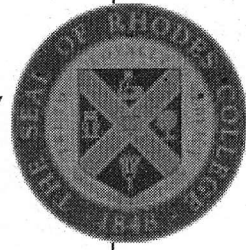


The Weekly Student Newspaper of
Rhodes College

THE SOU' WESTER



VOL. XC

NO. 12

Opinion

Section editor Chris Ebersole offers his views on upcoming speaker Rigoberta Menchu Tum.

See **Opinion**



Puzzler

This week the Rhodes Puzzler returns, promising free movie passes for one lucky winner.

See **A&E**

Greek Week comes to Rhodes College

By Caitlin Goodrich

This past summer, Miriam Dolin, president of the Rhodes Panhellenic Council (PAN), and Matt Fletcher, then president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, had a conversation. Wouldn't it be great, they thought, if members of the Greek community could take a week out of their busy schedules and focus on bringing not only the Greek system but the entire Rhodes community together?

During this time, the search for an individual to fill the newly created position of Director of Greek Life was underway. Sorority and fraternity leaders met with the top candidates and posed the same question: what would you think about helping to create and organize Rhodes' first Greek Week? Elizabeth Berry gave the correct answer. "I was surprised," she says, "that a school in which over fifty percent of the students are Greek lacked a formalized community building program." Berry got the job and, as Dolin states, "the rest just fell into place."

Berry, Dolin and Kevin Brown, then president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), spearheaded a committee comprised of one representative from each Greek organization. They had several goals in mind. First and foremost, they wanted Greek Week events to include all members of the Rhodes community. "We wanted to choose events that all students could come out and enjoy," Berry

says. Of secondary importance was a focus on philanthropy and academics, two areas advocated by all national Greek organizations. With these goals set, the committee began planning activities. "We wanted to start a tradition based on what we thought the campus would enjoy," Berry states.

Greek Week will officially kick off on Sunday, February 8 with a kickball tournament in the Multi-sports Forum to be followed that evening by a screening of "Animal House" starring John Belushi. After the film, Berry will facilitate a discussion on the media's perception of Greek Life as opposed to that of the Rhodes student. On Monday, the only day closed to unaffiliated students, fraternity members will meet in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon lodge for a poker tournament while sororities will gather in the BCLC ballroom for desserts and an evening of humorous and informative skits about sorority life. "It will be a great chance to hang out with people who are not in your social organization," Dolin says.

Wednesday, the focus will be on academics as faculty, staff, and students convene in the Lynx Lair for "Beat the Greeks," a quiz bowl that will include categories such as Black History Month, pop culture and current events. Thursday's activities are meant to highlight Greek involvement in philanthropic endeavors with "Valentines Fun Day." Approximately 150 students from Snowden, Klondike and Evergreen elementary schools will gather in the

BCLC for arts and crafts, games, and snacks. On Thursday, students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to show off their cooking skills in the first annual Barbeque Cook-Off to be held in the parking lot behind the fraternity houses. The Rat will provide dinner, and prizes will be awarded for the best barbeque.

Friday night the Panhellenic Council will hold its annual formal at a location off campus - the only event at which alcohol will be permitted (remember, girls ask the guys). Greek Week will conclude with a series of field games on Saturday followed by an award's ceremony for the week's winners in the amphitheater. A two-day blood drive is also tentatively scheduled for the beginning of the week.

Organizers of the event are excited about the week's activities and what it will mean for the Greek community. Berry believes it will be a time for "all Greek students to come together to celebrate the joys of fraternity and sorority life, a time to remind them that they are all part of a bigger community than just their national organization. It will aid in building unity between all of the Greek organizations on the Rhodes campus."

Yet the planning committee also stresses the impact that the week will have on the entire student body. "I think this positive visibility of the Greek community will help foster continued good relations between the Greek and

Greek Week, continued on Page 5

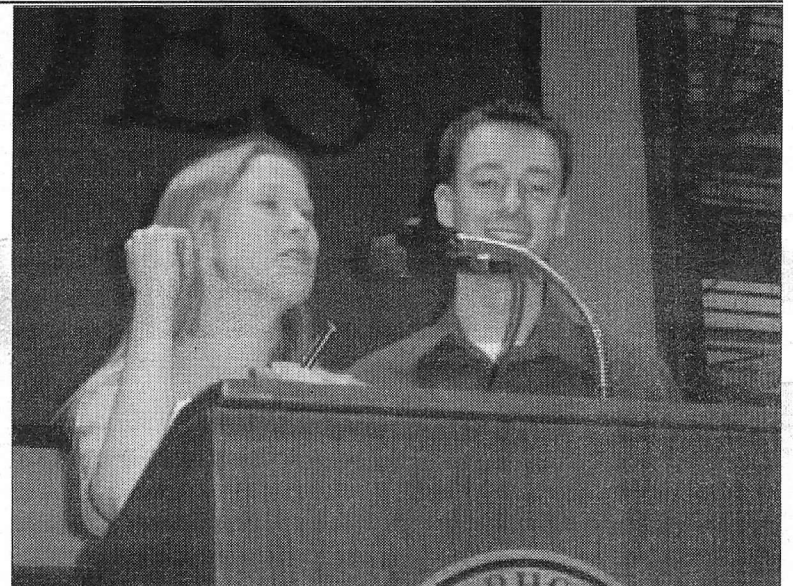


Photo by Miriam Dolin

SENIOR AUCTION

Seniors Shelley Spring and John Sexton run the Senior Auction in the Lynx Lair. The Tuesday night auction followed a silent auction on Rhodes Connect. The Senior Auction raises money for Senior Week in May.

Community Week Join in the dialogue!

By Ashley Kutz

The Social Regulations Council and Honor Council invite you to be part of the first annual Community Week, a series of events that will probe discussion into the core values that define the Rhodes community and the role of each student within it.

These events will revisit issues of integrity, both social and academic, that the Community Day events during Orientation sparked. Respect, responsibility and freedom are key components of the Rhodes community, and discovering the importance of each student in this system is of importance.

Tuesday there will be a viewing of the recently released film *Shattered Glass*. Following the film, Philosophy Professor Pat Shade will engage students in a dialogue about issues of integrity in the BCLC Ballroom at 7:00 p.m.

All students are encouraged to participate in "The Art of Integrity," a poster contest in which the idea of integrity, its role on campus and its effect on students is the unifying theme.

Free poster board will be available outside of 203 Palmer starting on Monday, February 9, 2004. Please pick up a sheet, decorate it with your interpretation of integrity or how you perceive it on campus and return it to 203 Palmer by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16.

"The Art of Integrity" poster winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 18, at 9:00 p.m. in Java City. All posters will be displayed, and the top three posters will receive \$100, \$75, and \$50 gift certificates for a Memphis restaurant of the winners' choice. SRC members will be available from 9:00-10:30 p.m.

Community Week, continued on Page 5



Wednesday, February 4, 2004



THE SOU'WESTER
 founded 1848

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Letters to the editor

The following letters refer to the article "Diversity and tolerance? Yeah, right" that ran in last week's Sou'wester

Alex Hornaday,

The "oppression" you have experienced by those nasty leftists who tore down your Bush posters never left you hanging from a barbed-wire fence, bleeding and dying. The oppression of homosexuals has been to such an extent, and far more.

The "oppression" you have experienced as a misunderstood conservative has not, I presume, caused you physical harm by your biased leftist opponents. The oppression of Muslims - you may recall the physical attacks that took place after the 9/11 attacks - have resulted in such cases of physical harm.

The "oppression" you have experienced as a conservative has not consistently, visibly, and statistically prevented you from acquiring a college education. The economic oppression of minorities is, on the other hand, an oppression of a much longer history and with much fiercer results.

What I am saying, Mr. Hornaday, is this: The "oppression" that you have experienced is unfortunate, but it is childish in nature. I am saddened when the left resorts to the measures you described. But it is disappointing to see the right complain about how "oppressing" their opponents have become.

Evan Volgas
 '07

Alex Hornaday responds:
 Mr. Volgas,

Thank you for taking the time to reply to my opinion piece; I am glad to see that it has indeed sparked discussion. Allow me to reply.

