

Athletic MVP's were named at the 1987 Rhodes Athletic Banquet, May 19 at Wilson World Hotel.

Presidential Discretionary Fund Projects Named

by Doug Halijan

Last month President James Daughdrill awarded money from the Marie Cordes Hill Presidential Discretionary Fund to nine projects proposed by faculty members. The purpose of the fund is to support "faculty and curriculum development and activities that will sustain institutional vitality" and the President believes Rhodes will be a stronger institution because of this new fund. Money for the fund came from two generous grants by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

A project designed to enhance the International Studies Program here was funded in the amount of \$4600. Part of this money will be used for participation in the international Negotiator Project computer simulation, combining Telenet linkAgbe with the University of Maryland and satellite transmission with other countries. Additional money will be used for films, audio and video tapes, computer software and workbooks relating to the program.

A program to enhance Rhodes' Women's Studies Program was allocated \$3500. Dr. Carol Devens of the History Department,

with Dr. Wendy Clein and Dr. Jennifer Brady, both of the English Department, seek to enhance Rhodes courses in this area, as well as to increase library holdings. Faculty workshops to help involve various departments in the program will also be held.

Funding was granted to help develop "before-and-after" questionnaires for those in the internship program of the Department of Economics and Business Administration. Dr. Carol Danehower coordinates the program and she will submit the data from the questionnaires to the national Society of Internships and Experiential Education. \$3699 was granted for this project.

Dr. John Bensko and Clein were granted funding for a project designed to improve freshman writing skills. \$6683 will be used to purchase hardware and programs for the Writer's Workbench, a computer writing skills program. An additional \$1000 was allocated as salary for one student worker.

To enhance student research in chemistry, a project proposed by Dr. David Jeter was allocated \$4250. The funds will be used to purchase software in X-ray crystallography and to support travel expenses between Memphis and the

University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Data obtained in the laboratory in Arkansas will be transmitted to Rhodes where computer analysis will help determine the crystal and molecular geometry of compounds.

Political Science Department Chairman Dr. Marcus Pohlmann was granted \$3500 to improve Rhodes' government-related internships. He will travel to Washington to observe the Washington Semester program of American University, to Nashville to investigate internships with state government, and to the College of Wooster to work on utilizing their Urban Semester centers in several cities. Pohlmann will also work on coordinating a city orientation and seminar for internships in Memphis city government.

The seventh of these projects is a Symposium on "Culture and Society Images of the Enemy: The Vietnam Era." Coordinated by Dr. Randy Martin of the Sociology Department, the Symposium was held May 6-7 and brought four distinguished scholars here for two lecture/discussion sessions on images of the enemy in the Vietnam era.

(Thanks goes to the President's Office for assisting with this information.)

Editor's Note

We would like to dedicate this, the last issue of the 1987-88 school year, to both this year's seniors and to the memory of Third Term. With this double dedication we honor the last class who attended classes at a school called Southwestern and the unique learning experience that drew many of them to this school. The school will clearly go on without both of them but we think, in honoring both, that we point out that both the Class of 1987 and Third Term leave something behind that has enabled all of us to grow.

You will notice that the center section is unlike anything most of you have ever seen in a *Sou'wester*. It seemed appropriate that our last issue of the year, and the last issue that will ever be published during the Third Term, should capture some of the fun. Some may think it merciful that this is the last thing they will hear from us for this year, and to a degree, we are too. But we've truly enjoyed learning more about the campus, about running a college newspaper, and about ourselves. Next year will be a different year for everyone — an extra class, a new Dean, less time than ever — but we are looking forward to it and to the new experiences that it will bring. We hope that everyone has as much fun reading this as we had putting it together. Get yourself in a real Third Term spirit and enjoy it. Re-

Luke Lampton
Doug Halijan

Senior Art Majors Display Talent at Exhibition

by Bob Barnett,
Cay Chastain
and Tom Horton

Rhodes' senior Art majors made quite an impression on a gallery full of admiring art critics last Friday evening at the opening of the Senior Art Exhibition. Seven of our finest student artists participated in the show, which runs through June 6.

A lecture by Katrin Hirsch on the unique architectural treasures of the Engadin Valley in Switzerland preceded the opening. Katrin has placed her emphasis on architectural study here at Rhodes, and has done much research on the houses of this Swiss valley. She also contributed collages, photography and sculpture to the show. Most

impressive among these is a delicate bronze sculpture created through the lostwax process entitled "Maple Leaves." Such fragile-looking works are difficult to produce through this process, which requires much pre-preparation before the casting of the sculpture. Her other works show a definite photographic prowess with complex subjects.

Two of the artists entered paintings in the show — Susan Chambers' works use warm, weighty colors, and emphasis is in shape, with all elements underlining the basic organic human form. In "New Hat", Susan used contrasting vivid hues against a background of neutral colors to create an attractive

image of a woman wearing a hat. Elizabeth Conway's paintings are very impressive. Her works are vibrant and suggest movement — she somehow uses cool colors to project an almost electric, explosive image. She also exhibited various large oil renderings of plants which used rich colors to catch the eye and evoke sentiment.

Mary Munn's batiks also grace this exhibition. A batik is a cloth which has been painted with colored wax and dyed. The wax is removed, and an undyed space is left, with a tint of the wax color. Mary's batiks showed much attention to detail, while maintaining a free and lyrical quality. She also contri-

(Continued on Page 2)

Forum Held on the Arts

by Kathryn Murphy

There is concern among some students about the state of education for majors in the fine and performing arts areas at Rhodes. Graduating music/theatre major Julie Owens noticed the dwindling numbers of majors in her department, which will graduate six majors this year and four more next year, some of whom are bridge majors. There are no rising junior music majors, and there is only one rising sophomore who seems a potential music major. Hence, the music department cannot offer current major 200-level courses next year. These and similar statistics disturb students in the departments of Music, Theatre, and Studio Art; as student demand for majors in these areas increases, so might funding, faculty, and therefore the overall ability to attract new majors.

Although they understand that Rhodes cannot be all things to all people, many Rhodes fine arts majors believe that Rhodes has the potential to be a center of excellence in the arts. The facilities of Hassel Hall, Clough, and the McCoy Theatre are outstanding for a school of our size, although much more should be done to strengthen these areas of study. Julie and other fine arts majors are worried, however, that the fine arts departments must spend most of their time and resources on fulfilling degree requirements (core) for non-majors. They fear that the quality of education for students majoring in the arts could suffer if the departments cannot focus on majors. Professor Diane Clark points out that majors in a department set standards for other students of the department. Julie

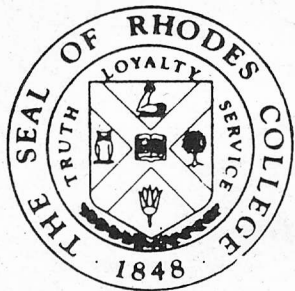
elaborates: "When you lose the artist (who plans to make a lifetime commitment to that art) you are lessening the environment of the college. Even if you're not going to major in art, . . . its important to be around these people . . . What's wonderful about this place (a liberal arts college as opposed to a fine arts conservatory) is that you have all disciplines together; I don't want to exclude arts from that (artistic) environment."

Perhaps, students suggest, scholarships could be established to award incoming freshmen on the basis of talent and promise in an area of the fine arts alone. Currently Rhodes' special achievement awards of 25-75% of tuition, are strictly need-based and consequently cannot attract first-rate freshman students who may not be able to prove need. (A further difficulty is that at the present the special achievement awards do not carry with them the stipulation that the student concentrate study in the department that recommends him/her for the funding.) Rhodes therefore may be losing qualified students who will go on to major in fine arts elsewhere. The decline in admissions of students interested in these areas may result in cutbacks in faculty and funding, declines in course offerings for the majors we do manage to attract, and the diverting of faculty time and energy to providing core courses for non-majors. Julie points out the noticeable rise in non-majors' signing up for voice and instrumental classes in the Music department.

Another concern is the place of the artist/teacher within the academic community. Often hiring, salary and tenure decisions are

based on a teacher's holding of advanced degrees and production of scholarly work. Many professors specializing in performance hold graduate degrees in Fine Arts, but the degrees are in performance and not academic research; their scholarly production will not be found in journals but on stage, in the practice rooms, or in the art studio or gallery. The types of academic achievement and production are not the same for fine arts professors as for professors in the sciences, humanities, or social sciences; the lab and the research for the performing artist are ongoing in actual performance. Often within an environment oriented to excellence in scholarship and research, there is misunderstanding about the work of the performance or visual artist, whose work cannot be assessed or preserved in the same way as that of other professors or students. These students hope that this discussion and others like it next year can raise appreciation for the value of fine arts and for the work of dedicated fine artists within the college community.

