



Go-go see theater production.

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October 4, 2006

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Rhodes tops Ivy League in national civics aptitude survey

By AVERY PRIBILA
News Editor

There are some questions that all college students should be able to answer, including those requiring a basic knowledge of American history, government, and politics. At least that's what the University of Connecticut assumed when the Department of Public Policy and the Nonprofit Education Organization, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, conducted a study of college seniors' basic knowledge of civics. The results were surprising to many.

Rhodes ranked number one out of 50 schools surveyed in how well student knowledge increased between freshman and senior year. Seniors at UC Berkeley, the number one ranked public university in the United States, got an F on the survey and ranked 49 of 50. Students at Stanford University also scored low, earning a D and ranking 31st on the list.

The survey was conducted at 50 schools including Yale, Duke, Brown, Cornell, and Johns Hopkins University, which received the lowest ranking. Researchers gave the survey to 14,000 students at schools ranging in size from large to small. The basic aim of the survey was to determine

how well colleges teach students the basics of American government and history.

The 2005 study asked seniors and freshmen to answer 60 multiple choice questions dealing with American government and history, America and relations in the world, and the market economy. Researchers took the averages from the groups at each school and compared them to find out how much more seniors knew than freshmen. The results gave an idea of how well the college or university was doing in increasing student knowledge.

In addition to the rankings, the study found that the average senior scored badly on the civics literacy exam, falling below 70 percent. Using a typical grading scale, those scores would be a D or F on a regular exam. This proves that students graduating college generally do not have a basic knowledge of America's history and founding principles. This is, according to the report, a crisis.

"The study tells us we have a rising generation of bright, intelligent citizens that won't have the knowledge they need to be informed citizens," said Eugene Hickok, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education

and member of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. "We are really only a generation or two away from a republic in pretty big trouble."

Over half of the students surveyed did not know what century the first American colony was founded in Jamestown, or which political party was the main source of Saddam Hussein's political support in Iraq. At Stanford, freshmen scored an average of 62.2 percent on the exam, while seniors scored an average of 63.1 percent. The difference between the two classes shows that students are not being taught the necessary information while in college.

At Rhodes, the average freshman scored 50.6 percent and the seniors averaged 62.2 percent. While seniors at Rhodes did not do as well as seniors at Stanford, according to the researchers, Rhodes is doing a better job of teaching its students the needed information, as shown by the greater percentage of improvement.

UC Berkeley and Stanford had problems with the methodology of the study and the final rankings, but agreed that students needed to learn more about the important basic historical and civic workings of the country. One thing that should change, according to chairman of the UC Berkeley history department, Professor David Hollinger, is that UC Berkeley and other large universities should have more requirements for undergraduates.

One finding of the study was that civic learning was greater at colleges and universities that require students to take courses in American history, political science, and economics. According to the survey, seniors at Rhodes took an average of 4.2 history and political science classes, while seniors at Johns Hopkins only took an average of 2.9 similar classes.

The report recommends that colleges and universities increase the number of required history, economics, and political science classes required for graduation. It also recommends that schools improve their assessments of what students are learning, and work to build academic centers on campus that encourage and support the "restoration" of teaching American history.

Parents enjoy All Sing competition



GWEN WEIL/The Sou'wester

Kappa Alpha Fraternity performs during Kappa Delta All-sing. Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity won first place in the I love the 80s themed competition. Kappa Sigma Fraternity came in second and Chi Omega Sorority won third place.

Rhodes hosts UN Panel on education

By SAMANTHA SIGMON

On September 27, Rhodes hosted a UN sponsored panel discussion - Educating Women in Developing Countries - to debate the issue of female illiteracy around the world. The discussion was part of a three city tour that included New York City and Detroit, as well as Memphis and Rhodes College.

The panel consisted of women from all over the world, including Dr. Siti Chamamah Soeratno from Indonesia, Moriah Yeakula, a student from Liberia, Alba Aguliar de Guardado from El Salvador, Walters, a commenter from America, Myrline B. Keculah from Liberia, Mira Balachandran from India, and Dr. Hasina Majadidi from Afghanistan.

According to the White House web site, more than 771 million adults around the world are illiterate. Of these 85% of these adults reside in 35 countries that are concentrated in the poorest regions of the world. More than two-thirds of these illiterate adults are women.

It is proven that the economic health of a country improves with improved literacy, so this issue of worldwide literacy is "an issue of criti-

cal importance," said Rhodes Provost Charlotte Borst, who introduced the panel and described the issues being discussed.

Gretchen Bolton, wife of a UN ambassador, mediated the discussion. Bolton called the panel a "public diplomacy effort to bring diverse people together to talk about the problems and differences in countries."

One of the reasons girls may be held back from education is religious fundamentalism. Majadidi made it a point to clarify that the real Islam has always supported education for women.

"Girls [in Afghanistan] have never been opposed to gaining knowledge or going to school," said Majadidi. "It is not Islamic culture to not want children to go to school. Islam is very respectful of girls' education."

During the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan, girls were not allowed to attend school. Majadidi feels that this is the reason girls' education should be particularly supported.

"[It is] good to encourage girls because they were far from education," said Majadidi. "I ask the government

UN Panel, continued on Page 4

Harold Ford, Jr. interview next week



GWEL WEIL/The Sou'wester

Harold Ford Jr., who is running for Senate, talks with Rhodes students in a discussion on campaign issues. Look for an interview with Ford in next week's issue.

This time, we mean it: Darfur

By **BENJAMIN LYON**

October 1st brought the same morbid familiarity the people of Darfur have grown accustomed to: the terrible, acrid stench of smoke, rot and cordite – the stench of death. As many as 450,000 people have been killed since the genocide's outbreak in 2003, even while under the watchful, ever vigilant eye of the international community.

And what has the world done? As of September 30th, three years into the conflict, the UN Security Council has finally begun contemplating the freezing of Sudanese officials' assets; I guess they'll have to divert humanitarian aid funding to their own pocket-books to make up for the loss.

This question never ceases to confound me: what gives us the right to be so blissfully unaware? We've known this was coming for years; we've witnessed Sudan acting as the battleground for Africa's oldest civil war. Just two years ago, the *New York Times* optimistically reported that "[w]e are going to have a robust mandate to make sure we are not here for nothing. We should be able to bring peace, or impose peace." That never happened. Will it?

All we've done, all the *world* has done to contribute to an imperiled humanity, is

extend the mandate of an under-equipped, ill-trained, hodgepodge unit of 7,000 African Union Peacekeepers till the end of the year. Sudanese expert Professor Eric Reeves curtly summarized the AU's efficiency: "[it] has fully demonstrated that it

incentive. We gain nothing from intervening, thus the total elimination of the ethnic Fur wouldn't put a dent in our way of life. That's not the point.

