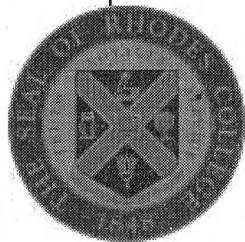


The Weekly Student Newspaper of  
Rhodes College

# THE SOU' WESTER

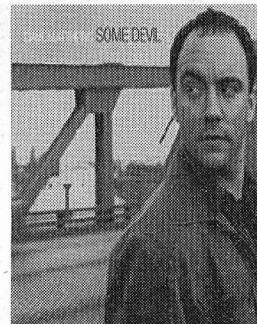


VOL. XC

NO. 11

## Review

Matt Lum reviews  
Dave Matthews' re-  
cently released solo  
album *Some Devil*.



See **A&E**

## Travel

Jeff Knowles and Aaron  
McNutt discuss their  
participation in the  
Iowa Democratic cau-  
cus.

See **News**

## Mayor Wharton speaks at Rhodes' King celebration

By Michelle Hope

Tuesday January 20, 2004, Mayor A C Wharton joined Rhodes students and faculty in honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In a program entitled "Remembering the Dream," Mayor Wharton gave the key note address in a presentation that included words from President Troutt, the Black Student Association and the college Chaplain as well as the presentation of a prize winning poem and essay by two Snowden School students.

The event aimed to honor Dr. King's dream not only by remembering his words but also by applying them to the world today. In his address, Mayor Wharton appealed to the idea of "powerlessness," the same powerlessness that Dr. King wanted to eradicate from the lives of African Americans. It is Mayor Wharton's belief that though we live in a world of apparent equal opportunity and equality, this powerlessness still exists. Moreover, he believes that the solution to this powerlessness, whether the powerlessness is rooted in economics or society, can be found in education.

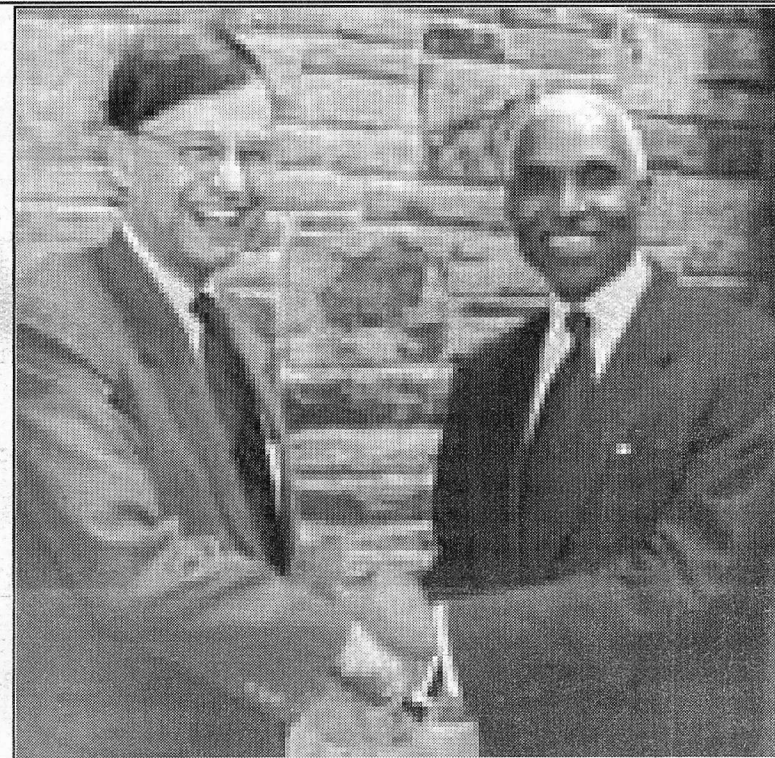
Mayor A C Wharton, born in Lebanon, Tennessee, despite being destined for life as a laborer in the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, surpassed all expectations when he was accepted to the Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine. Though he could not afford to attend, his hopes for a college career were maintained when he received a scholarship to Tennessee State University. He graduated with honors in 1962 and

enrolled in The University of Mississippi Law School in 1968. He graduated with his Law Degree in 1971, and three years later, he became the first African American professor of Law at the University of Mississippi; he held this position until 1999. In addition to his 20 years of experience in the justice system, his experience in education includes serving as vice-chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and as a member of the Board of Visitors at the University of Memphis. Given this impressive record of experience in education, it seems only natural that improving the quality and accessibility of education is at the focus of any immediate or indeed long term plans that Mayor Wharton has for Shelby County and its residents.

Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. some forty years ago in August of 1963. Talking in the wake of desegregation, Dr. King drew attention to the realities of disfranchisement. Indeed, though discrimination and segregation (as a result of *Brown v The Board of Education of Topeka, KS*) were no longer legal as they had been following the "separate but equal" doctrine of *Plessy v Ferguson*, de facto discrimination was still an issue. Between the years of 1957, when King founded the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), and 1968, when he died, Dr. King had an influential role in the realm of politics. He led numerous demonstrations for integration and received massive me-

dia coverage. It was the combined effect of these efforts, and those of many others who fought for the same cause, that led to the eventual ratification of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965). Together, these acts led to the end of disfranchisement. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech came at the climax of the non-violent phase of the Civil Rights Movement and served as a direct and vital precursor to the passing of the Civil and Voting Rights Acts. In it, Dr. King states: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today." This statement became not only the center of his movement but a mark of his success as African Americans began to enjoy more freedom; this is the fight for which he is most honored and is a fight that many still carry in their hearts today.