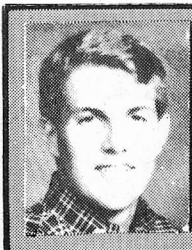
Students who are concerned about these implications for the fine arts departments in Rhodes' future announced an open forum for discussion with faculty, administration, and students. All interested in the College community were invited to meet in the McCoy Theatre on Wednesday, May 27 from 3:00 to 4:00. Profs. Clark of Music, Garner of theatre, and Russell of art were invited to address these concerns raised by their students, and open discussion followed. For more information, please contact Julie Owens, Sarah Jones, or Kathryn Murphy.



THE SOU'WESTER

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Luke Lampton

Final Notes

There is a part of me that wants to get out of this place as fast as I can, while at the same time there's a part of me that could stay here forever. Third term has breezed by before I even had a chance to slow down and truly enjoy it. Something about it was reminiscent of a funeral procession. However, third term lifted me up in the first two terms when responsibilities lay heavy on me. I always told myself that when third term got here I could finally relax and enjoy this place. And now it's gone.

This will be the week of goodbyes, to people I might never see again. Even with those who are leaving whom I know I will see again, a sad feeling tells me that my life will change without their presence, and goodbye will be just as hard to say.

I was glad to see the Shakespeare scenes at McCoy Theatre (inside and outside) by David Lusk, Ann Elizabeth Lyon, Anne-Marie Akin, Brian Mott, and Bryan Ford. Their talents both captivated and amused the audience. I hope to see McCoy do this

more in the future. Also, CSPA's "Memphis in Dismay" and their campus newsletter nobly raised student awareness of political and social situations in our midst. This is a good positive step forward for the spirit of Rhodes.

We salute this week "Doc" Wood and Lon Anthony, to whom the 1987 Spring Issue of *The Southwestern Review* was dedicated (an honor they both have long deserved). Also, the Visual Arts Society and its president and founder, Miss Julie Oehler deserve a round of applause for the wonderful reception they hosted in honor of the Spring Issue of the *Review*. Despite the inclement weather last Sunday, it was a first-class affair with tantalizing food and refreshments.

If you have not seen the senior art exhibition in Clough, please do yourself a favor and go. These senior art majors are definitely a talented and innovative group.

Have a good, safe summer.

Guest Editorial
A Farewell to Excellence

a guest editorial by Veronique Heinrich and Tom Horton

As a freshman, it was difficult for each of us to get settled into the routine of college classes. We were intimidated at first, but with the help of some outstanding professors, the adapting was made a little easier. Why did we choose the major we chose? Why did we take the classes we took? For many of us, it was not a matter of requirement — these professors of whom we think so highly influenced our decisions of college curriculum, and thus doing, the rest of our lives. This may sound extreme, but reflecting on the past, this is simply how it was for many of us.

In this epoch of our school's history, "the post-Nifty era", we, the student body, wonder if the school in which we are currently enrolled is the same one to which we applied. Granted, the College is providing us each with an education which is "in a league by itself." The quality of education at Rhodes is outstanding. Most professors are not only helpful, but concerned with the progress, both academic and social, of each of their students. This is an opportunity to thank all those who have helped us through one of the most difficult periods of our lives. We are forever grateful to you all. You have also become our friends.

However, it was quite disturbing for many of us to find that some of these teachers whom we thank here, were not returning to finish the work they began with us. This departure in several cases was not by choice. Our professors are being forced (or in some cases "strongly encouraged") to leave Rhodes — to drastically change the courses of their careers, or even end them — all in the name of "national recognition", "excellence", and "progress."

When it was decided that Rhodes would enter the race for glory with our Northern counterparts, it seems that concern for education was preempted by a crazed search for things to brag about. Satellite TV. Townhouses. Provost. Media Center. Our very own chef. Minority faculty members. New sorority. Diehl Memorial. The Honor Code. Name change. All these things are, admittedly, wonderful and needed for a first-class educational atmosphere. One other quest, however, seems to have taken the highest priority in the Haliburton Ivory Tower — the 100% Ph.D. faculty.

The Ph.D. is the crowning achievement in an academic career. It is important. It displays excellence of thought and skill as a writer. But excellence is not always pointed out by those three letters. Sometimes it shows through without the magnifying glass of a doctoral dissertation.

Three among Rhodes'

preeminent cadre of professors have fallen victim to the indiscriminate guillotine manned by the College's administration. Jean Sizemore, Rose-Marie Kuhn, Michael Rolloson have made a fatal mistake in their careers — they consecrated too much of their time to students, and not enough time polishing the benefactors' circle.

We have both taken classes under these professors and speak from personal experience, although we have also gathered the opinions of many of their former students.

At the fatal three-year evaluation of Prof. Kuhn, for example, a selection of students were asked to see Dean Duff and give him their impressions of Prof. Kuhn. Both of us were among those chosen to do this. We, as well as other chosen students, however, did not feel free to give our opinions candidly because of the presence of one of her colleagues. It felt more like a courtroom than the casual interview they had promised. Moreover, the outcome of these interviews was quite surprising — even biased. Our reports were reworded and twisted to give negative impression instead of the positive one we had actually projected. Rose-Marie Kuhn is one of the finest professors we have ever encountered. Her knowledge of French language and literature surpasses the mere repetition of textbook material. She provided us with new insights and planted seeds of new thoughts in our minds. That is what excellence is all about — a degree is not. She is currently in the process of finishing her dissertation and we are losing a valuable asset and a trusted friend. As well, the French department is left without a native speaker of French — hardly something to brag about.

Likewise, Michael Rolloson is, to quote several of his students "a god": "the reason I majored in Economics"; "caring and interested in all his students"; the list goes on and on. We have not encountered a student yet who gave an overall bad impression of Prof. Rolloson. The reasons for his dismissal from Rhodes are quite unclear to us — he has, like Prof. Kuhn, not yet completed his doctoral thesis, but then again, how could he with the workload he has been carrying for the past three years? We students get upset when we have more than one paper to

write at a time — how about grading tests, publishing articles, writing a book, holding review meetings on weekends, counseling advisees and preparing to teach nine class sessions a week? All at once. Some professors do not bother with such things as office hours, or help sessions. Unfortunately, they will be here for years.

Jean Sizemore was an Art History professor at Rhodes up until last year. She has since been replaced by Prof. Robert D. Russell, who is, incidentally, an excellent professor in his own right. The questions we have about Pro. Sizemore are — if her job performance was bad, why was she chosen as one of the candidates to replace herself in that position? If her performance was good, why was her position made open in the first place? Could it be that her Ph.D. to be was not from a sufficiently prestigious institution? Is it that the University of Iowa's Ph.D. in Art History does not carry as much clout as does one from Princeton? Again, we would like to stress that Prof. Russell is a great addition to our Art Department, and thus we give him our friendliest advice: finish your dissertation in a hurry — we'd like to keep you.

There are extenuating circumstances which account for each of these dissertations not being completed. It is an extremely difficult task, even under the best of conditions, and hardships complicate the completion of such a work. However, these personal matters were never even considered when making the choices. The rule is carved in stone: PUBLISH OR PERISH.

We are very lucky to have gotten replacements and fine new additions to the faculty within the past few years — Dr. Valerie Morris in Religion, Dr. Dennis Dickerson in History, Drs. John Planchon and Carol Danehower in Business, Dr. Valerie Nollan in Russian, Dr. Mickle Ledgerwood in French, Drs. Beth Kamhi and Cynthia Marshall in English, and many others — we would like to welcome you to what we hope will remain the finest Liberal Arts institution we know. To those who are leaving or have left us, please believe that you will be missed. You shared with us the best of yourselves, and that's a debt we can't repay.

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor:

In a letter of two weeks ago I whined enough about blowing life-substance on the three-term scheme of things. I won't enumerate the drawbacks of that way of life here: there were

plenty of them.

Still, I beg the youthful faculty to resist the drift of liberal arts colleges toward becoming mere way-stations to graduate and professional indoctrination. Support your local mavericks.

Mr. Matt Lembke has written in support of President Reagan for some while. If allowed to continue, his job will be hugely more difficult. I say let him go for it.