You seem to take issue with my using the word "oppression," a word that I chose specifically for its dire connotation for the purpose of irony. I chose it to show that in the zeal to right social wrongs, the left has grown intolerant of those who hold other opinions, and have in effect become no better than the oppressors they fight. There is certainly a double standard here. For numerous examples, I refer you to the book The New Thought Police by Tammy Bruce, a lesbian and former president of the Los Angeles chapter of NOW who has grown disillusioned with the tactics and vitriol often employed by those of her own political persuasion.

No, sir, I have not ever suffered any physical harm because of my beliefs, though it is preposterous to suggest that no conservative ever has. I am thankful that the worst I have to complain about is a violation of my freedom of expression. But does that matter anyway? Must one be physically assaulted before he or she can rightfully claim oppression? If so, then it is per-

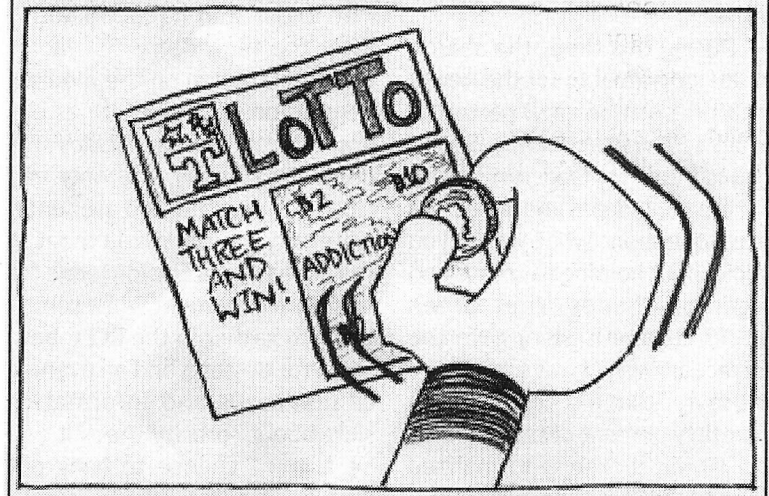
fectly acceptable to use racial and ethnic slurs as long a person doesn't lay a hand on his or her target. Dirty looks and unkind remarks are not enough. You are suggesting that because others have experienced far worse than I have, my feelings are invalid.

To take that to a logical extreme, it would be akin to saying that the "oppression" suffered by the groups you are have listed is inconsequential when compared to the atrocities suffered by...oh, the Jews in Nazi Germany to use a rather trite example. Homosexuals, Muslims, and the poor have not been herded into cattle cars by the millions and transported to facilities in which they were tortured before being gassed or burned to death. What the Muslims in the US suffered after 9/11 was nothing compared to what ethnic minorities endured under Maoist China. The poor in Ethiopia have more pressing issues than if they will ever get into college. You see, we are not talking in relative terms, if we were, then no one would have the right to complain, because there will always be someone who has suffered more.

I do not apologize for nor retract anything in my piece.

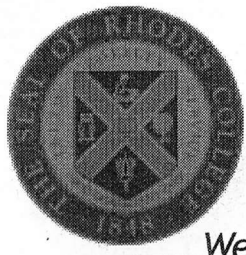
Most respectfully,

Alex Hornaday
 '05



Letters to the editor are welcomed.
 Please send to Box 3010
 or
 email to sou'wester@rhodes.edu.

The debate over Hornaday's article continues ...
 see Diversity, page 8



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

PAGE 3
OPINION

CHRIS EBERSOLE OPINION EDITOR

(Blank), loyalty and service

"Truth, loyalty, and service." Isn't that how it goes? It seems that somehow, in the day to day business of running a liberal arts college, that first part has been forgotten. How else can one explain the decision of a college supposedly governed by honor to sponsor a lecture by someone who has been less than honest in their published work?

Rigoberta Menchú Tum, recipient of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, is scheduled to speak at the McCallum ballroom on Friday, February 13. According to the Rhodes website, "Tum's address on should provide insight into the history and experience of Indian communities in Latin America as well as enlighten the audience on issues of social justice and intercultural peace." Having grown up in Guatemala during the turbulent 1960's and 1970's, Menchú has become an advocate for human rights for indigenous people in Latin America and elsewhere. She tells her story in the book *I, Rigoberta Menchú, An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, for which she won instant international acclaim. Recent research, however, has called into question many details of her account of growing up as an uneducated and persecuted member of the Quiché people. Apparently, in the rush to idolize this woman, several key facts were overlooked.

Anthropologist David Stoll conducted nearly a decade's worth of interviews with over 120 people, including relatives, neighbors, and friends of Menchú, to verify her story. He published his findings, concluding that the book "cannot be the eyewitness account it purports to be," because the author describes multiple experiences "she never had herself." A group of *New York Times* reporters reached the same conclusion.

For example, the supposed land conflict upon which her story is based did not involve wealthy European landowners

trying to drive off indigenous people as she claims; rather, it was a dispute within her family between her father and his in-laws.

In another case, Ms. Menchú gives a vivid account of witnessing a younger brother die of starvation (an experience that is referenced on the Rhodes website), when in reality no such brother ever existed.

Menchú also claims that she never went to school and was unable to read or write until just before she began work on her book. Research has proven that not only did she go to school, but she received a scholarship to two private Catholic boarding schools during her middle-school years.

When confronted with these alleged discrepancies, Menchú has been dismissive. "I don't dedicate myself to checking this, and I don't deny or contradict what is said in books about me. That's not my job," she said in a September 1998 interview. In other words, she does not consider the accuracy of her story to be of much importance. Then again, neither do the Norwegian Nobel Institute or certain liberal arts colleges.

Menchú's own foundation issued a statement in 1999: "None of the supposed inexactitudes, exaggerations or omissions which are purported in the mentioned text either detract from or weaken the truth of the testimony of Rigoberta Menchú." So maybe she lied, but not about anything important? It is interesting that throughout this whole process, Menchú and her associates have never concretely denied any of Stoll's allegations, preferring instead to deem them irrelevant. They have even compared the criticism of her story to the persecution that she supposedly suffered and have accused her detractors of "racist politics." One cannot help but wonder how an author could have the utter audacity to pass off fiction as truth and then condemn those who expose her

fraudulence. The blatant disrespect shown in comparing her accountability to the near annihilation suffered by the Quiché people is shameful.

Here is a woman who has not only lied in print, but also has shown no remorse for doing so and has even gone so far as to suggest that her critics are in the wrong. This is a woman who has made a career out of promoting a story tainted by falsehoods, and she continues to reap the benefits of her own fabrication. She suggests, condescendingly so, that it is up to her and her associates to decide when people need to know the truth and when they can be lied to.

AND SHE IS COMING TO SPEAK AT RHODES. The Rhodes website makes no mention of Menchú's story being questioned, and, as mentioned before, even makes specific references to it. I can only hope that somehow this information was accidentally overlooked. It would be shamefully embarrassing, not to mention ridiculously hypocritical, for a college that supposedly values honor and truth above all else to sponsor a speaker who has made a living by profiting on untruths.

When appearing before the Honor Council, a student used to have two choices. He could plead "in violation" or "not in violation" and face the appropriate sanctions. Now, however, I guess there is a third option: he can say, "Yeah, but so what? It's not important," and become a distinguished guest of the college.

References:

"Tarnished laureate: Nobel Prize winner accused of stretching the truth," Larry Rohrer, December 25, 1998, Available online <http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu>.

"The truth that challenges the future," Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation, January 1999.

Rhodes College website, <http://www.rhodes.edu>

EMILY COSTARIDES

Do we really want to watch?

Fat, lazy, and stupid. These seem to be the words that must be inducted into the vocabulary of any American seeking to understand our countryman's worldwide stereotype. While perhaps harsh and inherently just a matter of opinion, even the most offended of Americans must concede that they can see how such a reputation originated. After all, it only takes seeing Jerry Springer or Roseanne once.

Yet what is frightening is that now this image can be perpetuated by American news broadcasts. Yes, it is true. Major news networks in this country increasingly have something in common with the crassest of talk shows and sitcoms--one feels dumber for having watched them. For while I used to think watching networks like CNN was somewhat synonymous with being knowledgeable in world events, it now means that I know the full array of Jackson family scandals, from arrests to breasts.