In his speech, Mayor Wharton suggested that the best way that he could honor Dr. King and his 'dream' was to promote an emotion that causes us all to "question our very existence, our very purpose, our every action, our every inaction." Perhaps drawing on King's belief "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: [that] 'we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal'," Wharton noted that deep down inside of all of us, no matter the color of our skin, no matter where we live, we all have the same fears,



**MAYOR WHARTON AT RHODES**

Photo taken from [www.rhodes.edu](http://www.rhodes.edu)

Shelby county mayor A.C. Wharton spoke at Rhodes' tribute to prominent civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Pictured are President Troutt (l) and Mayor Wharton (r).

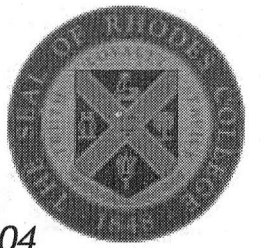
concerns, aspirations, hopes, hurts and joys. This, Mayor Wharton believes, is the best way that he can communicate Dr. King's dream today. Indeed, he went on to illustrate how the feelings of powerlessness inherent to human nature do not discriminate according to race, gender or class, that we should still fight for a time when all men are seen as equals, and that the equality of man is most evident when the unbiased nature of powerlessness is examined.

Overall, it is education that Mayor Wharton believes can best lessen the feelings of powerlessness that touch us all; he believes that education can bridge the gap in society made by differences in class or race. He marveled at how for some children, their socio-economic background makes the fact that they are even able to make it to school a feat in itself, especially when faced with alternatives that,

though dangerous, present as seemingly more attractive. Indeed, though Shelby County supports the "no child left behind" initiative, Wharton notes how this becomes negated if the child never makes it to school. This, according to Wharton, creates an unnecessary division between people, and though it is attributed to class or race, the precipitating factor is in fact education. He believes that this would be Dr. King's fight today.

Mayor Wharton's speech focused on the fact that we as a nation are "better than we were, but not quite where we ought to be," that there is need for change, and that education should be at the center of this change. This, it seems, is a fight for us all, since it is only through education that the children of tomorrow can secure their futures and ensure their own personal, professional and spiritual happiness.





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 founded 1848

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*Layout designed by Amber Shaw and Frances Rabalais*

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**JAMIE HULETT**

## Let's acknowledge a real sacrifice

The white walls which surround the construction of the new library have gotten a face lift. Colorful images of American flags and peace symbols and of "Elvis Pigsley" now adorn the once bleak and unappealing walls. I must say I never gave a second thought to the recent additions. However, fairly recently appeared on the wall a graffiti which did disturb me. I noticed a message sent to all who would see it: "444 American have died in Iraq. What is the price of Freedom?" The spray paint continued, "I am American and I do not support the war." I must say that I was quite disturbed by this, so much so that I feel compelled to add my two cents into the pot. Much debate has ensued on both this campus and worldwide about the questions and motives of this war. Even recent articles in the *Sou'wester* have debated the issue. Everyone has his opinion and is entitled to such. The right and freedom to voice those opinions are guaranteed by the bill of rights and have been long upheld in the courts. However, I am continually disappointed in many Americans today not because of their stance on the war but due to their failure to recognize those who have fought so bravely to protect our rights and freedom. While this constant debate continues over

who is right and who is wrong, Americans are dying. Even more upsetting is how many people today, this very day, fail to remember that there is a war still raging in Iraq.

I bet many if not most of you do not even know of one Rhodes College student by the name of Alex Livingston. Not only is Alex your average, unassuming college student but he is also a Marine, part of the weapons platoon Kilo company 3rd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment 4th Division, based here in Memphis, about 3 blocks east of Rhodes on Jackson Avenue. Alex spent much of the summer and fall of 2002 training, in preparation for a possible war. For this, Alex missed his first semester of what would have been his junior year. Alex returned to Rhodes for that following spring semester January 2003, yet before February hit, Alex had been called up-- he was going to Iraq. He went to Iraq, spending six months there. While we were worried about tests, papers, and finals, Alex was being shot at, and rescuing hostages, battling the elements and the enemies. I wrote to him while he was there and sent the occasional care package. When he was able, Alex wrote back, telling me of the harsh realities of war and how he feared for his

life. He would also tell me how upset he had been by the lack of support of the troops, and I couldn't agree more. Alex will return once again to Rhodes this January to start his Junior year, once in the class of 2004, Alex will hopefully graduate in the class of 2006, as long as does not get sent back for another tour of duty.

It disturbs me that Alex will return to school with such a blatant disregard for his and every other American soldier's efforts and sacrifice painted on the walls of the school he loves so much. I had truly hoped that Americans and especially Rhodes College would recognize and celebrate our own heroes. I find it extremely disturbing, and I mean extremely disturbing, that Alex has given and sacrificed more than most here at Rhodes and has continued to go unnoticed and unrecognized not only by Rhodes student but by Rhodes administration. Where is Alex mentioned in the Rhodes magazine or on the website? Does he not merit recognition like those who participate in the soup kitchen program? Doesn't Rhodes habitually recognizes the selfless service Rhodes student give to the community? Who here at Rhodes has put his life on the line to serve

**JON DAVID WILLINGHAM** STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

## Changing Campus Cultures

The College is doing what?! Get me a committee! Get me the President! Get me a drink!

When I began my tenure with Rhodes Student Government (RSG) four years ago, such reactionary outcries were only too common--well, most of them. But over the last few years, a cultural shift has dramatically increased the influence and involvement of students in both the day-to-day decision-making and long-term strategic planning of the College. Students, most often through RSG, are now more *proactively* engaged in shaping Rhodes than ever before. And everyone is benefiting.

I was asked the other day to list what RSG has accomplished this year and was at a loss. I didn't know where to begin or even if I honestly could. It's actually easier to name the few policy areas in which students *aren't* involved than *vice versa*.

