and explore modes of past thinking, literary criticism has a vital role in the present day lives of every day people. It is not just for scholars and students but should be used as a way to sharpen and hone those skills that enable the search for truth and justice not just in society but in people's lives.

Leadership, continued from Page 1

rector of Student Activities, who introduced a welcome from Dean Stackman. Dean Stackman joined Rhodes College at the beginning of the school year as the Dean of Student Activities after 22 years in the field of education. A Parks and Recreation Major at the University of Missouri, Dean Stackman underwent a change of careers when he began working in the realm of student activities, returning to college to obtain first a Masters in Education from the University of West Virginia; he later went on to obtain his PhD from Boston University.

Over the years Dean Stackman has worked at Glenville State College in West Virginia, Temple University in Philadelphia, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, at Tufts University in Boston as director of the student union and student activities, and finally as the Associate Dean of Student Activities at Oberlin University in Ohio. Dean Stackman referred to the number of organizations to which he has been an advisor including a number of Greek organizations, the young Democrats, the young Republicans, and Cheerleaders. This he believes will help him develop and support the student activities at Rhodes enthusiastically.

In mentioning the numerous student leaders that have touched his life in this time, Dean Stackman referred to the nine characteristics that he sees as essential for good leadership. The first of these is motivation, the process of facilitating, delegating and directing; then there is the ability to empower

others, the process of allowing others to take on authority; encouraging teamwork, the process of collective vision; then the ability to embrace change; the willingness to take risks; having a strong and clear vision; always using multiple options in thinking, embracing flexibility and compromise; intelligence, thinking through risks and consequences; and finally, passion. These characteristics, suggests Dean Stackman, are essential to good leadership, the benefits of which complement leader, organization and institution.

The conference sessions began shortly after. The first section ran for 90 minutes and offered a total of four sessions each lasting between 15 and 30 minutes. Students divided into small groups of around eight students and attended the sessions in the order that they individually desired. The sessions were titled "Using Space on Campus", "Campus Safety", "Communication Services", and "Student Group Space and Resources".

Lori White, the Rhodes Conference and Event Services Manager, conducted the thirty minute session on Using Space on Campus. She addressed issues such as how to reserve a room on campus, the importance of filing the necessary forms correctly and promptly, how to deal with furniture and equipment needs, and how to obtain information about how to operate smart classrooms on campus. The focus here was on what space on campus is available for student use, whether it be for meetings, events or functions.

Closely related to this was a session provided by Ralph Hatley, the director of Campus Safety. Mr. Hatley stressed the importance of keeping Campus Safety informed, especially if the event planned involves the presence of alcohol or a cash box. These events require that there be an armed officer present. He also added that this may cost the organization extra, as would having an event that requires the presence of campus safety officers after hours. Also important here is the use of the room reservation request forms since these are what campus safety

uses as a guide for when to unlock rooms and for fire safety requirements.

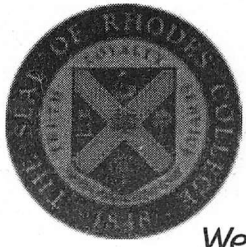
Perhaps one of the most important aspects of planning a campus event is publicity. This is where Daney Kepple, director of Communications, and her talk on the services that the Communications department offers, came in. Ms. Kepple gave a brief overview of the services provided by the communications department including maintenance of the website, the putting together of "Inside Rhodes" and writing various press releases. In particular, Ms. Kepple stressed the fact that it is College policy and no member of the Rhodes Community contact the press or media without first going through the Communications Department. The Communications Department should be contacted with information to go on the Rhodes Website, and if assistance is required with contacting the Media, putting together information pamphlets or flyers.

Rhodes Student Government President, Logan Wheeler also conducted a session, meeting with student leaders to discuss space needs. It was based on hopes that it could be arranged for more space to be allocated to Student Groups. It comes on the realization that as yet there are no plans for Burrow Building. RSG is hoping to campaign for the use of some of this space for Student groups.

The conference then took a thirty minute break for Lunch, before resuming for the second session. Lasting just one hour this time, the section included three sessions. Dane Wendell, RSG Treasurer and President of Allocations Board, led a session with Wanda Jones, the Rhodes Director of Accounting and Payroll.