Not so sure you agree? Test it out. Sit down in front of your television for an hour and see what you can learn from surfing the news channels. Your new "knowledge" is likely to closely parallel the following. First, you catch a quick tidbit regarding the Dow and the NASDAQ. You feel informed, perhaps even proud if the market performed as you predicted it would. But before you can read what stocks contributed to the movement, the subject changes to that of Kobe Bryant. After all, whether or not he requires consent from 19-year-olds before they help him cheat on his wife is of much greater import than the economy. But watch carefully, because if you pay attention to the lower one-twentieth of the screen, you might be able to catch a blip regarding another suicide attack in Iraq. But who cares about the progress of post-war Iraq when there's breaking news about the progress of Scott

Peterson's trial? Fortunately, there's not too much to hear about him, so you thankfully can move on to images of Michael Jackson, maybe even see an interview with the Super Freak himself as he testifies to his own upright character which includes nothing more than a purely innocent love for children. If you are not satisfied with knowing only this, be comforted. You will also come out of this hour of viewing enjoyment with the ability to recall an exact photographic memory of every facial expression of the FCC Chairman as he discusses the "Super Bowl Surprise." But at least some nonsense of aired viewer mail will try to forge a connection between a half-time show and our troops in Afghanistan. Feeling any smarter?

How can it be that "headlines" primarily consist of mentions of has-been pop icons and a few athletes rather than world leaders in countries like Britain and Iran, leaders whose decisions affect America's global interests? How does campaigning for the Democratic nomination merit one the same fame as being accused of child molestation? I suppose the answer is obvious--what viewers want is what viewers get. Perhaps the spread of stupidity is not attributable to the major news networks; perhaps it is not that the media makes us stupid but rather that we make the media stupid. I guess it's just another one of those classic "the chicken or the egg" questions, but the implications of such a vicious cycle are profoundly saddening, regardless of the causation. Maybe I'll go back to reading the *Economist*. But first, I have to see what's going on with Martha.



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Democrats Must Go Beyond Core Interest Groups

By Jay Sulzmann

I've been watching the Democratic presidential candidates over the last several weeks, and I can think of only one thing to say: Boy, do I miss Bill Clinton.

Strange words, you might think, coming from a self-identified conservative. After all, Clinton was declared president. Twice. And "electability" is probably not the first word that comes to mind when the frontrunner among the current candidates got his start as Michael Dukakis' lieutenant governor. But even the most partisan Republican must concede that one-party dominance is unhealthy. Competitive political parties are essential to democracy in America.

For a major party to be competitive in today's America, it must appeal to a broad range of interests and local sentiments. Neither liberal nor conservative orthodoxy has enough support to win a presidential election by itself. Adept politicians go beyond their party's base to win the support of a majority of voters. They cannot be slaves to the interest groups that comprise their party's base. Thus, Bill Clinton and Al Gore challenged Democratic orthodoxy on welfare and other economic policies. Likewise, in 2000, both John McCain and George W. Bush took positions at odds with those of Republican congressional leaders.

Bush continues to do this. Recently, he has called for amnesty for undocumented immigrants and increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, hardly traditional Republican positions. By contrast, this year's Democratic candidates have largely failed to differentiate themselves from one another or from their party. John Kerry, John Edwards, Wesley Clark and Howard Dean have repeatedly attacked "special interests," but they seem interested only in confronting the *other* party's special interests, which really doesn't require much courage.

Consider medical malpractice reform, on which the Democratic candidates have been virtually silent. Doctors across the country are forced to close their practices because of six-figure insurance premiums, but trial lawyers oppose reform, and trial lawyers are major supporters of the Democratic Party. One of the leading candidates, Edwards, is himself a trial lawyer, giving his competitors a huge opening to exploit the issue. None of them have been willing to do so.

Then there's trade. An overwhelming majority of economists agree that free trade benefits the United States, but labor unions oppose free trade, and labor unions are major supporters of the Democratic Party. President Bush has been more protectionist than Clinton, yet the current Democratic candidates all attack him for not being protectionist enough. Unlike Clinton and Gore, none of them are committed to free trade.

Abortion is an emotional and important issue for many voters. Over 70 percent of Americans support moderate restrictions on it, but pro-abortion groups oppose any restrictions, and pro-abortion groups are major supporters of the Democratic Party. Clark's position that abortion should be completely unregulated up to the point of birth is a far cry from Clinton's call to make abortion "safe, legal, and rare." Astoundingly, no other candidate took advantage of Clark's comments to offer a more moderate perspective.

Even candidates who have confronted powerful interests in the past become suddenly unwilling to do so on the presidential campaign trail. As a senator, Kerry had taken on the teacher's unions and the AARP, calling them obstacles to needed reforms in education and Social Security. Now he enthusiastically panders to both groups.

Unfortunately for Kerry and the rest of the Democratic candidates, all of the interest groups in the Democratic con-

Rhodes Black Student Association Announces **Black History Month Celebration 2004** "Remembering the Past, While Preparing for the Future"

Monday February 2nd
Opening Ceremony
7:00 pm
Blount Auditorium

This is the introduction of the observance of Black History Month to reaffirm the struggle and determination to change attitudes and heighten the understanding of the African-American experience. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

"Challenging Racism in an Age of Backlash: The Ongoing Struggle against White Supremacy"
Keynote, anti-racist writer and activist Tim Wise

Saturday February 7th
March on Rhodes
10:00 am

Snowden Elementary
Join the BSA in a march to show support in eliminating African-American myths and stereotypes. All students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends are welcome to participate in the march from Snowden Elementary to Hyde Hall. Bring signs representing your organization and join us for a brief program and brunch following the march. (We will meet in the Snowden Elementary parking lot at 10:00a.m.)

Keynote, Rhodes Political Science Professor Marcus Allen

Tuesday February 10th
Movie Night
7:00 pm Clough, Orgill Room

A screening of the 1997 movie "Rosewood"
In 1982 a reporter visiting Levy County in Florida noticed a lack of black residents. So he asked questions...and a long-ago tragedy came to light. It is January 1, 1923 in Rosewood, but in this largely black town built on family, faith and hard work, hopes for the new year abruptly end. In a few harrowing nights, a white mob razes Rosewood into oblivion.
Rhodes History Professor Dwain Pruitt will moderate the discussion

Monday February 16th
Panel Discussion
7:00 pm

BCLC, Ballroom
Are all African-Americans lazy, constantly late, poor? Does affirmative action allow African-Americans to achieve at lower standards than other races? Join Rhodes Faculty, Students and Alumni for a lively discussion on breaking down African-American myths in higher education.

PLEASE CONTACT ALTOVISE
EWING AT
EWIAT@RHODES.EDU FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Monday February 23rd
Performance
7:00 pm

BCLC, Lynx Lair
A portrayal of 20 characters in the one-man off-Broadway production of Richard Wright's autobiography Black Boy adapted for the stage by Wynn Handman of the American Place Theatre.

Performed by Charles Holt, class of '89
(Co-sponsored by the President's Office and the Office of Multicultural Affairs)

Friday February 27th
Closing Ceremony
7:00 pm

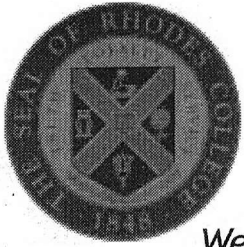
BCLC, Ballroom
"NEGRO, NIGGA, OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN? Searching For Identity In 21st Century America"
Program focuses on stereotyping and the search for identity and individuality. Music from the Harlem Renaissance Era and personal history are used to illustrate the breadth and depth of the African-American Diaspora. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. Recording artist and performer, Shawn Amos
(Co-sponsored by the Office of Student Activities)

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

stituency won't add up to 271 electoral votes. Before the Super Bowl, the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers spent a lot of time watching vid-

eotapes of each other's plays, patterns and strategies. Perhaps the Democratic candidates would be well served to skipping the next few primaries and

studying footage of old Clinton and Bush campaigns. After all, sometimes it's nice to see how the winners do it.



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

PAGE 5

NEWS

Campus Safety

1.24.04-1.30.04

1/24	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
1/25	12:15 p.m.	Campus Life Center; bubble at the pool collapsed, maintenance responded and cut pump off. David Hicks was notified.
1/26	NOTHING UNUSUAL REPORTED	
1/27	10:24 a.m.	Situation in Stewart dorm is resolved by Ralph Hatley and Robert Dove.
1/28	8:30 p.m.	Neely Hall, fire alarm, student popping popcorn. Smoke detector clears, and alarm is reset.
1/29	1:50 a.m.	Robb dorm, fire alarm, CS found no fire present. Found pull station near south door exit, pull station secured, alarm reset.
1/30	2:35 a.m.	Williford dorm, ill student, transported to UT Bowld hospital

STATS:

ACCESSES: 84	BOOT: 0
PROPPED DOORS: 3	JUMP: 1
ESCORTS: 14	VISITORS: 1,057
TOW: 0	CITATIONS: 98

Announcements

All College Catholic Mass
February 15, 2004
9:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception
Catholic Church
1695 Central Avenue

Seniors:

Mark your calendars now!

