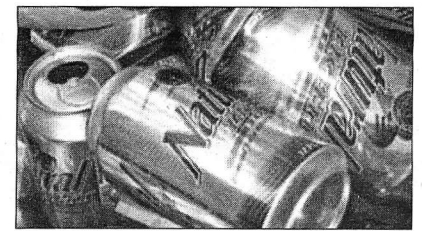


THE SOU'WESTER

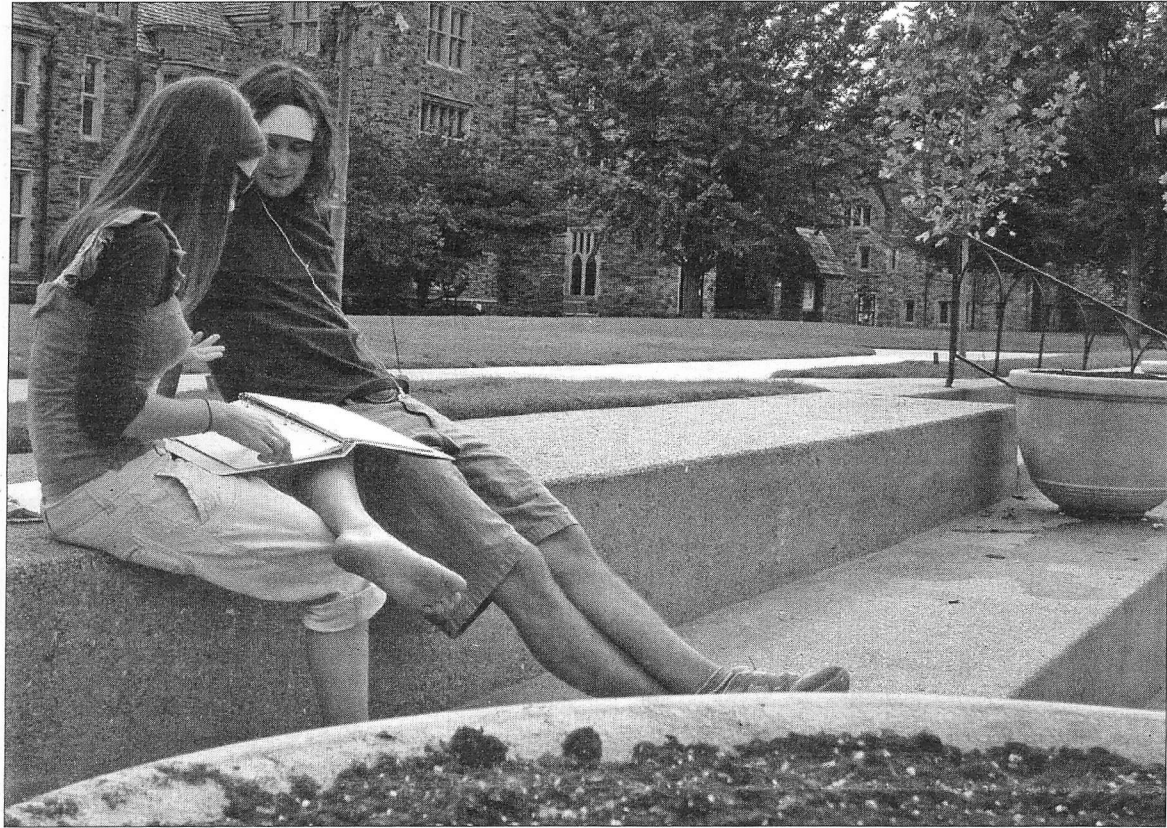
Vol. XCIII. NO. 1

September 6, 2006

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



No more beer pong. Rhodes restricts student drinking.
See Page 4



DANIEL JACOBS/The Sou'wester

Tom Watson, 07 and Diana Comes, 08, enjoy the new landscaping outside of Palmer Hall.

Landscape gets a facelift

By DANIEL JACOBS
Associate and Layout Editor

Classes, cafeteria food, and the Memphis heat weren't the only things waiting for students when they arrived at Rhodes three weeks ago.

There is a redesigned parking lot behind McCoy Theatre and new landscaping on the grounds behind Palmer Hall, complete with new sidewalks, more trees, underground irrigation and large concrete planters.

"I think if you can remember what it used to look like, it wasn't very well laid out and that large concrete planter outside the cloister door was difficult to maintain," said Allen Boone, the Vice President for Financial and Business Affairs. "A lot of the concrete was old and cracked, and there was virtually no subsurface drainage in the area, which means that every time it rained you had large puddles. We made a decision to do a whole-sale renovation and modernization of probably the most heavily traveled pedestrian area on campus."

According to Boone, the new landscape cost approximately \$400,000. The school contracted

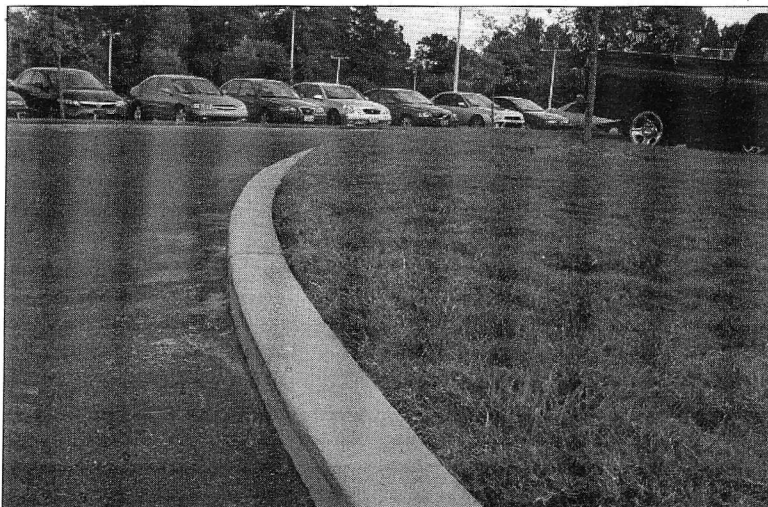
the work out to an architectural firm from Boston, Carol R Johnson Associates Inc. The firm has experience working on over 70 college campuses in the United States, and it originally worked with Rhodes College on parts of the Barret Library design.

"We were very pleased with the outcome [of the firm's work on Barret Library]," said Boone. "So we

made the decision to focus on another area of the campus that had not had much work done on it in probably 35 years."

The construction began the week after commencement and was mostly completed before the middle of August. Some larger trees that were not planted because of the hot

Landscaping, continued on Page 5



DANIEL JACOBS/The Sou'wester

The construction included adding 60 new parking spaces in the McCoy Theatre parking lot.

Dorms go co-ed

By AVERY PRIBILA
News Editor

Several recent changes in the Residence Life program at Rhodes were introduced this year, namely the decision to house both men and women in Glassell and Williford Halls.

Glassell, formerly a strictly male dorm, and Williford, formerly strictly female, are now co-ed by floor.