The session outlined ways to appeal for funds from the allocations board as well as ways to access funds that have already been allocated. Funds can be obtained through the bursar's office by filling out a requisition form. Cash advances can also be given up to \$100 if signed by the President of the organization, as can reimbursement checks, as long as receipts

Leadership, continued on Page 5



CampusSafety

9.4.04-9.10.04

9/4-9/6	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED.	
9/7	10:00 a.m.	Memphis Fire Department on campus to inspect all fraternity houses.
	11:40 a.m.	Refectory; student backpack and text books are stolen, report filed, MPD notified.
	9:30 p.m.	Fire drills conducted in Williford, Trezevant, Voorhies and Townsend by Campus Safety.
9/8	9:30 p.m.	Fire drills in East Village, Robb, White, Ellett and Bellingrath.
9/9	1:46 a.m.	Mallory gym; one car accident, involving a Rhodes student. Student was not injured, report filed.
9/10	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED.	

STATS:	
ACCESSES: 80	VISITORS: 1,638
CITATIONS: 95	PROPPED DOORS: 20
ESCORTS: 24	JUMP: 4
BOOT: 0	TOW: 0

Leadership, continued from Page 4

are provided. Ms. Jones also noted the importance of filing the necessary paperwork through the office of student activities and reminded students of the importance of filing tax forms alongside these.

Marianne Luther, the Assistant Director of Residence Life conducted a session on Programming. The key concept here was to come up with ideas about how to overcome obstacles and to get students thinking about their objectives and guidelines.

A final session was offered by Amy Oakes, the new Assistant Director of Career Services, on how student leadership positions can be used to gain advantage in future job searches and careers. The session outlined 11 skills that are developed as a result of student leadership activities including, being a team player; the development of excellent writing skills, analytical skills, critical thinking skills,

communication skills, organizational skills, planning skills, and managing skills; time management; the ability to envision and set goals, and the development of decision making skills.

Overall, many student leaders, old and new alike, came away feeling more informed about the ways that the college can help them conduct and develop their office, and about the ways that their office can help develop their own ambitions. In Dean Stackman's opening remarks he referred repeatedly to the concept of "stretch yourself, stretch your organization." It seems then that the key to being a good leader is a determination and a willingness to go on despite adversity or obstacle. Indeed, as Dean Stackman commented, student leaders need to "go through that fear [because] that's when you'll learn, [that's] when you'll grow as a leader."

Rhodes Institute for Executive Leadership sponsors corporate leadership classes for adults

By Ellen Moore

Traditionally, the Meeman Center has offered classes spanning a wide range of topics to adults wishing to continue their education without the hassle of completing papers and tests. The continuing adult education program has been a part of Rhodes College for decades.

One section of adult classes offered this fall centers around the demands and needs a corporate environment places on those in leadership positions. Rather than seeking advice solely from texts within the corporate sphere, the Institute for Executive Leadership proposes business executives look for answers to corporate problems in classic literature.

Dr. Deborah Pittman, professor of Economics and Business Administration, will oversee the program as institute administrator. The institute will also feature a business facilitator who will further connect classic literature corporate theory. Steven Priddy, a retired employee of Fed Ex's human resources department, will occupy this position.

The Institute for Executive Leadership meets once a month, beginning in September, and runs until the next May. Rhodes professors from the English, International Studies, Religious Studies, Greek and Roman Studies, and Political Science departments will all lead classes featuring classical literature during the semester. Some classical authors included on the syllabus are Arthur Miller, Abraham Lincoln, Herman Melville, and Charles Dickens. Dean Llewellyn explains that classical texts were chosen "that have a currency or resonance with contemporary human issues."

One session, led by Rhodes English professor, Dr. Cynthia Marshall, will connect Shakespeare's *Henry V* to modern day issues in the workplace. Her main goal is to draw upon differences between the medieval world of Shakespeare and today's society.

Dr. Marshall believes the IEL participants "can benefit from consideration of Shakespeare's dynamic language and his complex representation of power politics."

Dean Llewellyn is confident the executives will find the classes enriching because they provide one with the opportunity to have "his or her own education expanded...with the use of literature that speaks to human values". He believes the end result is an executive who "is more aware of the human condition."

Thus, through insight into classical literature, the IEL participant will gain knowledge that will both assist and enrich his/her job in the corporate sphere.

Coming soon to campus . . .

Thursday,
September 16,
2004. *Sexual Assault Prevention Lecture.*
7 p.m. Blount Auditorium.