R. C. Wood

Dear Editor

In response to Betsy Hamilton's SGA Corner concerning Rites of Spring where she thanked the workers and coordinators, I would like to bring it to the students' attention that one important and instrumental person was forgotten in her vast list of acknowledge-

ments. That person is Louisa Landwehr, the 1986-87 Social Commissioner, who is practically solely responsible for planning, arranging, and materializing the events of the entire past year including Rites of Spring. If not for Louisa's dedication and willingness to take the pos-

sibility when the previously elected commissioner failed to return to school, I know of no other person who would have been able to shoulder the responsibility the way she did. I would like to thank her for her superhuman efforts.

Sincerely,
Apasra Hayes

Senior Art Majors

(Continued from Page 1)

buted sculpture to the show, which showed a keen eye for detail as well.

Laura Richens' woodcuts provide the exhibit with quite an interesting element. Many of them were colored with watercolors, giving them a mystical and imaginative texture. Her monoprints of amphibians are comical and playful and show extraordinary talent and spontaneity. Laura also entered photography and drawings for the show.

The other drawing artist

featured in the exhibition was Steven Lincove. His poignant drawings of human forms show both expression and depth. Drawing is Stephen's major concentration, and he offered for the show drawings which were less posed and "more gestural than my previous works," according to the artist. He also offered pen drawings, linoleum prints and woodcuts which utilized Oriental themes with bold contrasts and good texturing for a simplistic yet daring effect.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a large metal sculpture called "Love, Distance and Time" by Scott Srnka. Scott's sculpture is all simply beautiful and added variation to the mostly two-dimensional show. It provoked overwhelming crowd response with its seemingly delicate balance and painstaking artistry. Many of Scott's works have maternal themes and although abstract, evoke very effective feelings without relying on detail.

The Sou'wester is a college-sponsored, student-run newspaper that is published weekly. Deadline for ALL copy and art work is 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Staff meetings are held on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. All interested are invited to attend. The Sou'wester encourages readers to submit letters to the Editor for publication. All letters must be signed. Letters will be edited for space and clarity and the Editor reserves the right to reject letters due to length, available space, or libelous content.

The Sow, Esther



Rude College

ONE OF A KIND

NEVER AGAIN



After a whirlwind tour of Graceland last week, Pres. Reagan laughs off pleas by Sou'wester Editor Luke Lampton, consultant F. Grant Whittle and Associate Editor Doug Halijan to extend student loan programs. "Well," Reagan was heard to say, "Contras need an education too. And they're not nearly as liberal as you guys."

New Interdisciplinary Opportunities at Rhodes

In the light of the development of warped bridge majors Rhodes has decided to add some more significant opportunities to its options. These will join familiar combinations that have cute abbreviations like Biochem, Psychobio, and Econbiz and, we think, strengthen the interdisciplinary program a great deal.

RELIGIOPHYSICS — This can be useful for those who are interested in being architects or electricians for churches.

I.S./THEATRE — Students interested in the Middle East may learn how to walk, talk, and act like Egyptians, or Central America specialists may explore the possibilities of the CONGA! as a diplomatic tool.

ECON/CHEM — Preparation for a career in drug trafficking and management.

POLISCI/MUSIC — Exploration of the politics of dancing.

POLISCI/THEATRE — Heavy emphasis on stage movement, to gain a sense of — you guessed it — the politics of movin'.

SPANISH/BIO — Possible research on just what is in that pseudo-Mexican food in the Rat and what it does to your digestion.

ANTHRO/COMP. SCI. — This bridge will conclude

with two special seminars: "Creation/Evolution as applied to Pascal, Deborah Hart, and Bill Boyd" and "Can We Justify Randy Martin's Existence by Mathematical Logic?"

LATIN/ECON — You got me as to what you can do with this one; I just work here.

PHILOPHYSICS — Just what DID Plato and Kant have to say about infrared spectroscopy and quantum mechanics? Find out.

POLIPHILOPHYSICS — Plato, Aristotle, quantum mechanics; and what's wrong with the Democrats (good course name, too.)

BIOMUSIC — For students who are really musicians at heart but want to major in bio so they can be doctors and make a lot of money.

MUSICHEM — For musicians who secretly yearn to sit in smelly labs with a lot of glass and poisonous things around; can also serve as preparation for a nightclub act, although the ever-popular "Singing Chemist" ide has gotten a little old in recent years.

PHYSICS/ENGLISH — Not much in the way of applications, but boy, will your lab reports be concise.

ENGLISH/HISTORY — Preparation for no life whatsoever.

LATIN/MUSIC — Translations of classical music. Good for Chorus members who wonder what they're singing.

ENGLISH/MUSIC — Provides the plots behind the operas, texts for all types of music, and stresses the fact that operas should be sung in English anyway so that everyone can understand what the hell is REALLY going on.

BIOART — Illustrations of textbook diagrams (esp. frog innards and the neat plastic fold-over inserts which delve deeper into the frog).

LATIO/BIO — For Bio majors who wonder what they're studying.

RELIGIOECON — For those who think that money is GOD.

ENGLISH/THEATRE — Learning to think of the real world as a stage, and all the men and women merely players.

PHILOSOPHY/THEATRE — But what do the texts REALLY mean?

PHILOSOPHY/PSYCHOLOGY/THEATRE — And who would care about what they REALLY mean?

PSYCHOLOGY/THEATRE — Good for analyzing your characters as you become them.

PSYCHOLOGY/ART — If art is supposed to hurt, dammit, I wanna know WHY!!!

Lampton Disappears, Eyeball Found In Soup

by Clark Kent

A significant portion of the Rhodes College campus was saddened this week by the disappearance of Luke Lampton, Editor of the *Sou'wester*. Lampton's recent editorial attacks on the ARA Food Service immediately cast suspicion on the powerful organization, but, by the end of last week, no solid evidence was produced linking them to Lampton's disappearance. Certain unnamed food service personnel were heard to say last week that Lampton might make a nice barbecue entree but the security force later deter-

mined that these comments were made in jest. (It seems that Lampton was determined not to be gristly enough for barbecue fare.) However, the case was broken wide open this week when a freshman who, fearing for her own safety, asked not to be identified, found an eyeball in her stew. At first assuming it to be a potato, the freshman was shaken with horror when it "looked" at her from the spoon. "I swear I almost bit into the thing... this time they've gone too far. It's bad enough I have to eat this stuff, but to have to examine this stuff before

eating it... that does it, I'm transferring."

ARA staff members won't talk to me, but Nurse Gill was reported to be swamped by cases of students with stomach aches. If you are having such health concerns, Nurse Gill says to gargle with salt water... make a margarita, perhaps.

Anyone with information on Lampton's whereabouts, should call Security at 3880. If they don't answer right away, you should illegally park a car until one of the guards harangues you. Tell that guard all about it. Come back, Luke!

Diehl Statue Dismantled

by Harpo Marx

The Bored of Trustees Special "Pomona" Committee today ordered the larger-than-life statue of Rhodes hero, Charles E. Diehl, to be removed and melted down into a satellite dish. The select Pomona Committee made the following official statement at a hurriedly called press conference.

"A special 'Pomona' investigatory committee discovered that Dr. Diehl did not publish scholarly research steadily enough during his life to be honored with a statue at a nifty-nine liberal arts college. Documented evidence reveals he spent far too much time teaching, listening and talking with his students,

time which clearly should have been used in research. His statue will be dismantled effective immediately."

Student and faculty outcries were soon hushed by rumors that Dean Duff might be called back from Goucher by the Committee to organize a special Gestapo force to seek out other non-publishing "vermin". Provost Kepple, a brilliant financier who can find a pot of gold at the end of any rainbow, proposed to the Board that the dismantled statue be turned into a plus by melting it down and shaping it into a satellite dish to be placed in the Hindman Garden Court. He stated, "Those two dis-talking looked so sad and

lonely down there. That will make the final stop on the Rhodes tour really impressive."

"Pomona" Committee Chairman Daddy Warbucks said there was one thing in the Diehl episode to be thankful for. "I sure am glad we didn't name the college after him. To change its name so soon, why that would have been a big diehl." Trustee Warbucks stated that the name change was not in the clear. "We feel that this terrible thing may go deeper, much deeper. We are presently investigating Peyton Rhodes' publishing record, and if it is found deficient, appropriate action will be taken. This place might be looking for a new name all over again."