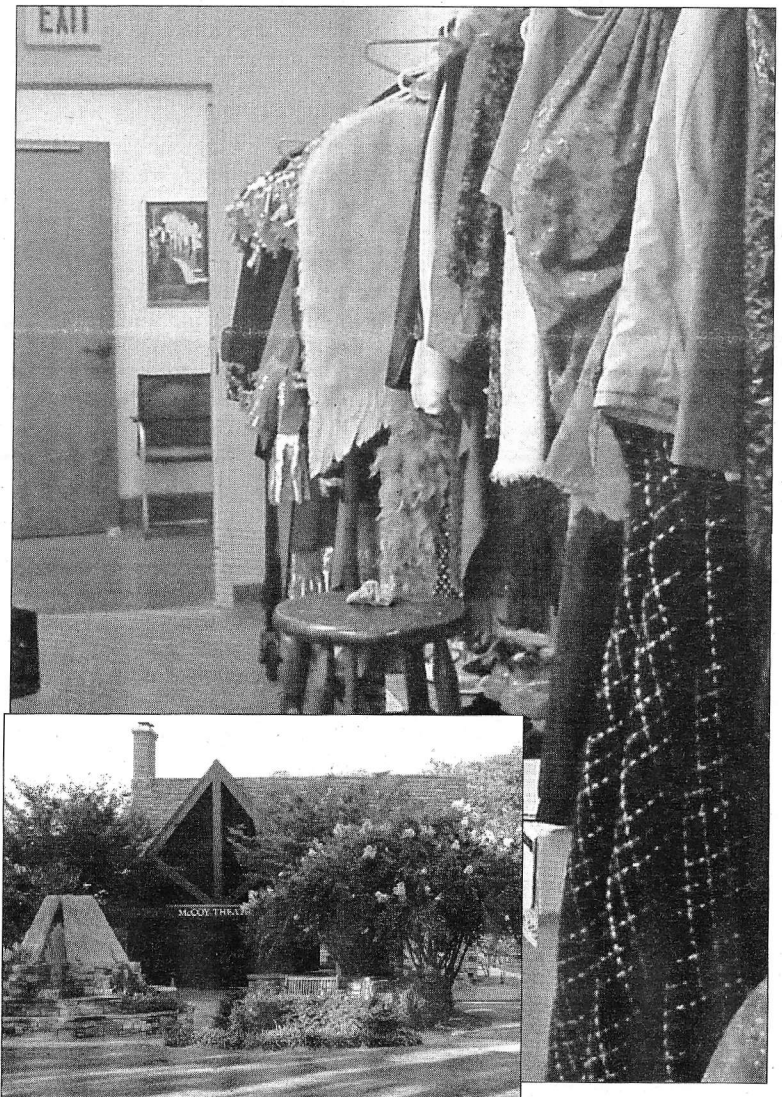
Previously the only dorms on campus that were co-ed were Stewart, Blount, and East Village, which is co-ed by apartment.

The Spann townhouses are single gender by townhouse.

The decision to make the dorms co-ed was based on a number of factors.

The main factor was the introduction of two new learning

Dorms, continued on Page 5



McCoy Construction Complete

The McCoy Theatre has more than doubled in size after completion of a construction project began in August 2005 which increased the theatre from approximately 8,400 square feet to over 17,000 square feet. The improvements made to the theatre include the additions of a new classroom, rehearsal hall, and the McCoy studio, which will be used as an after-hours rehearsal space and place for students in pursuit of independent projects. The theatre will now be able to produce an additional program of events that are open to the public. A reception hosted by President and Mrs. Troutt will take place on September 7 to celebrate the dedication of the theatre.

Turco's take: cowards, all!

By MICHAEL TURCO
Opinions Editor

It is my opinion that too many people at Rhodes College are willing to let others dictate what is important, and surrender those views that should be central to their lives. I say this in light of a phenomenon I have experienced: People cite a variety of excuses to disguise the fact that "X is very important to me, but I cannot (or will not) address it." There is something fundamentally flawed in neglecting our own understanding of the world. The reality is that we are willing to sacrifice our legal right to gather spontaneously, without so much as a fight. Instead of simply reinterpreting the world through another's eyes, it is our privilege to engage our own vision of reality. Furthermore, it is the duty of a critically thinking individual to turn that insight inwards, with the goal of exposing flaws, problems, and shortfalls, such that improvement may be made. I do not propose we all wax philosophical, but I encourage all to take a more outspoken stance with those things we truly think, believe, and support.

We certainly enjoy the feeling of being in the right, of knowing that our position is true. Yet people are afraid to take credit for their opinions. Part of this stems from our own apathy, which seems silly, considering how easy it is to get under people's skin by the time the NCAA Championship games roll around. It's ludicrous to think that we are more agitated by a game than by starvation, but this is the nature of sensationalism — we are not "moved" by the faceless struggle. Another factor looming large on the field is political correctness; no longer can I say "I have discriminating taste," without offending someone. "Common courtesy" disguises my conflicts by diluting them. But consider this: Not everyone can be right. Taking our education and privilege seriously, it is our duty to let the idiots of the world know

that they are indeed idiots (and to accept the same criticism). As a campus community, I know there are a variety of things that concern us—my hope is that people will voice and debate these concerns publicly.

For those willing to take a stand on issues, *The Sou'wester* is an excellent tool. Even if you serve others, let those who do not read about your struggles, enjoy your triumphs, battle your foes, and understand why and what drives you. In making what is private thought public, we make it clear that the issue is important. Instead of confining thoughts in the classroom, or worse, the recesses of the mind, transform those moments of enlightenment

"Taking our education and privileges seriously, it is our duty to let the idiots of the world know that they are indeed idiots"

into words that provoke thought and discussion. Challenging ideas and convictions are welcomed in the articles, letters, and forums of the Opinion section. I encourage anyone interested in writing for *The Sou'wester* to contact me at turmj@rhodes.edu, and share your thoughts, fears, and interests. Your opinions have a place; do not be afraid to voice them.

That being said, I would like to remember in a special way Steve Irwin, a man outspoken in his views about nature and our role in preserving it, who died on September 4. He, in my opinion, was a true example of how simple passion and belief can lead to a life of success; furthermore, he inspired others to do the same. Requiescat in pacem.

War, injustice continue in Iraq

By PROF. MICHAEL LaROSA

The illegal, immoral and irrational invasion of Iraq by American-led forces in March 2003 has led to an all-out Civil War and American forces are now caught in the cross-fire. All United States troops should return home immediately. The Administration that sent them there—through fabrication, manipulation and exaggeration—must be held accountable for the deaths of about 2,650 (and injury to 18,000) Americans. Senator Joe Lieberman's indefatigable defense of the war led directly to his defeat in the Connecticut Democratic primary, and suggests that Americans are starting to pay attention to the morass amassed by the undemocratic, authoritarian-embracing "necons" who currently rule over us.

The United States media is finally defining the disaster in Iraq as a civil war; on August 14, 2006, reporter Aparisim Ghosh of the venerable, status-quo conscious Time magazine declared from Baghdad that a full-blown civil war is under way. The numbers support his claim: 14,000 Iraqis, the vast majority non-combatant civilians, died violent deaths between January and June of this year. In July alone 3,500 people died in Iraq. The government has no control

over the militias, the Americans can't leave the fortified "Green Zone," and the media is hardly free to move about amidst the daily violence. So, we get our news from the Bush Administration, which has refused to listen to any criticism of its criminal incompetence; their "you're either with us or against us" mentality guides their dealings with critics at home, including decorated, respected military leaders such as Marine General Anthony Zinni and Congressman John Murtha of Pennsylvania. John W. Dean, former Nixon White House counsel, wrote recently in *The Boston Globe* that the current administration "...has created a Nixon 'imperial presidency' on steroids, while acting as if being tutored by the best and brightest of the Cosa Nostra." Of course, comparing the current administration to the Mafia is not very nice; unfortunately, it's very accurate.

Considering the current situation in the Middle East, it's apparent how utterly disastrous this administration's policy of "war in Iraq" has been for the region. Rather than democracy breaking out (which is what Vice President Cheney told us would happen with the toppling of Saddam Hussein in Iraq), we have emboldened anti-western

fundamentalists in Iran, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and...Lebanon. The recent war in Lebanon proves that we in fact have no policy in the Middle East—except, apparently, to manufacture and sell cluster munitions to Israel for use against Lebanese civilians.