Now, don't misunderstand... this is not an exercise in back patting. The student agenda is certainly not in perfect concert with every decision reached. But you should expect a great deal more from your student government now and in the future than

in years past. RSG is, without doubt, now one of the most influential bodies of its kind in the country. Not necessarily because of its members or leadership, but because of its working relationships and respect. Effective student representation isn't about power or persuasion; it's about molding the best future possible for the College. It's about each of us yielding the greatest return from our substantial investments of time, energy, and money in the Rhodes experience as students and all too soon-to-be alumni. Yet while such returns are personal, the requisite efforts must be collective and coordinated. Most of all, however, they must continue to be *proactive*.

If you know me, you know I'm fairly blunt. And I can't be any more frank than to say that your representatives have done and continue to be a part of some really outstanding work. But *your* involvement and increased expectations as an electorate are needed now more than ever. On the heels of the January meeting of the Board of Trustees, it is apparent that the

*Changing Cultures, continued on page 6*

others as Alex has? Alex's extraordinary selflessness is best described in his own words: "I personally don't care if Rhodes does anything special for me 'cuz I don't think I really did anything all that special. Anyone in my place would have done the same." I am disappointed that just because this war is controversial, his sacrifice have been ignored. I can not imagine such a failure of the Rhodes Administration as this.

So even if Rhodes will not do it, I would like to publicly say thank you to Alex and all American soldiers who have sacrificed so much and put their lives on the line for us. So I will end here, but before

I do, I have two challenges. One is to Rhodes, to correct this wrong and publicly recognize and celebrate our own heroes with equal if not greater publicity than one person's academic achievements. And the other one is to the anonymous graffiti writer: Go ahead and spray your paint, (even though destruction of property is illegal and one count of graffiti is a misdemeanor); voice your opinions. But to you and those like you, remember one thing: Those 444 brave and courageous Americans have died and given their lives, and so many more Americans including Alex have fought and put their lives on the line so that you can continue to spray paint walls.





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# OPINION

**ELIZABETH BRANDON**

## *What would Marx say?*

A recent news story has celebrated as well as questioned corporate incorporation of the arts for economic vitality. Leaders in cities such as Indianapolis, Portland, Pawtucket, and Memphis envision culture as a means for attracting business and tourism. Increased funding goes towards musicians and artists so that companies are more able to draw in the most qualified employees, those in "knowledge-based professions," such as academics and health care in addition to the arts.

According to some, this corporate craving for creativity signifies economic transformation on a similar level as the shift from agricultural to industrial economy. The assembly line and utilitarian character of society resulting from the industrial revolution dissolves in this vision of modern businesses. Through augmented funding of the arts, leaders intend a move away from manufacturing foundation to more specialized areas of occupation. The creative tier seeks an outlook that envelops a diversity of peoples and ways of life within communities. There exists no single category of people but rather groups from different backgrounds with various lifestyles and beliefs. Such an attitude in the arts, according to city leaders, draws in tourists and commerce. Governments provide grants to cultural organizations as well as artists involved in projects in that particular city.

Reconstruction of downtown Memphis has boosted profits from tourism and residents. The raising of attractions such as Jillian's and Gibson Guitar Factory has brought in a great amount of revenue for the city. Some may argue that the seeming commercialization of culture in the building of these places

has cheapened the truth-in-the-blues-and-jazz-charm-in-antiquity community of Memphis. However, before this new area was formed, downtown was hardly surviving, and since its rebuilding, the newfound tourism and business has brought in a large amount of income. Additionally, the revitalization of downtown has also brought about a renewed interest in the unique character of the city. For instance, the Rock 'n Soul Museum holds galleries tracing the history of Memphis music, its roots in the country and gospel of rural South and its growth into rock and roll and soul. Corporate investment in culture has caused a profound change in the way people approach it.

Some still wonder whether the enterprise joining the arts and economic growth is to become fully effective, but many acknowledge the relationship. Although there have been a number of successful instances in funding cultural organizations and artists within particular cities, one may hesitate to say that this is an economic revolution as significant as the shift from agrarian to industrial society. However, the expansion of theaters, galleries, and music venues evidently does hold the potential of attracting those who work in knowledge-based professions. Corporations believe that the energy these employees would invest in various businesses would lead not only to their own success but also to the further development of cultural attractions and therefore increased tourism. The ideas involved in these endeavors hold potential for success due to the interest in novelty. Although the efforts to increase funding for the arts may not bring about permanent economic change, they currently hold sound potential in reviving the economies of cities.

**ALEX HORNADAY**

## *Diversity and tolerance?*

### *Yeah, right*

On the way from the Rat to the mailroom, a trip most of us make daily, it is hard to miss the Tolerance Mural on the wall of the construction site. In the mural are various panels intended to remind us not to pass judgment on those who are different from us sexually, racially, or culturally. However, a very real prejudice and, dare I say it, oppression occurs almost routinely within the gates of not only this but most institutions of higher learning: (now don't laugh when you read this) the suppression of the conservative perspective.

Last semester, I conducted an experiment. I decided to exercise my freedom of speech and put some political flyers on my door and see the reaction. It didn't take 24 hours before someone wrote a nasty (though admittedly clever) comment on

his politics, it is despicable to make fun of anyone with that disease). Reagan, surprisingly, turned out to be even more controversial than Bush, as I went through five flyers from Thanksgiving through exams.

It is both amusing and distressing that the left, which is supposed to represent compassion and tolerance, would go so far as to deface and tear down flyers that advocated a different viewpoint. The flyers were not advocating anything bigoted or even controversial other than a student's support of the Republican Party, and yet they were treated with the same contempt one would expect for anti-Semitic Nazi propaganda. My civil liberties were not respected, but I am not counting on the ACLU to take my case or even return my phone calls.

fense. There is even disagreement among the right; some, like Pat Buchanan, are very protectionist, while others, like President Bush, advocate free trade and open borders. Some conservatives, like Rudy Giuliani, are pro-choice while others, like Senator Bill Frist, are pro-life.