Rat's Moving Carts Claim Prince

by I. M. Boren

The Rhodes community sadly mourns the loss of Hal Prince, senior *Sou'wester* staff writer. Hal was innocently getting a cup of Diet Coke in the re-

factory when he was blindsided by a rat employee wheeling a cart of trays. Two other cars ran over him before his mutilated remains were located. According to the coroner, Pr-

ince died instantly and felt no pain. Nurse Gill sprinkled salt on the body at the scene of the accident, but her attempts to revive him were futile. May he rest in peace.

Exorcism Scheduled For Library Elevator

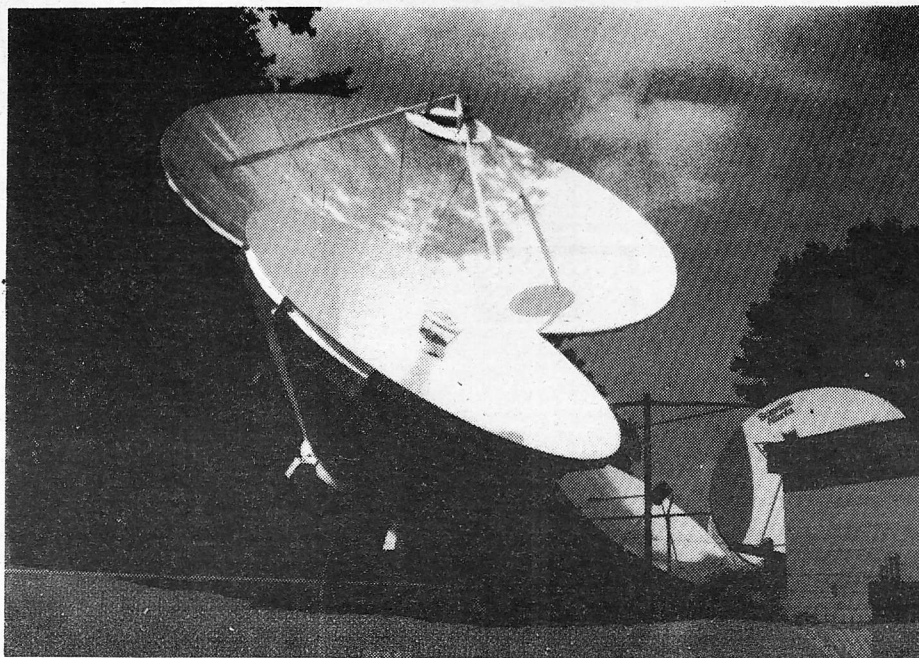
Bill Short revealed this week that a priest has been contacted and hired to perform an exorcism on the elevator in Burrow Library. Long a source of irritation to students and faculty, the elevator was finally determined to be demonically possessed by Mr. Short after the "walls started bleeding" at closing time one night. Asked if he were

sure it wasn't just red graffiti he replied "graffiti doesn't clot."

Further evidence that the elevator was the spawn of Satan was compiled by Sue Turpin. It seems that she was riding to the fourth floor stacks last Thursday morning just before opening when she heard "Do You Know he Way to San Jose" sung by Dionne

Warwick emminate from the ceiling. It seems that the elevator is unequipped with a speaker system.

The priest, who asked that his identity not be revealed, is a specialist in exorcizing objects. Recently in California for the exorcism of Tammie Baker's make-up kit he said that the elevator should not prove to be no problem.



A Vision of the Future? Wilma Hindman Rose Garden



THE SOW, ESTHER

Editor-from-the-Grave—
Luke Lampton
Acting Editor—Doug Halijan

Staff: (Wouldn't you like to know)? ...
No really, a big hand to:
Anne Junkin, Tom Horton, David Monroe,
Nathan Tipton, Alan Harris, F. Grant
Whittle, Ed Delgado, Clay Merchant, Julie
Oehler, and various members of the Art
Cult.
Photography by Aaron Kaufman
Esther by Greg Goodwin
Mr. Lampton & Mr. Halijan's Hair
by Dileah Bibbee
Miss Oehler's jewelry by Tiffanys of
New York
Miss Oehler's wardrobe by Saks-Fifth
Avenue

On the Right

by G. W. Franklin

Many of my conservative friends have been discussing the possibility of simply killing off all the welfare cheaters in the country to make the place safe for democracy, capitalism, and the American way. Now, while I am all for killing poor people (after all, they are a slimy, disgusting lot not worthy of the air they breathe), there are some reasons why we should not.

The problem with the poor are that they are spoiled by welfare programs and so-called "labor reforms" like the forty hour work week, minimum wage, vacations, etc. We have to get them to accept that it is their destiny in life to work at least sixty hours a week without question for whatever the corporations are willing to pay them. After all, if it weren't for those corporations, where would the poor be? If we can get them thinking the right way, then we wouldn't have to kill them since they are an obviously valuable work force.

If we keep them from joining proto-communist and ultra-left-wing organizations like the Boy Scouts and Amnesty International, and show them that we are doing them a favor by making them work a sixty hour week, then I am sure they can prove useful. And speaking of communism, this paper is a communist plot to indoctrinate the gin-soaked minds of Rhodes College and turn them into walking

zombies. The elite of the mid-south go to Rhodes, and they are being tainted from within. This is certainly a communist plot of the magnitude of welfare.

What the poor don't understand is that they are the weak. They don't even deserve to exist, and it is only through the mercy of the strong that they are allowed to continue. They need to realize that they are replaceable. If one of them gets too uppity, then another one could be brought in in their place.

Lets all make sure we remind the poor every day that if they don't like what we provide for them, they can just go and die. And furthermore, I have a list in my office of fifty different homosexuals and communists and fellow travellers and left-wing sympathizers that work at Rhodes College and they are trying to force you all to live under the totalitarian state of vicious welfare peddling, lazy, greedy, ungodly system of injustice and the kegs of beer that are innocently brought on campus are spiked with LSD and there is cocaine in the water supply and one of the fraternities is a front for a Soviet spy ring and . . .

(Editor's note: Mr. Franklin was sadly killed by a runaway marijuana abusing giraffe that had escaped from the zoo before he could complete his article. Donations in his memory can be sent to the National Rifle Association.)

Letters to the Editor

My Dear Editor:

It has been covered up by the administration. It has been covered up by the Honor Council, by the Student Government, and by the Social Regulations Council. But I found out. The world needs to know about it and I trust the newspaper will spread the word.

Every Monday night in the room above the center section of the Refectory (right above the entrance, where that big window is) strange rites are held by aliens from Venus. I climbed a tree in front of the Rat one night and peered into the window, covered by the darkness. What I saw amazed and terrified me.

Dear editor:

Folks, this place has me mad now. Oh, boy, does it. The whole school. I've got some things I gotta get off my chest, and there'd better be something done about 'em right now or I'm just going to be REAL upset.

Fine. It's like this. I hate the refectory. I think there's too much Pizza Joe and Beef/Tom/Mac and not enough really healthy-but-fun stuff like ice cream sundaes. What happened to the sundaes, guys? And the lines are too long, and MY salad bar in HIGH SCHOOL had more stuff than this one. You just can't imagine my shock at lunch the other day when I saw they had NO cherry tomatoes. Not a one. Ruined my day. But I showed them . . . I ate in the pub.

I don't like most of the faculty here, too, because they just don't care, and they just don't give you a break, and, well, some of them dress funny. I mean, I go up to one prof after flunking one of his tests, and I say, well, you know, I didn't do so hot on this because I was out getting drunk. I figure I'll get something for being honest, right? Well, what does the man say? He says, "You

Four sheep were herded into the room, dressed in the finest ermine and fed roast turkey. Then they were taken into a compartment from where they never returned. Four people in black hooded robes were present at this rite, each was dancing what appeared to be a polka.

It was only later that I learned that they were from Venus. I could tell because they displayed the flags of the following countries: the Vatican, England, Norway, Uganda, and the Sudan. The first letters of each of those countries spells out the word VENUS!

I have gone to the administration and all the student tribunals for help, but they all insist that there is nothing going on up there. I

know better. I think that the Venusians are doing horrible experiments on us Rhodes students and the entire administration is in on it.

Please, everybody, let us band together and stop this awful evil from continuing. Remember, the Venusians want your children!

They are especially fond of physics majors and I have been told by at least one of the physics students that somebody high up in the department has been possessed by the Venusians for their awful purposes. I am sure that I will be killed because of this, but you must know or Rhodes will surely vanish in flames!

