

THE SOU'WESTER

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The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Swim team competes at SCAC Championship
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McCoy Theater renovation to open next fall

By ALICIA BUXTON

With the aid of the McCoy Foundation, the McCoy Theater is currently being doubled in size for the 2006-2007 academic year.

In 1981, the Board of Trustees approved the reconstruction of the former Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house into the McCoy Theater. The theater was named for Harry B. McCoy, the man who established the McCoy Foundation, which funded the creation of the theater. The space is now experiencing another transformation 25 years later.

The original 60-foot by 60-foot black box theater will now be accompanied by a second black box theater, along with office space for the Theater professors.

"The McCoy theatre was in desperate need of a costume room, office space, loading and construction space, and other support space," says Dr. Timothy Sharp, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Fine Arts.

"The funds provided by the McCoy Foundation made possible much more: the theatre was able to double its current size by adding a second performance space to the existing structure. It will now be possible to have one set in place while staging another production."

The additions will also include a new classroom, which will help prevent spatial

conflict while sets are being built for an upcoming play. Dylan Hunter ('08) has plenty of experience with this conflict as a member of the work study program involved in set construction.

"It's extremely hard," he says, "it takes a lot of time and is a tedious process. This will give us more space to work in; right now, everything is cluttered."

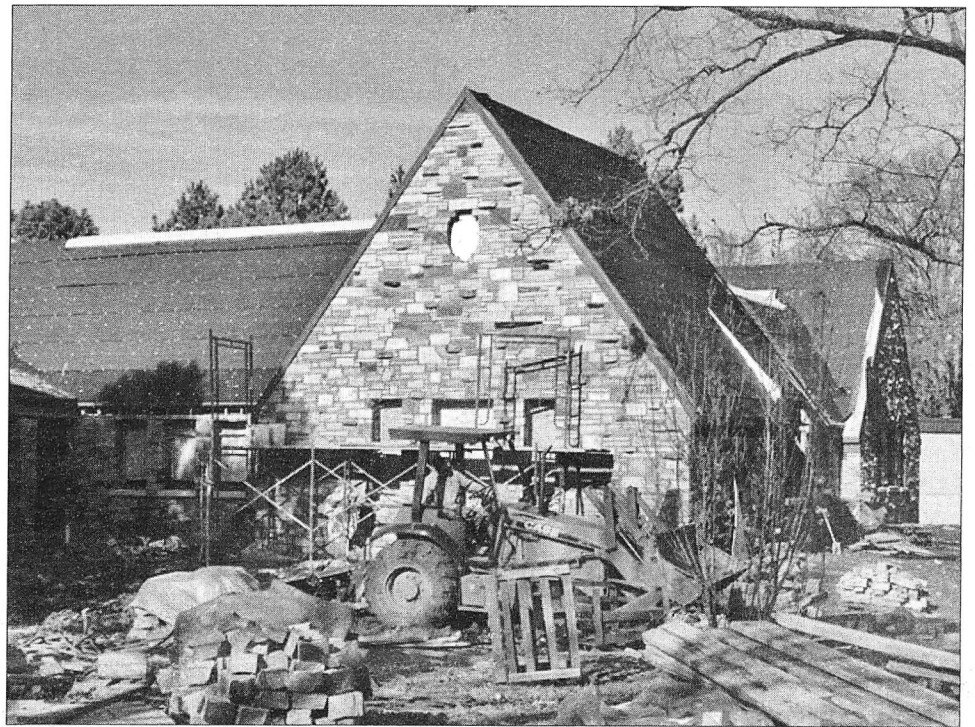
Jason Hansen ('08), a Theater Major who recently directed the student production of *Extremities*, is also excited about the new developments.

"This state-of-the-art new space will allow classrooms facilities and professors to all be in one building as opposed to being scattered across campus. This is the centralization of the Theater Department," said Hansen.

There will be a new costume shop and costume storage space so that Professor David Jilg, who heads up costume design for productions in the McCoy Theater, and other costumers will not have to trek back and forth across campus.

"It's cool that everything will be in the same building, the professors won't have to be buried in the bowels of Kennedy," said Hunter.

Until now, the McCoy Theater has been insufficient to house the entire Theater Department. Several professors currently occupy office space in the basement



KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

McCoy Theater expansion project approaches final stages of construction.

of Kennedy, which primarily houses the Chemistry Department.

Jilg was running his costume shop in a small shed behind the theater until this

year, when he moved into the Kennedy basement next to his office.

Theater, continued on Page 5

Rhodes joins conference to discuss diversity

By JONATHAN WIGAND
News Editor

Student representatives of Rhodes College will be joining student representatives from other liberal arts colleges in the south at Morehouse College, March 24 - 26 to discuss diversity at their respective schools.

The conference at Morehouse will be the first of three annual conferences to take place between five schools: Dillard University, Huston-Tillotson University, Morehouse College, Rhodes College, and Southwestern University. The conferences are to be an integral part of a project entitled "Partnership for Engaged Diversity."

The project is being funded by a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation. The grant proposal was written by President Jake B. Schrum of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

The grant was written with the idea to fund a project that would facilitate some kind of dialogue between students at three historically black and two predominately white institutions. These institutions were selected specifically for their southern locations; they are each governed by the Associated Colleges of the South.

"The project will hopefully help us to find or create some kind of an exchange between students and maybe the faculty and staff at each school," said Dean Stackman, who is acting as the Rhodes liaison for this project.

While the choice of the schools participating was based on racial demographics, the project does not seek to

limit itself to only racial diversity.

"Diversity is not just about race; it includes gender, religion, sexuality, and economic status as well," said Stackman.

Between now and March, each school participating in this endeavor will elect three student representatives to send to the annual conferences. The students will have to be rising sophomores or juniors who can commit to participating for the next three years. The conferences will be held at a different school each spring for the next three years, starting in March of this year.

At the conference in March, the representatives will meet for three days to discuss diversity at each of their schools.

Because this is the first year for this conference to take place and because the project is a new concept to everyone involved, no one is exactly sure yet what the overall goal or result of the conference will be. Students may discuss the climates at their schools regarding diversity - the attitudes and beliefs of their peers about tolerance or prejudice.

Or the students might discuss how learning is affected by diversity - how or whether having a diverse student body creates an effective learning environment. But an exact plan of action or topic of discussion has not yet been decided upon.

"The aim is to expand students' understanding of human interaction and diversity and to sharpen their abili-

ties to live in a diverse world," said Stackman.

With this aim in mind, the student representatives will work Friday, March 24, and the following Saturday to design some type of project that each group can work on individually at the home institutions.

What the students come up with at the conference might not be a project per se; it might simply be a list of initiatives or goals that each student will try to accomplish. What the attendees decide to do between now and next year will determine what the aim of the next conference will be.

Stackman and Dean Warmack are currently interviewing students for the three student representative positions.