Furthermore, conservative is not synonymous with evil or hypocritical. Conservatives are not actively trying to make the world a dirtier, more corrupt place. We do not take pleasure in poverty and pollution any more than a liberal does. We do, however, have different priorities and values than liberals. Should not liberals then respect dissenting opinions while engaging them in a civil and enlightened discussion? Instead of immediately jumping to conclusions about a conservative's politics, ask him or her what they are.

Rhodes' position on diversity is that a diverse environment enhances the educational experience because people of differing backgrounds can offer a variety of experiences and perspectives to a discussion. The problem is when we focus too intently on outward signs of diversity, such as race, and forget that we want a variety of perspectives. A group that "looks like America" but only sounds like a rally for Howard Dean is not a diverse group. Hear us out, and you may learn something. Browse through a copy of National Review; it doesn't mean you have to agree. Don't be afraid of conservatives-- we won't bite. Probably.

## *Here's a shocker: Not all conservatives are the same.*

my pro-Bush flyer. I replaced it immediately with one of the other 25 copies I had printed. The second one lasted about a day before the same comment appeared. The third lasted for three days before it was completely torn down, the fourth, the champion, took several weeks before someone just tore out the picture of Bush's face. By the fifth poster, the vandal had gotten more sophisticated as it seemed as he or she used an X-acto knife to cleanly cut out the president's picture.

I then changed the flyer to one of Ronald Reagan, and within 24 hours someone had written a very nasty (and not as clever) comment about our former president who unfortunately is dying from Alzheimer's (no matter what you think of

Now to dispel a few myths. Conservatives are not part of a monolithic but secret movement to oppress minorities and the poor while lining the pockets and increasing the power of rich white men. No, Senator Clinton, there is not a vast right wing conspiracy trying to control government at all costs. Certainly the Republicans want to be in power, but so do the Democrats; that is the nature of a political party.

Here's a shocker: Not all conservatives are the same. In fact, not all conservatives are Republicans or vice versa. Some conservatives focus primarily on social issues like abortion and homosexuality, while others are concerned mostly with economic issues like investment and taxes. Still some focus on security and de-





Wednesday, January 28, 2004

## Travel Journal

### Rhodes students participate in Iowa politics

By Aaron McNutt and Jeff Knowles

We had planned to go to the Iowa Caucuses for Martin Luther King weekend before Christmas break. But after Christmas break, I changed my mind, because I was literally penniless. With a fair amount of persuasion from Jeff and the realization that I could use my Lynx card to buy an enormous quantity of Ramen Noodles, I decided to pack my bags for Iowa.

We agreed to meet in Jeff's room that Friday morning around 9:30 a.m. so we could get a start on the twelve hour car trip ahead of us. As I was walking over there, he and his brother drove by in a rented Dodge Stratus with Florida plates and picked me up. Grabbing our bags plus a few cups of coffee, we were on our way to what would potentially be a blood-clot-inducing marathon drive weekend—over thirty hours in a mere four days.

Jeff's thirty-one year old brother Scott, who is a history professor in Philadelphia, drove both the length of the trip as well as the day-long discussion of almost everything political. We thought we were going to Iowa to observe and experience the process of politics in action, and see what the candidates and their organizations were like, but by the end we had been enthusiastic supporters at a Kucinich rally in Davenport, volunteers for the Dean campaign in Des Moines, and energetic participants in two Dean rallies—Davenport and Iowa City.

When we showed up Saturday morning at the Dean headquarters in Des Moines, we were briskly shuffled through the machinery of registration and canvassing instructions, and were equipped with pounds of Dean literature. In the headquarters we saw people stuffing envelopes with voter registration lists and neighborhood maps for the canvassers, people conversing over coffee and pretzels, and people gathering groups to launch upon the Democrats and Independents

of Des Moines, Iowa. We even had a run-in with Tim Russert from "Meet the Press."

Dean's campaigning runs smoothly, like a political union of McDonald's management philosophy and the lively community spirit of barn-raising Mennonites. The organization is Yankee to the core, however, the general Dean volunteer corps, the foot soldiers, hailed from all over the United States. We met people from almost every Northeastern state, as well as groups from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas—even a single mom from Berkeley, California, with her toddler.

In this room, the influential status of volunteers is mostly an optimistic state of mind. We are not shot-callers; we do not see events in the detail candidates and high-level staffers do. Nevertheless, we are the campaign's ears to the street—compartmentalized, individually autonomous lay-lobbyists and pollsters going door-to-door on a massive and organized scale, asking the citizens of Des Moines to attend the caucus and choose Dean for their nominee.

The reality of soliciting votes in a low-income, mostly African-American neighborhood conflicted with the seemingly genuine devotion we three honkies had for the "political process." People in Polk County, Iowa (a.k.a. Des Moines' ghetto) were largely undecided about both the caucus and politics in general. The primary response from people who actually answered their door, which remained a marginal percentage, was that they had to work that night; in fact, they had to work every night.

In my fifth hour of canvassing in 25 degree weather, I entered a cul-de-sac where most of the residents were not home (to be expected by now); only three houses answer the knocking. At the first house, a middle-aged black man impatiently answers the door after about twelve seconds. Before I be-

Travel Journal, continued on Page 5



## KFC What's Cookin' DAILY DEALS

**MONDAY**  
**Chicken Fried Steak Meal Combo**

- Chicken Fried Steak
- Ind. Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Ind. Cole Slaw
- Biscuit
- Small Drink

**\$2.99** Plus Tax

Valid on Mondays only.



