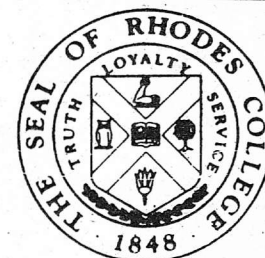


# The Sou'wester

Vol. 75 No. 5

Rhodes College

Thursday, September 29, 1988



The Rhodes College Singers, led by Tony Garner, performed at Last Friday's Founder's Day Convocation. The Convocation celebrated the one hundred fortieth session of the College.

## Briefly

The commuter Students Organization will hold an organizational meeting Wednesday, October 5 from 12:15 until 1:30 in the Pub. Commuters may "drop by" anytime during the meeting for a free pizza lunch and listen to or participate in discussions of issues facing commuters. Questions may be referred to Dean Ron Kovack or Erin McAllister.

Senior pictures will be made in Payne Recital Hall 3 days following break at the following times: Oct. 17 from 8-11 p.m.; Oct. 18 from 5:30-10:30 p.m.; and Oct. 19 from 5:30-10:30.

The Williford/Glassell R.A.s will show the film *Broadcast News* at 8:30 on this Saturday night in the student lounge in Briggs. Freshmen and upperclassmen are encouraged to attend.

Diane Clark, dramatic soprano and chair of the Rhodes College music department, will team up with pianist Thomas Bryant in a performance Tuesday, October 4, in Hardie Auditorium at Rhodes. The 8 p.m. recital is part of the college's Faculty Concert Series.

Clark and Bryant, who also teaches at Rhodes, will perform "Poems of Love and the Rain" by Ned Rorem, "Liebestod" by Richard Wagner, and a number of Stephen Sondheim compositions from the musicals "A Little Night Music," "Evening Primrose," and "Follies."

## Speakes Lectures On Media And Public Opinion

Larry Speakes, former White House communications director, lectured at Memphis State last week. Speakes left his White House position last year to "enter the private sector" along with many other members of the Reagan administration that have dropped like flies during his final term. And as all those Washington insiders have done, Speakes succumbed to the fad of selling your gaffe and published his scandalous biography earlier this year, entitled *Speaking Out: Inside the Reagan White House* (Scribners), in which he calls his former coworkers names and admits to fabricating Reagan quotes for the press. This confession was, of course, after Reagan presented him with the Presidential Citizens medal and said Speakes was "a man whom the American people could always count on to tell the truth."

Speakes' lecture, "How Media Influences and Sways Public Opinion," luckily avoided mention of his minor scandal. It didn't tell us how media influences and sways public opinion, either, but it did present an objective criticism of this year's campaign. The title of the lecture should have been "How the Media has Ruined the '88 Campaign."

Speakes began by analyzing three major faults of this year's presidential race. First, he said, the voters are "schizophrenic." The '88 voter is constantly changing his or her mind, he said, and there is a huge population of swing voters that will decide the election.

Secondly, Speakes denounced the

press for their practice of irresponsible "Peeping Tom journalism," which has misdirected their bulldogging to the candidates' personalities and deep dark pasts rather than their stands on important issues. The media, he said, sets their sights on the frontrunner and has started reporting rumors. "The election," Speakes stated, "will be decided by the candidate who makes the last mistake."

Finally, Speakes reproached the candidates for this year's "campaign totally with out issues." There has been no discussion of issues, no clear stands, he said. It's been a "campaign of one-liners" that "sounds like a schoolyard fight, not a campaign for President of the United States." Speakes added, "If you run an issue-less campaign, you will both lose. One loses at the ballot box in November, the other loses when he faces Congress."

During the question session, Speakes only had to defend his book in one answer, saying that it wasn't as crude as the press made it out to be, and he thinks it is "healthy" for insiders to write of their experiences in their positions. Other questions just had Speakes expand on points already given in his lecture.

All in all Speakes impressed the audience with his critical outlook and knowledge. "Just because you're Southern and you talk slow," Speakes observed, "people think you may think slow and you may not be very bright." Really, that's not the reason.