Sincerely,
Q. P. Dahl

really ought to apply yourself more.' Oh, please! What does the man think I am? I mean, I'm here . . . I pay my tuition and his salary, straight out of my country-club bill . . . and what do I get? A sermon! I think this is too much. Oh, some of the profs are OK — they give you days off and stuff — but I just really can't take the others. Not only that, I got a couple of grades this week that I'm just really not too pleased with, and I think I'm gonna really cut somebody up on the SIR's. Yep, I know I am. And the administration's on my hit list too, for throwing that new alcohol policy around. So what if some guys have a keg, break a few windows, mess up the pub floor a little, and get sick all over the place? A guy's gotta blow off a little steam SOMETIME, doesn't he? I guess they just want to have some kind of geek academy here where NOBODY has any fun.

Oh, and that's not all either. I'm also really hacked at security. It's getting to where a guy can't even leave the doors and a window or two on the car open without somebody looking to steal something. Can you trust ANYBODY around here? I do MY part.

And how about the infirmary? You run in there and say you want some aspirin for a headache, and they recommend you keep your own. What do they think I am, a BANK?? Oh, don't stop me now, there's just too much. What about the bookstore? They NEVER have my brand of toothpaste in there, and the ones they have are just too expensive. I just don't think I can stand it. Oh, and what did they do to the library this year? Sure, they replaced those big couches with the movable shelves that are JUST SO COMPLICATED TO WORK. I don't know what they could POSSIBLY be thinking. Plus, the color of the carpet down there is just too gross, and we won't even talk about the computer-room door.

And, oh yeah, I hate the satellite dish because it looks really nasty and, well, I don't know what it's for.

OK, guys, I've said my bit. Now, do something about this. Right now. Or I'll hold my breath until I turn blue and pass out, and then, boy, will YOU be sorry.

And no, I will NOT sign my name to this. Just call me. . .

Unhappy Dude

RHODES COLLEGE BOOKSTORE CUTESY GIFTS & TRINKETS EMPORIUM

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GET 2% OF BOOK'S REAL VALUE!!!
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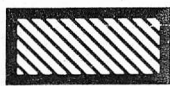
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IDIOTIC GIFTS AND THINGS
NO COLLEGE STUDENT NEEDS
ALL AT RIDICULOUSLY HIGH
PRICES!!!

NOT AT ALL CUTE BUT SOMEWHAT
USEFUL THINGS ARE IN THE
ANNEX



STUDENT CENTER

ANNEX



Be Deformed . . .
Read The Sow, Esther



A Woman of Many Talents. Here Dean of Students Tan Hille demonstrates state-of-the-art flossing techniques at Student "Hygiene Day."

It's All Greek To Me!

(all the news that's fit to print for only those deemed fit to know)

ΔΔΔ

Δώστε μου έναν καφέ. Θέλετε καφέ; Η Νέα Διαθήκη μεταφράστηκε στις άλλες γλώσσες από τα ελληνικά. Wouldn't you like to know??? (By the way, Desirée, you are SO nice... I don't care WHAT that nasty Tom Horton said...)

ΧΩ

The Chi-O's spent a *fabulous* week at a Hot Springs resort with some of their *fabulously* wealthy friends. They drank wine coolers, played frisbee and went to a bowhead convention at the *fabulous* Arlington Hotel— can you believe the girls of Kappa Beta bought 3,956 bows for charity? Way to go, gals! You're *fabulous!!!*

ΚΔ

Well, the amazing singing Kappa Deltas are at it again... this time in Little Mary Sunshine at the McCoy. Hi, Julie! I swear there was more AOT at that congregation than anything I've ever encountered... Hi, Julie!

ΑΟΠΚΑ

Didn't you know it would happen sooner or later? Rhodes' Greeks made history this week when ΠΚΑ inducted the entire friggin' lot of ΑΟΠ as its Little Sisters, bringing the total number up to 751. A hearty hi-ho to Rhodes' first fratority! So fitting!

ΣΝ

No nus.

ΣΑΕ

The E's this week packed up their *Bags* and went on a retreat. Citing escape from "that feminist bitch" as their reasons, they are said to be torturing their new pledges as well as the locals in Heber Springs. Dance with me. Elbert!

ΚΑ

Kappa Alpha whooped it up at Old South this week. Guess who Chris Mangum went with? Who else! And they were both just BEAUTIFUL... made me *ill*.

ΑΤΩ

Well now... the ATO's had a *party* weekend deciding who would run for school offices. They all would, of course— and be elected! They're no idiots! They're one up on *all* of us!

AND OOPS... I ALMOST FORGOT...

ΚΣ

The Sigs demonstrated that rumors of their replacement here at Rhodes by Sigma Chi were premature... they staged a *tremendous* party at their lovely lodge.

Their date was pretty in pink... go get 'em, baby! The quote of the week— "We get drunk and fall down... we PARTY!"



New Alcohol Policy Initiated. With additional class, campus to turn to mandatory drinking.



Acronym. Your Best Side?

Profiles in Courage

by Robin Leach

Profiles In Courage — The last in a series of well-written and insightful articles about the men who have made Rhodes College sports great.

He is the very picture of courage, whether striking a heroic pose for passersby or sitting pensively in his room contemplating his existential dilemma. He is the living embodiment of the courage that has made this college, nay this nation, what it is today. He is Gordon Kenney.

Born Gordon Edward Kenney in the backroads of Florida and reared in the wilds of Montevallo, Alabama, Kenney struggled until puberty to overcome a middle class, public school upbringing. Despite the rigors of popularity (Mr. Thompson High School of 1984) and football stardom, Kenney has a positive view of his youth. "Hell, I had a good time," he reminisces.

Due to his superior academic achievement and athletic prowess, Kenney received college scholarship offers from both Alabama and Harvard. However, neither college was to gain his glory. "It was a decision between a lobotomy and MENSA," he states, "So I compromised and chose Rhodes."

Kenney came to Rhodes in the fall of 1984 armed with a Camero and an ill-advised moustache. The car ended up in the junk heap and the moustache in the sink. "In retrospect," retrospected Kenney, "The moustache was a frivolous excess of youth and inexperience. Now as MATURE MAN I see that a stubble is both more subtle and fashionable."

But it was more than the moustache that changed when Kenney came to Rhodes. "Gordon is a new man," says close friend and look-alike Steve Humbert (88). "When he got here he used to wear overalls and listen to KISS (the rock group) tapes in his 8-track player. Now he's a scholar/athlete/psychologist."

Even though now established as the fashion plate at Rhodes, Kenney struggled at first to forge a distinctive stylistic style in the fashion conscious void of Rhodes. This unswerving dedication to looking good has earned Kenney the monicker "GQ", a name Kenney feels is well deserved. "After all, I was the first male to wear Reeboks on this campus."

Do not mistake Kenney's pursuit of fashionable excellence with shallowness or materialism. Kenney is a man with depth, lots of it. He freely and sometimes correctly quotes Freud, reads Plato, listens to the Smiths and drinks wine coolers. The man may be pompous and trendy, but never shallow.

"I can't afford to be shallow," says Kenney. "I'm a psych major." A career in biology having gone the way of the aforementioned mustache, Kenney chose psychology. Noted for his obsession with Freudian psychology, Kenney has made himself a leader in the department. "Gordon has a unique blending of fashion, intellect and athletics," says psychological guru Dr. F. T. Cloar. "Plus he has the uncanny ability to raise one eyebrow, much like Mr. Spock."

Kenney's athletic prowess is undiminished in spite of his now reduced triangular frame. After all, he does occasionally ask his roommate, James Bradford Chase (88?), to wash his unused jockstrap. Nonetheless, Kenney has earned the respect of the Rhodes community. "Gordon is such a cutie," gushes Lyn Martin, (89), "Plus, he's got great buns." Token Englishman Jonathan Clayton (88) adds, "I don't know about his buns, but Gordon reminds me of a cross between Camus, Morrissey, and Soupy Sales."

"I don't see myself as courageous," blushes Kenney, "Sexy, slinky or hunky perhaps, maybe even devastatingly good looking. Maybe more like a scholar/athlete much in the sense of being a Rhodes Scholar. Maybe even the perfect synthesis of mind and body. Maybe . . ." Gordon Kenney — profile in courage.

Bookstore Annex Convention

by Frances Scott Key

Rhodes College will benefit from yet another distinguished group of visitors this summer as it hosts the 1987 National Trailer House Convention. More than 200 prominent trailer house owners are expected to show off their specimens in the area between the Rhodes Bookstore Annex and the Alburty Swimming Pool. If the event draws more participants than expected, overflow space will be available in Fisher Gardens.