**TUESDAY**  
**Chunky Chicken Pot Pie Combo**

- Chunky Chicken Pot Pie
- Small Drink

**\$2.99** Plus Tax

Valid on Tuesdays only.



**THURSDAY**  
**Crispy Strips Meal Combo**

- 3 Colonel's Crispy Strips®
- Ind. Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Ind. Cole Slaw
- Biscuit
- Small Drink

**\$2.99** Plus Tax

Valid on Thursdays only.

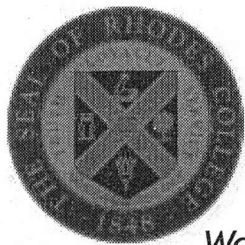




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Wednesday, January 28, 2004

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# NEWS

## CampusSafety

1.17.04-1.23.04

1/17 - 1/19	Nothing unusual reported.	
1/20	5:00 p.m.	Refectory; fire alarm in severy B, caused by smoke detector, detector is cleared.
1/21	10:38 a.m.	University and North Parkway, vehicle accident. MPD on the scene, no injuries, no Rhodes personnel involved.
	5:30 p.m.	Poplar avenue; prisoner escapes from Mental Health Center. After hours of search, MPD has prisoner back in custody early Wednesday morning.
	5:45 p.m.	Resident on Lyndale street, report to Campus Safety that a man exposed himself to her while she was walking her dog on Tutwiler. MPD was notified.
1/22	11:02 p.m.	Voorhies dorm, ill student. MFD paramedics arrive, student is treated and recovers, not transported. See report.
1/23	8:50 p.m.	Chi Omega house, MPD respond to a 911 call. Later determined as a false alarm. MPD depart campus.

## Announcements

The Senior Class will be holding an Auction in the Lynx Lair beginning at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 3. Please come and bid on the numerous wonderful items! The Senior Auction is a tradition at Rhodes that will also kick-off a new event--a silent auction will follow on Rhodes Connect!

### You could win:

- Bosco's \$25 gift certificate
- \$50 bottle of wine from Brown Jug
- Extension on senior English paper
- Lobster dinner overnighed from Boston

Seniors, mark your calendars now! 100 Days to Graduation Party is for seniors only and will be held on Friday, February 6.

There will be an informational meeting about Battle of the Bands in the Lynx Lair at 9:00pm on Thursday February 5. The meeting is designed to inform all interested parties on the Battle of the Bands process which determines the three bands that will be featured along with the professional bands appearing during the Rites of Spring weekend. Battle of the Bands will be held in the Lynx Lair on Friday, March 26, and Rites of Spring will be April 23-24.

If there is a band that you would like to see at Rites of Spring, you can make suggestions to the Rhodes Activities Board by emailing RITES@rhodes.edu.

## Travel Journal

Continued from Page 4

gin "the talk," he cuts in: "Naw, I don't f\*\*\*with politics no mo, unhu." I weakly ask him if he would like some Dean literature anyway; he says plenty has come in the mail while making a brushing motion with his hand and pulling the door closed. The other two houses give a similar response in half the time.

We three meet up after hours walking the cold, deserted streets of the ghetto and share related anecdotes of our encounters and the general, and as we now understand, permissible apathy in the neighborhood. I think the man who explained to Jeff, "politics wasn't made for us, all we can do is take things as they come" sums up the fatalistic position most people take in Polk County, Iowa. We return to head quarters wondering what inspired us to come to Iowa and feeling guilty for trying to assuage our target's political ills with campaign literature and enthusiasm deriving from a totally different notion of American politics.

At headquarters we rejoin the busy-looking bureaucracy of generally idealistic, educated white people, who have the time and cash to flock to Iowa for the weekend. In comparison with the experience of our afternoon, we see our trip as a sort of secular pilgrimage, seeking forgiveness for undemocratic complacency, atonement and salvation through benevolent good works. We are decidedly once again here out of curiosity and refuse to commit ourselves to another day of the same employment. Instead, we opt to continue our travels so we might attend a few rallies and see what the rest of Iowa has to offer.

Having seen these rallies, I now believe political campaigns have a striking similarity with traveling churches. The machines of Christian revival and American politics are quite analogous: Each has a charismatic leader who crystallizes the diverse hopes of the organization's followers, all of whom are there to develop and enrich a life which seems out of personal control or meaningless. It is the purpose of the assembling

masses to feel an emotional connection to the leader. I think, like religion, often we find ourselves making political decisions based more on emotional and social convictions rather than rational ones. One of the basic appeals of politics is the mildly holy atmosphere of an organization devoted to hope and doing good, united in conversion endeavors and the rituals of congregation and stump sermon.

Both Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich understand the spiritual, occasionally hysterical element of the stump speech. Picture an auditorium filled with people who on any given night might be in this particular community center for bingo, but were now there to support a presidential nominee. The room cheers together and quiets when the candidate raises a palm. The candidate then adjusts his countenance to serious, yet gentle. Kucinich takes this tone while first describing his single-payer healthcare plan. Once he makes his basic point, "Dennis the Menace" begins criticizing special-interest dominated Washington for its failure to address real social problems. The syllables gradually morph from Midwest nasal drawl to a refreshing, righteous staccato as he trashes "Bush & Associates" and prophesizes a better tomorrow.

The energy in this bingo hall is hypnotizing; it would be potentially frightening if not for a message of total peace through humane trading practices and systemic tilt towards peaceful international cooperation. Once his speech has concluded, the hall erupts in applause one last time. A good number have partaken in the free tacos along with the beer. After hearing their man speak, they actually believe Dennis can win Iowa. We are unsure but do not hesitate to join the mass surrounding Kucinich, finally grabbing him for a photo.