Wednesday,
September 22,
2004. *An Audience with Poet Laureate Billy Collins*
8 p.m. BCLC Ballroom.

Want to write news for The Sou'wester? Develop your writing skills and strengthen your resume. Email the News Editor Michelle Hope at HOPMR @rhodes.edu for details.



ART REVIEW

Curator Keren Kroul's Identity Crisis -By Zach Harris

Though Memphis is not considered a part of the Art World's upper echelon, some exciting and courageous sensorial events are taking place in this blue beloved city. A few of these events have been hosted by Delta Axis@Marshall Arts, a stone's toss from the original Sun Studios on Union Ave. At this non-profit space, local artists are invited to curate thematic shows that exhibit the work of established and nouveau contemporary artists. The most recent show is *Identity Crisis* organized by Keren Kroul.

Identity Crisis is emblematic of an intellectual trend that has dominated the art world since the late-sixties: that viewers and artists *should*, loosely speaking, address the construction of identity and how it is shaped or suggested by a visual language. This claim is not pejorative, but a notice of a popular and perhaps necessary strain of thought within the present culture of art-viewing. The title of the show, therefore, proposes

a theoretical paradigm within to engage the objects in the space. However, this does not confine meaning to the notion of identity-construction, but encourages readings of the works to coincide with the recommended perspective. The responsibility of the viewer is to buoy interpretations regarding identity, yet not ignore the success or failure of a piece in its adoption of a conjectural framework. *Identity Crisis*, then, procures a kind of perceptual prototype, and does not legislate a law of seeing.

A total of seven artists are featured in *Identity Crisis*: Anne Gaines, Brad Hampton, Carole Loeffler, William O'Brien, Megan Read, Kamilla Talbot, and Courtney Ulrich. These artists represent a slew of mediums and approaches; however, the disparity does not seem to ruffle the continuity of the show (provided the notional guidelines) but rather participate in an peculiar dialogue. The strongest works in the show belong to Brad Hampton and William O'Brien.

Hampton's pieces suggest that identity is somehow manufactured, a product of technology in the Huxley-ian sense. Works, such as "Capacity Factor A" and "Reference Man," find their genesis in drawings that evolve into electronically enlarged paintings printed as vinyl decals on acrylic panels. Set as a centerpiece, "Reference Man" displays a multi-colored biomorphic humanoid that seems to be covering its ears, recalling Munch's "Scream" paintings. "Reference Man" is the progeny of the micro-fiber, DNA-like images of the flanking works.

On what seems like the other end of the identity spectrum, O'Brien's "Drawing Installation," a work composed of vignettes, considers how ideas of sexuality, abuse, and susceptibility are delivered through the media and passed on as cultural inheritance.

In contrast, weaker works such as that of Courtney Ulrich do a fantastic job of addressing an important concept in identity-construction, the relation of flesh to the world. However, her photographs and video of smearing lard on her body ultimately proffer an outdated, redundant body politics that had its time in the late '60s and early '70s. Overall, keep a look-out for shows at Marshall Arts. They are often engaging and just plain fun. *Identity Crisis* runs until October 23.

IDENTITY CRISIS

Guest curator Keren Kroul displays the work of seven artists, including Carole Loeffler (right), at Marshall Arts.

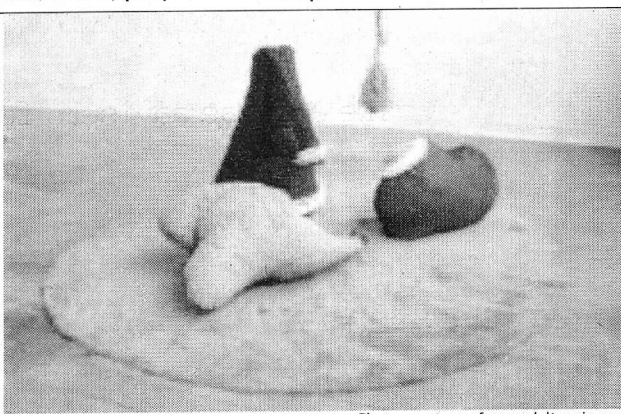


Photo courtesy of www.deltaaxis.org

THIS WEEKEND

by LOGAN WHEELER



Student gamers turned away from network gaming find alternatives for continuing community

By Jon Willett

The way I see it, there are two types of students at Rhodes: those who, when entering a 'smart' classroom such as FJ A or B, are impressed by the fusion of education and technology, and those who, including yours truly, nearly wet themselves at the prospect of running an 8-man Halo Capture the Flag game on projection

screens so comically large as to be gratuitous. Some of you will understand the above reference, some won't. For those of you in the latter group, skip this article, no hard feelings. Gamers are born, not made; no doubt your GPA will be better than mine, and your tan far deeper. However, for those readers still with me, press on, this article was written for you.