## LYONS RECEIVES FIRST DIEHL SOCIETY AWARD

by Scott Naugler

Dr. Harold Lyons, Schering-Plough Professor of Chemistry and chair of the chemistry department at Rhodes College received the first annual Diehl Society Award at the Founders Convocation held Friday. The Convocation marked the one-hundred fortieth session at Rhodes.

The \$3,000 award was established and endowed by an anonymous trustee of the college. It honors a member of the faculty who has "rendered extraordinary service to the Rhodes community."

Lyons fits all the criteria of service at the college, according to Dean Herman Dunathan. "He has advised generations of Rhodes' premedical students. Over the years he has played a major role on all of the important faculty committees and has been an enthusiastic and energetic participant in college life, from concerts and football games to alumni reunions and Parents' Weekend," said Dunathan. "His broad and consistent service to his students and to Rhodes is fueled by his intense commitment to science, the liberal arts and the individual student."

Dr. Lyons, whose current research includes hypertension and early detection of cancer, was a research chemist in the private sector before joining the Rhodes faculty in 1958. Since then, he has made his mark as an outstanding teacher, researcher, author, adviser and true mentor to many of his students.

Also in the area of awards, Provost Kepple saluted this year's Bellin-

grath and Hyde scholars, and recognized at least 15 parents of Bellin-grath or Hyde scholars who had come to the convocation.

Student Assembly President Ann Dixon spoke on the cohesiveness of Rhodes, using Lou Anthony's Campus Life sculpture as an analogy to tie her ideas together. She stressed that the solution to problems facing Rhodes is contingent upon the togetherness of the administration, the faculty, and the students (Ann cited last year's Catalog of Concerns as an example).

The Convocation Address was given by James T. Laney, president of Emory University, on "The Liberating Arts." Truly, this was one of the few actually interesting and enthusiastic public speeches that I have ever heard. President Laney spoke of a liberal education in its most idealistic sense, the purpose of which is to teach people to "lead life with a sense of the common good." He said that liberal education helps us to see through superficial values, teaching true humanity at its best. Perhaps this view was a tiny bit idealistic for Rhodes, but it's heartening to know that somewhere in the world that ideal situation might arise.

The convocation was rounded out nicely by the Rhodes College Singers and their conductor Tony Garner. They sang *Lauda Anima*, and concluded the convocation with the *Alma Mater*. After the *Alma Mater*, Chaplain Steve Musick gave the benediction, which concluded the ceremony.

## Forum Participants Learn About Rhodes

by Laura Blankenship

The administration at Rhodes does many things to promote the College and one of the most important of these, according to Dean of Development Don Lineback, is the Rhodes Forum. Every year the College invites alumni and friends to participate in a two and a half day forum to allow them to see what Rhodes is really like. Selection is based on a person's influence in their community, their professional achievement, and their interest in Rhodes. Those who attended this year were nominated by previous participants.

During the forum, participants had many things to do, all of which were intended to show them that Rhodes is a place of quality—and that the students and the faculty are outstanding. They visited classes, met with faculty and the administration, were special guests at the Founders Day Convocation, and had dinner at the President's home.

Many participants said they most enjoyed the question and answer session held with the leaders of major student organizations Friday morning. Sally Hawley '81, of Birmingham, said the students "helped me understand what it's like to be a student here now and how the school has changed since I graduated. The students were very articulate and excellent representatives of the cluded Charles Carrico, Ann Dixon, Doug Halijan, Angie Dixon, Julianne Johnson, Andy Robinson, Brent Carter, Gretchen Greiner, Jenna Adams, Eileen Ruffin, Olivia Gannon and Mark West.

Lineback, who was coordinator of the forum, stressed that it is not a fundraiser. It is an attempt to convince people that Rhodes is a unique institution. The most important way to get this across, he believes, is through the students. He says, "I would like to express my gratitude to students who go out of their way to make guests feel at home."