Stackman began searching for applicants at the end of January and says that thirteen students at Rhodes have shown interest in participating in the program. The interviewing process should be completed by the end of this week, according to Stackman.

Stackman admits that the future of this project is still uncertain, but he is hopeful that it will better the lives of students at Rhodes and at other institutions by creating a "rich dialogue" between them.

"I am hoping that something positive will come of this, but I don't know what that will be," said Stackman.

Stackman and his counterparts at the other schools will have to judge the outcome of this project before deciding how and if to move on in three years.

The Resident Assistant debate continues

By Brent Owens

Let me say, I understand the people that are unenthusiastic towards the R.A. position. Most have probably broken school policy, or else feel weird having a "spy" on the hall. Naturally, some people will always have their defenses up. This is only my first year as an R.A., and I clearly remember instances in years prior when I just knew that the R.A. was going to hinder my fun. However, after having three great R.A.'s, I decided I wanted to try it. I saw past the R.A.'s, policy vs. friendship quagmire and realized that these people are leaders and great community builders.

I find it discouraging when people only see R.A.'s as a school police force. Yes, policy enforcement is an important part of our job, but I would argue that it is in no way our purpose on campus. Having gone through training, I fully understand the aspects of the job. We are there to assist rather than to accost. By providing programming for residents and encouraging them to interact with each other, the RA functions as an event planner; we also provide a link between the students and the administration; we are given copious amounts of information in order to help our residents in any situation that's feasible, and are also problem solvers, frequently called upon to deal with conflicts between roommates.

This ability to mediate successfully is one that is extremely important since conflict in the room can directly hinder the ability, both academically and socially, of all the people involved. Moreover, this is not just a problem for first-year students; as an R.A. in East Village I have used the tools of mediation several times. By helping the people involved come to a decision over what is best for the room/apartment, everyone gains via a better living experience.

Most importantly, however, I feel that the

main purpose of an R.A. is to be the go-to-guy. The goal is for whenever the residents feel the need; there will be someone there for them, ready to assist in any possible way.

I understand concerns from those who, having broken policy, would rather have the issue addressed by their own R.A. instead of someone who perhaps lives in a different building. But frankly, R.A.'s have lives and so are not always available to deal with situations. I cannot imagine having to leave a movie, Grizzlies game, or a party just to

Rhodes wanted to be an institution that seeks to get the students in trouble, they could easily have the Memphis Police force come through campus much more than it currently does and perhaps conduct random searches of people's rooms; something that R.A.'s don't do by the way. Several schools such as University of Memphis, Loyola University of New Orleans or Tulane University have the city police force as their Campus Safety. Another option would be to have Hall directors in each hall whose only job would be to run around

"The goal is for whenever the residents feel the need; there will be someone there for them; ready to assist in any possible way."

deal with something wrong that one of my residents had done that night. We all have specific nights that we are required to work. The R.A. on duty is not going to say or do anything different than what I personally would have done given the situation. We all went through the same training.

The ResLife office has no problem with anyone having a good time in the privacy of their room as long as you do it safely and within the rules. If you do something that would equate to you as digging your own grave such as underage drinking, doing drugs, or throwing an excessively loud party after quiet hours, then there is nothing I can do to help. Let me also remind you that two out of these three, if you venture outside of these gates, are misdemeanors or felonies which carry a much heavier consequence than the disciplinary action that Rhodes would give you. Imagine if

giving fines. Instead, Rhodes doesn't attempt to destroy the students with policy and has the R.A.'s intermingle with the students on the hall to provide the best living arrangement possible.

Policy enforcement is something about our job that is not going to ever change. It is the choice of the resident if they want to allow their R.A. to have a more interactive role in their lives on campus, beyond enforcement of policy. For those out there reading this article who choose to think of Resident life and R.A.'s more as an Annoyance than an Assistance, you can always move off campus your junior and senior year. Perhaps next time that friendly R.A. knock won't be so friendly when it is the MPD and you realize that some of the things that will get you a violation on campus could get you jail time off campus.

A Letter to the Editor

I have never felt so betrayed in my life.

After reading the article concerning the curriculum change this Thursday, I was livid. Two things in this article angered me in particular.

First, the entire article reeked of wrong ideas. I do not know whether there is blame to go to the writer or to the source but, someone is dead wrong. Throughout this article the writer refers to the curriculum change to a means to an end. In several instances the writer explained that the new curriculum will make it harder for students to achieve a double-major due to increased requirements to graduate and a new distribution system. The writer then further justified this in explicating that double-majors are a thing of the past. "Llewellyn believes that it is not necessarily beneficial for a student to earn more than one degree at Rhodes since they would both be Bachelor of Arts degrees and look the same to most prospective employers." SO WHAT! This school does not exist to put us into jobs, and if the administration thinks for a minute that this is their purpose, I recommend they come to a new conclusion...quickly; because education is an end in of itself.

As far as I am concerned, Rhodes College exists to educate me about the various sundry of topics that may be presented to me throughout the rest of my adult life. I came here because it is considered a prestigious educational institution, not a connection for employment when I graduate. If the administration thinks that I shouldn't be able to learn about any topic that interests me, then it has failed as an educational apparatus. Instead of limiting us to what and how much we learn here, the administration should open up more opportunities to us by allowing more classes available regardless of how hard they are or how it affects how someone will become employed.

In addition, the Rhodes experience costs just under forty-grand a year. That's almost four times what I would be spending at a

state school in my home state. At this price, we should be able to study whatever we want whenever we want. Brown University, perhaps one of the best institutions in the country, does not oblige its students to take classes that are uninteresting to them; instead, it prides itself on admitting students that are clearly well-rounded to begin with. That's something Rhodes can look to do in the future if it wants to mimic the practices of high institutions.

Second, the article references that the school is seeking this curriculum change because other liberal arts schools have this system. Nobody has ever been exemplary because they adhere to the norm. Furthermore, if the school wants to seem more prestigious, it needs to be less generous in the admissions realm. This is not just a criticism I have of Rhodes but of all institutions of higher learning. Recommendation number one: stop recruiting "student-athletes" and make the school more palatable to "athletic-students" perhaps. If the administration wants to seem more prestigious, then it needs to cut the programs that don't stress equality of scholastic achievement.

Moreover, where was RSG during this idea phase? Were students even notified of this? And if so, RSG has failed in communicating to the people it represents and asking for their opinions. If Rhodes College truly supports the idea of a student government, they need to allow for it to make decisions on part of those who they represent. It is not a paper tiger as some may like it to be, it is a policy making body, one that should be consulted when the lives of students are to be changed the most drastically.

In conclusion, I find one positive concept for the future in this article: "the college should be pursuing more ambitious, determined students anyway." Why do I agree with this? because a year ago, a student told me that his mother had once burned water.