This past summer, the theater of the absurd grew more bizarre as the administration rolled out flag burning and gay marriage as issues of pressing national concern. Thankfully, the American public didn't buy in. But the congress—spurred on by a flailing, feckless president—wasted our time by spending a week debating whether we should strip citizens of their constitutionally guaranteed right to free expression or prevent consenting adults from freely marrying.

January 20, 2009—the day we unload this extremist administration—can't come fast enough. But November 7, 2006—right around the corner—is our next best opportunity to regain political sanity via the legitimate electoral process.

Michael LaRosa is an associate professor of history at Rhodes.

THE SOU'WESTER

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How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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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 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, 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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PRESS

Legal...but ethical? A hard look at values in debate

By DANIEL STURTEVANT

If we are engaged here at school, we have all had our fair share of interesting intellectual debates with our fellow students--some civil, some not. In my experience, many of them can be boiled down to a debate over a set of values, no matter what the issues at hand actually are. This same conflict appears to penetrate to the heart of much American political discourse as well, so I would like to take a stand on the values themselves.

The sort of debate I'm talking about can be simplified best as an idealist vs. pragmatist economic discussion. It could be living wage, free trade, or even prison reform or drug legalization, but in the end it can be reduced to the same conflict of principle. I will touch on an example, and apologize ahead of time be-

cause I will not be able to do true justice portraying the perspective of the pragmatic side. The argument for Living Wage in its simplest form is that people deserve to make enough money to live comfortably, and this is born of the progressive value of equity. It should be noted that most of the people with whom I have debated this point obviously don't disapprove of equity; however, all know a million and one reasons why the idealistic plan of living wages does not work as desired. The position I remember best is that in order to raise wages to meet the Living Wage standards, businesses will simply fire various employees to meet costs. This would increase unemployment and not really be so equitable after all.

This idea of regulation not accomplishing its goals is used as opposition to all kinds of

progressive ideas. The logic has become that because businesses react amorally to attempts to promote equity, we should not try to regulate them at all. This is where I see the problem. Why are we satisfied with the supposed idea that businesses function without consideration of morality? I'm sorry if my conclusion isn't quite right - again, I have not taken any economics. But perhaps this is due to the fact that Adam Smith et al. say so. This does not, however, make it Gospel. It seems that it would not be an exaggeration to say that the majority of the appearance of conscience coming from the business world is born of the knowledge that a certain amount is needed to remain competitive. Why do we accept this? It may be true that a living wage would increase unemployment, but whose fault is it

and should we put up with this? It may be true that economic principle states that to remain competitive, those at the top of the corporate ladder must be paid obscenely, but why do we believe it? Instead of blaming the shortcomings of big business on regulation, why can't we expect a little bit more out of our businesses than a nihilistic pragmatism? If we really do believe the concepts of equity and human dignity, why can't we put our money where our heart is? Business cannot get away with everything, which means they do have to respond to the moral mandate of the consumer. It is sheer laziness and impotence if we allow them to get away with that with which we disagree. It is a cardinal sin to concede that evil is necessary in a world of infinite choice.

Students explore London internships

By TIFFANY WILDING

How many times have you heard the kids' song, "London Bridge?" More times than you can count, I'm sure. Did you ever stop to wonder where the heck that song originated from? Did you ever question if the London Bridge was on the verge of collapse? If not, I'm sure you are like most people who merely sang along with their child, brother, or sister, completely disinterested. Fergie, on the other hand, might prove to be more interesting. I'm sure we have all thought of her, after rolling our eyes at the first chord of her already over played song.

I'll bet you are asking yourself what is the point of all of these ambiguous questions. Where am I going with this article? After spending eight weeks in London I found myself wanting to uncover the myths centered in the London world of corporate finance. After all, Wikipedia claims that London is the global leader in investment banking and currency exchange. As all college students will attest, if Wiki says something, then it must be true. Although it is numerically accurate that London leads the world's financial sector, I'm here to uncover the behind-the-scenes actions of corporate finance (shhhhhh, they are as absurd as the myths suggest)

Because multi-billion dollar clients and the investment banking industry as a whole like to remain completely anonymous, I have changed the names of the people and places in this article. With that in mind let's call the company I worked for "Perrill Fynch."

We are now entering the corporate world of Perrill Fynch (please have your seats and tray-tables in the fully up-right and locked position). Everything I would never need can be found within the walls of this four story high rise building that was Perrill - five food stations, six coffee shops, a smoking plaza, health clinic, workout facilities and a system of employee "points" used to buy things.

Upon entering the building and queuing through security, one must head to a lift that accesses the third floor. That is where my cubical can be found. It is a compact, impersonal cubical, neatly tucked away from management view, in the operations and logistics section of the company. There I sat scanning

documents and listening to analysts' plights, "My client is a bloody fool; he bases his trading off of what his bloody-hell dentist tells him. Who the hell is his dentist, I'd like to know." I would like to say that I was given some real assignments; by that I mean something other than filing. But for the most part I wasn't. I observed, listened, and scanned with a few big projects to follow up.

For those of you who have seen "The Office," a type of British sitcom outlining the ridiculous antics of a corporate office, you know that every office comes fully equipped with a wide range of crazy stereotypes. I am here to tell you that these TV shows ARE BASED ON TRUTH! My office comes equipped with a flightily British flirt, a horny 50 something boss, and Carl... oh Carl... the stapler-obsessed perfectionist whose job is simply to scan client files into the online database. For 20 plus years, he works his way up to a steak dinner with the regional president and as an added bonus, the gorgeous and skinny sales manager tagged along. Unbeknownst to Carl, this sales manager always accompanies the president on these dinner outings. Let's be honest, she has better socialization skills, and her legs look exponentially better a skirt and high heels. Carl is aware of this last fact.

The highlight of the summer was working with the crisis management team. Well, I didn't work with them per se, as my job centered on observation-based goals. I observed a client who headed an arms-ring, funneling anything and everything hazardous into Iraq. He had embezzled money from the Soviet Union during its collapse, and had been actively laundering that money ever since. I wish I could give you the details, but then I would have to kill you; this information is highly confidential!

But to end this highly ridiculous article, I want to point out that next time anyone mentions the myths of the financial investment industry, you can smile to yourself because now you know they are actually true (a lot of them). Office spaces are inherently ridiculous. If you are still wondering, yes Fergie has a financial advisor, and yes, that advisor probably wants to "go down" every time she comes around.

By LAUREN ANDERSON

At the beginning of the summer, when I left Houston with the exciting prospect of a nine and a half hour plane ride ahead of me, what was waiting for me across the "pond" was the least of my concerns. The fact that Victoria Station would turn out to be more than just a single train platform and that a "Faces" picture might not be enough to identify my roommate never really occurred to me. Looking back, I'm not entirely sure how I thought it was going to work out, but I believe the thought of nine hours in coach, sitting next to a screaming child, was higher up on my list of concerns at the time.

In the end, there was no screaming child, but rather a Belgian man who apparently didn't like flying and whose hyperventilation episodes resulted in my getting very little sleep and a number of frightened flight attendants asking me if my grandfather was alright.

The first few days of my trip turned out to be far from what I had anticipated. Our shared flat ended up being in what can best be described as a ghetto, and our other roommates were middle aged, single men, the only exception was the guy living downstairs, who was in his sixties. Needless to say, my stay in Tottenham did not last more than about seven hours.

Eventually, we ended up finding a much better place to live; however, little did we know, London had more than just these few initial surprises in store.