In the Dean rallies, similar strands of faith are the foundation of a monumental grassroots organization. His stump speech is like good gumbo: flavorful, meaty, and spicy as hell. Most of the time he does a bemused, down-home,

stand-up slam of Bush and Washington politics. But then he quiets down, gathers up his lounge-singer baritone voice and really begins to own the crowd. He emotes a purposeful sadness, an insistent desire for change. Though he remains generally calm, he does not hesitate to show his outrage for the Bush administration. Dean has been criticized as "angry" on political cable television, but I think what is described as anger is really a measured, prescription dose of animation, rarely seen emanating from modern Democrats.

We left the Hawkeye state following Dean's speech at the University of Iowa. Our long journey back to Memphis left us wondering what this weekend meant, had we actually made a difference for the one candidate's campaign? The results of the Iowa Caucuses illustrated that the will of the people was not merely affected by a massive organization of canvassers, phone banks and literature, but rather by the sentiment of the people. The outcome showed that of the Caucus-goers, only one in five gave their support to Dean.

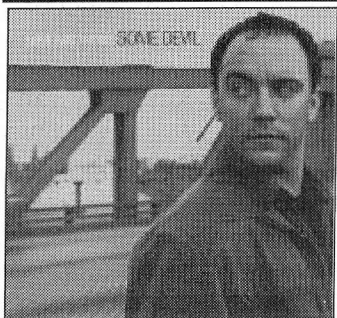
Our interpretation and regard for Dean remains deferential, regardless of the Iowa results. Here was a Democratic candidate with Republican communication skills. He, like his incumbent counterpart, refuses to intellectualize his message or parse words. He knows how to blend a message of hope, confidence, feeling and empowerment. Whether or not he ends up getting the nomination or can win an election against President Bush will be left to the people of this nation. For us three, we simply enjoyed uniting in a cause that for a brief time transcended our own trivial influence. While at times complacent, we were not nearly as jaded as the citizens we visited in Des Moines, and maybe that is because we are naive and believe there is something to this whole thing. And whether that is a fault of ours or merely stringent optimism, we returned home having revitalized our nearly religious devotion to the process of our democratic system.





## MUSIC REVIEW

Some Devil: a step in the right direction—by Matt Lum



First things first. Since the first time that I heard a song by the Dave Matthews Band, I have strongly disliked their music. This means that since junior high, my friends, the radio and 99% of the student body at Rhodes College have been fueling an immense and unnecessary amount of anger by playing the music of the Dave Matthews Band every moment of every day for the last eight years. So why am I reviewing Dave Matthews' *Some Devil*? Because I don't hear it everywhere I go. Could this mean that the music on his solo album is different because he left "Band" off the title?

Let's see what's different on the outside. Matthews -- I'm sorry, *Dave* collaborates

with Tim Reynolds for this one. That's new, isn't it? No. No, it isn't. Matthews also has Stephen Harris produce this album. That's not new either. Harris also produced *Busted Stuff* by the Dave Matthews Band. I guess it goes without saying that Matthews, as with the band, wrote the songs. I could do this all day, but regardless, what Matthews has (himself included) is a talented batch of folks. And we already know that Dave Matthews is going to be singing and playing guitar. Tim Reynolds will be playing guitar as well. And it's a good possibility that the production work will be about the same.

Imagine starting off with the Dave Matthews Band and removing any wind instruments and removing the violin. You replace it with more guitar parts (some played by Trey Anastasio of Phish) and an entire string section. You then (this is key) *remove every element that would make the music sound like it came from a jam band*. The vocals are much more emphasized and clear, and the entire sound is

more ambient and holistic. The music envelops you without punching you in the face. The most distinguishable difference between this solo effort and the band is that you actually care what the lyrics are. There are elements of intimacy and emotional expression throughout the vocals that aren't found in the Dave Matthews Band's music.

This album shows a more mature side of Dave Matthews. There's a lot more structure to the music, and it seems to deal a little bit more with artistic expression than it does attempt to just "sound good" to a lot of people. The bottom line is that you hear the music and you know that it is Dave Matthews, but your opinion on it will deal mostly with your appreciation for Dave Matthews as a songwriter. My opinion as someone who hates the music of the Dave Matthews Band is that Dave Matthews is headed in the right direction on this one.

## It's Now or Never: Plan your Valentine's Day with "An Evening of Elvis Love Songs"

By Autumn Brice

This Valentine's Day, celebrate love with the songs of Elvis and the Memphis Symphony. Singer Terry Mike Jeffrey, a longtime fan and performer of the King's music, joins the Memphis Symphony Orchestra for a special Valentine's performance of Elvis's hits, including "It's Now or Never," "Can't Help Falling in Love," "Suspicious Minds" and "Love Me Tender."

The concert will take place Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, located downtown at 255 North Main. Tickets are

\$10, \$25, \$35, \$50 and \$75 and are available at the MSO Box Office. Student rush tickets may be available fifteen minutes before the performance, depending on availability, and are \$5 with a valid student ID. Call (901) 324-3627 or visit the MSO office, located at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 501 for ticket information. Tickets can also be ordered through Ticketmaster at (901) 525-1515, or at any Ticketmaster outlet.

Terry Mike Jeffrey, an acclaimed singer, actor, multi-instrumentalist, musical director and Emmy-nominated songwriter, has appeared

regularly on TNN's "Music City Tonight with Crook & Chase." He also appeared in a national touring show of Elvis music entitled "Elvis - An American Musical."

Concert sponsors for "An Evening of Elvis Love Songs" are the Memphis Marriott Downtown and Whitehorn, Tankersley & Co., PLLC. The series sponsor is Bank of America and the season sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*. The Memphis Symphony is currently celebrating its 52nd season.

Information compiled by Jackie Ross Flaum, Director of Public Relations for the Memphis Symphony.