But that's not the point. The point is that this is a human problem-it both

“Whether we show them the scars of our indifference, or inspire them with our collective courage, is up to us, and there's no time left to decide.”

cannot protect humanitarian operations". In short, the conflict continues to worsen exponentially, while the African Union force remains static. The AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan) extension alone is not a victory; people will keep dying.

The reality is this: while UN envoy Jan Egeland prophesies that “we may end up with a man-made catastrophe of an unprecedented scale in Darfur,” in the future; but, the threshold has already been crossed.

I realize Darfur is devoid of economic

highlights, and defines the very depth of our humanity. When our children read their history books, or watch Hotel Darfur, what will we tell them? Whether we show them the scars of our indifference or inspire them with our collective courage is up to us, and there's no time left to decide.

It took the Holocaust for us to realize the devastation of our apathy, and it took a genocide for us to say “never again.” Let's not wait for another tragedy for us to say, “This time, we mean it.”

Beware when tables are turned

By **THOMAS COLE**

I sat down in the Middle Ground to read over the last edition of the school's newspaper. I turned over to the second page and the words “Mr. Cole” stuck out like Dick Cheney at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, decked out in a ski jacket, hiking boots and a toboggan, while foreign dignitaries like Tony Blair or Jacques Chirac wore black overcoats. I digress.

Naturally, I read the article, surprised that someone had responded, and not merely responded but responded directly to me. I found the intimation that I lack the knowledge of the word “whining” very droll. If Mr. Cody had looked at the second entry of “whine,” he might have realized I that meant: “to snivel or complain in a peevish, self-pitying way” (dictionary.com), or “to utter complaints in a querulous way” (OED.com). No, I think Mr. Cody knew what I meant, but he was whining too, playing the same game I had played.

Did I fail to report on the events that Mr. Cody illumined? No. I think they are important, but if we had a Green Party president, a Libertarian, a Constitutionalist, a Democrat, or a Canadian president in office, I think they all would have protected us just the same, though not in the way befitting Mr. Bush. Mr. Cody wanted to paint the picture he favors, the one where Repubs are right and Dems are wrong. I can understand that. So when I look at Bush, I see a different man. Not the re-

vered President who likes the PATRIOT Act, or illegal wire-tapping, or degradation of homosexuals, or suspension of the Bill of Rights, or privatization of Social Security, or No Child Left Behind (which real professionals of the education field despise), or unilateral, pre-emptive strikes, or sitting idly by while watching Israel scorch Lebanon, or giving tax-cuts to the rich and rarely ever helping the poor, or ignoring the Kyoto

Protocol, or outsourcing. The list goes on. I find it interesting that a Republican President—whose main strong point is policy concerning terrorism and security—was the man in office during 9/11; i.e. he failed, big time. True, a Democrat has not been in the same place—maybe that hypothetical Democrat would have dropped the ball too.

Mr. Cody also mentioned that my type of rhetoric is the all too common song-and-dance of the Howard Deans and Michael Moores of the Democratic Party. Okay, I'll grant you that. We want to change the sta-

tus quo, and if that means shock-and-awe, we'll do it like Mr. Bush on Iraq. If we are static in our rhetoric, Mr. Cody suffers myopia. He mentioned that the only harsh form of torture utilized in the CIA prisons was forcing inmates to listen to loud music, namely The Red Hot Chili Peppers, but on CBS' Face the Nation, Republican Senator John McCain mentioned “waterboarding” and “sleep deprivation” as other forms of

coercive interrogation (doublespeak for torture) that were used. And everyone understands what sleep deprivation is, but I had to look up “waterboarding”: a procedure “in which a detainee is strapped down, dunked under water, and made to believe that he might be drowned” (The New York Times). So let us not forget those forms of torture.

And finally, Mr. Cody, do not patronize me by quoting Voltaire, who is, apropos, from that great land of France—a land which many of the members of the GOP like to feminize and degrade.

THE SOU'WESTER

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How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by 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.

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All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhode'ster*, opinion columns, and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

Staff meetings take place every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in Barret 214 and are open to the public.

Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402

Fax: (901) 843-3409

E-mail: souwester@rhodes.edu

Address: Rhodes Box 3010

The Sou'wester

2000 North Parkway

Memphis, TN 38112-1690



ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

Turco's take: drinks smooth, but bitter finish

By MICHAEL TURCO
Opinion Editor

I disagree with the sentiment that "we are dangerously close to undermining the 'interests of the individual' for the sake of a perceived collective interest of the college community." This would imply that only students are the "community" that makes up the college, students are only one part of a greater college community we might never consider. The sentiments of administrators, families, professors, and anyone affected by or affecting Rhodes College is part of the community. It seems unlikely to me that a majority would want to break the law, cause personal or property damage, or place themselves or another in some situation that could be harmful. Instead, I contend that we are legitimizing a tyranny of minority, by placing the individual ahead of the community. To do so, I shall examine thematically a few points as raised by our last issue.

Each drinking individual is responsible for his/her own drinks. Following this train of thought, only those of legal age should be able to obtain drinks, placing the responsibility of drinking on that individual. Thus, the community is not culpable for the actions of one individual. However, in situations where communal containers are present, the community providing such a container is placed in peril: the individual may suffer negative consequences (such as driving while intoxicated) as a result of their actions, but try to pass the blame to the community that furnished them, or the individual is not of legal age, and thus makes the community liable, or a combination of the two. In any of the three claims, the community is responsible for the actions of an individual, which is certainly not in the interests of the community. By the same token, an individual of legal age purchasing for or sharing drinks with an underage drinker faces the same complications, and the practice is itself illegal. We may disagree with the law itself, but we cannot argue that the legal actions taken against an individual

breaking the law exist. Therefore, the college makes it policy to avoid these situations by eliminating the potential for them to occur, to the extent that it can. The rest is up to the individual, who acting out of understanding of the law, and the benefit of such a system, avoids these situations without regard for the consequence, but rather with regard to critical

The danger exists in the same form as above, with the community being responsible just as much as the individual. Thus, it is not an individual decision, but rather a communal one to engage in drinking games, and without proper regulation or (for lack of a better term) "quality control," the community puts itself at risk, along with the individual. The school,

"Thus, it is not an individual decision, but rather a communal one to engage in drinking games, and without proper regulation or (for lack of a better term) "quality control" the community puts itself at risk, along with the individual."

thinking.

In that same way, each individual is responsible for her/his own behavior, provided that the conditions for drinking are met; that is to say, one of legal age furnishes one's own drinks. Drinking games play directly into this. Drinking games are for all intents and purposes communal activities, and place responsibility in the community's hands. For instance, consider the perennial classic: beer pong. It requires at least two players, who may be of vastly different skill levels. The "winner" is directly responsible for the state of the "loser;" however, I would assume that after a few rounds this notion gets lost. Now, we can argue all day about the culpability of the "loser," who has the option not to play, but I will still contend that the community—that is, both players are equally culpable. In larger drinking games, with less defined or more easily altered rules, the potential for making mistakes regarding another person's tolerance and subsequent mishaps is extremely high.

in order to best address the entire community, regards this as behavior unacceptable and legally liable; furthermore, it removes this as a consequence free choice.