100 Days to Graduation Party

is for seniors only and will be held on Friday, February 6. Buses will run from the Mallory Gym Parking Lot from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

OPEN

X

3 P.M. TILL 7 A.M.

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Y

24 HOURS A DAY ON

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

20%

STUDENT DISCOUNT WITH STUDENT ID

&

POOL TABLE

Z

COFFEE HOUSE BAR AND GRILL

394 NORTH WATKINS

OR CALL 722-8225

Greek Week, continued from Page 1

non-Greek and the Greeks and the administration and faculty," Dolin maintains. The committee hopes that this Greek Week will be the first of many and promises an enjoyable, enlightening experience for all who participate "I hope a lot of people come out for the events!" Dolin says.

Community Week, continued from Page 1

in Java City to discuss the poster contest, the Council and SRC's role on campus.

The final event will be the unveiling of the framed composite of the incoming students' pledges to the Honor System. These pledges will be framed every year and placed in the new Barrett Library as a reminder of student commitment to honor, integrity, and respect. Please join Ashley Kutz, SRC President, and Michael Lamb, Honor Council President, at 5:30 in the Refectory for this brief ceremony.

Senior Auction Results

- Jillian's Live \$105
- Putt Putt \$80
- 20 points off housing selection \$120
- Lobster dinner \$101
- Beale Street pictures \$50
- Rendezvous gift certificate \$87
- Italian food basket \$60

Backstage passes to Rites of Spring, a reserved parking spot and additional items to be auctioned off at Battle of the Bands.

Diversity, continued from Page 2

Mr. Hornaday,

Your non-apology is accepted. First off, you rebut that I have made an issue of your use of the word "oppression." To be honest, it makes no difference to me what word you employ. Had you said "teasing," maybe for its inherent connotations of one-sidedness, I still would have replied. I do not rest my case on your choice of words, sir. You spent nearly half of your time recounting what you consider to be liberal oppression (or hell, "teasing") of conservative speech and practice. But more importantly, you remark that it is distressing that the supposed leftist ideal of tolerance and compassion is betrayed because a few hooligans enjoy tearing down your right-wing posters. That is absurd. The intolerance for the right is unfortunate. But that intolerance is still, if you'll excuse the pun, on a scale that is tolerable.

Now, you also say the logical result of my claim is that any sort of oppression could be tolerated so long as it never becomes physical. Furthermore, the relativity in my position makes it so that no one would have the right to complain except he who has suffered the most. This is neither what I advocated, nor what I said. The method you have employed against me is clever, but still erroneous. My "citations," as you call them, are not relative in the sense that you use the word. The relativity I advocate is this: Either oppression causes significant change in one's life or potential, in which case it is worth stopping the oppression, or it does not cause significant change, in which case, I'm sorry about your posters, Mr. Hornaday, but don't let it ruin your day.

You may perhaps charge me with being unobjective. I admit, maybe I am. But I cannot help but see a real difference in your suffering and that of minorities under Mao, Jews under Nazi Germany and Ethiopians living out their everyday lives. Not to see this differ-

ence, not to be unobjective, as it were, seems the like the pinnacle of irrational behavior. Isn't the law based on such differences? I don't suspect one could receive a malpractice award for when an optometrist knocks loose one's eyelash. Even if such an act were intentional, the effect would be so minor that it hardly would be worth considering.

I assure you that your reply is appreciated, Mr. Hornaday. It may seem that I'm saying that things must get worse for you before I'm willing to take your side. In fact, I already take your side in the sense that I regret the things that have happened to you. But things do have to get worse before any interference is necessary. With that, I do promise you that I'll interfere in every way I can before the leftists put out your eye.

Evan Volgas '07

Diversity, continued on Page 9



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Week in Review

International

THAILAND 102 people are being examined for exhibiting flu-like symptoms. The most recent Thai deaths indicate that everyone in the country with a confirmed case of bird flu has died. The virus has spread to ten different nations, but deaths have only resulted in Thailand and Vietnam. Though all previous cases seem to have been contracted via direct contact with sick birds, the possibility of human-to-human transmission has not been ignored. Officials and health experts say that this outbreak of the flu is far from over.

FRANCE The French are debating whether to ban conspicuously religious symbols, such as scarves, in public schools. Proponents of the ban argue that the legislation is needed to preserve France's secular tradition, whereas opponents label it as discrimination. President Jacques Chirac is supporting the legislation; it is believed likely to pass. France currently has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe. February 10 has been set as a possible day for the vote.

PAKISTAN According to a government official, nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan confessed to smuggling equipment to Iran, Libya, North Korea and Malaysia. Based on this suspicion, Khan was detained at his home and not allowed to use the telephone. Qazi Hussain Ahmad, who heads the opposition MMA party, claims to have spoken to Khan and insists that the scientist denied all allegations. On February 6 there will be a strike to protest Khan's imprisonment. Military officials were unaware of any of Khan's alleged activities. Intelligence gaps have been discovered, but little evidence has turned up.

National

UTAH A man who was suspended from his job returned to attack his coworkers Monday. He killed another employee, along with himself. Louis Darrell Kinyon, the 49-year-old gunman, died after undergoing surgery. He was suspended from work last week and came in Monday to discuss company issues with his supervisors. He became angry during the meeting and returned with a gun. It is unclear why Kinyon was suspended.

TEXAS Approximately forty people gathered outside Eckerd pharmacy protesting the store's decision to deny the morning-after pill to a rape victim. Apparently, the decision to deny the request to fill the prescription was made by an individual pharmacist and had nothing to do with company policy. Gay Dodson, executive director of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, explained that state law allows pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions if the medication can be harmful to the patient.

MINNESOTA A terror suspect, who admits to attending a terrorist training camp at the same time Osama bin Laden was there, appeared in court Monday. He was charged with conspiring with the al Qaeda. The suspect, Mohammed Warsame, was arrested last December on a material witness warrant issued in New York. According to allegations, Warsame provided material support and resources to al Qaeda. Warsame is a Canadian citizen of Somali descent who lives in Minneapolis. John Ashcroft managed to set a number of restrictions before Warsame could be seen by Dan Scott, his attorney.

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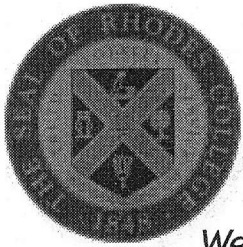
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Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Dinner & a Movie

This week, Patrick Hoover reviews the Memphis barbecue restaurant *Rendezvous*, and Allison Brown reviews the movie *The Big Bounce*.

Have a Memphis barbecue experience at the *Rendezvous*

By Patrick Hoover

One of the first things many new Memphians hear about this "great" city is its world famous barbecue, and most will tell you about a little dive in an alley behind a Holiday Inn called the *Rendezvous*. At first I thought, "I'm not going to some alley in the middle of the night in downtown Memphis," but trust me, folks, this one is worth the risk.

With a less than ideal location, right in the heart of downtown Memphis, the *Rendezvous* is readily accessible, but I'd suggest getting good directions before planning a spontaneous evening on the town.

After walking down the stairs into the main restaurant area, most people would think they had stepped into the worst bar in Memphis, but I assure you, appearances can be deceiving. Adjusting to the smoke and noise takes a little time but is completely worth the wait. And with one of the friendlier wait staffs in the city, you won't be able to leave.

The prices are also very affordable, starting at about five dollars for an appetizer and fifteen dollars for a full rack of ribs, and if you like ribs, these are the best I've encountered. If ribs aren't your thing, the *Rendez-*

vous also has a good variety of sandwiches as well as chicken dinners, but honestly, who goes to a steakhouse to order a grilled chicken sandwich and garden salad?

If you want a real slice of Memphis life, head downtown to the *Rendezvous* and enjoy your barbecue experience.