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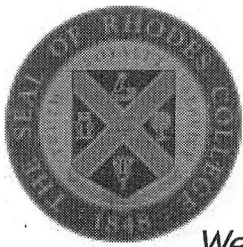
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Changing Cultures, continued from page 2

college is on the eve of a turning point in its history. Dramatic revision of an antiquated curriculum, the early phases of the largest capital campaign in the history of the institution in tandem with an ongoing pursuit of the Rhodes Vision, and a clearly upward trajectory in national recognition and prominence are only some of the leading institutional indicators. And from the Senate and faculty committees to the Dean's Council and the Board of Trustees, students will continue to be significantly involved in these and other important decisions in the life of the College, long after you and I are gone. Nevertheless, such a change in the College's administrative input culture, however positive, is insufficient. Our student body is currently a collection of outstanding yet disparately connected

individuals. Forget institutional benefits, forget warm and fuzzy, forget Admissions selling points. If only for our common, individual self-interests, the student body -- starting with this year's seniors -- desperately needs each of us to commit to be far more active alumni than our predecessors. We are in dire need of a Rhodes Alumni Network that benefits both alumni and students, professionally and personally. Imagine yourself some years down the road. Want a job? Moving to a new city? Need to make more money? Want your degree to further appreciate in value? Commit now to be an active alum. Commit now to better connect with your fellow students. We all stand to gain. It will only be through a marked culture change -- through deliberate, individual commitments -- that we will reap the maximum long-term benefits of our four year investments.





Wednesday, January 28, 2004

# Dinner & a Movie

This week, Leah Kaye reviews the Glass Onion Bar and Grill, and Caroline Vance reviews the French feature Les Triplettes de Belleville (The Triplets of Belleville).

## The Glass Onion serves up blues and class in Midtown

By Leah Kaye

The Glass Onion Bar and Grill offers a one-of-a-kind weekend brunch, in addition to the regular lunch and dinner. Located on Cooper near Young, the Glass Onion sold us with fine dining in a casual atmosphere. The chefs seemed to have a true consideration for culinary art, as the dishes were very unique. The style, though labeled bar and grill, could not be pinpointed within only one typical genre.

We ordered off the weekend brunch menu, which had a number of dishes that helped me fulfill my desire for both breakfast and lunch, with many dishes featuring eggs and vegetables. Browsing through the other menus, the appetizers looked particularly ap-

pealing with many options, from coconut shrimp to eggplant; I would recommend going very hungry in order to try multiple items.

Our order took a while to come out, so when it did it was a little cold. However, the waitress apologized repeatedly and it seemed like it did not happen very often. The food was worth the wait anyway, unexpectedly good despite our skepticism of the combined flavors and the intimidating menu. The average eater must be willing to take a risk when picking an entrée, but he will likely leave satisfied.

Lunch and brunch averaged about \$9, while the dinner menu went up to \$25 per entrée. Part of the price surely went to the live music, though. The Glass Onion has

many live performances, especially during dinner and on the weekends, which added a bluesy element to the already casual dining atmosphere.

As a whole, the bar and grill demonstrated a humble sense of class, of the sort that is consistent with the other restaurants in the Cooper Young area. The quality was impressive, and I would return for both an early Saturday brunch and a Friday night first date.

### The Glass Onion Bar and Grill

**Genre:** American, bar/grill, live entertainment  
**Location:** 903 S. Cooper St.  
**Phone:** (901) 274-5151  
**Prices:** under \$10-\$25

## The Triplets of Belleville: short but sweet

By Caroline Vance

*The Triplets of Belleville* is an absurd movie that makes perfect sense. By that, I mean that a woman dances naked as the men around her turn into monkeys and strip her of her banana clothing, the French Mafia devises a sinister plan to kidnap Tour de France cyclists, and an aging doo-wop group plays a key role in the solving of the crime, and yet, far-fetched though it is, the plot engages with its logical (and sometimes hilarious) development.

I had doubts about going to see this movie. My general rule is that I don't pay movie theater prices to go see movies that run fewer than two hours, and I stay away from movies involving anyone with the last name "Kutcher." *The Triplets of Belleville* runs just under an hour and a half, but since no butterflies were involved (and it is a cartoon with a PG-13 rating), I decided to take a gamble.

The fact that the film is French shouldn't give pause even to those viewers who abhor subtitles. There is virtually no dialogue; the main characters utter a grand total of two sentences. What really drives the movie, then, is not the dialogue but the animation and the music that accompanies it. The animation style, far from that of the newly popular Pixar films, is reminiscent of an old newspaper comic strip (think "Mother Grimm"). The simplicity of the animation style means that the viewer does not delight in extraordinarily lifelike images, but rather in the extraordinarily lifelike emotions evoked by cartoon characters.

The title of the film refers to a singing group that appears at the beginning of the movie on the television set of Madame Souza and her orphaned grandson, Campion. The triplets, who live in America, perform a swinging song and dance act, then vacate the screen, leav-

ing Madame Souza and Campion once again in their routine of silently contemplating each other (the triplets will reappear twenty years later).

The plot of the movie from here is somewhat complicated, but it involves kidnapping, the Tour de France, and a pooch named Bruno, and, of course, the triplets, who play a role in a heroic rescue.

In the hilarious final scene, director and writer Sylvain Chomet neatly wraps up the plot, incorporating the singing sisters in the rescue of Campion. We are left with the image of Campion, safe at home in France and reflecting on his adventure.

The movie's cartoonishness suits its outlandish plot, but its treatment of the themes of loneliness and devotion creates a sophisticated and poignant representation of human life, and in the end, it's worth every penny of the movie theater price.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES

Maggie Goodman

A simple observance—we are creatures of habit. We are also creatures that once a year become racked with guilt over these habits. The New Year, the new you. One month gives the inspiration for many of us to drop all vices. One little month inspires the change, and, usually, one little month is how long the change lasts. It is my opinion that New Year's resolutions were the product of an evil conspiracy involving nicotine patch companies, diet soda producers, churches, Rubbermaid, counselors, vitamin companies, piano teachers and Richard Simmons with the ultimate goal of enslaving the human race—for thirty-one days.