- Robert Beatty

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.

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ASSOCIATED
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The Past, Present and Future of Black History Month

By Dwain Pruitt

Assistant Professor of History

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson designated the second week of February as Negro History Week, choosing that week to commemorate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Woodson could create what would become Black History Month because he invented the professional study of African-American history.

Woodson was born in West Virginia in 1875 and spent his poverty-stricken youth mining coal. He began high school in 1895 at age 20 and completed his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1912, becoming only the second African American to do so. Three years later, he published his first book, *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861*, and established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and *The Journal of Negro History* (now published as *The Journal of African-American History*). As August Meier and Elliott Rudwick argue in *Black History and the Historical Profession, 1915-1980*, Woodson then became an "entrepreneur" who sold black history to black people and to the professional historical establishment.

Woodson embraced the "New Negro" ethic of the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance is a catch-all term for literary, musical and political movements aimed

at creating what Alain Locke popularized as "The New Negro" in his 1925 collection of the same name. "The New Negro" was proud of his racial heritage, the cultural attainments of African and African-American peoples and dedicated to racial uplift. Woodson wanted African Americans to learn their history

"While there has been meaningful progress, Black History Month remains necessary. There is still need for historical instruction about black people."

well enough to refute those who agreed with Hegel's assertion that non-white peoples in general and blacks in particular were "ahistorical" beings who had contributed nothing to the world. With proper historical knowledge, "The New Negroes" would understand Africa's gifts to them. They would be inspired to greater heights and would "sing the story to the outside world as to convince them of the value of our history" so that African Americans would "be recognized as men."

This was a bold movement for its day. The 1920s were a time of significant racial unrest. The summer of 1919 is known as Red Summer. Between June and August, there

were more than 20 race riots throughout the United States, perhaps most famously in Chicago. The Ku Klux Klan, which had been effectively destroyed in the 1870s, was resurrected after World War I, leading to a decade of violence. Meanwhile, American popular culture continued to portray African Ameri-

cans as slow-witted plantation slaves, drawing from images first popularized on the 1820s minstrel stage. The advent of film and radio only exacerbated the problem. 1915's "The Birth of a Nation," D.W. Griffith's adaptation of Thomas Dixon's "historical romance of the Ku Klux Klan," established a cinematic image of African Americans and American history that would persist into the 1940s. Even "sympathetic" looks at African-American culture like 1929's "Hearts in Dixie" and "Hallelujah!" were steeped in racial condescension. 1920s radio popularized "Amos N' Andy," a comedy about black ne'er-do-wells and comen created by two white comedians. At its

height, "Amos N' Andy" was so popular that baseball games would be stopped in progress and the show piped into the stadium to prevent audiences from staying home when the show aired. 1920s jazz culture was largely associated with African Americans, but it was also associated with sex, drugs, vice and immorality. In short, nothing about American politics or culture said that the country was ready for anyone to say that black people had anything to offer other than laughter or a raucous Saturday night that you would have to repent of on Sunday morning.

Few people would argue that Negro History Week did not serve a real psychic need in the 1920s. If one asks if Black History Month is still needed in 2006, however, there might be some debate. Many critics have asserted that it is a 28-day license to blame white people for everything wrong in black America. After all, has there not been real, significant change in American life and politics?

While there has been meaningful progress, Black History Month remains necessary. There is still need for historical instruction about black people. Black History Month needs to highlight African-American accomplishments in an age when the great leaders of the Civil Rights movement are dying and

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Where to now, Saint Jude?

By Michael J. LaRosa

Associate Professor of History

About three weeks ago, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton - speculating before an audience in Harlem - said that President George W. Bush might go down as the worst president in US History.

Mrs. Clinton was wrong: President Bush is the worst president in US history, and we've elected a lot of losers (Harding, Coolidge, Hoover) and at least one who was criminally insane (Nixon) who we elected...twice. Nixon's faults (copious criminal behavior, pathetic paranoia, daily drinking and prolonging a Vietnam War for political purposes) seem moderate when compared to recent policy foisted over a frightened and forgetful American public.

Casey Conley on this page a couple of weeks ago beautifully articulated how the current unicameral Republican Abramhoff scandal has tarnished the reputation of Congress and our elected officials in general. Since the Republicans hold majority power in all branches of government (including, lamentably, the Supreme Court which isn't supposed to be political, but it is (I'll cite one case: the 2000, 5 to 4 decision Bush v Gore)) our national outrage should be directed their way. And it will be, I suspect, in November.

The passage of President Bush's 2006 budget last week (216 to 214) was shock-

ing and represents our country's worst impulses: contained in the budget are \$39 billion in program cuts that will affect, disproportionately, the poor and college students. \$12.7 billion is being cut out of the student financial aid program, and \$11.2 billion in Medicaid and Medicare over a five year period that will negatively affect 13 million poor people, including 1.76 million kids. So, while the administration cuts social programs for the poor and tuition loan programs for college students, it returns, this year, \$70 billion in tax savings to the American public: 54 percent of these cuts go to individuals earning 1 million dollars or more (0.2 percent of the US public). We're cutting programs for the poor, providing massive tax cuts to the super rich and—don't forget—financing a pair of wars! Afghanistan (the forgotten war) and Iraq will—by the end of this year—cost US taxpayers about \$420 billion. And last week, officials from the Government Accounting Office announced that they can't find (can't find!) 8.2 billion of those dollars earmarked for Iraq! It's no longer cynicism folks: This is madness.

And let us not forget that 2265 Americans (as of February 11, 2006) have been killed in Iraq since March, 2003. We

Politics, continued on Page 5

Revisions unwarranted

By CASEY CONLEY

Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, Rhodes Administration officials announced a change in policy regarding how and under what conditions fraternities could hold social events. Conceived in response to a recent, but uncharacteristic spike in property-damage and other unruly behavior, these guidelines have been put in place with the ultimate goal of curbing these violations while still enabling the Greeks to have fun on campus.

Central to the new policy is the abolition of the "spontaneous gathering." These impromptu events were by far the most common type of Greek event, in which, rather than being arranged in advance through campus safety, parties could be registered on the fly. Under the new regulations, all events with either twenty or more people, or events with any alcohol consumption whatsoever must be registered with campus safety and our Greek Life administrator three days prior. Implicit in the registration of one's fraternity house is a substantial fee to cover the cost of Campus safety monitors. Needless to say, this is a drastic change to the Greek system and to a major social outlet that shapes the Rhodes community.

It is my opinion that the Administration erred in judgment by implementing such a reactionary policy. Foremost in my concern for this new program was

the failure to consult students for advice while revising the policy. Both IFC and PAN function as oversight bodies to the Greek system, and are counted on by the Houses as liaisons to the Administration. Why, then, did relevant administrators not consult them before radical revisions were made to the rules regarding Greek social events—something within IFC and PAN's immediate purview?