Now, as for the clause "anything 'which puts the user in a position to consume alcohol irresponsibly,'" it seems that this is taken out of context. For instance, this does not censor bus parties, parties in rooms, frat house parties (which in themselves do not cause irresponsibility, only that the potential exists within this context), or nights out with friends. All of these situations are occasions for the potential irresponsible use of alcohol. However the College does not assume that this irresponsibility will occur by forbidding these activities (I gloss over the regulations here, but I shall return to them shortly). In these instances, the individual demonstrates choice. Having understood that communal containers and drinking games place one at some risk, the individual is called to make a choice that does not place oneself in a posi-

tion of irresponsibility, being sole master of decisions. Thus, the individual can attend any event, provided that legal age, provision of personal drinks, and responsible action are met.

Now, what this should mean is that even if there is a drinking game going on, but the individual is not part of it or associated with its playing, then the individual must be held free of all actions taken against those who have not met the same criteria. I fear this might be the sticky point of the policy, and great care must be exercised so that all might be held accountable only for those actions they can clearly claim as their own. Those involving community must be prosecuted against the individual and community, with consideration given to the nature and extent of influence by both parties.

As far as registering alcoholic events, this regulation feels targeted towards the fraternity houses, and might be revised in such a way to avoid any implicit bias against these organizations. As fraternity houses are the only "non-college" locations that have alcohol privileges, it falls to them to meet those standards as provided by the school, but these standards should not be disproportionate to anything expected of other organizations, which could, if I am not mistaken, register an alcoholic function, provided the same guidelines are met. If both meetings with and without alcohol had the same requirement of notice, I feel this would help alleviate some of the current tension; however, administration should maintain a stringent mandate on every group, from ATO to RCF. If we are going to require these conditions from one group, and we value all groups equally, then we expect the same treatment for everyone. But, it also must be said that each group will be held liable to the same standards, and any deviation from these standards should result in the consequence cited for such an action.

Thoughts? Comments? Concerns?
Email: turmj@rhodes.edu

Rhodes Student Government continues efforts

By NATHAN MAXWELL

The Rhodes Student Government Senate held its third session of the year on Thursday, September 21st. The meeting began with the swearing-in of the five new senators for the Class of 2010: Rachel Harpool, Erin Foster, Amanda Law, Dan Schrader, and Katie Grills. The main focus of this meeting was the approval of the proposed Fall Budget for 2006. Student Body President Andy Greer also reported on the results of several focus groups sponsored by the Senate about possible renovations and changes to the Lynx Lair. Finally, the constitutions of three new student organizations were approved, along with a resolution authorizing the creation of magnets listing the contact information and names of RSG senators.

The Budget for Fall 2006 was the central item on the agenda for this meeting. The budget process begins with each student organization presenting a budget request to the Allocations Board, which hears each organization's justification and then awards funding

upon the total amount of funds available and the Board's judgment about the best division of these funds between all the organizations. These funding awards make up the proposed budget which then must be approved by the RSG Senate. The Allocations Board consists of ten voting members, along with the RSG Treasurer, who is the President of the Board and Vice-Treasurer, who serves as the Secretary. During the Senate session on the 21st, RSG Treasurer Jim Kingman presented the proposed budget to the Senate and addressed the questions and concerns the Senators had concerning the Budget. After some debate, the Proposed Budget was approved unanimously by the senate. This budget, as well as the one approved in April, can be found in the Allocations Board folder in the Student Community folder on the file server.

President Greer presented a report on the results of several focus groups sponsored by the Senate to gather student opinions about possible changes to the Lynx Lair. President Greer led one group with differ-

ent RSG senators leading others. They attempted to find out what different students felt about the Lair environment, service, and atmosphere and gather suggestions for changes that would make the Lair a space that is more student-friendly and more than just food-service location. President Greer said that he would be compiling a report on the feedback from these groups and presenting it to the administrators in charge of the proposed renovations to the Lair to ensure that student voices were heard throughout the process.

Finally, the Senate approved the constitutions for three new student organizations: the American Cancer Society: Colleges Against Cancer chapter, Rhodes Rebuilds, and the Rhodes Freedom Forum. An additional resolution was passed authorizing funding to create magnets for the student body that would list the names and contact information for each class of senators along with the Student government officers. These magnets will be distributed to each student

to increase student awareness of the membership of RSG as well as simplifying student interaction with the Senate and RSG officers.

The Sou'wester commends the Rhodes Student Government for the steps it has taken to improve the communication between the student body and its RSG representatives through efforts like the Lair focus groups and the creation of the Senate magnets. We urge President Greer and the Senate to continue to take steps to improve the RSG-student body relationship. The Sou'wester will be printing an in-depth look at a committee of administrators, faculty, and staff that is exploring several changes to student services across the campus. This report will provide an explanation of the work and plans of this committee, as well as President Greer's involvement with this program and his efforts to increase student input and involvement in these changes. The next session of the RSG senate will be on Thursday, October 5th.

Social Regulations Council Case History Academic Year 2005-2006

Charges Found In Violation

Endangering, threatening, or causing physical harm to any person, or reasonable apprehension of such harm (4)
Reckless Driving (5)
Driving while intoxicated (2)
College Policy on possession or use of fireworks (2)
Destroying or damaging college property or the property of others (3)
Violating the terms of any disciplinary sanction imposed in accordance with this Code (1)

Decisions Appealed

Upheld (4)
Charges Found Not in Violation
Driving while intoxicated (1)
Endangering, threatening, or causing physical harm to any person, or reasonable apprehension of such harm (1)
Referred to Administration (4)

Sanctions

Probation (6)*
Creative Sanctions (4)**
Suspension (1)
Suspension from Residence Hall (2)
Fines (1)
Restitution (2)
Loss of Privileges (2)

The Social Regulations Council would like to take a moment to be real with the student body. We all realize midterms and the second half of the semester are incredibly stressful. However, when taking breaks from studying and writing papers please remember that you are responsible for your behavior, on or off campus. You can call the Care Cab at 577-7777 twenty four hours a day, seven days a week and avoid unnecessary problems. If you are feeling overwhelmed find something fun and safe to do such as: bowling, glow in the dark putt-putt, training for the St. Jude's Marathon and half marathon, rent a movie from the library for only \$1, walk through Overton Park (during the day), volunteer at a local school, join the Ultimate Frisbee team, or attend Rhodes athletic events. Feel free to contact me at SRC@rhodes.edu if you would like more ideas on fun (and safe) activities in our community, or have questions about the Code or the Council.