The *Rendezvous*

Genre: Barbeque
Prices: \$5-\$20
Location: 52 South Second
Phone: (901) 523-2746
Hours: Tues-Thurs 4:30 pm-11:30pm; Fri 11:30am-12am; Sat 12pm-12am

Would-be crime caper *The Big Bounce* falls flat

By Allison Brown

If you're thinking that a nice, lighthearted beach movie would do you good in the middle of a cold winter, and you were thinking of going to see *The Big Bounce*, think again. This one doesn't bounce; it stumbles. Billed as this winter's comic relief, *The Big Bounce* is a remake of an obscure 1960s film of the same name. Starring model-turned-actress Sara Foster and such big-wigs as Owen Wilson, Morgan Freeman, Gary Sinise and Charlie Sheen, you'd think that the movie would have more punch. In actuality, the only things that pull the film's lethargic plot line along are the sarcastic quips of Wilson's character Jack Ryan and Freeman's performance, which is stellar as usual.

The problem with *The Big Bounce* is its failed potential. The story is not all bad, and had it developed itself more, even Foster's sub-par acting could have been overlooked. Instead, what we get throughout the movie is a possibility of a good story coming to-

gether if only the characters would stop lounging on the beach and actually do something. The majority of *The Big Bounce* is essentially a video montage of the characters alternating between loafing on a beach and half-heartedly attempting to be criminals.

The Big Bounce is, in some ways, a classic tale of trouble in paradise. Set in a part of Hawaii that isn't overrun with tourists, the locals enjoy the pure beaches and laid-back feel of the area. Enter the bad guy. Sinise plays real-estate developer Ray Ritchie, who plans to build a stream of high-rise hotels and spoil the local flavor. Beach bum Foster has a thing for bad boys and attaches herself to would-be thief Jack Ryan (Owen Wilson), and the two plot to steal \$50,000 from Ritchie's hotel development fund.

Good plan, right? It would be a good plan, and a good movie, if all of the planning led to any actual action. Instead, the movie drags, the character allegiances change for no readily apparent

reasons, and the entire focus of the film (stealing money and stopping the ruination of a Hawaiian beach town) gets pushed back until the final ten minutes of the movie, leaving audiences disinterested and wondering if they can get their seven dollars back.

If for some reason you do decide to go see *The Big Bounce*, know that it's not completely bad. Owen Wilson manages to make accessible a character that another actor might have made dull and one-dimensional. He's likable and, yes, even funny throughout the film, in spite of Sara Foster's best efforts to ruin every scene they have together. *The Big Bounce* does have its entertaining moments, thanks to Wilson and, to a smaller degree, Charlie Sheen. Overall, though, this one's a dud; save it for a rental some night when you're really, REALLY bored. And while you're watching it and racking your brain for any redeeming quality in the movie, remember: There's always Morgan Freeman.

THEATRE EVENTS

Autumn Brice

Bored of campus events? Dying to get out of the dorm? Sick of the movies? Here are three upcoming plays that will be staged in Memphis. Enjoy:

The Spitfire Grill
Music and Book by James Valcq
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley
The Circuit Playhouse
(901)726-4656
Through February 15, 2004
www.playhouseonthesquare.org

"The Spitfire Grill" refers to the name of the restaurant where a woman gets a job after being released from prison. Percy, the ex-convict who starts life again in rural Gilead, Wisconsin, must form and ultimately reexamine relationships in her new existence. This moving musical by James Valcq and Fred Alley is a beautiful examination of possibility and hope. Check out the 1996 movie version, too, directed by Lee David Zlotoff and starring Alison Elliott, Ellen Burstyn, Marcia Gay Harden and Will Patton.

The Philadelphia Story
By Philip Barry
Playhouse on the Square
(901)726-4656
Through February 29, 2004
www.playhouseonthesquare.org

Playwright Philip Barry had only one actress in mind for his Broadway production in 1939--Katharine Hepburn, who took the role and reprised it in the movie the following year. This romantic comedy

focuses on a soon-to-be-married socialite who tries to find the meaning of love while trading clever quips with her cavalier ex-husband and a pair of tabloid reporters out for a juicy story. Wit and satire abound in this delightful tale set in 1939 high society.

The Robber Bridegroom
Theatre Memphis
630 Perkins Extd.
(901)682-8323
Through February 15, 2004
www.theatrememphis.org

The *Robber Bridegroom* ran on Broadway during the 1977-78 season and is based on a Eudora Welty novella by the same name. A rousing, bawdy Southern fairy tale set in eighteenth century Mississippi, *The Robber Bridegroom* is the story of the courting of Rosamund, the only daughter of the richest planter in the country, by Jamie Lockhart, a rascally robber of the woods. The proceedings go awry, thanks to an unconventional case of double mistaken identity. Throw in an evil stepmother intent on Rosamund's demise, her pea-brained henchmen and a hostile talking head-in-trunk and you have the recipe for a rollicking country romp! The play's book and lyrics were written by Alfred Uhry, and the music was composed by Robert Waldman.

Stay tuned for more theatre news next week!

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.

REACHING THE SOU'WESTER
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2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690



MONTHLY MIX TAPE

Everybody hurts sometimes -by Leah Kaye

I know that nobody owns a tape player anymore, but CD burners and their cheap, endless-storage power have butchered the art of making a mix tape. We will therefore return to the art as it was handed down to us, when order and theme mattered, when we were forced to choose the VERY best eight songs because the tape could not hold much more.

As the first column, it is necessary to include the following disclaimer: There are three threads found in each and every mix tape I have made. A complete tape needs one Something Corporate song, one cover song, and one random song to end the tape on an icebreaking note, in case you happen to be using the tape to fill awkward silence on a first date or with an elderly relative.

First, "No Sensitivity" by Jimmy Eat World: a powerfully angry pick-me-up, not characteristic of the usual Jimmy pop songs, most are more familiar with lately. We can hear the hurt in his voice.

"Last Goodbye" by Jeff Buckley radiates emotions of pain and passion in a mode of the Indie persua-

sion. My own train of thought goes from this song to Vanilla Sky to the flawless Penelope Cruz, and by that point I cannot help but be lifted out of the "everybody hurts" trench.

"The Ballad" by Millencolin will undoubtedly drag me back into the trench, though, as I am reminded what it feels like to be picked last for the team. This song is from the *Pennybridge Pioneers* album, to which I spent every day of my senior year of high school showering in the morning. Good album.

"Freakish" by Saves the Day; nod your head along in despair.

"Miss You Love" by Silverchair; guaranteed to send the tingles straight up the spine, but when the numbness fades, he still hurts.

Finally, we include the threads. Something Corporate: "Konstantine"; nine minutes of sobbing. Cover: "Mandy" by Me First and the Gimme Gimmes; done originally by Barry Manilow, this timeless song is one of the few covers by MFATGGs that does not get on my nerves after the third time.

Random: "Please Remember Me" by Tim McGraw.

Venue Change!

Faculty Concert Series
Dr. Courtenay Harter, oboe
Wilson Chapel, Christ United Methodist Church (one block west of Poplar and Perkins)
Saturday, February 7, 8:00 p.m.

RHODES PUZZLER

#40 (February 3, 2004)

Last week's movie pass winner: *Benjamin Carrol*

Inspector Cluenot has been called in to investigate a murder. In the room at the time of the murder were four people: Clara, Clara's brother, their mother, and Clara's son. Inspector Cluenot's assistant has already collected statements from three of the people (of course, the fourth person was the victim, so could not make a statement) but has forgotten who said what and even who the victim was. Here are the statements:

- (1) I am the mother of the murderer but not the mother of the victim.
- (2) I am the mother of the victim but not the mother of the murderer.
- (3) I am the same sex as the victim.

Inspector Cluenot believes that exactly one statement is false. Who is the murderer?

The Rhodes Puzzler sponsored by the Math/CS Department of Rhodes College. Send your solution (with your name!) to 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. See the Rhodes Puzzler Page at <http://www.mathcs.rhodes.edu/Puzzler/puzzler.asp>.

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Looking for a Memphis arts or entertainment-related event? Check out <http://www.memphisartscouncil.org/>. See a show and write a review! Email brian@rhodes.edu for submission details and deadlines.