"The new policy... has unintentionally shifted the social scene off-campus or into the dorms."

Aside from intense unrest among the student body, there are also potentially dangerous consequences resulting from these sweeping new rules. The most obvious is that off-campus events will likely replace the "spontaneous gathering" as a way of maintaining the status quo. An unfortunate, but almost certain byproduct is more drunk driving to and from campus. Rhodes has also invited the problem of

Revisions, continued on Page 5

WEEK IN REVIEW

International

Nepal - Nepal's royal government freed a former prime minister who had been jailed on graft charges by an anti-corruption commission. The commission was annulled this week by the Supreme Court. Sher Bahadur Deuba was released around midnight Tuesday morning from a jail in Kathmandu. King Gyanendra, who had created the Royal Commission for Corruption Control, said the commission would bring corrupt politicians and government bureaucrats to justice. The Supreme Court annulled the commission Monday, saying it was "against the norms and spirit of the Constitution."

Iran - Iran says talks with Russia this week have been postponed. The talks were scheduled so that the two countries could discuss proposals to process nuclear fuel for Iranian reactors on Russian soil. The proposal that Iran could use facilities in Russia to enrich bomb-grade uranium was offered by Moscow to ease international concerns. An Iranian government spokesperson said the proposal was only acceptable if it included enrichment facilities in Iran. Iran says it has the right to enrich low-grade uranium for use in nuclear power reactors under the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty.

France - France Telecom unveiled plans to continue with a restructuring that would include cutting 16,000 jobs in Europe and 1,000 abroad between 2006 and 2008, while it promised investors a 20% hike in their dividend this year. The French telecoms operator, which made 18.42 billion Euros (\$21.9 billion) last year before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization, said it expected sales to rise seven percent this year on a published basis and two percent on a like-for-like basis after cutting 8 to 10 percent of their staff.

National

Texas - Harry Whittington, the 78 year-old Texas attorney who Vice President Cheney shot accidentally shot this weekend during hunting trip, suffered a heart attack yesterday morning. Doctors said it was caused by a tiny piece of birdshot lodged in Whittington's heart. Both the vice president and White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan knew of Whittington's health before the 12:30 p.m. press conference, but neither of them said anything about it. "I think we went through it pretty thoroughly yesterday. If you have further questions relating to this matter, you should direct them to the vice president's office," McClellan told reporters.

Colorado - A dog breeder in Denver has threatened to sue city animal control after 19 puppies were removed from his camper over the weekend. Dwight Young said he was transporting the puppies for sale and kept them in a pickup truck while he stayed in a motel. The puppies, a combination of Shih-Tzus, Shelties, and mixed breeds, were seized in response to allegations of neglect after a passerby noticed that the puppies did not have access to fresh water and were kept in filth. Animal control has the right to hold the puppies until a court hearing March 13.

Florida - A blind couple in Fort Lauderdale is suing the organizers of the King Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibit at the city's Museum of Art. Tom and Debbie Ryan say the exhibit fails to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The couple claim to have been unable to locate overhead descriptive signs and found the museum's restrooms, parking, and aisles to be inaccessible. The Ryans' claims have been supported by other disabled patrons.

Reports were collected by Matthew Marker from CNN.com, KSAT.com, TheDenverChannel.com, and Local10.com.

A white weekend on campus

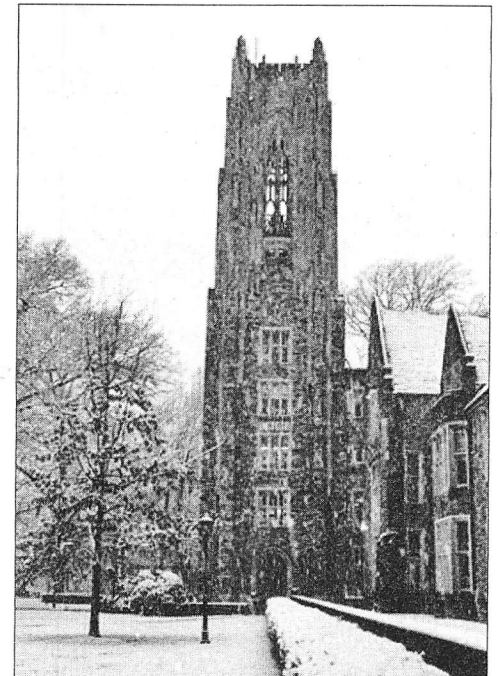


KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

On Friday Rhodes received about 3 inches of snow.



KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester



KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

Black History, continued from Page 3

most college students regardless of race define blackness through the new-age minstrels found in hip-hop culture and ghetto comedies. Much ignorance remains to be eradicated.

Black History Month should also encourage all Americans to ask difficult questions about this nation's character and direction. African-American history is the story of the disenfranchised and despised speaking truth to power and demanding that America live up to its creed. Black History Month, however, is often reduced to a never-ending loop of 30 seconds of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, neutering King's powerful challenges to America's character by sanitizing him with 1963's optimism. By reducing Black History Month to a simple "Dream" about people holding one another's hands, America still refuses to face the real problem: the fervent self-righteousness and cultural chauvinism that led slave owners to wonder hon-

estly why their property wanted to murder them in their sleep and that leads many modern Americans to wonder with equal honesty why minorities cannot just be happy. These persistent attitudes and assumptions inform both our domestic and foreign policies, making them all the more dangerous today.

Democracy demands that we challenge power so that it is wielded rightly.

In his eulogy for Rosa Parks, Reverend Al Sharpton encouraged

the audience to ask God for the courage to stand and march for freedom and justice. If they were not able to do that, he concluded, they should ask "to be like Sister Rosa and get a chair and just sit in the way." Ultimately, that is the real lesson of Black History Month: the powerless are never truly powerless and can change the world from a chair. If you want to change the world, learn how the sons and daughters of slaves did just that.

The Sou'wester would like to include additional information to an article published in Vol. XCII No. 13, which was entitled RSG to report on new curriculum changes. The article should have included the following information: "Both Search and Life plan to offer a variety of out of the classroom learning experiences that include study groups, topic discussions on subject material related to that week's material, and off-campus learning activities that could take students to museums or philanthropy projects. These experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment incorporate foundational themes of the new curriculum: service-based learned and learning that takes students into the community itself."

? The Puzzler ?

My grandson is about as many days as my son is weeks, and my grandson is as many months as I am in years. My grandson, my son and I together are 140 years. Can you tell me my age in years?

Send your answers to LAPSE@Rhodes.edu. Responses are due Monday at 1 p.m. In the case of multiple winners, a drawing will be held for the week's movie tickets. You can find answers to this week's puzzle in next week's issue of *The Sou'wester*.

Answer to last week's Puzzler:

REQUEST
BASELINE
VALLEYS
SURELY

The missing letter is S.