Thank you for your time,
Tiane Leonard, SRC President

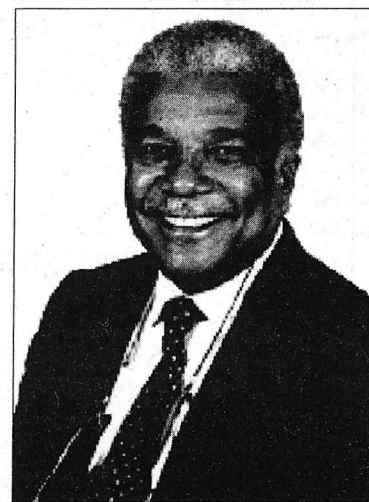
Speaker Explains Cultural Issues in Africa

By STEPHANIE CASSEL and
MICHAEL TURCO

Rhodes welcomed Dr. Ali Mazrui on Monday, October 2, for his open lecture, "Is Africa a Cultural Battleground?: Africanity, Islam and the West." The presentation was sponsored by the Rhodes African American Studies Program, established in 2005, whose purpose is to "promote an understanding and appreciation of the integral yet distinct experiences of people of African heritage throughout the world." The lecture was co-sponsored by the Rhodes Muslim Student Association, Department of International Studies, and Department of Religious Studies.

Mazrui, who was born in Kenya, holds a B.A. from Manchester University, an M.A. from Columbia University, and a doctorate from Oxford University. He has researched interests in "African politics and international political culture, and is consulted internationally on Islamic culture and Muslim history." Mazrui has also been involved in the United Nations in projects including human rights and nuclear proliferation, as well as serving as special advisor to the World Bank. He has served on the Board of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and is a Fellow of the Institute of Governance and Social Research in Jos, Nigeria.

Mazrui currently serves as founder and director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University in New York. He has penned more than twenty books, as well as having many of his articles republished in three volumes by Africa World Press. He has written for publications such as *The Times* and *The New York Times* and created the television series *The Africans: A Triple Heritage*, jointly produced by the BBC and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). In 2005, the American journal, *Foreign Policy*, and the British journal, *Prospect*, nominated



DR. ALI MAZRUI

Mazrui "among the top 100 public intellectuals alive in the world."

In his lecture on "Africanity, Islam and the West," Mazrui said, "Contemporary Africa is a convergence of three civilizations: the indigenous peoples of Africa, Islam and Western Religion." Part of his lecture was an exposition of African relations with the world at large. Of interest were China and India, which he considered two likely candidates as world super powers. China has a vested interest in resources and strategic alliance with Africa, and exerts considerable economic and cultural influence over the region (much like other western nations preceding it).

By way of contrast, he depicted Japan as interested solely in economic relations, which provides for more equal footing. Japan is setting up to be crucial to African development by helping African nations bridge the technology gap that continues to plague even the wealthiest nations. India has been a natural ally of Africa, due to their shared status as colonial possessions. Prime Minister Nehru of India lent a great deal of solidarity to the African nations during the Cold-War, attempting to form an alliance that would force out the influence Western and Eastern Bloc nations.

He then explained how the

UN Panel, continued from Page 1

to help by having literacy programs for girls that are of age to go to school. The curriculum and instructional materials are very old, and there is a lack of qualified teachers."

The panel recognized that girls were unable to attend schools in mostly rural areas, where schools are sparse and adults do not have the opportunity to learn either.

"It's hard to identify gender discrimination. [Efforts for educating women] usually don't work because men put into practice gender inequalities," said Aguilar de Guardado.

In Liberia, women are making progress in education. This country is the first in Africa to have a female president; she was recently elect-

foundations of Islam were integrated into the culture of Africa. In the 21st century, one-quarter of the population are Muslims. Mazrui explained that there are more Muslims in Nigeria than in Egypt. He goes on to reveal that "Islam brings assets and Islam brings liabilities to Africa."

Africa, as a nation, has an Islamic majority. One misconception is the idea that "Africa" is south of the Sahara Desert, but the "Arabic" Africa is equally important. The influence of Islam spread rapidly throughout Africa, but took hold most firmly in northern Africa, where the Arab progenitors of Islam were able to conquer and hold.

Many of the assets were especially appealing to the African nations: Islam as a non-racial religion, its capacity for cultural accommodation, social mobility, and Islam's acceptance of biological race mixtures. Particular to his understanding was the ability to move up (regardless of race or status) in Islam, as opposed to moving down in the racial structure of the USA. Some of the liabilities of the religion include the history of Islamic conquest and Islam's history of slavery. Mazrui tied together the historical problems and their contemporary results. Mazrui also indicated that by embracing Islam, Africa took on a cultural system that strongly discouraged slavery—however, the political situation (where Islam catered to the will of royalty) was unable to abolish slavery as a custom of African life, and the trade continued.

Mazrui went on to discuss the spread of both the religions of Christianity and Islam throughout African culture, including an interesting discussion on the prevalence of religious wars before and after the emergence of Christianity and Islam. He also brought up the topic of genocide and terrorism in the history of African culture, as well as some of the current politics associated with these events. Following the lecture, Mazrui opened the floor for questions and comments from audience members present.

ed. The main problem with educating girls in Liberia is that "they lose interest," said Yeakula. "They get pregnant at a very early age." Teachers are also often unpaid, so students essentially work for good grades instead of taking examinations.

Liberian student Yeakula identifies "sexual exploitation, poverty, and child labor" as the primary barriers to educating girls. So many people are unemployed that many girls resort to prostitution to make money. Many girls drop out of school because they can't stand the sexual harassment that occurs on a daily basis.

In Indonesia, the problem seems to be a lack of understanding between genders.

UN Panel, continued on Page 5

SMOOTHIE COUPON!!

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Buy 1 Smoothie, Get 1 Free
Must show valid Rhodes Student ID
This offer is good thru Oct 31, 2006.

CAMPUS SAFETY

9.24.06-10.1.06

09/24
 12:40 pm: Accident at McLean and Snowden. No Rhodes students involved. MPD on scene.
 8:27 pm: Bus with volleyball team returning to campus.
 10:29 pm: Campus Safety notified of a suspicious person on Snowden. MPD notified, searched the area. No one found.

09/25
 11:45 am: Call from the infirmary reporting a student had passed out and was being observed. Campus Safety responded. Student found to be dehydrated and was being treated by infirmary staff. Student not transported.
 6:52 pm: Fire alarm, Bellingrath Hall. Officers dispatched, finding faulty smoke detector in a 3rd floor room. System cleared.
 *Director's Note: Two thefts have occurred in the last 3 - 4 days. One happened on Mignon, near University, and the other on Snowden, near University. A bike was stolen from the back yard on Snowden and a weed eater from the porch on Mignon. The Mignon report shows that a neighbor saw a male on a bike take the weed eater. The Snowden report said the homeowner saw a male riding off on the stolen bike. Remember to be aware of people traveling through our neighborhood. If you suspect anything at all; never approach, but report all suspicious activity to the Memphis Police Department.