You've seen it. Go to Walmart. You will find an aisle when you first walk in containing every organizational product (that you can buy and use for three days) imaginable, an aisle full of protein shakes and carbohydrate substitutes (completely made of package peanuts and chalk), and an aisle full of books from the Dr. Phil canon. And that's just out and about in town. On campus more people are getting up early in the first week of classes to go to breakfast, going to the gym, studying in the library and not parking in handicap spaces, and there are fewer people hovered in the cold outside of Palmer to smoke. You have to notice these things quickly, however, because they don't last. The

new and improved Rhodes student has a life span of, usually, three days. That's it. We tried. We failed. We will live another year, and then when January comes again, the gods of betterment will rain down fury upon us.

For those of you who have fulfilled resolutions, I do not congratulate you. I hate and despise you. I also am suspicious that you are not human at all but a spawn of Satan. Enjoy those sculpted abs in the fiery depths of hell. More than that, though, I question your motives for changing. Better health? No. To be more spiritual? No. To be able to converse with someone in Spanish? No. The motive is to be THOUGHT of as more spiritual, to seem more healthy, and to say, "Oh, let me interpret." The whole thing is a crock in my mind. Forget betterment. After all, we did not come to college for that.

Fight the fight, my friends. To aid you in this, I have included a directory for the furthering of bad habits. Best of luck with that.

**Tip Top Liquor**  
1883 Madison Avenue  
**Memphis Tobacco Bowl**  
152 Madison Ave  
**Krispy Kreme Doughnuts**  
6255 Winchester Rd  
**Grand Casino Tunica**  
14615 Old Highway 61 N  
[www.procrastinator.com](http://www.procrastinator.com)

### How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official student newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by the students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

Staff meetings are open to the Rhodes community and convene in the second floor of Briggs Student Center every Monday evening at 8 p.m. *The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Publications Board, a six-publication consortium that includes the editors of all student publications, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

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

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*The Sou'wester*  
2000 North Parkway  
Memphis, TN 38112-1690





Wednesday, January 28, 2004

## Men's basketball splits games

By Camelia Trahan

The Rhodes men's basketball team split a pair of Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference games, losing to the University of the South (Sewanee) Friday 67-75 and then beating Centre College 90-84 in overtime.

In the loss against Sewanee, four Lynx were in double figures, led by sophomore forward Matthew Jakes and senior guard Austin Lutz with 17 points each. Jakes grabbed nine rebounds, and Lutz snatched three steals, both game highs.

Sophomore guard Rami Almefty chipped in with 11 points, while junior guard Kevin Campion added ten points and four assists. As a team the Lynx shot 47.5 percent from the field and made only 11 trips to the charity stripe to Sewanee's 22. Both teams tallied

for 32 rebounds, respectively. As a team, the Lynx dished out 14 assists.

The Lynx went into the locker room at halftime down by three and got no closer than four in the second half.

Led by Almefty's season high 32 points, Rhodes overcame a 13 point second half deficit to rally and defeat Centre College in Danville, KY, on Sunday, January 25. In the battle, Rhodes out rebounded Centre 35-30 and went to the free throw line 26 times in the 90-84 overtime victory.

Jakes sent the game into overtime with a basket to tie the score at 73, with 1.9 seconds left in regulation. In overtime the Lynx jumped out to a 79-73 lead and never looked back. Jakes added 22 points for the Lynx, who improve to 7-8 overall and 3-4 in SCAC play. The loss knocked Centre Col-

lege out of first place in the SCAC standings.

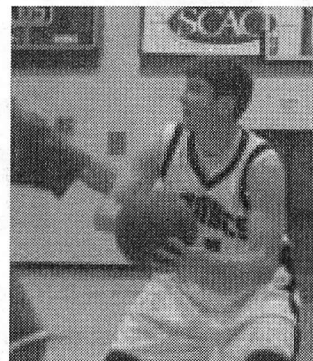
Rhodes shot 56.3 percent (9-16) on 3-point shots in the game while Centre sank only 12 of 30 attempts from behind the arc. Campion matched his season high of 14 points and three steals.

Freshman Davis Bonham made some key defensive stops by contributing four defensive rebounds, one block and one steal.

"We beat an excellent team on Sunday and with that win our team has improved in the last two weeks and we look forward to the month of February and the SCAC tournament," said head coach Herb Hilgeman.

Rhodes will host Trinity University on Friday, January 30 at 8 pm and Southwestern University on Sunday at noon.

## December Athletes of the Month



RAMI ALMEFTY



TAYLOR COOK

Rami Almefty, a 6'0" sophomore guard from Little Rock, AR, has been named the Rhodes December Athlete of the Month. For the month Almefty led the Lynx in scoring, averaging 21.5 points per game including a season high 29 in a victory against Huntingdon College. In addition, Almefty averaged 5.5 rebounds, 3.75 assists and 2.5 steals per game.

Taylor Cook, a 5'11" sophomore forward from Randolph, NJ, has been named the Rhodes December Female Athlete of the Month. For the month, Cook led the conference in scoring, averaging 19.2 points per game including two 25 point showings against Webster College and the University of Chicago. In addition, Cook averaged 3.4 rebounds per game while leading the Lynx to a 4-1 record in December.

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Info Sessions:  
Wednesday, January 28 • 7:30 pm • Buckman 110  
 with Cynthia Hallums '03 and Julie Hallums '03  
Monday, February 2 • 6:00 pm • Career Services  
 with Aaron Brenner '95

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