The Convention will not only showcase the latest in trailer house technology; it will also provide lectures and seminars on excellence in trailer house management and operation. Among the topics to be ad-

ressed will be "Growing Pains? — Try a Trailer," "Gothicize Your Trailer Home," "Satellite Trailer House TV," and "If It Ain't Broke, Fix It Anyway."

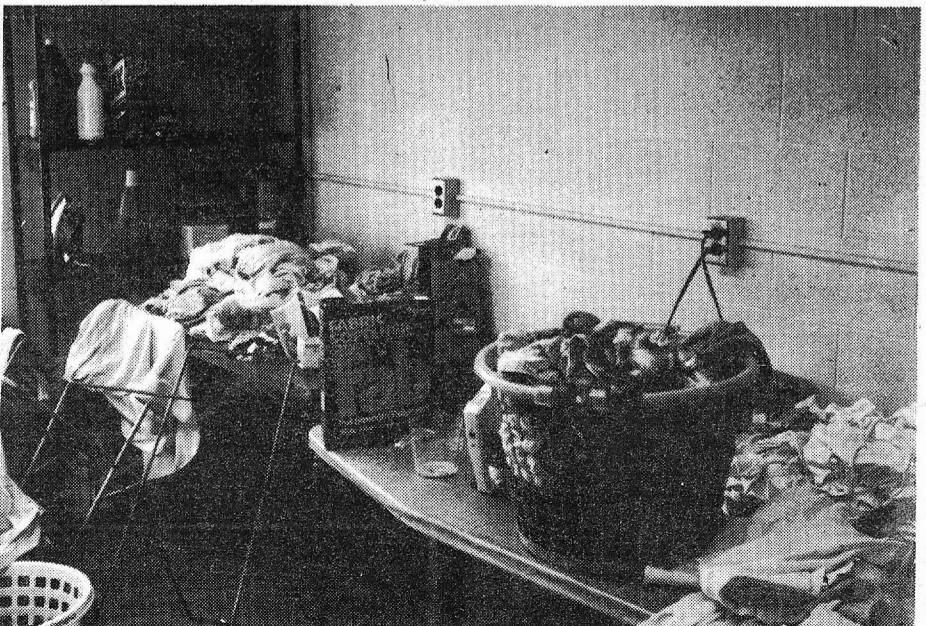
Rhodes was able to lure the Convention this year due to its impressive new Bookstore Annex facility, which will serve as the headquarters for the event. Thus comes yet another honor for the College's latest campus landmark, which was featured in last month's issue of *Trailer Homes Monthly* magazine.

"We are proud of the new facilities allowing us to host the National Trailer House Convention this year," stated Rhodes administrator Gary Greenback. "Although not a trailer

house in its own right, the Bookstore Annex has set a standard of excellence for portable buildings in the mid-South and will be a most appropriate anchor for the Convention."

Greenback hopes to make the event an annual one for the Rhodes campus. Though perhaps inconveniencing students while here, he noted, endeavors such as this one bring long-term benefits to the Rhodes community. The College is looking for a benefactor for whom to name the Bookstore Annex and hopes the Convention will bring possible candidates.

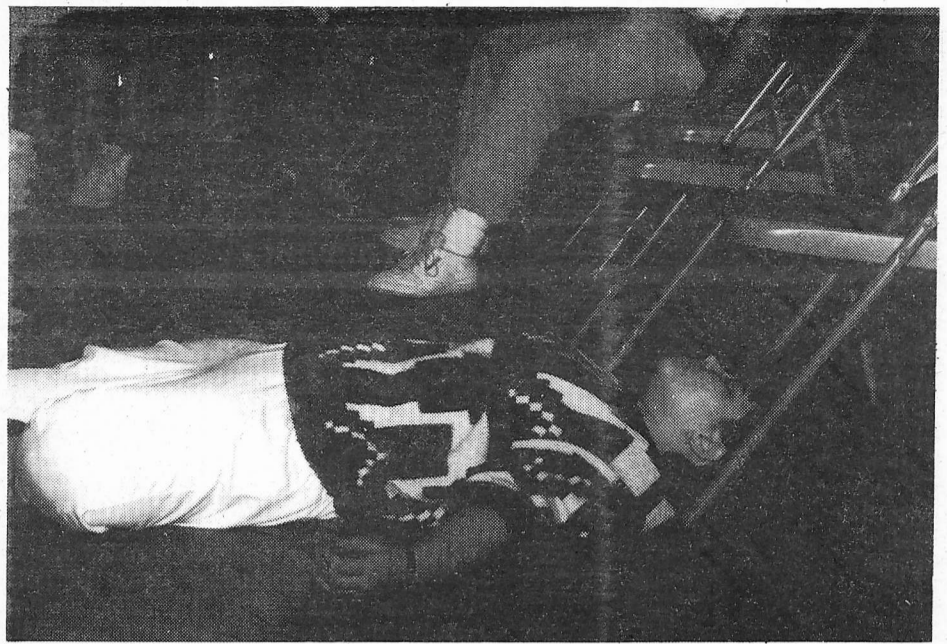
The Convention will run June 21 — July 2 and will culminate in a Fourth of July cookout in the Wilma Hindman Satellite Court.



Solutions for Dorm Overcrowding. An administrative official stated, "If we put a window here, this could be a triple."

Sister Elijah's Predictions

1. It is in the cards that **Luke Lampton's** mutilated body will be found soon. I can't say where, but watch for more parts floating in the stew.
2. Since Neptune is rising in Virgo, **President Daughdrill** will receive a Dingleberry Award from the American Society of Gothic Construction Workers for providing over 27,000 jobs.
3. **Tan Hille** will eat with a student whom she doesn't know in the refectory and a conversation will ensue. Don't have the fish. Tan . . . Pisces hasn't shown up in your charts in a while and you *never* know.
4. **Betty**, the night manager at the Pub, will espouse **Al the Terrorist** before Jupiter reaches its cusp in Aquarius. The management of the establishment will be Mom & Pop, and they *never* will get Provolone.
5. **Michael Rolloson** and **Rose-Marie Kuhn** will collaborate on an expose of the Rhodes system of tenure called *Ph.D or O-U-T*. The real, gutsy truth will finally be known . . . alas, even I don't know why they've been ousted. The crystal ball reflects excellence and good luck for them as they journey along the path of the unknown.
6. **Ray Watters** will come back to Rhodes explaining that he was kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tartania at the end of his freshman year.
7. **Nathan Tipton's** number will come up before the end of the year.
8. The Rhodes College Satellite dish will be miraculously lifted out of the Rose Garden. Gone will be this ugly blemish on our Gothic escutcheon and **Provost Kepple** will issue a full apology to the student body. Oops . . . I'm sorry — that's got a snowball's chance in HELL of coming true. I meant to say that **Peter Rooney** will marry the daughter of a Fortune 500 company and sell babies to an anonymous trustee.
9. **Mike** from the *Brown Jug* will be awarded an honorary doctorate at the 1988 Commencement Exercises.
10. **Matt Lembke**, fascist, and **Grant Whittle**, communist, will fight to the death in the Amphitheatre with pool cues to raise money for SGA. The battle will be senselessly verbose and bloody, but the big winner will be the viewing public.
11. **Laverne Williams**, our beloved Sandwich Bar Hostess, will replace **Chef Paul** and **Jessie Wigington** as chief



Another one of those interesting Search colloquia.

of the ARA Kitchens. "I know what's good . . ." She will be heard to say, "and Pizza Joe ain't."

12. The **Computer Center Staff** will be fired when **the Faculty** votes that work may be turned in any form. Toilet

paper and crayons will replace the word processor as academic tools. Likewise, the Faculty will vote that for science students, all numbers in calculations may be rounded off to the nearest hundred as long as the report is "pretty."

He's back.

And he's mad as HELL.



DUFF WISH II

STARRING

GERALD DUFF

WITH

ROBERT LLEWELLYN
LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS
IRA JACKSON

THE GHOST OF RAYMOND FIELDS

Special Guest Star **RICHARD C. "Doc" WOOD** as *The World's Only Hope*
And a **CAST OF THOUSANDS OUT TO STOP HIM**

"DUFF WISH II scared the living hell out of me... a terror-filled nightmare... the very thought of his return made me want to throw back my head and vomit."

— Horst Dinkelacker, *Irate Magazine*

"SCARY! A gut-wrenching drama that brings "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Omen" to the world of higher education!"