09/26
 12:30 am: Student exited north east library emergency door, setting off alarm. Officers responded, alarm reset.

09/27
 2:05 am: MFD ambulance on campus to transport student to Methodist Central. ADRL notified. Campus Safety filed report.

09/28
 3:46 am: Noise complaint, East Village A. Campus Safety responded.
 3:01 pm: Channel 3 on campus.
 5:15 pm: Call from Snowden School informing us that a Snowden parent had just been robbed at gun point. MPD on scene.
 8:15 pm: Attempted forced entry, Rhodes Tower. Campus Safety responded, report filed.

09/29
 3:03 pm: Report of some one sitting on top of Rhodes Tower. Officers dispatched, found the 6th floor unsecured, but no one found.
 8:45 pm: Alcohol violation, report filed.

09/30
 2:44 am: Noise complaint, 2nd floor Voorhies Hall. Officers dispatched, confronted residents and asked that music be turned down. Residents complied.
 9:10 am: Report of incident that occurred overnight in the refectory. Report filed, incident is currently under investigation.
 2:09 pm: A student's family member sick at the game; seen by paramedics. Transported to Methodist Central by family.
 10:00 pm: Officers posted at the Pike fraternity house and the Kappa Sig house for registered non-alcohol parties.

10/01
 1:00 am: Pike party secured. Members and monitors assisted in shutting down party without incident.
 1:35 am: Kappa Sig crowd overflowed into the parking lot, and Campus Safety staff dispersed crowd. Report filed.

UN Panel, continued from Page 1

"Women [in the role of] decision makers are increasing," said Socratno. She believes that "the perception of women should be socialized. . . [Education of women] is not just for women. [It is also] for men, for society. That's the important thing."

Aguilar de Guadado feels that "education starts at home. Discrimination of girls is a daily practice."

Steps are being taken to encourage edu-

cation and improve the situation of women in these countries. Some countries are beginning to lead efforts to improve their population's education. Balachandron is part of the People Project Citizen - India. The goal of this project is to get girls to attend school, develop their self esteem, and eventually stand up for rights and against violence and prejudice toward women.

"I want children to become aware and get involved. I'm convinced what I'm doing is right. In a small way, we have achieved something," said Balachandron.

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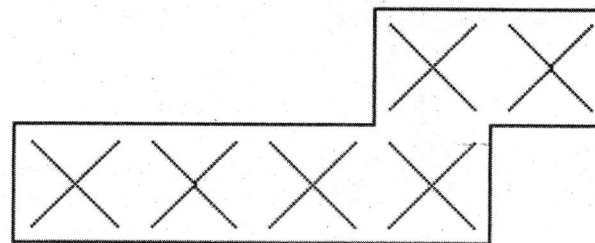
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The Puzzler

In 1976, Frank Harary introduced a new form of tic-tac-toe. As usual, players alternate X's and O's. For a particular shape and board, player X attempts to make the shape, while player O prevents the shape. For square boards and polyominoes, all shapes have been solved except one -- the Snaky, illustrated below. For thirty years, the Snaky has remained unsolved. Perhaps a reader can solve it -- on an 8x8 board, can either X or O force a win? X wins by making a Snaky in any orientation, while O wins by reaching a filled board with no Snaky.



The unsolved Snaky

A feature of the Snaky is that it is a strip polyform. Two squares (the head and tail) each border exactly one square, the other squares each border exactly two squares. A simple, non-crossing path connects the head and tail. With 8 squares, there are exactly 64 possible strip-octominoes. Patrick Hamlyn demonstrates that two 16x16 squares can be made with these pieces. Two puzzles might be possible with these grids. First, filling both with the same set of letters, so that each snake spells out an 8-letter word. Second, dividing each grid into 4 8x8 Sudoku puzzles.

For more information contact John Kirkham

Waiting For Godot: a dirty production done right

By ALICIA BUXTON

McCoy's new production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* is, by far, the dirtiest play I've ever seen. That's not to say it's risqué—it's not. But the brown and green burlap set, the haggard look of the costumes and props, and the clouds of cocoa powder 'dirt' that fly off of the actors combine to create a feeling of desperation that epitomizes the play. This dirtiness brings the play amazingly close to the audience and makes it impossible for you to remove yourself from the plot. The actors reinforce this desperation and urgency with a manic, fast-paced rapport. Jason Hansen and Nate Smith would make the Marx Brothers proud with their incredibly choreographed physical comedy. Anyone who has seen a Marx Brothers movie will appreciate their facial expressions and the way Hansen gives a nod to Groucho Marx's trademark walk. He plays Vladimir with a strange and erratic manner, contrasted by Smith's calmer and more subtle portrayal of Estragon. Smith shows the humor of the show with great subtlety and cleverness, and helps ground the duo.

Thomas Kelly is brilliant as Pozzo; from

the moment he enters the scene he commands the audience's attention and laughter. Kelly plays Pozzo by walking a fine line between funny and threatening. He is a jovial dandy at times, but becomes menacing as he growls at Lucky. His monologue about the twilight was a highlight of the production for me, which Kelly performed in a voice that is somewhat reminiscent of Will Ferrell's days on Saturday Night Live. Daniel Sturtevant is a captivating Lucky as well. His famous monologue of non sequiturs is delivered with a surprisingly smooth voice that forces the audience to listen, and Sturtevant plays it with such confidence I felt myself almost understanding what he was saying. The monologue looks wonderful too, with a great back light that outlines the tree and Lucky's frame. When the other characters try to silence Lucky, he remains undeterred, and I actually wanted to keep listening, even though I admittedly have no idea what he was talking about. At the same time, Lucky can also be a threatening character, and several times I was scared he would bite Estragon on the neck.

However, the show was undoubtedly stolen by David Mason. The second-grader, who plays the Boy sent by Godot, has a constant mischievous grin and a glint in his eye that steals the audience's heart. When he takes Vladimir's hat and reclines next to him, legs crossed, he upstages anything an adult actor could do. This little kid is hysterical, and has amazing confidence; he seems to have fun onstage. Although the boy is technically supposed to be afraid of Vladimir, I thought this different take added a lot to the show;