For me, gaming at Rhodes has been a blast. The best and brightest have been shamed by me in Halo, and, in turn, I have lost my dignity more than once to the likes of Princess Peach in just about every iteration of Nintendo sports games available.

In years past, Rhodes has played host to fantastic tournaments of StarCraft, Halo, NCAA Football, and many more,

all staples of college living. I, for one, would like to see a resurrection of such tournaments, be they campus-wide or through individual residence halls (here's a toss to all the RAs out there, it's a great way to get some hall activities going). So far this year, the network has been preventing some of the action, but that is being looked into as well. Check back

here for updates on that. I'll say it again: this article is here for you. Let me know what you, the gamers, want; it can be pointed in any direction you would like to see it go. Catch me by email at WILJK@rhodes.edu, and let's get this year started off right. If you fancy a tough Halo match, I'm around. If you're looking for a cakewalk, call Logan Wheeler.



Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Dinner & a Movie

This week, Patrick Hoover reviews reknowned midtown restaurant El Porton, and Andrew O'Brien reviews the current movie upset, Paparazzi.

Paparazzi fails to be a truly bad film yet remains far from being good



"ONE GOOD SHOT DESERVES ANOTHER" Photo courtesy of www.hollywood.com
Daniel Baldwin plays a paparazzo in Paul Abascal's new film Paparazzi.

By Andrew O'Brien

Imagine my disappointment when I settled into my seat at a screening of *Paparazzi* and found myself watching a movie that just wasn't bad enough. Here I had gotten all excited about a really good bad movie, and the movie turns out to be just mediocre. It's not as bad as it should have been, which is the real disappointment here. Oh, there's some pretty bad dialogue here and there (Tom Sizemore, as super evil paparazzo sneering, "I'm gonna destroy your life!"), and by the end of the movie, the whole theater was in an uproar at how bad the movie had gotten. But it just lacks that special little something that would put it in the company of the truly God-awful.

Cole Hauser stars as Bo Laramie, your everyman celebrity that all of us who are making millions by starring in movies called *Adrenaline Force 2* (no, really) can identify with. Once he gets famous, though, our hapless It-Boy becomes the target of some unwanted paparazzi. It gets so bad that, in a scene cheaply designed

to echo the death of Princess Diana, while hounding Laramie during a high speed chase, the paparazzi cause a car wreck that severely injures Bo and his wife and thrusts beloved son Zach into a coma. O fate! Hell hath no fury like a PO'ed celebrity. With a baseball bat (no, really). Mad as hell about the paparazzi bugging him and turning his son into rub-his-nose-cute vegetable, Bo decides to exact revenge on his tormentors. Unfortunately, the movie lacks a nice, menacing, low-angle shot of Hauser, vowing, with a twisted grin, "This time, it's personal." Long story short, our hero basically kills a bucket o' paparazzi, lying and beating his way into sweet, sweet vengeance. All for a good cause, of course. Yay celebrities! As a polemic, the movie is truly lame, and as a revenge movie, you should watch a *Death Wish* movie. The movie wasn't tongue in cheek enough to get away with it. The paparazzi bug our hero by taking his picture so he should...kill them all? Uhhhh... Okay, Tom Sizemore is just plain mean (to

make the point clear enough, he also rapes a girl in an unrelated scene), but are we really supposed to cheer on our hero as he lies to both police and family and beats paparazzi to death? Frankly, it's Hollywood's most self-indulgent movie since *Beethoven's 2nd*.

Watching the movie, I was overcome with a sudden overwhelming depression as I thought about all the time and money that went into this. This thing went through rewrites. People rehearsed these lines. Actors excitedly called up their friends and family when they heard they'd gotten the role of Paparazzo #6, hoping this was their big break. Helicopters were brought in to film aerial shots. Perhaps, the director had to convince a committee of hard-nosed, tight-fisted studio executives that this is a story that needs to be told. One day, people will own this on DVD, show it to their children, and their children's children. Someone is writing a review of this at 1:34 AM. The movie's multimillion-dollar budget could have been entirely donated to charity and the world would be a much, much better place. Help!