As Tiffany, my roommate, left for her first day at Merrill Lynch, and I for my job with the Centre for Social Justice, I am not sure either of us found what we expected. Tiffany, as I am sure she will tell you, expected the enormous office building that she ended up in, but there was more to Merrill Lynch than simply a giant building. I, on the other hand, was rather surprised when I exited the tube station in Lambeth North to find myself working in a building that acted as a church on Sundays and a coffee shop during the week. Our office was not the gray walled, cubicled space I had expected when I was told I would be working for a think tank but rather a bright, yellow room, with seven

desks facing one another, which the eight of us working there shared.

While Tiffany worked in the rigid, suit driven world that Merrill Lynch had to offer, I found myself wearing jeans on Fridays and frequently answering phone calls from Iain Duncan Smith, the former leader of the Conservative Party and our fearless leader at The Centre, where he referred to me as "the new intern" and informed me that his only message to my boss Cameron was to tell him that "Iain is on the phone." I not only did research and answered phone calls, but also ran many errands such as going to Piccadilly Circus to pick up rugby shirts to auction off at an upcoming function and bringing a packet of information to the home of Ruby Wax, a famous British soap star.

The job turned out to be amazing, as did the people I was able to meet as a result of it. Iain, whom I thought might be a pompous ass (which would admittedly not be far from what I would expect of a party leader), was far from it. His dry sense of humor never ceased to amuse me when he frequently commented that the security guards at the gates of Parliament were a complete sham since in reality, we, who often shared a taxi with him, could have quite easily been pointing a gun at his back, thereby forcing him to wave the guards away (and the guards of course needed nothing more than his wave to be moved). Furthermore, the charity founders that I met as a result of The Centre's "Poverty Fighting Alliance" were not always the serious, saint-like people I had expected. Camila Batmanglich, the founder of a charity called Kids Company, and the author of *Shattered Lives*, though an amazing and truly good person, was not without her sense of humor; she told us she was disappointed that a ranting teen in her facility "could not at least be interesting or entertaining."

This summer was, without a doubt, one of the best summers of my life, and despite the rough beginning and stumbling along the way, I would not trade it for anything. After all, in the end, most of the surprises turned out to be blessings. I certainly wasn't complaining about trading in my suit for jeans on Fridays.

Student Voice

The policy regarding alcohol violations has changed this year. How do you feel about the revised policies?

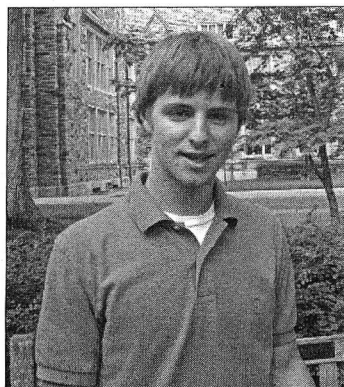


The Good Samaritan law was way overdue, I think I'm up for open-ended alcohol violations, but I doubt it will put a stop to the plethora of drinking games. Games will just be quieter.

-Whitney Cade ('09)

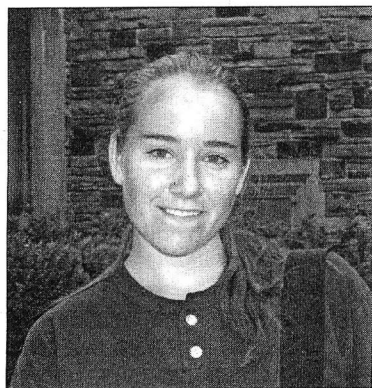
Beer pong should be allowed. It takes 10-15 minutes and you drink 1 beer or less. That's not super-risky drinking.

-Daniel Wilkinson ('09)



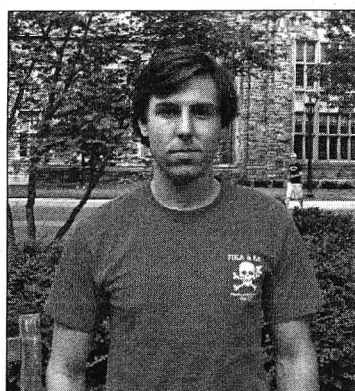
I think the original intentions of these changes were genuine, but the effect will be a heightened risk for drunk driving and accidents that could be avoided on campus.

-Armanda Venezia ('10)



As a 21-year-old, it is my right to drink in a manner I deem appropriate, as long as it does not infringe upon others. Drinking games promote socialization and vast improvements in hand-eye coordination, and as such should not be outlawed for 21 year olds.

-Jeremy Holzmacher ('07)



Parties will just be moved off-campus and the policy will increase drunk driving rather than reducing it.

-Leslie Elmore ('09)



Alcohol policy strengthened

By AVERY PRIBILA
News Editor

The Rhodes College alcohol policy has been revised and new sanction options have been implemented for the 2006-2007 school year. According to the Rhodes College Alcohol and Social Event Policy the new policy "has been established in an effort to promote a balance between the interests of the individual and those of the Rhodes community, and to encourage responsible decisions about alcohol."

The policy changes came as a result of a re-evaluation of the effectiveness of the former Alcohol and Social Event Policy by the Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force, a force made up of students and administrators created in the fall of 2004. Student focus groups consisting of students and a facilitator were created to review the policies, and peer school comparison played a role in the decision to draft changes.

These drafts were presented to numerous student groups for feedback and consideration before being edited to a final version. After the final draft was completed, '05-'06 RSG president Becky Saleska and current RSG president, Andy Greer, met with a panel of administrators and agreed with the changes. Former Director of Greek Life, Elizabeth Berry, presented the changes to the RSG Senate. The senate found the changes to be reasonable.

According to Greer, "We found the new code to be reasonable and well conceived. It struck a balance between the reality of students' behavior and the college's need for a policy that met students' needs."

The alcohol policy revisions cover a variety of aspects, including alcohol violations and the participation in drinking games. The participation in drinking games and the possession or use of paraphernalia such as a beer funnel is now in violation of the Alcohol and Social Event Policy.

The system of AVs has also been revised. Violations are now on a two-tiered system. Level 1 violations include, but are not limited to, the possession or consumption of alcohol if under the age of 21, the consumption of alcohol outside of approved campus areas by those of legal drinking age, or providing alcohol to underage students. Individuals over the age of 21 are only allowed to have or consume alcohol in residence hall rooms, the East Village patio, inside fraternity houses and on the patios immediately outside the fraternity houses.

Violations that fall under level 2 include alcohol intoxication or substance induced behavior that places

a student at risk in terms of health and safety issues. It is up to the adjudicator to determine the level of the violation. There are a number of sanctions that are designed to be flexible to "meet the needs of individual students." The new policies place great emphasis on creating an individual response to violations with regard to situational factors. The student's behavior and the circumstances of the violation are taken into account. As a result, students can receive any combination of the sanctions if found to be in violation of the policies. A matrix has been established to guide the adjudicator in assigning sanctions; fines now range from \$100 to \$250, as opposed to the former fine of \$50. Other possible sanctions include alcohol education, AA meetings, professional evaluations, community service, parent notification and even suspension. If caught driving on campus while under the influence, students will have their parking and driving privileges suspended for the remainder of their time at Rhodes.

Finally, previous disciplinary actions are now taken into account when sanctions are being assigned. In past years alcohol violations have been removed from a student's record at the end of each year. Now, such violations are not erased and can be considered and have an effect on the severity of the sanctions received.

Another new policy at Rhodes this year includes the creation of a "Good Samaritan" clause. This allows impaired or intoxicated students to seek medical help from Campus Safety or Residence Life staff and Resident Assistants without receiving a policy violation.

According to the Good Samaritan Policy, "the health and safety of students is a priority for the Rhodes community." This policy does not extend to the violation of other college policies such as sexual assault or harassment. It also does not prevent action by local or state authorities. If contacted, staff members will record the names of intoxicated students to allow for follow-up. The student may be required to complete alcohol education programs.