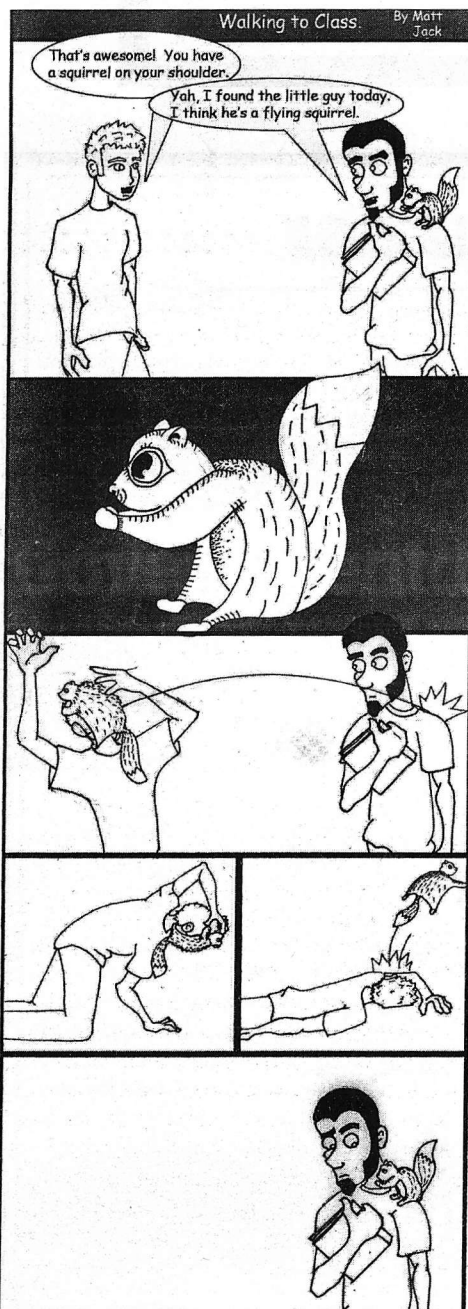
Photo courtesy of Nan Hackman

Nate Smith and Jason Hansen enjoy a break from their campus shenanigans.

it provides a great contrast to Vladimir and Estragon's unhappiness.

Waiting for Godot has never been a favorite of mine; the themes are heavy, and Beckett tends to shove them in the audience's face. OK, so there's no God and life is meaningless. I get it. But this production tones down the severity and makes the play more acces-

sible and even more humorous, so that a person like me who doesn't normally go for an absurdist existentialist play can have fun, too. This is a great production, and I recommend it as a fun weekend event. It makes you laugh and makes you think about life's larger concepts—something very unique.



Ted Leo + The Pharmacists rock the HiTone

By MARK WADLEY

Chances are you've never heard of Ted Leo, and that's a pity. Ted Leo—along with his dynamic duo of a backing band, the Pharmacists—plays undeniably catchy, punk-inflected pop songs in bars, clubs, and holes in the wall across the country, shaking the eardrums of the unbelievers and trading high-fives with everyone else. On Tuesday, September 12th, he played to a crowded house at the HiTone, a club just five minutes away from Rhodes campus.

After local opening band The Glass (a fantastic alternative country group) performed, Leo and his Pharmacists took the stage. Ted has been performing for quite some time, and it shows. He appears completely relaxed onstage—casually bantering with audience members, occasionally explaining a song or telling a story. He doesn't speak too much between songs, just enough to draw the audience closer, providing a more intimate atmosphere. Even with technical problems (guitar going out, falling off the stage), he never loses his poise, and his band never skips a beat. There was no set list for this particular show, so Leo accepted requests for favor-

ites ("Timorous Me," "Stove by a Whale"), while introducing many new songs ("Army Bound" being particularly noteworthy). The set generally leaned toward these new pieces, due for recording within the next month, and songs from 2004's *Shake the Sheets*, arguably one of the best records of that year. A selected few songs from previous efforts *Hearts of Oak* and *Tyranny of Distance* made it into the set with much approval from the crowd.

Interestingly, if you were to look at pictures taken throughout the hour-long set, you would be able to determine the passage of time based completely on the shade of Leo's shirt. The olive-drab button-down (which I'm quite sure he was wearing when I saw him last November in Birmingham) begins to darken down the middle of his back after the first two songs. By the end of the set, the entire shirt is sopping wet down to the forearms. Leo plays with a fierce energy, hopping across the small stage with the vigor of a fifteen-year-old on Red Bull. Dave Lerner, the bassist, stands to the side of the stage and plays with an enigmatic detached intensity, occasionally locking eyes with members of

the crowd. Drummer Chris Wilson rarely speaks, but smiles for the entire show, occasionally mouthing Leo's lyrics. Over all, it was a vastly enjoyable night.

Ted Leo + Pharmacists tour constantly—Memphis was one of the last stops on their summer tour, after which they went into the studio to record a new album. At the end of October they disembark once again, this time supporting Death Cab for Cutie (certainly you've heard of them). Don't get too excited, though—the Pharmacists are leaving the tour about a week before it comes to Memphis's Orpheum Theatre (November 28th). However, you shouldn't worry; he'll be back here—or at least in Nashville—on his next tour.

Also, a plug for the HiTone: it's very close to campus and they sponsor excellent mid-level indie acts (Elf Power, The Applesseed Cast, Okkervil River). This Friday, October 6th, The Hold Steady are playing with Sean Na Na (sometimes known as Har Mar Superstar). The Hold Steady's *Separation Sunday* is one of the best albums to come out in years, so make the five minute trip.

Death and possible hope for independent cinema

By JOHN HUNTER DUESING
A&E Editor

It's hard to find a real independent movie at the theaters these days. When someone tells me they saw a cool "indie flick" at the movies over the weekend, and it turns out to be something starring Zach Braff or Johnny Depp (I mean no disrespect), I can't help but wonder if the word "indie" has lost its meaning. Much like what record labels have done with indie rock, Hollywood has discovered the appeal of independent cinema, and has figured out a way to market their films towards this crowd of moviegoers.

This problem goes back to the early nineties, when Robert Redford helped nurture the fledgling Sundance Film Festival into a major attraction for films made outside of the Hollywood system to find a place in the spotlight. The festival was intended to be an off-Hollywood attraction; however, after various filmmakers found mainstream success with their low-budget pictures, Hollywood took notice. Films like Kevin Smith's *Clerks* and Steven Soderbergh's *sex, lies and videotape* were produced with small budgets and were extremely profitable. The fact that critics loved them didn't hurt either. Soon

studios like Miramax were picking up these independent films, polishing them to make them more commercially viable, and putting them out on the mainstream market. This wasn't a bad thing, since it helped make these films more readily available to the public. However, Hollywood eventually decided that they didn't need to wait for the next big indie sensation at Sundance to come along - they could just make these small movies themselves.

The independent film has essentially become another staple of Hollywood cinema, almost to the point where it has become a formula. The film makers get a quirky script by someone like Charlie Kaufman, put a couple of big-name actors in there, give it a small budget (read: ten million dollars), and put a wacky music video director behind the camera. They can easily turn profits (a big-budget blockbuster has a harder time doing this), which is why every studio has its own "independent" wing. Universal has Focus Features, Warner Bros. has Warner Independent, and Fox has Fox Searchlight. I'm not saying these movies are inherently bad, because a lot of them are well-directed, well-acted, well-written pieces. I just feel that they take attention away from the real independent film-

makers, who are doing new and innovative things outside of the system. The last real independent film that didn't have any studio money flowing through its veins was Shane Carruth's *Primer*, which came out in 2004. I'm sure more have come out since, but they're fewer and further between.