Thursday, September 29, 1988

## THOSE OLD BID NIGHT BLUES

Doug Halijan

As far as I know, neither B.B. King, Muddy Waters, nor any other master of the blues has ever written anything titled "The Bid Day Blues." Not that bid day isn't an appropriate subject, though. A lot of freshmen get this particular kind of blues each year. This Saturday, some members of the freshman class will undoubtedly develop them again. If I were to write lyrics to a song called "Bid Day Blues" they might go something like "I don't know whyyyyyyy they didn't like me" or "will I everrrrrr fit in here" (you have to supply the music). The singer should be a freshman—preferably one who has been at Rhodes only about six weeks. The singer should also be someone you don't really know; the people most likely singing the bid day blues will be people that Greek members, for whatever reason, didn't get to know very well. Finally, the person singing the "Bid Day Blues" should also have lots of self-doubt—they should wonder what it was about himself or herself that caused them to "fall through."

Since you are certainly wondering by now what I'm trying to do by treating this subject with levity, I will get to the point. As you undoubtedly know, this Saturday is bid day, the day when the "rush" period ends and bids to the ten Greek organizations are officially given. The hopes for many freshmen will be realized that night and for them, the amphitheatre will be the best place on earth. Others will be bitterly disappointed and left wondering why they weren't chosen. These are the people who will be singing the "Bid Night Blues."

I had originally intended to write an editorial critical of certain features in our Greek system. Few would maintain that it doesn't have problems that need to be corrected. But rather than dwell on this, I think there are some more positive things applicable to bid day and the blues that need to be addressed. It is very natural for the fall throughs to be disappointed. Rush may be less cut-throat here than it is at other places, but that is of little consolation to someone who wanted to be a Greek but wasn't "selected."

What is of consolation though, is that their four years here should be no less meaningful because they aren't in a Greek organization. I honestly believe that that is true and I think there are a growing number of students here who agree—especially Greeks who are bitterly disappointed at who their own organization chose not to accept.

There are NO conclusions that should be drawn about anyone who falls through other than the person did not make a successful impression on the right people during the first few weeks of school. If someone makes a judgement about you simply because you fell through, you probably shouldn't have wanted to be in his or her organization anyway.

A lot of students, including myself, believe we've done fine here without the advantages of Greek membership. I should also say that I made a conscious choice not to become involved in the system, but the point is that the kind of social life one has here is what you make it. Independents who complain about a lack of social life but take no initiative to improve are as bad as Greeks who depend on their fraternity or sorority for social outlets.

In an editorial on this subject that I co-wrote last year, I said the hugging and crying, the elevated talk of "brotherhood" and "sisterhood," and the enormous quantities of alcohol consumed that night (out of either elation or disappointment) illustrated the importance of the Greek system here. No one denies that. But there is life here, both social and intellectual, beyond and above the Greek system. If you fell through you should make it a point to prove to yourself that other organizations here offer the same things the Greek system does. It is OK to have the "Bid Day Blues" this Saturday, but in the next four years I hope you realize that there wasn't much need to be "blue" after all.



## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to last week's editorial in the *Sou'wester* regarding the scheduling of Commencement on a Friday. There are several things to be kept in mind in considering the appropriateness or inappropriateness of this scheduling.

All scheduling inconveniences someone almost all the time. There is no perfect time to hold Commencement for all who are to participate or observe the activity—students, faculty, staff, trustees, families and friends.

Commencement is a ceremony to mark the completion of the academic study of a class and the beginning of life after an undergraduate education. It is not specifically for the members of one's family or one's friends, however proud they may be. First and foremost, it is for the members of the class. Their wishes should be taken into account.

But this College is a church-affiliated college and is steeped in a Judeo-Christian tradition, even to the point of making knowledge of that tradition a fundamental part of

education of everyone who graduates from this institution. Failure to support these traditions publicly assails the principles of the College.

We cannot in good conscience choose to ignore the beliefs of those who share in that tradition and are a part of this community. However far removed they may be from the religious practices of the majority of the campus, we have an obligation to insure that we do not discriminate against them. Those who are a part of this institution and the Judeo-Christian tradition should be able to participate in the life of the institution.

If this means holding Commencement on Friday instead of Saturday because of Orthodox Jewish belief and strictures, the only principled choice we have is to do so. To do otherwise would disavow the rights of a minority whose claim for special consideration on religious grounds is of a higher order than the inconvenience of even a large number of friends and families.