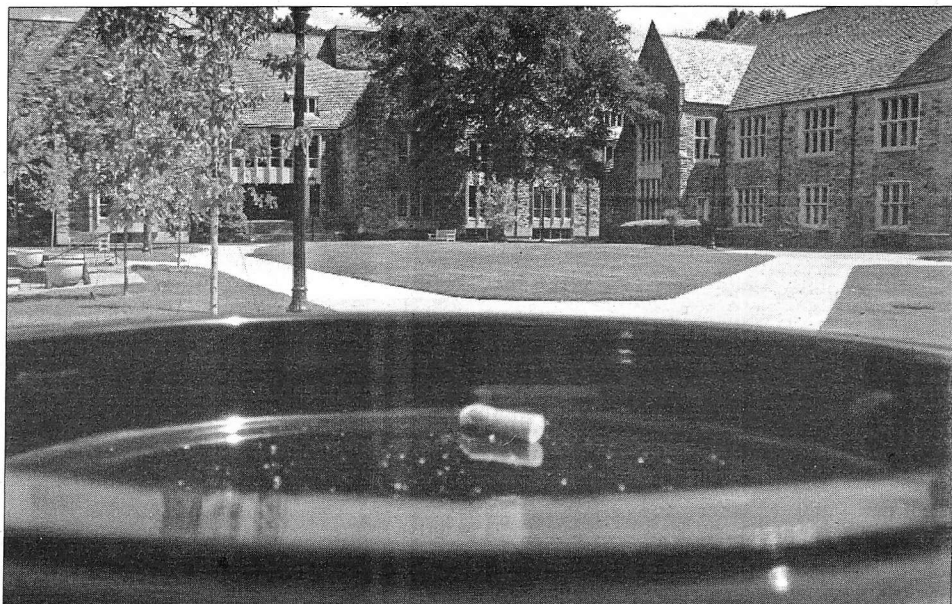
To prepare for the arrival of the freshmen, orientation staff had a question/answer session with John Blaisdell, head of Campus Safety, to learn about the new policies. According to Blaisdell, "Campus Safety's role will not change, we will report alcohol violations and allow the judicial process to determine if a violation occurred and what level the violation is."

Freshmen also had a session during orientation with Blaisdell to learn about the other new Rhodes policies.

A summary of the Rhodes Alcohol Policy:

Your friendly Sou'wester staff condensed the Rhodes College Regulations Regarding Alcohol Use, found in the student handbook, for your reading pleasure.

1. Alcohol and alcohol containers may not be consumed or possessed anywhere on campus or at any college function by anyone who is under the legal drinking age.
2. The individual and legal possession and consumption of alcohol on campus is limited to the residence hall rooms and to the East Village patio, inside fraternity houses, and the patios immediately behind fraternity houses.
3. No kegs or other common containers will be allowed on campus.
4. The sale of alcoholic beverages on campus is prohibited unless approved by the Dean of Students or the Vice President of Administrative Services
5. The participation in drinking games, the possession or use of paraphernalia, such as a beer funnel, which puts the user in a position to consume alcohol irresponsibly, is a violation of the alcohol and social event policy.
6. Public intoxication is a violation and will not be tolerated.
7. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, no person shall furnish alcoholic beverages to others on campus or at any College function.



DANIEL JACOBS/The Sou'wester

New trashcans around campus were included in the summer improvements.

Landscaping, continued from Page 1

weather will be planted later in the fall.

One major improvement from the new landscape was an underground irrigation system, which was also installed in other parts of the campus.

"The irrigation is actually better to run than us taking a sprinkler and turning a sprinkler on out there," said Kevin Sackett, the Superintendent of Grounds at Rhodes. "You can tell around campus the areas that are irrigated or not. When people really start looking at it, it looks different."

Sackett also said the elimination of the large planter in front of Palmer Hall, and the hedges the lined the building, are other improvements.

"Any time you have flower beds it turns into nothing but maintenance," said Sackett. "We're trying to eliminate what cannot be maintained. It's better to have something that's not there than to have something scraggly."

The large concrete planters that are in the Frazier-Jelke amphitheatre and the Frazier-Jelke deck will eventually hold dwarf plants, including crepe myrtle and ginkgo trees, which will grow to about four feet.

The new landscape also incorporates subtle mounds which improve drainage and make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

"If you stand back far enough you can

just see rolling hills and not sidewalks," said Sackett. "[The landscaping is] very plain and simple. It's very clean. Not a lot of complicated landscaping, it's just clean and simple. And you have a lot of nice grass to sit in."

A local contractor worked on the redesign of the McCoy Theatre parking lot.

"That was an effort to improve the road network, the flow of traffic, and improve safety, as well as to add much needed parking spaces," said Boone. "Now there is better lighting, more landscaping, better parking and better pedestrian safety."

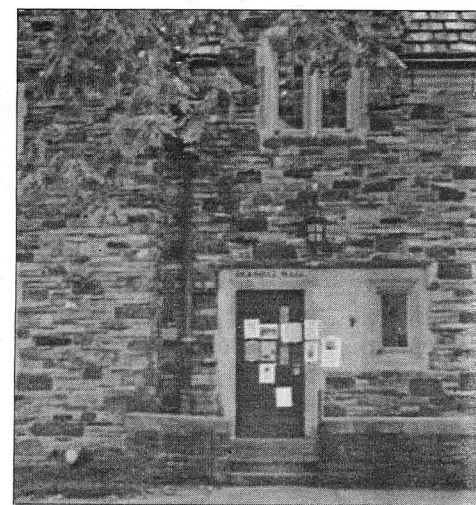
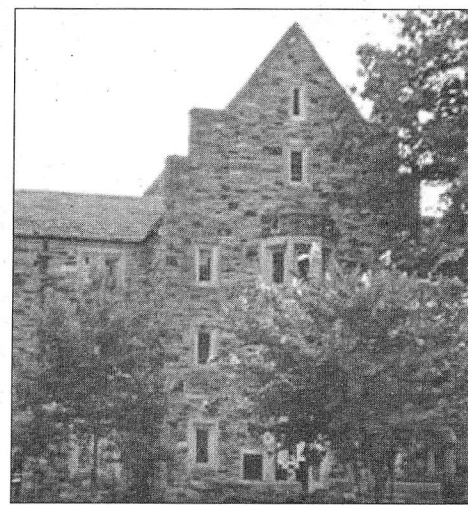
Students were positive about the new landscape behind Palmer Hall.

"I think it is good because now we have sidewalks that can actually get you from one building to another in a straight line," said sophomore Patrick Deveau. "I wouldn't sit out here to study my notes, but I would come out here to read a book or something."

"I miss sitting on the thing with the flowers inside," said sophomore Karolina Grabowicz. "But it's pretty and the grass is well kept, so it's pretty aesthetically pleasing."

The new landscape is the first major landscape change since the construction of the Paul Barret Jr. Library.

"Everyone that has seen it has been very pleased," said Boone. "It took an area that was much in need of modernization and brought it to the 21st century."



GWEN WEIL/The Sou'wester

Students are still adjusting to the decision to make Glassell and Williford co-ed.

Dorms, continued from Page 1

communities.

According to the Rhodes Vision, Rhodes has "a desire to provide a residential place of learning that inspires integrity and high achievement through its beauty, its emphasis on values, its Presbyterian history, and its heritage as a leader in the liberal arts and sciences."

The residence halls are ultimately a place of learning, and the administration hopes that the new learning communities will help foster this environment.

The new communities were created based upon a survey of the courses most selected by first year students: Biology 130, housed in Williford, and Economics 101, housed in Glassell.

These are courses that often prove to be difficult for students, and are amongst the most often dropped. According to Marianne Luther, Director of Residence Life at Rhodes, "We wanted to create an environment where one could easily find other students within the building taking the same course so study groups and other support could be found."