I still hold out hope for off-Hollywood cinema, mainly because of the revolution of digital video. Here at Rhodes College, using the tools available to all students in the media lab, one can shoot and edit a film, be it a short or a grand feature, and not spend a penny on it. Using cameras and editing equipment here at school for free, someone could create the next big thing in American cinema. A few decades ago, Francis Ford Coppola commented that he hoped that one day a fat little girl would make a beautiful little movie with her father's video camera, becoming the next Mozart - professionalism behind filmmaking would be torn down forever. The age Coppola spoke of is at hand, and a new movement will rise out of the digital revolution as a result, which, I'm hoping, will breathe new life into off-Hollywood cinema.

Jackass rules, intelligence drools

By BROOKE SHIPPEE

Just when you thought it was safe to return to the movies, Johnny Knoxville and his modern-day Stooze crew ambush the box office with their latest foray into abominable exhibitionism. Lacking total regard for common sense whatsoever, the boys that brought you *Jackass: The Movie* unleash a whole new slew of hilarious torment in *Jackass Number Two*. While the gags differ in some part, the movie is simple in form and execution. The film is a spectacle of the grossest and dirtiest dares on the planet. These boys are utterly addicted to masochism, and it is this addiction that makes the film all the more hilarious.

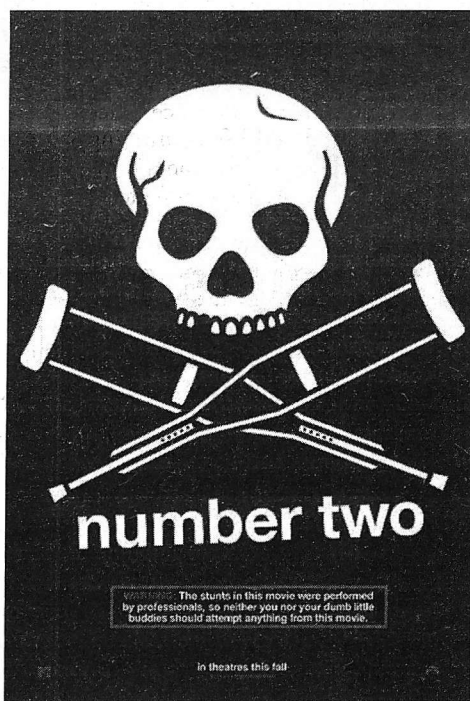
Much like its earlier counterpart, the film mimics the boys' style - the ruder and cruder, the better. The ringleader of the movie, Johnny Knoxville, gathers his hodgepodge gang of misfits and treks off around the country, committing one disastrous deed after another. Whether they're playing dodge ball with heavy medicine balls in complete darkness, planting leeches on a crony's eye, or attempting to guzzle horse semen, there is little that these jackasses won't do.

It is hardly surprising that animals are key players in this installment, with bulls and snakes making multiple appearances. In a more memorable segment, Knoxville's pack torments a fellow player with a king cobra, harassing him until he is racked with sobs. When I wasn't covering my eyes or gagging in disbelief, I was trying to hold back tears from being doubled over in hysterics. The feat that amazes me the most is when Johnny Knoxville and two of his buddies decide to wrestle a ten-foot boa constrictor in a children's wading pool during 'Anaconda Ball Pit'. As blood runs down his arms in little red rivers, Knoxville struggles to free the snake's fangs from his bicep while the crew looks on, laughing furiously.

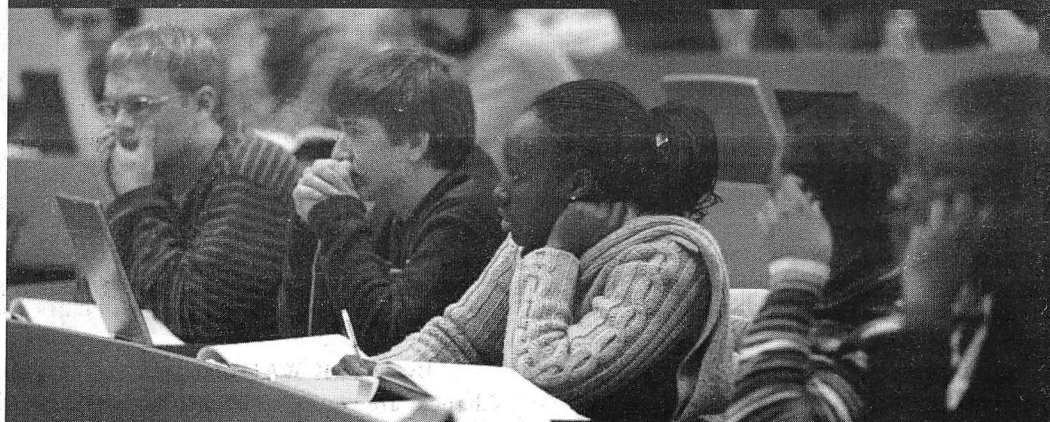
Celebrities can't help but be bitten by the Jackass bug as well; there are special appearances by Luke Wilson, Jay Chandrasekhar, John Waters, and even the Three 6 Mafia, whom the Jackass posse invites to look on as Steve-O performs 'Rake Jump', a maneuver that requires him to face-plant himself directly onto the handle of a rake. Tony Hawk shows up during a segment that involves wielding and dodging punching bags while on a skateboard, and Jay Chandrasekhar fills the role of a taxi cab driver during a surprise attack on one of the boys' comrades. While those performances hardly lack laughs, these guest stars have nothing on a suave stunt near the end of the movie where Knoxville feels the need to punch a bear trap with the entire gang looking on.

The film packs a mighty, nauseating punch that leaves the audience laughing all the way home.

It may not be this year's Oscar winner for best picture, but *Jackass Number Two* is quickly shaping up to be one of the season's funniest rides yet.



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Overtime win for Lynx against Wash U

By CARRIE TENNANT

The Rhodes Football team defeated Washington University on Saturday, September 30th, bringing their current 2006 record to 3-1. The Lynx have a history of close games against the Bears, but this is their first victory over Washington in three years. As anticipated, it was a defensive struggle for both teams, but in the end the Lynx triumphed. Top performers for the Rhodes defense include: junior defensive back Jake McCart with 14 total tackles, senior linebacker Will Bartholomew with 12, and sophomore linebacker Desmond Hendricks, who contributed two of four quarterback sacks.