Influential people are influential

and the issue may have had less immediate salience if raised by another. But as a Trustee of this institution, the individual involved has every right to expect the College to pay more than lip-service to the principles and traditions which it supports.

This is a very difficult situation for which there is no easy solution. If Commencement is held on Friday, large numbers of parents will be inconvenienced if they are to attend the ceremony. If it is held on Saturday, the College will violate a tradition and principles with which it is closely allied. It's a "no-win" proposition.

Rather than be upset by the changes such as scheduling may require, we should reflect on the fact that we have been so insensitive about such a circumstance for so long. That is one of the insights to be gained in a liberal arts education. Being inconvenienced in support of principle is not easy, but it is a valuable lesson.

Grant T. Hammond

To the Editor:

My association with the College began as a student at Southwestern and has continued as an employee, first for Southwestern and subsequently, for Rhodes. During those years, Saturday morning commencement has been a source of much concern, since it places many Jewish students and parents in a very unenviable position.

Most non-Jews are aware that Saturday is Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, and that worship services are held on Saturday morning. However, many non-Jews may be unaware for the Orthodox Jew there are many "thou shalt nots" for Shabbat observance. These include, but are not limited to, not riding on Shabbat, as well as physically not carrying articles from place to place. Thus, if an observant parent/student wishes to attend graduation ceremonies, this is a part of the dilemma faced: (a) finding a motel in a safe environment within walking distance of the campus; (b) omitting attendance at worship services, since graduation and worship times overlap; (c) what to do about the diploma, since the graduate does not carry any article on Shabbat.

You mentioned Yom Kippur in your editorial of September 22. As holy a day as is Yom Kippur, our rabbis teach us that observance of the Shabbat is even more significant and more holy.

The average costs of attending Rhodes as a resident student during the period 1985-86 through 1988-89 total \$52,015. Obviously, every graduate has invested much time and effort in order to reach the goal, the baccalaureate degree. Every graduate and every parent, Jew and non-Jew, wish to be a participant in the moment. Since \$52,015 has been invested thus far, and families know

from August 21, 1988, that graduation will be on Friday, May 5, 1989, it is difficult to believe that appropriate advance planning cannot be achieved. Most working parents have vacation time; it is difficult to imagine a better use of those hours.

And indeed if paid vacation days are unavailable, it would seem that adding a relatively small percentage to the \$52,015 previously spent can be thought of as an additional cost of education for that young person.

(Continued On Page 3)

## The Sou'wester

The *Sou'wester* is the official student newspaper of Rhodes College. It is published every Thursday throughout the fall and spring semesters with the exception of holidays and exam periods. The office is #10 in the Briggs Student Center. Staff meetings are held there each Tuesday night at 6:00 and all students are welcome to attend.

Interested parties are encouraged to write letters to the Editor, which may be delivered to the office or sent via campus mail. Any letter for publication may be edited for clarity, length, or libelous content.

Student publications at Rhodes are governed by the Publications Board—the Editor-in-Chief and Asst. Editor are the elected representatives of that Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and featured columns are those of the editors and contributing writers and do not necessarily represent the official viewpoints of Rhodes College.

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The Sou'wester  
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## Across Campus

Who won this week's debate between Presidential candidates Michael Dukakis and George Bush?

"I thought it was pretty much a draw. It got nasty. They both repeated the same rhetoric over again."

Phillip Hoover

"I think it was a draw between them, except for the fact that Dukakis seemed more steady and in control."

Patrick Farr

"I would say definitely Dukakis. Bush personally does not hold well under pressure. Dukakis used that fact to his advantage. Bush looked incompetent, nervous, and not a leader."

Kimerie Tate

"I'm a Republican, but Bush appeared unprepared and unable to express his views clearly. His nervousness became evident as he misstated information frequently."

Howard Cleveland

I think each candidate accurately expressed his views on the issues. An opinion of the winner can only be based on one's own political ideology."