So what do we have? It's bad but not bad enough. It's certainly funnier than most of the comedies out there right now, and the fact that the movie actually takes itself kind of seriously does give it a guileless charm. But on the grand scale of things, the plight of celebrities confronted by paparazzi, those minions of hell, doesn't really get me going, and honestly, should it? Of the humanitarian crises in the world, I just don't think this one really ranks so high. Besides, the movie might just encourage those nasty photographers, and I think our poor celebrities have suffered enough.

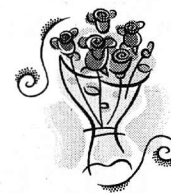
El Porton serves up the fastest full meal in midtown Memphis

By Patrick Hoover

El Porton. Almost everyone at Rhodes has either been there or at least heard of it. But for those that need some help, it is at the corner of Poplar and Highland in the little shopping center behind the big record store. For those that are not Spanish majors out there, this one is a Mexican restaurant. So naturally, if you do not like Mexican food you might want to steer clear of it. But El Porton isn't your typical Mexican eatery. With somewhat Americanized menu items, El Porton might just remind you of that little Mexican place you remember from back home. You can also enjoy some of the finest tequilas in the world, for those who are of age, but unfortunately they can get a little expensive; however, as the title suggests, you won't have much time to spend drinking anyway because within mere minutes of ordering your meal, no matter the number in your party, the food is sitting in front of you, piping hot.



On another note, those people from Texas, and I know there are many, might not enjoy this one quite as much because it is not really the most authentic food in the world. Most college students will agree, though, that the time saved eating a 15 minute sit down meal for a mere \$5.50 is why this restaurant stays open anyway. The chicken and beef nachos are always favorites that are difficult to mess up. Or if you want the traditional, there is always a taco served with rice and beans. Everyone should enjoy the free chips and salsa, but if you aren't a big salsa fan, the queso dip is very good. With traditional dessert items such as flan, El Porton is like a little slice of Mexico, except with food that will actually fill you up and water that won't make you sick.



The alumnae advisers for the Kappa Omicron chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi would like to congratulate Kappa Omicron's newest members! Welcome to the family, ladies! We are proud and honored to call you 'sisters.'

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 Tuesday 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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NFL coverage: Washington in new era with same Gibbs

By Edward Lane

The return of Joe Gibbs to the Washington Redskins ignited a fire in Washington D.C. back in January, sending the football faithful into an immediate burst of excitement.

The validation of that hype began Sunday, September 12, as those Redskins defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 16-10 at an electric FedEx Field filled with over 90,000 Redskin faithful in Landover, Maryland.

Behind a 64-yard TD run by another new Redskin—running back Clinton Portis—Washington used traditional Joe Gibbs football of a grinding running game and aggressive defense to thwart the 2002 NFL champion Buccaneers.

Said a tired, demure Gibbs in his post game news conference, "I don't know when we've fought any harder. It was a hard fought game, and I give a big thumbs up to Tampa Bay. I think both teams laid it out there as best they could. It was physical."

With the victory, Gibbs and his team sent a message to the rest of the NFC East, as well as the NFL, that Washington is not the cakewalk that they have been the past few seasons.

Using Portis's 29 carries for 148 yards to grind away at a revamped Tampa Bay defense, which lost star defensive tackle Warren Sapp (Oakland) and John Lynch (Denver) through free agency.

The win gave the Hall-of-Fame coach his 125th victory in the regular season, and his 141st overall.

The physical attack displayed by the Redskins Sunday was something which they lacked the past two seasons, particularly offensively, under the pass-oriented attack of former coach Steve Spurrier.

This team though, has been geared around aggressive offensive-line play by Joe Bugel, current offensive-line coach and the man who ran the blocking schemes for Gibbs's three Super Bowl championships in the 1980's.

Although Washington did have one fumble on a play in which center Lennie Friedman inadvertently stepped back on quarterback Mark Brunell's foot—a fumble which Tampa Bay cornerback Rhonde Barber scooped and ran nine yards for a touchdown—the unit played well as a whole, giving Brunell adequate time in which to complete passes. They also opened holes for Portis, and fellow running back Ladell Betts.