The game remained 0-0 until the fourth quarter, when Washington kicker Mike Elliot delivered a 31-yard field goal with 2:07 left on the clock. A 20-yard pass from Rhodes quarterback Mark Oliver '08 to wide-receiver Ronald Bozant '07 and a pass interference penalty left the Lynx, still scoreless, on the 2-yard line. When Oliver threw an incomplete pass, the pressure fell on junior kicker Chris Catalanotto. Catalanotto, who is new to the Lynx roster this year, came out

big with a 20-yard field goal to tie the game with 3 seconds remaining, and a 34-yard field goal to win it in overtime.

Although Catalanotto is new to Rhodes football, he is not new to Rhodes athletics. He has been a pitcher for the Lynx baseball team since 2005. When asked about his expectations for newcomer Catalanotto, Coach White explained that he knew he was talented from the beginning. He also commented that because of the nature of the position, kickers often go unnoticed until the entire game rests on their shoulders, as was the case this past Saturday with Catalanotto. The field goal that tied the game for the Lynx was crucial, and Coach White says that Chris "performed flawlessly under the pressure."

Saturday's victory marked a turning point for Rhodes football. They have won more games this season (3-1) thus far than they did throughout the 2005 season (2-8). Coach Joe White explains that the team's 2005 record is not indicative of their level of play. They had a lot of close losses last year, and those losses allowed the players to ap-



Photo courtesy Cathy Catalanotto

Chris Catalanotto ('08) attempts a field goal. His two field goals proved the difference in Saturday's victory.

preciate what an impact a single play could make on the outcome of a game. Coach White says this year the team is "playing with a lot more confidence - last season made [the team] that much hungrier." He also notes that the success of the 2005 season was hin-

dered by frequent injuries, but, as their record shows, this year promises to be a very competitive one for the Lynx as many healthy and experienced players return to the field.

Moving the Ball: Rhodes Soccer

By STEPHANIE CASSEL

Despite losing two close games this past Sunday against DePauw University, Rhodes Soccer has continued this season with optimism. The men's team, led by head coach Andy Marcinko and assistant coach Mike Allen, lost 5-2, with two goals scored by junior midfielder Mike Hadler and freshman forward Logan Eberly. Their season record now stands at 1-6-3, with a SCAC (Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference) record of 0-3-1. Marcinko has been a soccer coach for 15 years, with a record of 187-77-13, ranking him at the top tier of the active coaches list for Division III Men's Soccer.

"Like anything in life, you have to put in the work to get the rewards," said Marcinko. "Success doesn't come just because you want it to; it comes because you have worked hard to make it happen. If we continue to work hard and work hard together, the results will come."

The men are gaining valuable experience for next year through the difficult opponents they face this season, including 8 of the top ten men's teams. The team has done well defensively with 4 shutouts and 3 (0-0) ties; however, they seem to be struggling to score goals.

"Many times so far this season we have seen glimpses of what we're capable of doing," said Marcinko. "We have to put those pieces together for a full 90 minutes on game day."

The men's team will match up next against Crichton College on October 9th.

Rhodes women's soccer, led by head coach Bobby Lessentine and assistant coaches Lily Bewley and Mike Allen, also suffered a defeat against DePauw, losing 3-2. After scoring a goal in the beginning of the game, DePauw tied the game right before the end of the first half. Coming into the second half, the Lynx scored again, only to take a double hit from DePauw to finish the game. After a

hard-fought match, the Women's Lynx record now stands at 6-3-1, with a SCAC record of 0-3-1. Lessentine, a Rhodes graduate, played soccer for four years under men's coach Marcinko, winning multiple titles and leading the Lynx to its first post-NCAA win in 1997. This year's captains are Katy Buckner, a senior from Memphis, and Caroline Voelkel, a junior from Covington, Louisiana; both play midfield. Lynx women will travel next to Atlanta to battle Emory University on October 8th.

Overall, both teams are hoping and striving for continued successes throughout the season. With only 8 games left for the men and 9 for the women, Rhodes Soccer is pushing forward and needs more fan support. Help lead us to victory - come cheer on your 2006 Lynx Cats! A full schedule of remaining games can be found on the Rhodes Website under Athletics.

Cross Country Wins

By PETER ZANCA

This past Saturday the Rhodes men's and women's cross country teams hosted the Rhodes Invitational in Plough Park at Shelby Farms. From a field of eleven teams, the Rhodes women tied respectably for second. In the men's race, the Lynx dominated the field of nine teams by claiming first place.

Anna O'Brien of Northwest Missouri State was the individual winner of the women's race with a 19.07 5K time. Freshmen Whitney Ranson and Cybil Covic led the way for Rhodes as they finished eighth and ninth overall, respectively. Freshmen Chelsea Ouellette (eleventh), Katharine Scherer (fifteenth) and sophomore Emily Broocks (twenty-eighth) rounded out the top five for the Lynx. With the top three team scores separated by only four points, the race was highly competitive. Division II Southern Arkansas University won the team race with 66 points, while Rhodes tied with Division II Northwest Missouri State with 70 points.

In the men's race, Christian Brothers University's Stephen Hill took home the individual honors with a 26.27 8K run. Rhodes junior Alex Mahoney was the individual runner-up turning in an impressive 26.40 time on a course with endless hills and valleys. Following Mahoney was a very strong pack of Rhodes runners. Sophomore Mark Handelman was the front man for the pack and finished in fifth place with a season best time of 27.25, despite the difficulty of the course. Senior Will Sheftall, junior David Huntzinger, and senior Scott Barrows rounded out the pack finishing ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth, respectively. Running together for a good portion of the race, these four runners secured the dominant victory for the Lynx. Rhodes' final score of 35 placed them ahead of the next team, Central Arkansas, by 39 points.

With less than a month until the SCAC championships, both teams will continue to train hard with high expectations for the post-season.

"I'm going to guard my optimism and say that it will be a challenge to beat Centre and DePauw," said Mahoney. "But there are no limits to my faith in what a healthy and confident Rhodes squad can do at SCACs."

In order to qualify for the Division III National Championships in Ohio, the Lynx will have to win their Regional Championship in Atlanta on November 11th or earn an at-large bid. Mahoney is confident in the team's ability to reach Nationals and their place there.

"If Rhodes qualifies for Nationals or even wins Regionals, it will not be a fluke," said Mahoney.

Both teams will conclude their regular seasons in Wisconsin at the Jim Drews Invitational on October 14th. The postseason begins October 28th at the SCAC Championships in Danville, KY. The teams will then attempt to qualify for Nationals at the Division III South/Southeast Regional Championships in Atlanta.

Varsity Athletic Scoreboard

Field Hockey
9/29 @ Sewanee
W 4-3

9/30 vs. Transylvania
W 4-1

(7-3 Overall, 4-1 SCAC)

Volleyball
9/30 v. UT Dallas
W 30-20, 30-21, 30-19
W 31-29, 30-13, 30-19

(13-8 Overall, 4-0 SCAC)

Football
9/30 v. Washington Univ.
W 6-3 OT

(3-1 Overall, 0-1 SCAC)