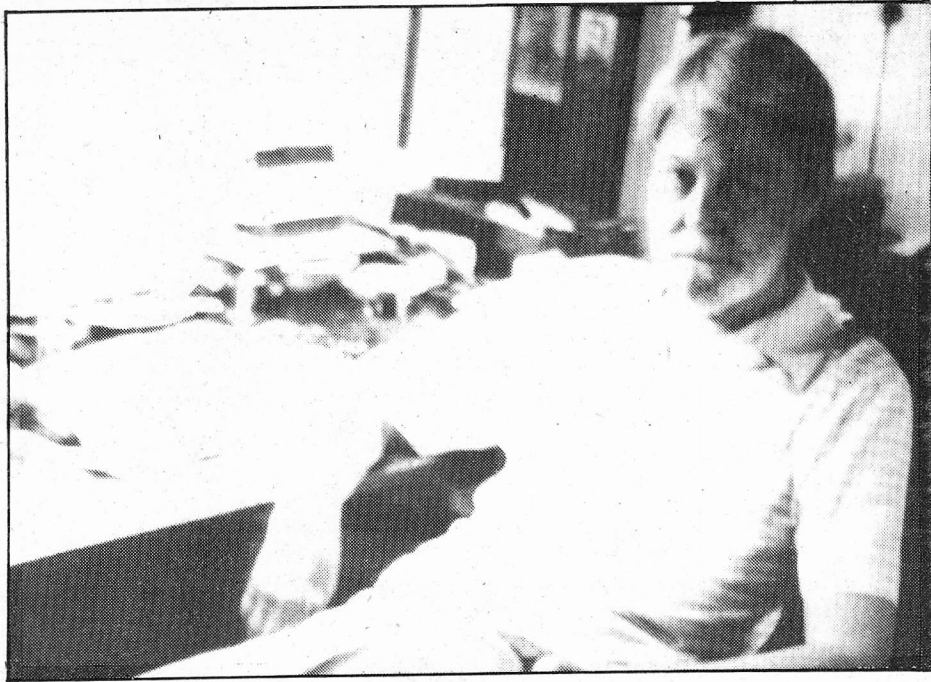
— Siskel & Elbert, *At the Movies*

"Realism at its height... roasted student tastes like chicken! Gerald, when you read this, I want you know, you're fabulous..."

— Idi Amin Dada, *Deposed Dictator Monthly*

"I want him DEAD. I'd love to INSTRUCT him to death."

— Gail McClay, *Education Today*



Shelby Foote

Summer Movie Reviews

(The Sou'wester thought it a good idea to provide a guide to movies for the summer.)

by Rod White

"Ishtar" — Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty team up as two offbeat (and I mean offbeat) singers/songwriters who wind up in the desert with a blind camel among other things. An unusual, daring, and very funny movie. Try it out.

"The Secret of my Success" — The secret to the success of this movie is disclosed from the opening credits — Michael J. Fox. This is really an Alex P. Keaton goes to New York-type of movie. And though the ending is a bit too neat and contrived, Fox and Helen Slater perform admirably together and carry the movie.

"Hot Pursuit" — John Cusack ("The Sure Thing") is pursuing his hot girlfriend in this surprisingly hilarious, fast-paced movie. What happens to Cusack's character is the stuff that epics and nightmares are made of, and yet we sympathize with him because much of it is all too real. Pursue this sleeper at all costs. You won't be disappointed, and you'll laugh a lot.

"Extreme Prejudice" — Violence runs rampant in this disappointing cartoon disguised as a modern day western.

The Thrill of Victory

by Clay Merchant

Cameradere. I've seen it and felt it, but this feeling hit home when I attended the Rhodes College Athletic Banquet May 19 at the Wilson World Hotel. On this night the spirit of lasting friendship and inner accomplishment flowed through the evening as the Lynx athletes joined together for an excellent dinner and memories of glory days.

Kristen Denmon (87) and Rick Neal (87) recapped this spirit in each of their respected speeches as each related his/her thoughts on athletics at Rhodes. Even though speaking on the same topic, each differed considerably in his/her approach. Denmon reminisced over her involvement in women's soccer, but criticized the college's stance on women's sports. She feels that sports for women at Rhodes have been underdeveloped and somewhat ostracized. She knows that some improvement has been made, as in the advent of the Captain's Club which meets to link the various sports, but still

believes Rhodes "needs more connection between sports."

Neal's speech centered on the more humorous and encouraging benefits from playing at Rhodes. One benefit Neal cited was that tracksters are able to avoid the Rat on track weekends. He maintains that soon McDonald's everywhere will be displaying a new motto, "Rhodes College always welcome." On a more serious vein, Neal reminisced over the spirit of team unity and camaraderie that is manifest in Rhodes sports. At Rhodes where athletes aren't paid, there is little support for athletics from the college and the students, and athletes receive no academic benefits for their endeavors, there exists that special unity of athletes with their constant drive to set goals, friendships and memories to last a lifetime, said Neal.

President Daughdrill echoed these sentiments in his speech at the banquet as he praised the athletes for "bringing honor and dignity to the college." Athletics at Rhodes has "furthered the

Nick Nolte (the one who never smiles and wears a white hat) is the sheriff in a small Texas town who is forced to conquer all the bad guys in the name of law and order. Along the way about eighty people get blown away as Noltie walks into the sunset unscathed. The action is non-stop, but the plot is all too familiar with no suspense. If you're craving for violence in a bad way, go and see "Lethal Weapon" again, rather than this bloody mess.

"Project X" — The name is about the only thing I don't like about this movie. Matthew Broderick plays the part of a rebellious pilot who is demoted to train monkeys how to fly simulated fighter planes. Though it may sound a bit too much, you'll leave this movie wondering if it could really happen. From the makers of "War Grease", "Project X" is worth seeing.

"Raising Arizona" — This is a movie destined for a large cult following. The plot involves the kidnapping of a baby by two not so perfect people, but it is really about discovering a goodness in life even when everything seems to be crumbling. This Springsteen-like theme features great photography and bizarre direction. Intoxication may not be a bad idea, however, for fully appreciating this movie.

college's reputation" and "developed pride" among its student athletes, according to President Daughdrill. These words came to light as awards were presented to the most valuable players of each sport. All Conference players were announced, and cheerleaders and retiring seniors were recognized for their commitment to Rhodes sports. Coach Mike Clary afterwards presented a special award to retiring Dean of Financial Aid Ray Allen (44). Coach Clary cited Dean Allen's support of Rhodes Athletics and thanked him on behalf of sports at Rhodes for his commitment and devotion to Lynx sports.

Most Valuable Players For 1986-87

Norm Pauley - Baseball; Glenn Tillery - Golf; Rick Neal - Track and Field; Robert Watkins and Vanessa Allen - Tennis; David Maddux - Football; John Tibbetts and Darlene Jordan - Basketball; Lisa Marks and Richard Brazzel - Cross Country; Liz Kiely - Volleyball; Eddie Fincher, Robin Vallelunga, and Kristen Denmon - Soccer.

Interview With Shelby Foote: Part II

Interview by Luke Lampton

(This is the second and final part of an interview the Sou'wester had with Shelby Foote, a critically acclaimed author of fiction and history now residing in Memphis.)

Sou'wester: How did you become interested in the Civil War?

Foote: I had always read Civil War material the way other people read detective stories, which always kind of bored me. I wrote my third novel, *Shiloh* before I revised *Tournament*. The first thing I wrote of any length after I came back from the World War was *Shiloh*, a Civil War subject. The reason that I came to write the history (*The Civil War: A Narrative*) was I had written these 5 novels down in Mississippi and I was asked if I'd do a short history of the Civil War and I thought it would be a good thing to do because it always interested me so much.

S: What do you think we can learn from the war?

F: It is the central occurrence in the history of this nation. Any understanding of present day problems has to come out of an understanding of the Civil War. The problems this nation faces from then on and the problems that were looming from the beginning all find their resolution in the Civil War and the main thing we can learn from it is something almost nobody learned, not even Southerners. All my life, from the time of the first World War up to the time of Vietnam, every American I knew said proudly, "We have never lost a war!" — every American, including Southerners. And of course we (Southerners) lost a war more disastrous than any nation I know of. There are very few people that got whipped as bad as we were whipped or more ground down into the dust after it was over. So whether Southerners admitted having lost a war or not, I still believe they have a strong sense of tragedy and didn't have this delusion that Americans are the finest people on the earth and the best fighters and this land could never lose under any circumstances because God is on our side and all that crap. It's a thing I think is a huge advantage of being a Southerner: having a sense of tragedy and also injustice from what we did to the blacks throughout most of our lives. That is a very valuable thing for a Southerner to have, a sense of tragedy and a sense of injustice for having experienced either in inflicting it or suffering it.