The idea of learning communities is not entirely new for Rhodes. In previous years Rhodes has housed a British Empire learning community, coordinated by Drs. Leslie and Zastoupil.

This community is also being housed in Glassell this year. There was also an American Studies program led by Professors Boswell, Huebner and Bremer.

Residence Life has implemented a number of programs to supplement the new learning communities.

To aid students enrolled in the courses, tutors will be assigned office hours in each building. Planned study breaks and related programming will also take place.

In addition to the learning communities Rhodes will provide programs with the help of the Counseling Center, Career Services, and the Registrar and Academic Affairs office that will focus on study skills, stress management, and potential careers.

According to Luther, "The hope is that having the learning communities would open more opportunities for faculty involvement in the residence halls."

There has been very little opposition to the changes. There were some minimal concerns expressed by upper-class students, but parental support has been good.

Luther said she received more opinions on the decision from alumni than current students. Despite the move toward more co-ed dorms, Rhodes remains committed to providing an environment for students who wish to live in single gender housing. Incoming students were asked their preference in housing situations.

Over 70% of the students expressed a preference to live in a building with men and women housed on different floors. Most students were housed in the areas they requested.

While there has been relatively little opposition to the changes, some upper-class students have had difficulty understanding the decision.

"It was pretty rowdy [last year]," said Gergely Gyuris, 09, who lived in Glassell last year. "The bathrooms were pretty trashed after weekends, and there was throw-up everywhere. I don't think it was so bad that it needed to be switched to co-ed. It was a freshman dorm and it was livable."

Residence Life has received only few complaints regarding the new setup. There have been some complaints about the "new" female restroom in Glassell, but they have been addressed by Physical Plant and Res Life.

Not everyone is unhappy with the change. According to freshman Glassell resident Isabel Owen, "I like it being coed because it gives me the opportunity to meet more guys."

Any plans to make other dorms co-ed in the future will be based on the success or failure of the new learning communities. This is a pilot program that will be evaluated in upcoming years. While it is still too early in the semester to determine whether the changes in gender distribution have lessened conduct incidents in the dorms, the incidents in all residence halls have been lower than this time last year.

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Forever Breathes The Lonely Word: Felt's masterpiece revisited

By WES BARKER
Staff Writer

Lawrence Hayward's third and best LP for Felt, *Forever Breathes the Lonely Word*, is more than just Lawrence's magnum opus; it is a lyrical and musical subversion of the popular music industry and the industry's continuing apathy for innovative and original music. The once avant-garde and underground rock of NYC's Television and Edinburgh's Josef K seemed to drift away as new wave and commercialized pop began to control 80's music. *Forever Breathes the Lonely Word* not only challenges mainstream music lyrically with Lawrence's dismissive words about modern culture and his unwillingness to conform to modern society, but also instrumentally through the inclusion of the electric organ in all eight tracks of the short LP. He directly juxtaposed the electric synth and programming that had become commonplace among pop music and which had subverted traditional human song craft through mechanical and digital programming. The organ upheld Lawrence's avant-garde view of music and created a sound directly opposite the popular synth craze.

"All the People I Like Are Those That Are Dead" typically exhibits Lawrence's indepen-

dence and estrangement from the world. The song's opening lyric: "Maybe I should entertain the very fact that I am insane," specifically reflects Lawrence's pain and loneliness. It seems everyone is against him, but he is unwilling to give in to these pressures. He flirts with worldly conforming, but he's been trying too hard for the world to acknowledge him to give in so lightly. The mainstream world sees him as insane - a lunatic for his art and passion. Lawrence simply expresses his thoughts in a way no other words can in the lyrics, "I have been around this town and I have seen what God has done. And I've been around and it's no fun. Don't make me a martyr for your causes, because I don't believe a word you say. Maybe I should take a gun and put it to the head of everyone. It's better to be lost than be found. You try to tell me what to believe in, but I've got know clue what you're talking about. It's better to be a lion than to be a mouse." He does not fit into the conformed world. He does not believe in God. He does not believe in any cause but his own. Lawrence is a pioneer, but most importantly, Lawrence is an individual struggling in a world of conformists.

The dry season: a summer movie retrospective

By JOHN HUNTER DUESING
A&E Editor

The summer movie season is the season moviegoers usually look forward to. It's when Hollywood gives us their biggest high-concept projects, as well as a few diamonds in the rough to unearth and discover. Unfortunately for moviegoers, summer movies have been getting progressively worse as the years have gone by. Hollywood summer blockbusters used to bring up names like Steven Spielberg or George Lucas, filmmakers who would deliver a high-concept movie that would take the audience someplace special. Now, it seems that the media's obsession with box-office numbers has caused studio suits to drive for one thing: profits. Studios tend to throw their films out and hope for a strong opening weekend, as profits have taken precedence over quality. This is largely due to the fact that the talking heads in the media tend to review movies over their immediate box-office earnings, as opposed to the quality of the films. The studios have taken this notion to heart, delivering only sub-standard McMovies, mediocre two-and-a-half star films by wet-behind-the-ears music-video-directors hungry for their first feature. It seems that the summer has become the season for these kinds of movies.

Mediocre films didn't just come from studio hacks this summer either. Director Michael Mann, a favorite of mine, managed to underwhelm me with *Miami Vice*, a film based on the TV show he created that defined eighties pop culture. While I enjoyed the vérité camerawork Mann