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Athletes attend leadership conference

By David Hicks

Rhodes senior track and cross country athlete Marie Brandewiede and sophomore track athlete Erica Archer recently attended the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Leadership Conference in Frisco, TX. The NCAA sponsored the conference, held January 23-25 at the Westin Stonebriar resort, and paid all expenses for the student-athletes, including airfare, lodging and meals. Over 130 student-athletes and administrators from Division III institutions across the Southeastern United States attended the conference, including six schools from the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The three-day conference was designed to prepare student-athletes for leadership in a diverse

and dynamic society by engaging them in critical dialogue with other Division III student-athletes and administrators, address Division III specific issues and create the partnerships needed to impact positive change at the campus, conference and divisional level.

Much of the dialogue at the conference revolved around the organization and role of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on campus. The NCAA requires all member institutions to have an active SAAC on campus, with the primary goal of the SAAC being to serve as a link between the student-athletes and administration, addressing issues and concerns from the student-athletes.

from closeminded individuals, and that a liberal should be held accountable for his or her prejudices just as a conservative should be.

Now, to respond to your last email. I would like to admit that the oppression (or teasing) I suffered does indeed pale in comparison to that of many others, but undoubtedly, because I am the target, it is difficult for me regard it as a tolerable intolerance (I actually like this pun), nor would one who experienced a similar level of harassment because of his or her race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or what-have-you find it to be a tolerable intolerance. I do not doubt your sincerity in your regret of my minor problem and that you understand that what happened to the "right-wing" posters was wrong; however I do believe that if they were posters of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King that had been defaced, your response would be markedly different. My life wouldn't have been drastically changed either way; I would have put up replacements as I did for GWB and RR. The problem would

In addition to the development of leadership qualities and discussion about the role of the SAAC, Brandewiede and Archer had the opportunity to attend educational sessions on topics ranging from diversity on campus to nutrition to sports psychology.

Archer has served on the SAAC for two years, and currently serves as the secretary. Brandewiede, who has been a member of the SAAC for four years, and served as President for the last three years, commented, "I feel like I gained self-confidence as a leader from the skills and I experiences I brought back from the Conference. It was great to share ideas between SAAC organizations throughout the region."

not have been and is not that I had to replace the posters; the problem is the inability of some to suffer different ideas. I will grant you that what African Americans historically suffered is far worse than what I have suffered. And even what some of them regrettably continue to suffer today is worse than the harassment I described. But do not even try to suggest that conservatives have not suffered for their beliefs in a very real and life changing way. For a poignant example, just ask Professor Wirks in the Political Science department about the experience of his faculty mentor at Cornell. It is true that I have never lost a job or was denied access anywhere because I am a labeled conservative, but neither have many Muslims, Jews, African Americans, homosexuals, etc., and yet are they not justified in being upset when harassed? Perhaps you feel that my concerns and the experiences of other right-wingers are largely inconsequential, but with all due respect, on what basis can you possibly make that

Track & field opens season

By Colin Strickland

The Lynx Track and Field program opened its 2004 season this weekend at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois. This was the first of a handful of early season indoor meets aimed at racing the athletes into good shape for the upcoming outdoor season following Spring Break.

The men's team had strong showings in all areas, proving that they are a much more well-rounded squad than last year. Freshmen sprinters Jeff Freyder and Chris Calamese led the Lynx speed attack. Freyder finished sixth in the 55 meter dash and 12th in the 200 meter dash, with times of 6.72 seconds and 24.76 seconds, respectively. Calamese turned in 12th (6.95) and 10th (24.23) place finishes in both events.

Leading the middle distance crew was sophomore Joe Morris, who set a personal best in the 800 meter run, finishing third in a time of 2:00.42. This is an impressive start from a promising middle distance athlete who looks to lead the SCAC in the 800 this season. Junior Matt Wood turned in an impressive 1500 meter race, setting a personal best time of 4:10.12 which was good enough for fourth place in the event.

In other events, thrower Daniel Mack led the weight men with a sixth place finish in the shotput with a best throw of 12.03 meters. Freshman Scott Barrows also had a breakthrough performance with a fourth place finish in the 3000 meter run, crossing the line in a time of 9:17.

judgement?

As for a policy change as result of my article. Egad, what a nightmare! I do not wish to establish conservatives in academia as another protected minority or to hold rallies for "conservative's rights;" instead, I wish merely to provoke discussion on what diversity and tolerance really mean. Maybe the scales haven't fallen from anybody's eyes, but I hope that they may have been loos-

The women dominated the field of athletes in Jacksonville, especially senior Marie Brandewiede and junior Corletra Mance, who both captured individual titles in two events. Brandewiede stormed ahead of the pack in the 1500 meter run, winning the race by over 18 seconds. Her time of 4:44.25 is an NCAA provisional qualifying mark for the Indoor National Championships along with ranking her seventh in the nation for this event after this weekend. She also captured the 800 meter run title with a time of 2:20.52.

Mance used her blazing foot speed to take the 55 meter and 200 meter dash titles. Her 55 meter time of 7.37 is just four hundredths of a second shy of the provisional qualifying mark for this event. Her 200 time of 26.51 was also an indoor personal best.

Other athletes who had standout performances include Jen Emo and Cheryl Finster, who finished second and third in the 1500 meter run in times of 5:02 and 5:06, respectively. They contributed to a Rhodes sweep of this event. Lundy Plash finished second in the 55 meter hurdles, running a 9.74. Freshman Courtney Cockerell, in her first race back from an early season cross country injury, split a 64 second 400 in the women's 4X400 relay, helping the team to take third. The women's team captured a second place finish overall in the meet.

The men and women of the Lynx track and field program will next compete at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana on the 21st of February.

ened.
Finally, I wish to make clear that I do not take personally anything you say, and I hope you do not take personally anything I may say. To paraphrase something that former Senator Phil Gramm once said, people aren't evil just because they disagree with you.

Still respectfully,
Alex Hornaday
'05

Diversity, continued from Page 5

Mr. Volgas,

First, I think I need to re-emphasize the purpose of my Sou'wester article. My point is not that you should feel sorry for me and my posters; I honestly detest the victimhood game that I played up for the purpose of my making my op-ed a more compelling read. I wrote the piece primarily in order to convey a disconnect I see, especially in academia: lip service is played to diversity, but somehow the goal of diversity of ideas doesn't extend far enough to include conservative political thought. My secondary purpose was, of course, to communicate the fact that just as not all communists are the same, not all conservatives are the same. I am talking about prejudice, when you get right down to it. You are correct in that I did spend nearly half my piece talking about the "oppression" of conservatives, but I did so only as an illustration of my larger point, that traditional minorities are not the only ones who experience irrational behavior



Rhode'ster got back; or, how I spent my autumn vacation

Caroline "Smack My" Bishop
Rhode'ster How-the-hell-should-I-know

I may be no Miss Cleo, but, as previously stated, I believe that I can reasonably intuit your emotions for the last semester, my Rhodent. You've been wallowing in your own despondency, living on a completely humorless campus where your only source of mirth has been the poorly typed and barely intelligible campus safety logs.

I'm sure that, on various occasions, some or most of which may have involved an altered state of consciousness, you have asked yourself, "What happened to *The Rhode'ster*, dude? Why haven't there been any issues since September? And why the hell am I riding Lynx "Max" Maximus naked?" Or you have been standing in line at the Lair, and you've looked up, and thought to yourself, "Why hasn't the Rhode'ster parodied that Magic Ring Aioli Burger yet? That name's just too funny to pass up."

I couldn't even begin to answer all these questions for you.



Photo by innocent bystander
A giant white ball pursues an overly-merry Bishop as she skips down the Appian Way. Onlookers reported that the giant white ball (pictured above) bore an uncanny resemblance to Jay Sutzmann.

This is mostly because I am lazy, and I don't care enough about you to become this involved in your life. But I think I can answer the one burning question that has been lodged under your

breast these many months—what happened to the Rhode'ster?

You see, it all began last April. I had written a semi-humorous parody of the "Dear

Max" question and answer boxes that appeared in the Rhodes e-weekly at the time. While I'm sure that the majority of you have it memorized and tacked up on your wall, let me reiterate the gist of the article for those of you who may have missed it. At one point, a confused student asks Max why a hole is being dug in the middle of our campus. Max, in an obscenity-laden reply, retorts curtly that everyone knows that the hole in the middle of the campus has been dug for us to spy on the Germans. It's ridiculous, it's funny, everyone has a laugh, and we all go home a little bit more warm and fuzzy inside. Or so I thought at the time.