It's a valuable thing and un-American almost. You can't be much more un-American than in saying we did too lose the war. (Laughter.)

S: Some Southerners today won't admit losing the war. They'll say "The North didn't play fair."

F: They blame it on Jefferson Davis, but certainly not on the army.

S: Let's talk a little about *September, September*. Did you base Theo G. Wiggins on anyone, such as Mr. Church here in Memphis?

F: No, *September, September* is one of the few books I've ever written that's based on absolutely nothing in the way of plot. *Follow Me Down* is a retelling of a crime that was committed down home and a trial I did attend.

Love in a Dry Season is based on various things that did happen in various families down home. *Tournament* is based very roughly on my grandfather's life. But *September, September* is not — there was no character or incident in there that was taken from life and that's unusual for me. I think I knew what I was doing, though. I had just finished *The Civil War: A Narrative* and I wanted to write a novel to get my hands back in on fiction, so I simply invented a story and wrote it. It is a portrait of Memphis as it was in 1937 as I knew it, but it's not taken from life as far as the events are concerned.

S: Do you ever try to make social statements?

F: I don't make social statements by making statements. I try to show certain things — like the injustice of segregation is pretty obvious in by books.

S: Are you married?

F: I've been married twenty-seven years. That's a long time. I had to sneak up on being married a long time because I was married twice briefly before that.

S: Is she from Greenville?

F: No, she's a Memphis girl.

S: In Greenville weren't you in a writing group?

F: No, we were all friends, but it wasn't a literary coterie. There was no passing around of manuscripts or anything like that. It was not a literary coterie, thank God. Writers don't need to band together, they need to stay apart. One of the tragedies that's descended on American literature is now practically all of the poets and a great many prose writers are now on the college campus either as writers-in-residence or teachers. You've got no business in an academic atmosphere. It makes them (the writers) supercritical and it has a terrible effect of them talking their work away instead of doing it and they lie around drinking and talking about literature at night and jumping the coeds. It ain't a good way to spend your time if you've got work to do. It's very tempting: you're going to make \$20 to \$30,000 a year with a house thrown in free and the respect of everybody and the adulation of the students. That's all very understandable, but it's wrong.

S: How did you make it through the rough early years while you wrote immediately following the War?

F: Right after the War, I lived by the kindness of my mother who gave me a bed to sleep in and fed me.

S: What's your advice to someone who wants to be a writer?

F: The first thing they need to know is that there surely aren't any guarantees. There's no way of knowing except by giving it your best shot and see how it turns out. It's all you can do. What you write for, Freud says, are fame, money and the love of women, and that's the only three reasons we write. He doesn't leave any room for inspiration or anything else. There's some truth in that but it leaves out the basic motivation which is an earnest need to express yourself in a disciplined way. What I mean by discipline is putting it down on paper so that it satisfies you. You have to learn how to do that just as intensively as you have to learn how to take out an appendix or build a house. It's a profession that has to be learned. You have to practice it, do it so that your hand that holds your pen can work from your brain without all this see-sawing in between.

That is why it is so necessary to learn your craft. The way you learn it is by reading and writing. Writing is most important. You have to learn how to do it. You have to sit down in front of a blank piece of paper and describe a man walking across a room until you're able to describe a man walking across a room.

You have to do exercises, but no one likes to believe that. They like to believe they were sprung from the forehead of Zeus or something; but it's not true. It's a craft that has to be learned like any other. Aristotle said we learn three things about writing. First, you learn to write a description, whether it's of a tree or a sunset. Next, you learn to draw characters that really stand up and cast a shadow — real characters. Last, you learn how to plot and you work just in that order. The reason I'm so glad we had a war, never mind twenty-five million people got killed, was, I got a chance to get away from my home. I never saw the Mississippi Delta so clearly as I did from England.

(Mr. Foote is presently working on a novel. This interview took place on the afternoon of April 21, 1987.)

This Week in the Arts

*Saturday, May 30th marks the end of the Memphis in May Festival with the annual Sunset Symphony performance sponsored by the National Bank of Commerce. The Pre-Symphony Program will begin at 3 p.m. with the Symphony Performance following at 7 p.m. in Tom Lee Park.

With a near 265,000 spectators picnicing with family and friends on the banks of the Mississippi River, Memphis in May culminates with a grand musical finale featuring both pop and classical

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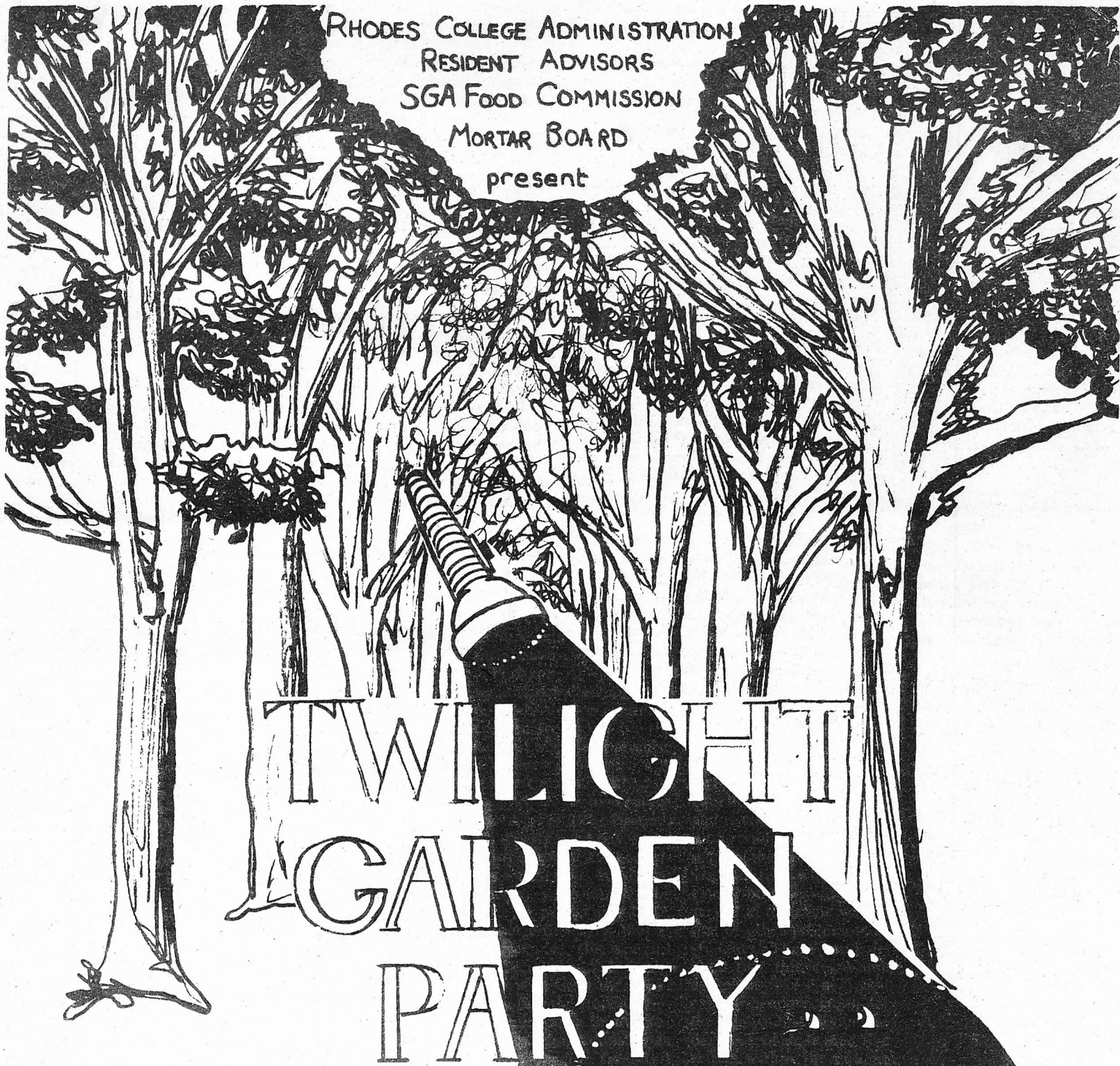
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