Be sure to congratulate Mia Colson, last week's winner!!



KRISTYN PARKER/The Sou'wester

The McCoy Theater renovation will provide space for classrooms, offices.

Theater, continued from Page 1

Although many students and professors are excited about the centralization of Rhodes theater, the addition to the theater will offer other opportunities.

"The new space will allow us to continue to draw in other students and perhaps garner more campus attention to the Fine Arts Department," said Hansen.

Dr. Sharp has equally high hopes for the reaction of the campus to the second black box.

"One of my greatest disappointments is always missed opportunities. So I am pleased that by doubling our performance space in the McCoy Theater we will be able to do more by having to delay less. I

hope we will now be able to contemplate new possibilities, and entertain ideas that we may have postponed with a more limited facility.

"We have already witnessed the amazing things that our theater faculty can do with the space and the resources we have, so I can only imagine that there are more exciting things ahead."

Construction crews broke ground on the new facility over the summer, and construction is scheduled to finish late this spring so that professors and student theater workers can move materials into the new space over the summer. The new facilities will be open for use when students return at the beginning of the fall semester.

Revisions, continued from Page 3

decreased supervision of student parties, as Campus Safety cannot and should not interfere in off-campus events. Drinking in dorms will also skyrocket with the loss of adequate locations for students to gather, creating problems for R.A.s and property damage issues in the dorms as well.

Under the old policy, Fraternities provided a safe, regulated, and local place for students to have fun during the week-ends. While the previous rule regarding

"spontaneous gatherings" may have had its flaws, the new policy has leapt over more effective and less extreme remedies, and in doing so has unintentionally shifted the social scene off-campus or into the dorms. The administrators' intentions were correct in seeking to reform and reshape the policy for on-campus events, but they have unfortunately created an environment with more potential for harm than good. In the future, a dialogue between students and administration would best facilitate effective policy changes.

Politics, continued from Page 3

learned, this past week from a top (and former, of course) CIA official that the administration completely ignored direct and dire warnings from the CIA about the real possibility of a prolonged, bloody insurgency war in Iraq. The administration "cherry-picked" the information they wanted to hear in the lead-up to the war and delivered only that information to the

American public. The American media shamelessly collaborated, Congress kow-towed and the rest is...history. Maybe the administration did not directly "lie" to the American people, but they certainly were not honest with the American people.

And now we're being wire-tapped! I've decided it's time to...start praying. I've turned, of course, to St. Jude: the patron Saint of desperate (but not hopeless) causes.

CAMPUS SAFETY

2.05.06-2.12.06

2/05	8:13 a.m.	Wallet belonging to a student found and turned into Campus Safety. Owner identified; property returned.
	11:26 p.m.	Hit and run accident at the Bailey Lane gatehouse. Campus Safety vehicle involved.
2/06	3:59 p.m.	Student reported that he had struck a vehicle in the gym parking lot and was unable to locate the owner. Student's name and information left on windshield.
2/07		NOTHING UNUSUAL TO REPORT
2/08	11:09 a.m.	Fireworks confiscated from a student in Townsend Hall.
	11:30 p.m.	Student vehicle stalled at the North Parkway gate exit. Maintenance assisted; vehicle moved.
2/09	11:44 p.m.	Resident Assistant reported some lights out in Bellingrath. Problem caused by breaker switch; reset.
2/10	8:37 a.m.	ADRL contacted Campus Safety to report that a student was to be transported to Methodist Central with abdominal pain.
	10 p.m.	Alcohol approved event for Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Officer posted for this event.
2/11	12:05 a.m.	Vehicle reported driving in the grass on the south side of Mallory gym. Tracks found, some yard damage, vehicle not located.
	1:11 a.m.	Scheduled alcohol event at Pi Kappa Alpha house secured.
	3:15 a.m.	Noise complaint, Blount Hall. Students asked to turn music down; complied.
	10 p.m.	Busses staged in front of Bailey Lane gatehouse for formal party.
	11:52 p.m.	Student called Campus Safety complaining of noise in apartment below. Officers dispatched; students playing loud music. Asked to turn down, complied.
2/12	1:54 a.m.	Noise complaint in Stewart Hall. Officer dispatched. All quiet; source of noise not found.
	2:30 a.m.	Last bus dropped off remaining students from off-campus party.

New Stevie Wonder release promotes human rights

By ADAM TEER

Stevie Wonder started his career in the 1960's and has developed into a megastar. He's had a hit album every decade since and with the release of *A Time to Love* his future in the 21st century is looking very bright. This album was released back in October, but I decided to check it out because it earned five Grammy nominations including best R&B album. Even though Stevie only picked up one win at the Grammy's this year, Best Male Pop Vocal Performance for "From the Bottom of My Heart", *A Time to Love* is still a solid album that has earned much attention from critics.

Stevie Wonder undertakes a mission in *A Time to Love*. According to his website, he hoped that this album would be able to raise awareness of the state of human rights in the world; Stevie Wonder has been an activist for world justice for several years, as shown by his participation in benefit concerts such as Live8.

In this album, Stevie came up with the idea to show love in all of its forms: love of a friend, unreciprocated love, passionate love, the love of your soulmate, etc. Each song tries to take a different perspective on love, which makes for a very interesting album.

Also, Stevie pairs different perspectives on love with different styles of music, not dabbling too long in one genre. He moves around from the traditional smooth jazz sounds of "Moon Blue," to the tribal feel of "If Your Love Cannot Be Moved," to the

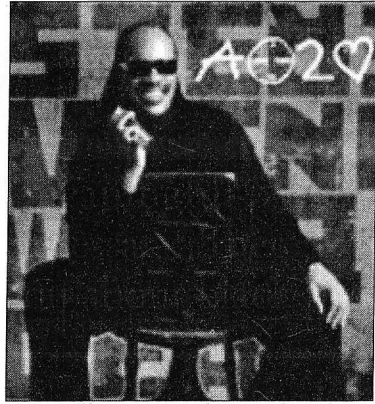


Photo courtesy of www.steviewonder.net

funk-infused "Tell Your Heart I Love You."

From the first song to the last, Stevie Wonder is still on the top of his game. His voice still sounds as youthful as it did when he recorded "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." His fingers can still pound out true music on the piano as well. Stevie played most of the instruments featured on the album, which is an amazing feat. *A Time to Love* has a couple of amazing guest spots as well. His daughter Aisha, who was the topic of the Stevie Wonder classic "Isn't She Lovely," joins him on two songs.

The well thought-out lyrics really add to the exceptional instrumental underbelly. All of this mixed together makes *A Time to Love* not just an interesting album but a great one. Stevie Wonder somehow manages to mix all of this and end up with an amazing feel-good album that you really can't help but be intrigued by. Even though some of the songs are depressing, whether it is the rhythm or the lyrics, you still feel uplifted

when the final track ends.