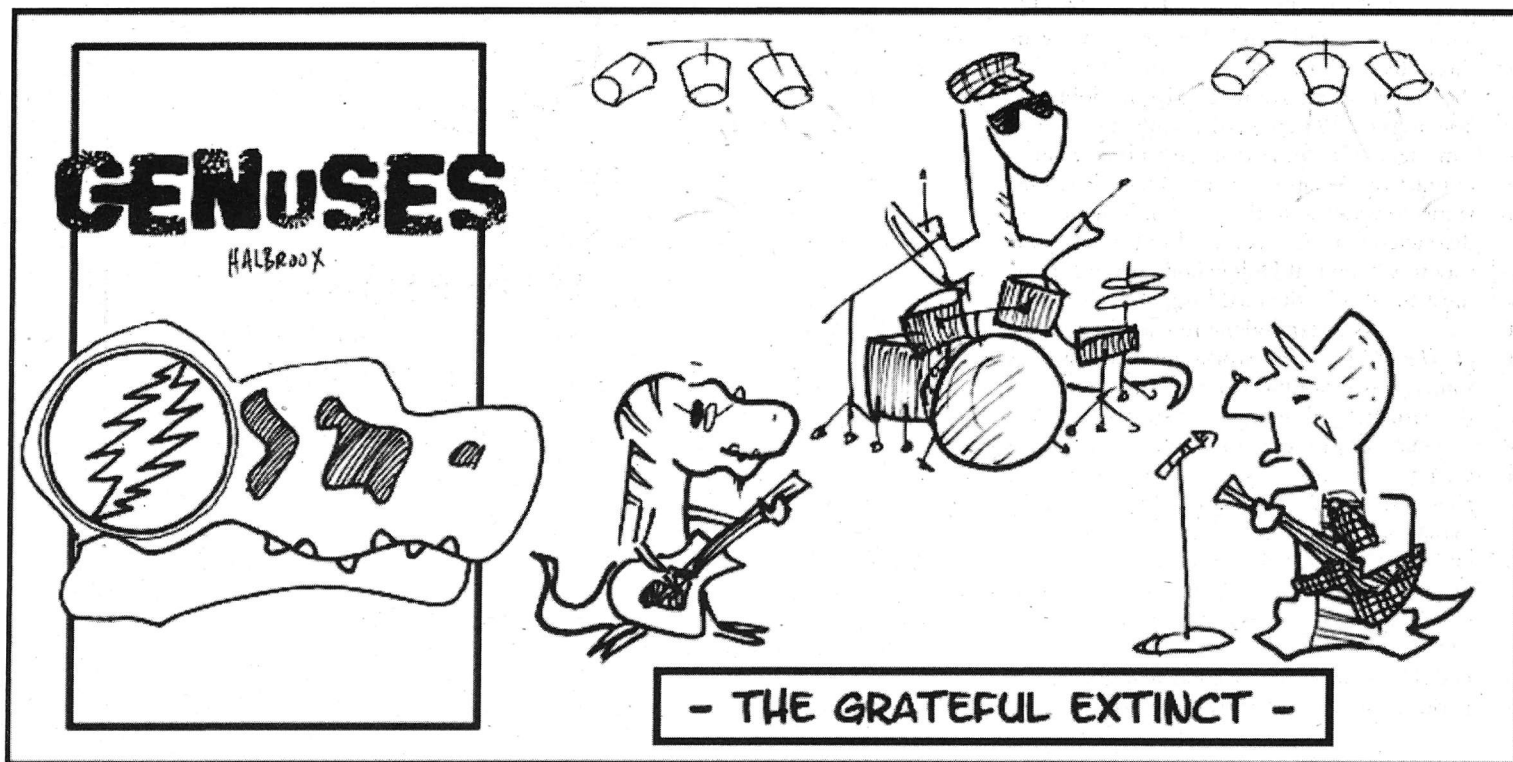
employed in the movie, as well as the breathtaking action sequences, the characters were half-baked and the story was nothing short of muddled and confusing. Even *The Usual Suspects* auteur Bryan Singer, who made comic fans proud with his *X-Men* films, delivered a superhero movie in the form of *Superman Returns*, which was good in my eyes, but far from great. While the movie was supposed to be a sequel to Richard Donner's *Superman* films, it almost felt like a remake of the original, with Lex Luthor (Kevin Spacey) creating another nutty real estate scheme that Superman must foil. It created some fun set pieces, unfortunately they go never get properly used, as the movie is sorely lacking in the action department (the exact opposite of the situation with *Miami Vice*). It was by no means a bad movie, or a mediocre one for that matter - I just didn't come out of the movie satisfied, probably due to my high expectations. It was like getting a full meal at a fancy steakhouse, and cutting your steak to find that the chef cooked it well-done instead of the medium-cooked cut you were expecting to enjoy.

Probably the best Hollywood dishes I paid for at the cinema were two for which I had low expectations. One was Kevin Smith's *Clerks II*. Being a big fan of the original ode to slackerdom he did in the early nineties, I was skeptical about seeing it simply because I thought it was a cheap idea for him to write a sequel to one of his most beloved films. It seemed like Smith wanted mainly to get back into the good graces of fans,

who rolled their eyes at his last effort, *Jersey Girl*. However I was surprised at how good the movie turned out to be. Sure, it was in color (for shame!), had some obnoxious camerawork, and contained some lewd humor that became a bit much at times, but Smith managed to help the characters from his original film grow, adding new shades to the slackers I thought I knew. Another movie I thought was great ended up being one of the most reviled movies of the summer, M. Night Shyamalan's *Lady in the Water*. The guillotine was out for Shyamalan before the movie came out, mainly because of the epic battle he waged with Disney over the making of the movie (which is chronicled in the book "The Man Who Heard Voices" by Michael Bamberger), as well as casting himself in a key role in the film. In the end, it was another example of a movie being reviewed by its budget and box-office earnings and not by the quality of the film. Regardless, I found the movie to be a great story in the vein of classic Spielberg (back in his glory days), that showed a great deal faith and hope in humanity, as well as the difference a group effort can make, which is refreshing in a film market tainted with nihilistic worldviews.

The best places I turned to this summer for movies were the independent and foreign markets. Two movies I really enjoyed this summer came straight from Britain - Neil Marshall's *The Descent*, a horror film about a spelunking trip gone horribly wrong, and Woody Allen's *Scoop*, which was a fun light-comedy from the master. I also got a great deal of laughs out of Paul Dinello's *Strangers With Candy*, based on the cult television show starring Amy Sedaris. However the absolute cream of the crop on the indie market was Andy Garcia's *The Lost City*, which somehow managed to inexplicably slip under the radar.

While there are still plenty of good movies coming out over the summer season, they're becoming fewer and further between, causing moviegoers like me to have to dig through the endless barrage of CGI kids movies and thick-headed teen comedies. Hopefully the fall season will give 2006 redemption, with movies like *Hollywoodland* and Brian De Palma's *The Black Dahlia* on the horizon, which seem like they might give moviegoers the quality they deserve in their motion picture experience. With a little luck, fulfilled expectations may be just around the corner.



Dinner & a Movie

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

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photo courtesy of playbill.com

The Wicker Man redux

By JOHN HUNTER DUESING
A&E Editor

It's hard for me to review a movie like *The Wicker Man* without bringing a certain amount of baggage into it, as it happens to be a remake of one of my favorite films. So it's clear that I'm going to hold Neil LaBute's update of Robin Hardy's 1973 British classic up to a very high standard. The backlash against this movie by fans of the original has been pretty harsh (mainly because it jettisons the legendary musical aspect of the original), however I myself am not against remakes, I'm against bad movies, so I decided to go see it.

The basic story from the original remains intact. A police officer (played by Nicholas Cage in this film) goes to investigate a missing person's report on a secluded island off the coast called Summersisle (the original was in Scotland, the remake takes place in New England). Upon arriving, he is shocked to stumble on a twisted neo-pagan community, full of uncooperative locals who clearly know more than they are letting on. As the mystery unravels, he finds that his purpose there is of a more sinister nature than he was led to believe.

The instances in which I find myself enjoying remakes is when the director has a new and interesting vision to bring to the subject matter tackled in the previous film, even if it doesn't really work. Jonathan Demme's remake of *The Manchurian Candidate* was one such instance. While his new ideas didn't really work too well, I sure do respect him for trying. The original version of *The Wicker Man* served mainly as a commentary on the conflict of religious ideals (a Catholic man in a world of pagans), whereas in LaBute's version of the film, it serves as a commentary on gender relations (a man on an island of pagan women), a theme consistent with LaBute's body of work. I appreciate the fact that LaBute was able to branch out and bring

new ideas and themes to the film, as the religious themes were explored flawlessly in Robin Hardy's original. The performances in the film are competent (not outstanding), and Nicholas Cage does his role justice. I feel bad for Ellen Burstyn, however, who has to fill the shoes of Christopher Lee, who gave one of his best performances in the original film. While her performance is perfectly fine, it just doesn't stack up.

My main complaint with this movie is that the filmmakers feel like they need to scare you every so often as the story progresses. Several chunks of the film are spent with Nicholas Cage having hallucinations and chasing shadows, only to lead to a cheap "boo scare" or an unwarranted bind that he has to get out of, which hampers the story's progression. The film moves along and builds tension quite well, and then they throw in these distractions that are designed to scare the audience but are ineffective in doing so. The original film essentially worked its plot as a mystery, and didn't turn into a horror movie until the famous climax scene. This film seems to want to do that, but ends up getting distracted with its need to throw scares your way in the typical Hollywood fashion. It almost smells like the meddling of studio suits.

As a stand-alone movie, the remake of *The Wicker Man* works just fine, and is something I would rather see than most of the garbage stinking up the multiplexes. It's a very flawed film to be sure, but it's still worth seeing. I mainly enjoyed it because I was getting to see one of my favorite films new again, which is always fun. What I hope this movie ends up doing is helping people discover the original, which is something of an overlooked classic nowadays. The remake is an above-average film to go see at the theater on a weekend, but renting the original will give an experience of pure cinematic euphoria.