But I wasn't laughing in August when I found myself mysteriously abducted by a shadowy group of figures whose political affiliation remained obscured. They claimed that my story had come "too close to the truth" and drugged and carried me to a strange and turbulent land known only as "Italie," where I found myself locked with thirty-five others in a small convent that they called the "Centro." Have you ever seen that

TV show 'The Prisoner'? Well, I guess it was a little like that, except that I wasn't played by Patrick McGoohan. Everything else was pretty much the same, though.

It took me four grueling months to escape from that hellhole, and another one to make the arduous journey from that accursed land back to where I belonged, the Publications Office of Rhodes College. When I got here, I discovered that this shadowy group of figures whose political affiliation remained obscured had shut down the entire *Rhode'ster* and had castrated my editor-in-chief, Jack Leslie, who remains in critical care at The Shriner's Hospital.

Fortunately, I possessed enough wherewithal and gump-tion to revive *The Rhode'ster* of my own volition, and here I sit today, bruised, battered and emotionally scarred, but still ready to churn out the humor that this campus is in such desperate need of. And at least I've still got my reproductive organs, after all.

Continued from Page 11

about brainwashing the constituents to create the funniest college in the south. Blah blah yada yada yada blah blah Rhode'ster yada yada awesome blah blah community yada yada yada kiwi-tossing blah blah blah yada....

If you know me then you know I'm the most incredibly hilarious person this side of the Mississippi (darn that Wesley McGehee of West Memphis). And I can't be any funnier than to say, "How many Rhodents does it take to screw in a lightbulb? One."

THIS RHODE'STER BROUGHT TO YOU NO THANKS TO CLIFTON BRYANT. YOU CAN AVOID THIS KIND OF PUBLIC HUMILIATION BY SENDING YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO BISC@RHODES.EDU

Revision of an antiquated curriculum

Jeffery Boon
Rhode'ster Polyamorist

There is a lost art, learned early on in middle school computer class, which should really be reconsidered by Rhodes students. Besides learning Photoshop and word processing, it is the fine skill of minimizing the non-school related webpage before the teacher sees.

According to Prof. Robert England of the Mathematics and Computer Science department, such skills may be a part of the next semester's computer science curriculum. This is, in part, an effort at meeting some of the ten initiatives set forth by President Troutt during his inaugural lecture in 2000.

"By teaching students these skills, we do create a campus



Photo taken by The Spanish-American War Veterans Association

LET THE 'MONOCLE' BE YOUR GUIDE

Professor Robert England urges you to learn the arts of Computer Science and respect your bemonocled elders.

where technology is used more innovatively—a place where the computer skills taught in the classroom are able to be applied to learning as well as personal enjoyment," said England. "This new consideration of our curriculum gives real world capabilities to our graduates."

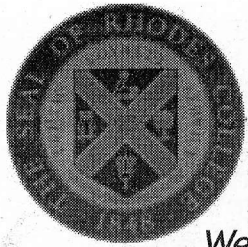
As one who has finally made it to an office environment for a brief summer internship, this reporter can attest to the value of being able to minimize *The Onion* or any other such frivolities to make a spreadsheet appear in time for a visiting supervisor. (Of course, by *The Onion* the reader should understand that I mean lesbian sisters.)

Some of the Rhodes faculty have not taken too kindly to the potential change in computer sci-

ence classes. "Such skills encourage wantonness and a certain *je ne sais quoi* in students who already are distracted enough by the mass market culture of horror films and action figures," complains Prof. Dwain Pruitt.

But this reporter is onto his little game. Upon entering his office, I do believe I caught him minimizing an Ebay window to display a scholarly website on medieval torture in France. When confronted with these allegations, Pruitt denied any such claim. "Any one of my students will tell you, I would never be so inane as to visit such...how do you say? Ah yes! Inane websites."

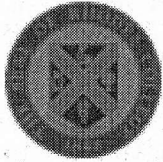
So what is the verdict? One thing is for sure, Banner will not likely tell us. I still don't know what I'm doing on Tuesday and Thursday mornings last semester.



Wednesday, February 4, 2004

PAGE 11

RHODE'STER



THE RHODE'STER
founded 753 BC

THE FRENCH

Jack Leslie

BISHOP GENE ROBINSON "WE GOT HIM!"

Jeff Boon

Susannah Young

THE GOVERNATOR

Caroline Bishop

NEW YORK POWER FAILURE

Amber Shaw

Member of the Seriously Unfunny Coalition of College Parody Newspapers

JACK LESLIE FORMER RHODE'STER ED'STER

Egos gone wild 2004!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Rhode'ster said what?! Get me the Pub Board! Get me RSG! Get me my crackpipe!

When I started my Assistant Editorship at *The Rhode'ster* more than a year ago, such crazy talk was all over the place at Rhodes College. Over the last few semesters, however, a paradigm or something has increased the sense of humor and sex drive of students on both the day-to-day and long-term basis. Students are now more proactively shaping *The Rhode'ster* than ever before, most often in the form of humorous submissions—but sometimes in the form of sexual favors.

I was asked the other day to list something—anything—funny that *The Rhode'ster* has printed this year and I was dumbfounded. I honestly couldn't even begin since there was only

one issue last semester and even it was comprised of translated news stories from the Albania Associated Press.

Now, don't misunderstand...I'm not trying to kiss my own ass here...because I can't. But believe-you-me, I've tried. True, the humor of *The Rhode'ster* does not always reflect the sense of humor of the College, but you should expect a lot more genres of humor in the paper than in years past.

The Rhode'ster is, undoubtedly, one of the most influential parody newspapers in the U.S.—if not the world. Not necessarily because of the coolness of Caroline or myself, but because of the marijuana-induced sense of humor of the community. This isn't about the power of propaganda; it's

Egos, continued on page 10

Your Rhodes Horoscope

October 29 - November 5, 2003

By Kennan Shelton
Rhode'ster Augur

Aries: (March 21—April 19)

You will write an angry editorial this week after being attacked by zombies in broad daylight, demanding that the title should be amended to "Late Afternoon AND Night of the Living Dead."

Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)

You should be prepared for a pop quiz in Professor Shelton's incredibly boring math class this week. Many of the questions will involve chinchillas.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

When your friends suggest that you should go to the Halloween party dressed as Ron Jeremy, you will not yet be aware that they aren't actually your friends.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

You've always known what evil lurks in the heart of men, but you will still be surprised when, in class, Professor Nollan makes a reference to your mother's unusual girth.

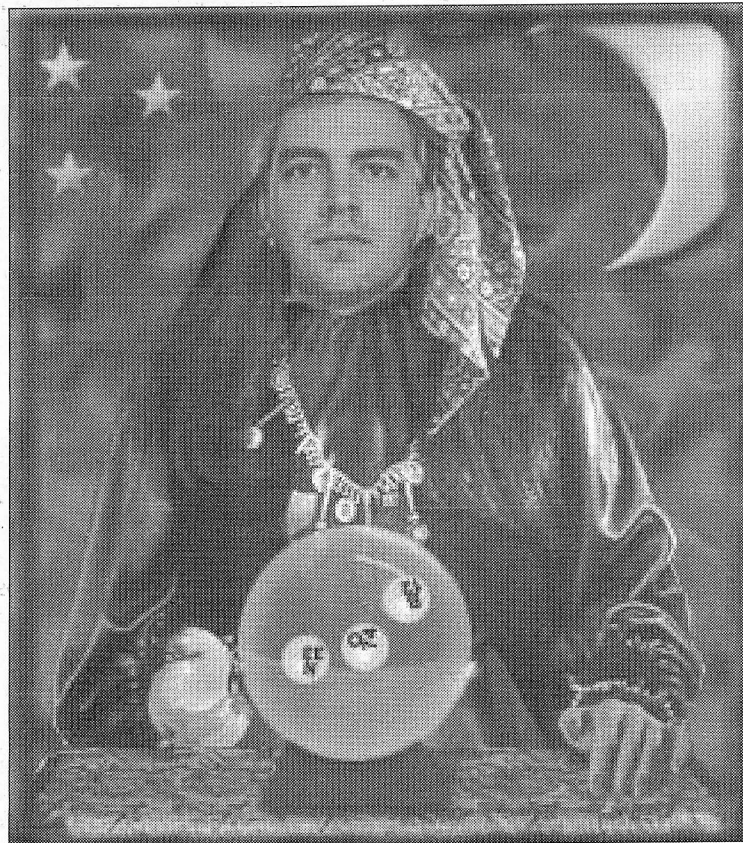


Photo by Nostradamus, Jr.