When listening to *A Time to Love*, it was hard to find a bad song. Some of them were just average but none were skip-worthy. There are several notables however. The album starts off with a bang with "If Your Love Cannot Be Moved," a song that was inspired by Dr. Dre, and includes a human beatbox, well orchestrated strings, and African tribal drums. This song grabs your attention right away.

The first single, "So What the Fuss," has Prince showing up to lay down some sweet riffs. Also in this song, Stevie Wonder spits out some lyrics fast enough to rival Busta Rhymes. My personal favorite on the album is "Tell Your Heart I Love You," a funky, bluesy, little ditty filled with Stevie's signature harmonica and Bonnie Raitt's sweet slide guitar.

The only real problem with *A Time to Love* is that each song is about five minutes long. They seem to drag and could have easily been cut down. The last song of the album is the nine minute title track, *A Time to Love*. The song is good but you lose interest halfway through it. Other than that, Stevie Wonder knocks it out of the park with *A Time to Love*.

This album is pretty much for anyone who wants a light-rockish feel that contains a wide variety of both slow and fast songs. If you do purchase *A Time to Love*, I will be surprised if you do not enjoy it. If you are a longtime Stevie Wonder fan, then you need to get this album. Overall, *A Time to Love* gets an A-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tongue of a Bird opens at the McCoy

Friday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m. The production features a five member, all-female cast. Tickets for Rhodes students are \$2. The show will run through February 26.

Beale Street Zydeco Festival

On February 18, Beale Street will play host to several zydeco bands. Zydeco is an accordion-based musical genre that blends elements of the blues and Cajun music. Several bars and venues will participate in the event, including The New Daisy.

Mo Rocca to speak at Rhodes

Tickets for Mo Rocca's lecture on March 7 will be available at the McCoy box office beginning February 20. Tickets are free for students and \$10 for the public.

Battle of the Bands

Applications are available outside the RAB office in the BCLC and are due March 10. Battle of the Bands will be held on March 24 at 7 p.m. and the winner will play at Rites of Spring.

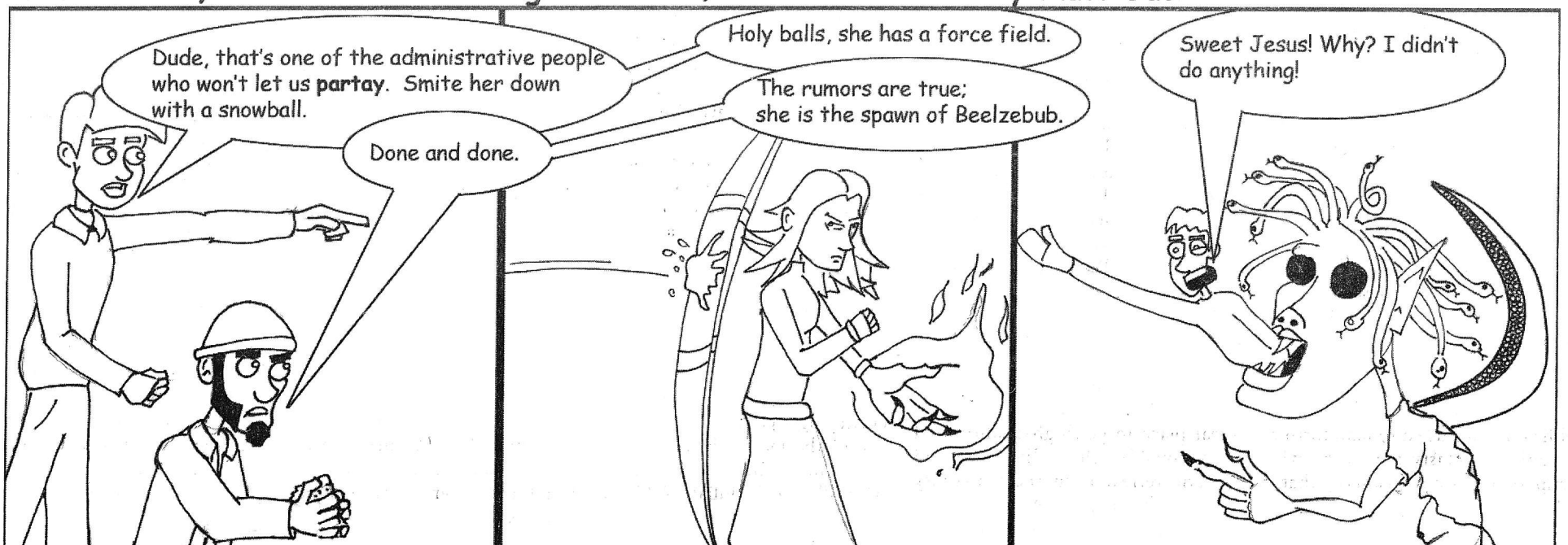
Want to publish your poetry, stories, or art?

Submit your work to
THE SOUTHWESTERN
REVIEW

Due Date: March 10
Any questions? Contact Ellen Whitten (whiee)
or Elizabeth Brandon (braeh)

P-A-R-T-Y, because we are college students.

By Matt Jack



Dinner & a Movie

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Page 7



KRISTYN PARKER/Sou'wester

Literally located on the "other side of the tracks," R.P. Tracks is an alternative to Rhodes' bars that offers good eats and unusual brews.

R.P. Tracks delivers to a diverse college crowd

By KATIE BONDS

I'm sorry, but anywhere that has drink specials when a train goes by is automatically going to grab people's attention. The tiny bar/restaurant called R.P. Tracks is known for being packed with college crowds at night, but their excellent food doesn't go unnoticed either.

From the outside R.P. Tracks looks like your average hole in the wall, but the inside is filled with character. It's been modernized with funky tables and booths, tires as fans, and a patio to get some air on those smoky nights. They also have a separate pool room and an internet juke box that has any song you could possibly think of (plus, it takes credit cards for those of us who never carry cash). The mood was casual and laid back while I was there one early evening last week with all types of people from students to some Rhodes professors.

But now on to the most important thing—the food. I think I would describe it as a cross between Southwestern and American. They have tons of different kinds of quesadillas, nachos with various dips, hamburgers, sandwiches, and things you wouldn't expect like sweet potato fries, all of which are delicious. The last time I was there I got the four-cheese quesadilla on a sun-dried tomato tortilla. Not only was it tasty, but it came with a chipotle-lime-sour cream dip that is really something to brag about. It's a distinctive change from your plain

old sour cream spread.

The person I was with got a hamburger, which he said was definitely Huey's quality, and a side of wild rice (don't ask me why), that he said was "not that good." But honestly, a hamburger and wild rice probably aren't going to go that well together anyway. They also have some vegetarian options like BBQ tofu that I've heard is the best in Memphis, and the desserts can be amazing as well. They have different dessert specials most nights, and while I was there they had Death by Chocolate Cake, and cheesecake. I have to admit that I wasn't that big of a fan of the Death by Chocolate, but a chocaholic may have a different opinion.