Sure Joe Gibbs was opposed by a Tampa Bay squad which underwent a bevy of offensive and defensive player changes in the off-season, but for a franchise which experienced two sloppy seasons under Spurrier, the change is already evident.

If anybody wishes to doubt Joe Gibbs, they better remain quiet for now, because his team demonstrated the renowned discipline, poise, and skill which he successfully trademarked in his three National Football League championship seasons.

Field Hockey drops two close games

By Tiffany Wilding

Two heart-breaking losses this weekend left the Rhodes field hockey team tied for first-place standing in the SCAC conference. With a win over Transylvania University (1-0) in double overtime and losses against Wittenberg (0-1) and Bellarmine University (1-2), Rhodes now shares its conference lead with DePauw University. Lynx weekend goals were scored by Katharine Etchen ('05) and Christina Mueller ('06).

The highlight of the weekend was the first of three games against former SCAC opponent Transylvania. Alice Cowley ('06), Rhodes goalkeeper, held onto a shutout with a score of 0-0 at the end of regulation play. Continuing into double overtime, the game winning goal was scored by a deflection from Mueller with an assist from Elizabeth Erny.

The second of the three games was played on turf at the University of Louisville's Trager Stadium. Wittenberg, undefeated after 3 season games, had a solid defense that brought them to victory. Caroline Mason ('08) scored the game winning goal with 12:27 remaining in the

first half. Rhodes shut down Wittenberg's offense in the second half, but couldn't penetrate for a goal. "Although we didn't win the Wittenberg game, it was good to see that we were competitive against one of the top NCAC teams," said Assistant Coach Jane Wells. Wittenberg has qualified for the NCAA field hockey tournament for the past 2 years. NCAC pre-season poles put Wittenberg second only to Wooster College for season predictions.

With Rhodes leading Bellarmine 1-0 at halftime, Sunday's game proved disappointing for players and fans. Etchen again connected with the ball for a goal 12 minutes into the first half, but Bellarmine fired back with two goals in the second half to finish out the game ahead.

"The two losses were disappointing, but they were good preparation for next weekend's opening conference games," Wells commented, after the conclusion of the weekend. Rhodes gears up for opening conference play this weekend with Centre College on Friday and DePauw University on Sunday. Both games will be played away.

Cross Country defeats Division I runners at Vandy

By Todd Ridley

The Lynx harriers traveled to Nashville this past weekend to compete at Vanderbilt University's Commodore Classic. Rhodes, the only Division III team competing, finished fourth out of nine schools.

On the men's side, Colin Strickland continued to lead the team posting a personal course record of 26:45 on the challenging 8,000 meter course. With a strong finishing kick, Strickland edged out John

Knight, a former Lynx runner (and eternal team nemesis), to finish in 17th place. The 34 second improvement from last year indicates that Strickland has recovered from a spring injury and is ready to challenge for the regional title.

Adapting well to college competition, Nick Lewis ('08) finished close behind Strickland to capture 21st place with a time of 26:51. Senior co-captains and roommates extraordinaire Matt Wood and Matthew Sauter finished next

for the Lynx, taking 25th and 28th in 27:12 and 27:29, respectively. Rhodes' next three runners finished in a tight pack, led by John Harrison's 34th place finish in 27:44. Heath Henderson and Scott Barrows placed 37th and 38th in 27:47 and 27:49, respectively. The top seven Lynx runners broke 28 minutes at Vanderbilt, compared to just the top 2 in 2003.

The Rhodes women competed in the 5000 meter race where they also finished fourth out of nine schools. The young

team, primarily consisting of freshmen and sophomores, ran an excellent team race. Nicole Goette and Lizzie Phillips led the team, finishing 13th and 14th in 19:55 and 19:58, respectively. Goette and Phillips had strong races, as both broke twenty minutes for the 2nd straight meet, and Phillips' time marked nearly a three minute improvement from her 2003 race at Vanderbilt. Last week's team leader, Jennifer Emo, suffered a calf injury, but managed to finish strongly for

29th place and a time of 20:29. Nici Thomas and Courtney Cockerell closed the team's scoring by placing 35th and 38th in 20:56 and 21:11, respectively. Hailey Fitzgerald ('08) and Katie Selby ('08) rounded out the Lynx top seven, placing 48th and 49th in 21:39 and 21:40.

Both teams have next weekend off as they prepare to travel to Louisville on September 28th. The only home meet will be the next weekend on October 2nd at Shelby Farms.