El Porton: renovated and still affordable

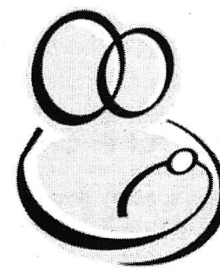
By SUSAN WESSEL

If you have ever been to El Porton, you certainly do not need me to extol upon its greatness. Although a friend once argued that, with its new renovations, El Porton lost its *je ne c'est quoi*, I personally do not miss the bathroom graffiti. Who was Big Papi anyway, and why did he feel the need to publicize his gargantuan *reata*? Even though the place has been cleaned up, El Porton still retains some of its former charm (read: grit). Just don't ask your waiter what his tattoo means; he gave up that life a long time ago.

Is El Porton the "best Mexican food" in Memphis? Debatable, and honestly who cares? It's a good value. And as a financially challenged college student, half of its appeal is the low prices for ridiculously good dishes, such as the Pollo Alla Parilla. The steak fajitas are the perfect antidote to Friday Night rat food. And never say "No" to desserts, especially the flan. Seriously, it is perfection.

El Porton is billed as "casual dining" and family friendly. Translation: Huge portions and huge margaritas to numb soccer moms and dads to the monotony of their lives, as well as a toddler's screaming fits. And on any given Friday night, there will be kids, many loud kids. I can't complain too much, I was once a kid after all. But was I THAT annoying?

The service remains questionable at El Porton. Sometimes the place is packed, and the food arrives in minutes. Occasionally, I have eaten 3 baskets of chips before the food is delivered, and yet I'm the only person there. Regardless of my waiting time, the waiters know I'm going to show up whether they are friendly or not. Why waste time with witty banter, when they know I am here for one reason- queso dip. Copious amounts of the liquid goodness have been consumed many a time. And if you're going to double-dip, please get your own bowl. Yes, just get your own bowl because this one is mine!



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Soccer wins first game at Lambuth

By Jamie Underwood

The Rhodes Men's Soccer team is back and ready to take the field after a hard-fought 2005 season. This should be an exciting year for the team. A number of valuable players will be joining the team this year, including freshmen Zachary Berry, Matthew Childs, Erick DeVore, Logan Eberly, Joey Madere, Zach Morgan, Allen Orgeron, and Richard Sewell, along with sophomore Christian Reeser. The incoming class, which includes former high school MVPs, leading scorers, and team captains, is sure to help lead the team to victory.

As Eberly confidently stated, "When you combine the talent, experience, and leadership of our returning players with the skill and versatility of the incoming freshman, I believe the soccer program is prepared to have a successful season."

Perhaps Eberly is correct in concluding that the athletic prowess of the returning squad will be further enhanced by the presence of these new players.

The active involvement of both existing teammates and coaches has obviously helped prepare the freshmen for their role on the team. Eberly recognizes the upperclassmen's efforts, declaring that "As an incoming freshman to the program, I have been very impressed by coaches' and players' dedication to making this season memorable."

An active team and coaching system has been encouraging to the new class, particularly during preseason camp when first impressions are made and potential is demonstrated.

The freshmen are already proving to be a valuable asset to the existing team,

as demonstrated in the recent 4-1 victory against Lambuth University in Jackson, TN. As junior goalie Alex Mathis noted, "The entire freshman class is competing quite well for some of the starting positions on the field. Having this competition gives this team depth which will be another vital component to our success on the field this year."

Expectations ran high and were met with success as the Lynx won their season opener. Mathis' comments were confirmed by the Lambuth victory, with sophomore Jay Carpenter scoring two goals and sophomore Matt Averill and freshman Logan Eberly each contributing one of their own. Upperclassmen and freshmen alike are confident that their early victory will lead to more success.

Teamwork, however, will be essential for the Men's Soccer team to accomplish its lofty goals. The smooth assimilation of the existing Rhodes team with the new recruits will be crucial.

"The team has become more optimistic about the year because of better team chemistry and an overall rise in the quality of play from several individuals," Mathis said.

As demonstrated through their victory against Lambuth, the convergence of newcomers and seasoned veterans has led to zeal and early success. Combining the experience of the returning players with the innovative skills of the freshmen, the Men's Soccer team aims to improve on last year's season. The upcoming games at home include a match against Delta State University, on September 17th, at 2:00pm and Centre College September 29th at 4:00pm.

Successful cross country start at Sewanee

By Hehsam Hassan

The Rhodes Men's and Women's Cross Country teams kicked off the 2006 season with an excellent performance at the Sewanee Invitational on the first Saturday in September. The men came in fourth after Mississippi State, Birmingham Southern, and Centre. Leading the men were juniors Alex Mahoney, who came in fifth overall, and Nick Lewis who finished nineteenth out of 152 competitors. Mahoney and Lewis finished the 8K in 26:22.17 and 27:24.60, respectively. All of Rhodes' men placed among the first 100, helping secure a fourth place finish for the Lynx.

Like the men, all the women placed in the top 100, out of 159 runners. The women came in third out of 19 colleges, following Mississippi State and Emory. The freshmen on the team proved that they are ready to run with the best of the Lynx by placing the

top four fastest times of the Rhodes runners. Whitney Ranson, Cybil Covic, Chelsea Ouellette, and Charlotte Ashford had the four best times on the Rhodes team, running the 5K in 20:15.96, 20:18.71, 20:23.83, and 20:48.14 respectively. Ranson attributes the early success of the freshmen girls to "our love for Cross Country and our motivation from others on the team." Meanwhile Covic reaffirms, "Yes, the upperclassmen on the team help bring out the best with their continuing encouragement."

The men's and women's teams hope that the positive start provides some confidence and momentum for the season ahead. They will travel to Joplin, Mo. on September 16 for the Southern Stampede. That meet will be an opportunity to build upon their early success.

Futbaaww! Woouooooo!

2005 Football Results: 2006 Football Schedule:

9/3 vs. Louisiana College W 43-33
9/17 @ Centre L 31-27
9/24 @ Huntingdon L 16-12
10/1 @ Washington U. L 15-10
10/8 vs. Rose-Hulman L 16-13
10/15 @ DePauw L 7-3
10/22 vs. Colorado Col. W 35-7
10/29 vs. Trinity L 34-6
11/5 @ Millsaps L 30-29
11/12 vs. Sewanee L 25-22 OT

9/9 @ La Grange 1:30
9/16 vs. Centre 1:30
9/23 vs. Huntingdon 1:30
9/30 vs. Washington U. 1:30
10/7 @ Austin College 12:00
10/14 vs. DePauw 12:00
10/21 vs. Colorado Coll. 2:00
10/28 @ Trinity 1:30
11/4 vs. Millsaps 2:00
11/11 @ Sewanee 1:00



ED LANE/The Sou'wester

The Lynx first-team defense prepares for the season opener, this Saturday at La Grange. This is La Grange's inaugural season.

Varsity Athletic Scoreboard

Women's Soccer
9/2 vs. Luther College
W 6-1
9/3 vs. University of Texas at Dallas
W 1-0
(2-0 overall, 0-0 SCAC)

Field Hockey
9/2 vs. Denison (OH)
L 4-3
9/4 vs. Transylvania (KY)
W 6-1
(1-1 overall, 0-0 SCAC)

Volleyball
9/1 vs. Loyola (LA) University
L 25-30, 20-30, 25-30
9/2 vs. Lyon College
L 30-27, 22-30, 21-20, 25-30
9/2 vs. Belhaven College
L 24-30, 30-26, 23-30, 30-24, 14-16
9/2 vs. West Alabama University
L 30-13, 24-30, 26-30, 24-30