Oh, and I haven't even mentioned the beer. They have a unique selection on tap... not your usual Bud Light, Coors Light selection. They also have a fridge full of imports and domestics. And the drink specials I mentioned earlier – a dollar off shots when a train passes – not bad.

Although R.P. Tracks is a little bit further of a drive than the usual Rhodes hangouts (and I only mean about ten minutes compared to five), it is definitely worth it. It's a cool place to go hang out late at night (they're open 'til 3 a.m.), but it's also great place to get high-quality food at reasonable prices. This cozy and eclectic retreat is in the University of Memphis area on Walker Avenue right next to the Tiger Bookstore.



Photo courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Pierce Brosnan plays a new kind of hitman, the kind that is graying and has a bit of a paunch, in the 2005 Richard Shephard film *The Matador*.

The Matador found impotent before Independent film crowd

By ELYSE MEENA

Although independent films released by such studios as Miramax and Focus Features often combine off-beat characters, stylistic and beautiful cinematography, well written screenplays (Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*), *The Matador* does not deliver the same type of creative enjoyment independent films are known for.

Though littered with fabulously outrageous one-liners, mostly delivered by Pierce Brosnan, the screenplay takes too long to get to the film's climax, and by that point many in the audience are heaving tired sighs and leaning back in their seats with boredom.

The only drive of the film is to see what Pierce Brosnan will say next; his character is the most engaging of the film and a highly unusual role for him to play. Basing your film on the dialogue of one character, no matter how funny or deep is not a good sign, unless you have other strong characters to back them up.

Pierce Brosnan goes from portraying James Bond 007, one of the most infamous super agents in cinema, to playing off the wall assassin Julian Noble in *The Matador*. He is a man with no

friends or permanent connections to anyone outside of his agency. His life takes a sudden turn when he meets Danny Wright (Greg Kinnear) while he's on a job in Mexico City. Danny is a straight-laced businessman who is mousey and squeamish, especially when he discovers what Julian does for a living. Julian is attracted to Danny for his normalcy; he represents everything Julian is not.

Despite the non-engaging plot of the film, *The Matador*, as even some of the worst films do, has some redeeming qualities. The artistic cinematography of David Tattersall and director Richard Shephard make the film very beautiful. A few shots make you gasp at how well thought out they are and how powerful the message behind them is.

Also, as with many independent films, it's all about the acting. Pierce Brosnan's portrayal of an assassin going through a nervous breakdown keeps the slow-moving film rolling along. His dialogue is fabulously funny, and pairing him with Greg Kinnear was an awesome casting choice. *Tomorrow Never Dies* meets *Someone Like You*, and these two actors blend their completely opposite characters together to create a

self-serving friendship that is very believable.

But not even Brosnan and Kinnear's acting skills can save *The Matador*. Although Richard Shephard pulls off a great bit of directing with this film, all that seems to emerge are amazing camera angles and some awe-inspiring shots.

As for Shephard's screenplay, however, Brosnan's dialogue is the high point of the piece. While side-splitting lines scattered here and there in a script are good things to an extent, Shephard's reliance on Julian Noble to save the slow moving plot by making the audience laugh did not work. Without a well thought out and engaging script from beginning to end, the movie will not grab the attention of audience members, nor will it earn big box office numbers.

The Matador is playing at Malco Paradiso on Mendenhall, and at Muvico Peabody Place 22 downtown. The film is no longer playing at Studio on the Square. To me, it seems that when Studio on the Square, the local venue for Independent films, only runs a movie for a few weeks (as it did with this one), it is evidence enough of a film's failure.

Grade: C.

Swimmers shatter multiple school records at SCAC

By JOSH DAVIS

This weekend in Cleveland, Miss. Rhodes Swimming competed in its 6th annual SCAC Swimming Conference Championship. First started in 1998, the swimming program has been progressing at a steady pace. This year, under first year coach Jon Duncan, a Purdue graduate and Olympic Trials Swimming Qualifier, the team moved up a place from its last year finish and destroyed multiple women's and men's individual and relay records. On the Men's side, Eddie Han ('08) broke school records in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke, and Wyatt Franks ('07) broke the previous 100 m butterfly record. As a whole, the Men's team broke school records in the 200 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle, 800 m freestyle, and 200 medley relays. Not to be outdone, the women captured an alarming number of records as well, recording new times in the 200 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle, and 800 m freestyle relays. On an individual basis, Kim Green ('09) set new marks in the 1,000 m freestyle and 1,650 m freestyle while teammate Alison Lohse ('07) bettered the records in the 200 m and 400 m Individual Medley events.

"With the amount of hard work and dedication put in during the past six months the swimmers deserved to swim well. Five a.m. practices combined with afternoon workouts plus a rigor-

ous weightlifting routine were not easy for any of these student athletes. I was pleased with the individual swims of all the swimmers. I don't think there was a single swimmer who did not drop time and record personal best times," says Coach Duncan.

Besides recording personal best times, Josh Davis ('07), Michael Lallemand ('08), Rob Queener ('09), Alex Lonecker ('09), Chris Ernst ('07), and Eric Schumacher ('08) swam well enough in the morning to make it back to consolation Finals in the evening. Eddie Han was the conference champion in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke and, along with team captain Wyatt Franks, made evening Finals. Strong individual swims in the breaststroke events for Dusty Long ('09) and the freestyle events for Gavin Franks ('09) rounded out the men's conference performance. The women's team sent Louisa Peyronnin ('09), Caroline Reid ('09), and Mary Solomon ('07) to consolation finals. Kim Green was a conference champion in the 1,650 m freestyle and joined Jazmin Miller ('08), Majorie Smith ('09), Alison Lohse, and Gerri Diamond ('09) in the Finals of evening swimming.

Despite the rigorous training, the team has managed to keep academics as its first priority.

"Rhodes is a liberal arts college first and foremost. We have student athletes who can



Photo courtesy of Adam Cohen

Eddie Han ('08) celebrates his victory in the 100 and 200 backstroke.

maintain a good balance between academics and athletics. Sometimes we're up at 5 a.m. for practice, lift weights in the afternoon and then finish the day off with a second practice in the afternoon. I mean you're physically exhausted after a day like that and you've got to be dedi-

cated to studies in order to maintain a competitive edge not only athletically, but also academically," says Duncan.

The team concluded the first semester with a cumulative G.P.A. in the top 25 in the nation among Division III swimming and diving programs, quite a feat given that swimming ranks among the highest G.P.A.s in college athletics.

As the season concludes, the swimmers are already looking at next year.