GAZE DEEP, MY CHILD

Look into my crystal ball, that you might learn the secrets of my chinchillas as well as your future.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

Halloween mischief is all well and good, but be aware that Professor Shelton knows of your plans to abduct his chinchillas.

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

In a fitting parallel for your life, you will seek Snickers, but you will be given Bible tracts and toothbrushes instead, and maybe even some

of that crap peanut butter taffy.

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

You know that Alice Cooper wants to love you, but it would be wise to tell him that your lips are venomous poison. This may throw a damper on the relationship, but don't worry, he'll still feed your Frankenstein.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

You were decidedly optimistic at first, but after your applebobbing experience at the Monster Truck Rally this week, you will learn that Fixodent is actually the worst choice for a denture adhesive.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

An uneasy feeling will consume you this week when you recognize the fate of your own tortured soul whilst visiting Bellevue Baptist's haunted "hell" house.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

Despite what your friends have told you about distinguishing fantasy from reality, you'll be out there again this Halloween, waiting for the great pumpkin.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

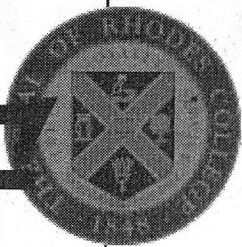
At first you were impressed that Professor Sick possessed such an intimate knowledge of the Greco-Roman Period. However, your admiration will wane when you discover that he is actually a member of the army of the undead. You will maintain that his car digans are misleading.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

The outlook is a little hazy, but you might want to watch out for large freeze-dried pumpkins being hurled off of Rhodes Tower, and their corresponding proximity to your love, dignity and pants.

The Parody Student Newspaper of
Rhodes College

THE RHODE STER



VOL. XXX

NO. 69

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I'M NOT A PSYCHIC, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HAZARD A GUESS. YOU SPENT MUCH OF LAST SEMESTER HEARTBROKEN, DUE TO THE DISTURBING LACK OF RHODE'STERS. FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, AS I SAT IN THE PUB OFFICE THE OTHER NIGHT, GENERALLY AMUSING MYSELF, I CAME UPON THIS LOST VOLUME OF THE RHODE'STER LYING IN A STATE OF UTTER RUIN UNDER THE DESK. I HOPE YOU ENJOY ITS LAST-SEMESTER-THEMED MERRIMENT. I WOULD ALSO URGE YOU TO FEAR NOT, MY FRIENDS, FOR THE DEARTH OF RHODE'STERS WILL BE EXPLAINED TO YOUR SATISFACTION IF YOU BUT PERUSE THIS VOLUME.

--YOUR DICTATORIAL EDITOR,
CAROLINE "SMACK MY" BISHOP, MAO EXTRAORDINAIRE

President of RCF becomes vampire in well-thought-out plan

By Caroline Bishop
Rhode'ster Supernaturalist

Jason Jenkins ('05), president of Rhodes Christian Fellowship (RCF), made the outstanding decision to become a vampire last Thursday afternoon. Jenkins, known to the Rhodes campus community for his piety and high levels of loving-kindness, said that his metamorphosis had been planned for months.

"Well, as everyone knows, the Bible tells us that Jesus offers eternal life to his followers," Jenkins explained in an interview granted only to the British tabloids. "That's all well and good, but I just got tired of waiting. How long, o Lord, how long, until you come back in glory and transform all of us into creatures of the night? Fortunately for me, I

had a pen pal in Transylvania, and that's how it all got started."

Jenkins went on to explain the careful thought and meditation that went into this decision, as well as the grisly process of bloodletting that occurred when he made his transformation. While fascinating drivel, it has been cut from this article, which had to be "toned down" for the Rhodes community.

Others were quick to laud Jenkins' prudent decision. "I think it's a great plan and a perfect fit for Jason," Jeffrey Boon ('05), president of the Episcopal Student Union, reported. He then added, "Frankly, all of the wild rumors about Jason's new thirst for blood have brought a lot of bad press to RCF. But it's not like

I'm in this to see people return to the only church that has ever been of any value at all, the Church of England. I'm just saying, if you don't want to see gory blood rituals and strange costumes, you know where to come."

And ancient gory blood rituals and strange costumes were just the first items on Jenkins' to-do list—to-do list of destruction, that is! The day after his sensible transformation, he went on a carefully orchestrated blood spree across campus, from Bellingrath to East Village, stopping to drain the blood of everyone he met. Apparently his thirst was so great, he even attempted to suck the blood of the completely inanimate bronze statue of Lynx "Max" Maximus, who alone survived Jenkins' madness intact.

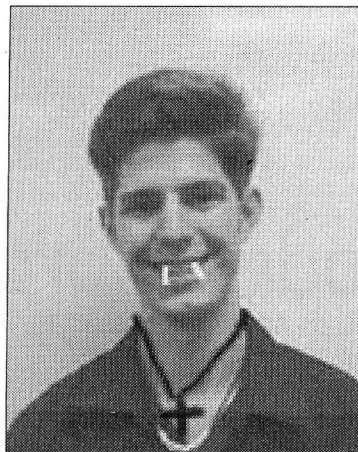


Photo by Ozarka

THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE ETERNAL

Jenkins, pictured above, is a study in contradictions.

"It was wild," reported Clifton Bryant ('05), Jenkins' former roommate and general misanthrope. "It was even

more entertaining than that time that the hideous Frankenstein-like beast created by Professor Jaslow destroyed the popular singing group Lipstick on Your Collar. Edge of your seat excitement."

Bryant then excused himself, as he had run out of witty one-liner comments.

However, Jenkins' best-laid plans went awry on Wednesday evening. The king of the undead made his way to his weekly RCF meeting, as was his custom. According to witnesses, he seemed to be in high spirits, pleased with his new and completely reasonable identity. He then died promptly, his skin scorched by the ridiculously large collection of crosses gathered in the room.

Bush Halloween disguise scares yo' mama, children

By Jack Leslie
Rhode'ster Jacki-jam

Washington D.C.— In the spirit of Halloween, U.S. President George W. Bush stunned his groupies and the media by going trick-or-treating dressed as ailing Communist icon and disputed Latin love-god Fidel Castro. This bold decision comes soon after Bush vowed to tighten embargo restrictions against Cuba which have become more and more lax over the past decade since the fall of Communism in the Soviet Union.

"[Castro] just stands there on the island staring at me with that pink-o eye... now that's scary," President Bush said to justify both

the tighter restrictions and his choice of Halloween costumes.

The Halloween night festivities kicked off with a photo-op of the President in full guerrilla garb as he pretended to speak Spanish and acted like a tyrannical warmongering dictator. "All in all, I'd say this is just a routine Bush media appearance," said one MSNBC White House correspondent. After various Fidel-inspired poses, including one with a cut-out of Pope John Paul the Second, Bush gave a speech emphasizing his stance on Castro and Halloween.

"This wasn't my first choice of costumes," Bush explained to a room full of liquored-up journalists. "My first choice was to

dress as Saddam Hussein or Osama Bin Laden, but Rummy-tum [Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld] and Dicky-lick [Vice President Dick Cheney] called both of those while I was in the can. I tried to tell them you can't call stuff when someone's in the can, but then they reminded me that I declared war while Pow-wow [Secretary of State Colin Powell] was in the can. I guess I can't act like a hypocrite in front of the American people, now can I?"

The President made his overall point--that Castro and Communism are a very real and scary threat to the U.S.--as head of the recently cre-

ated Secretary of Halloween Costumery, Frank Evanston explained: "I couldn't have been happier that the President couldn't be Osama or Saddam. We want the President to focus on a frightening enemy that can be stopped, like, say, Darth Vader, Professor Moriarty or Fidel Castro. The American people would look down upon the President if he dressed up as someone that is unstoppable, like Freddy Kruger, Michael Myers or Osama Bin Laden."

This is the first time a President has impersonated another world leader since Warren Harding's poorly re-

ceived Ghandi imitation at the 1923 World's Fair. According to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, "That truly was an embarrassing moment in American history. But this Halloween, when President Bush dressed up as his arch-rival and went trick-or-treating with little kids, America was proud."

The White House has not released any information regarding Bush's plans for Thanksgiving, but Rhode'ster White House sources have been investigating anonymously rented turkey costumes from Ye Olde Costume Shoppe.