"Yeah I'm going to be getting in when the bubble comes off and then training over the summer when I get home" says Michael Lallemand. Josh Davis echoed similar sentiments: "I am going to be working a lot on technique between now and next year and try to get in and swim at least two to three thousand meters a day this spring." Coach Duncan has an optimistic outlook for next year. "We've done great this season and there's no reason why we shouldn't improve next year. We're working hard on recruiting, already have some great kids coming, and there are no seniors on the team this year. Everyone will be coming back and I'll be expecting strong swims out of everyone." Rhodes swimming continues to gain momentum as the years progress and a conference championship is now a reality. The question is no longer if but when.

Lady Lynx keep eyes on the prize

By ED LANE

Ever heard the phrase "timing is everything?" Apparently the Rhodes women's basketball squad has. They continue to play their best as they head down the regular season stretch and towards the SCAC tournament. This past Saturday, the Lady Lynx posted another solid victory, knocking off Hendrix 83-70 on the road, and avenging an 82-78 home loss in January. Rachel Hettinger's ('06) experience proved a valuable commodity for Rhodes. The senior guard's solid, multi-faceted effort included scoring 17 points, securing 10 rebounds, and dishing out 5 assists. Ashley Farrell ('08) and Junior Crystal Jessee ('07) contributed 19 points apiece, and helped propel the Lynx to a 15-7 record overall and a 7-5 mark in SCAC competition.

Saturday's victory was Rhodes' fifth in their last six outings, and Coach Matt Dean realizes that his squad is starting to peak. "We're play-

ing our best basketball at the right time," noted Dean as he prepares for the final two regular season games. This weekend, the Lady Lynx host Oglethorpe (19-4, 9-3 SCAC) on Friday and then welcome Millsaps (8-19, 3-9 SCAC) to Mallory this Sunday. Wins in these two contests will sustain Rhodes' momentum as they head towards the post-season.

"If we continue to play at this level, we've got a chance to win 3 more games on our floor and go to the NCAA tournament," exclaimed Coach Dean.

If they hope to win their next five games and make the NCAA tournament, they must keep that "one game at a time" approach which has helped them catch fire at the right time. Currently, their primary focus is on avenging their overtime loss at Oglethorpe and will then shift to sweeping Millsaps. Their timing has been perfect so far, and the next two games will indicate if they can stay hot.

Men's Basketball against the wall

By ED LANE

As the Rhodes men's basketball team pulled out of the BCLC parking lot and headed towards Conway, Ark. to face Hendrix, they knew they needed to win all three of their remaining contests in order to secure a berth in the SCAC tournament.

The first step was taken on Saturday as Rhodes defeated the Warriors 80-72. Rami Almefty ('06) paced the Lynx cats with 23 points—13 of which came on free-throws—and 7 assists. Forward Matthew Jakes ('06) honed his big-game experience, as the senior chipped in 19 points, and Cory Smith ('09) added 17 points, allowing Rhodes to distribute their points and keep the Hendrix defenders off-guard. Joey Daly ('07) and Joe Thompson ('08) stepped up for Rhodes with solid defensive efforts in which they hauled in a combined 20 rebounds.

Coach Herb Hilgeman also knew the importance of Saturday's victory, which improved his teams' record to 11-12 overall, 3-9 in SCAC play.

"We were in a must win situation," said Coach Hilgeman. "We had our backs against the wall and beat a very good Hendrix team."

The win keeps Rhodes' playoff aspirations alive and adds importance to this weekend's showdowns at Mallory Gym. On Friday, Rhodes hopes to give Oglethorpe (12-11, 5-7 SCAC) a rude welcome to Memphis, and if they succeed, a victory over Millsaps (13-10, 6-6 SCAC) should put the Lynx into the SCAC tournament. Rhodes fell to both these teams earlier in the season, but with the stakes so high, they should be in good position to win both games. Hopefully they will in front of a big home crowd and make the conference tournament the following weekend, also to be held in Mallory.

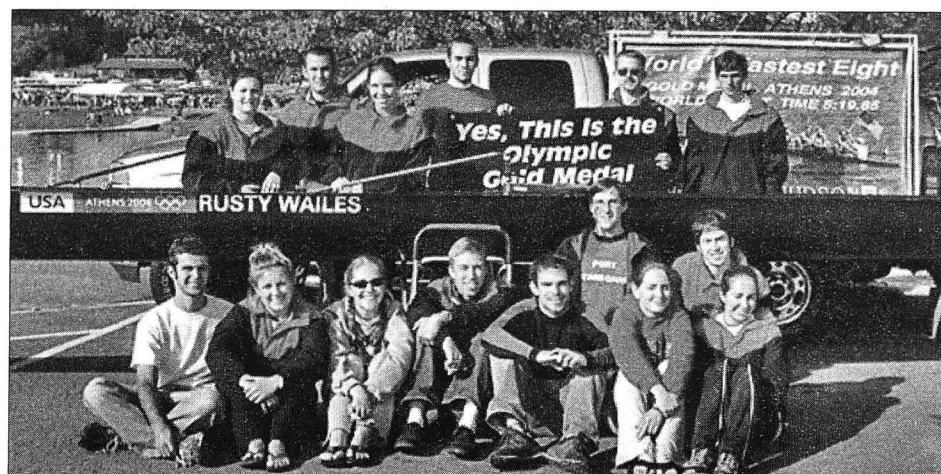


Photo Courtesy of Rhodes Crew Club

The Rhodes Crew Club looks forward to upcoming regional competitions.

Crew tows high expectations

By ANDREW ROMEO

This semester, Rhodes College may no longer have the only rowing club in Memphis. The Crew Club, in conjunction with Calvary Episcopal Church, is trying to start a youth group crew club. This would allow high school kids in the area a chance finally to get involved in a unique sport that is both challenging and fun.

"Being a founding member of the club, I know how difficult it can be to start a rowing club; this sport is not cheap. I am glad that we can help this group in their early days and hopefully this will foster a long term relationship between our two clubs that will benefit both of us in the

future," said Rhodes alumnus and former Crew Club president, Mills Ramsay, who has volunteered to coach the new club on weekends.

Currently, the Rhodes crew club has scheduled two regattas, the Racer Regatta in Murray, Ky on April 8 and the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (SIRA) in Oak Ridge, Tenn. on April 15. With the addition of another boat this past year, the team is ready to get back on the water and back into action. Also, keep an eye out for the annual Erg-A-Thon fundraiser on March 4 in front of the BCLC where the members of the club will row for a combined total of 24 hours. T-shirts will be for sale.

Varsity Athletic Scoreboard

Swimming SCAC
Championships
Men 6th, Women 5th

Basketball vs. Hendrix
Women W 83-70
Men W 80-72

Basketball Records
Women 15-7 (7-5 SCAC)
Men 11-12 (3-9 SCAC)