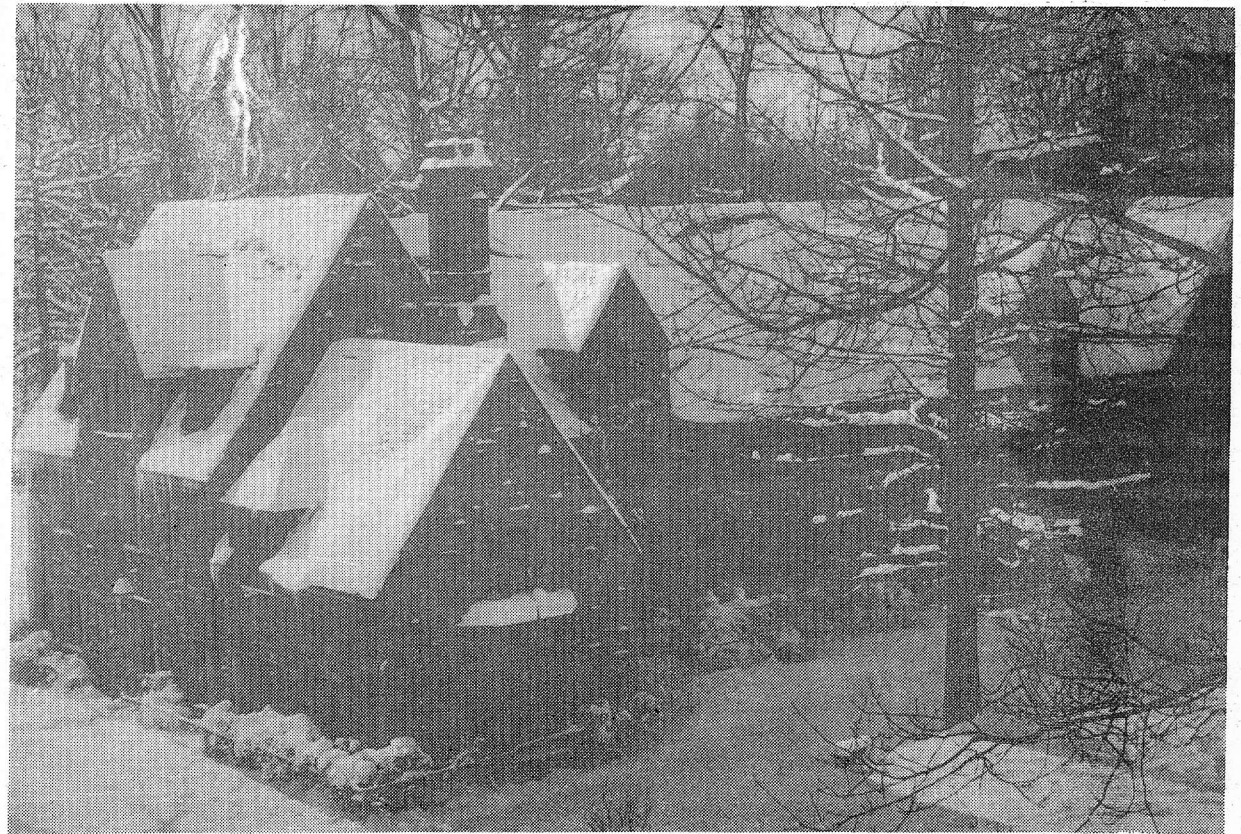
Doug Kilday

"Bush answered the questions better than Dukakis. He also was more factual in answers."

Chris Robinson

"Bush was running around in circles. He avoided the questions. Dukakis gave honest answers that were applicable to the American people."

Julie Johnson



Robb Hall, one of F. Grant Whittle's favorite buildings after a snowstorm

## Subtraction

by Laura Blankenship

Twenty-two problems  
Take me five minutes  
Bring down the two  
Carry the one  
Borrow one  
Ten minus six is four  
Nine minus three is six  
I could hear my thoughts  
My teacher bent over  
The dumb girl with pigtails  
Pointing  
The dumb girl nodded  
My teacher patted her on the head  
Numbers laughed at me from the page  
I knew what should go under the bar  
I pretended  
That four plus four was nine  
And six minus three was two  
My teacher bent over  
But I didn't hear my thoughts  
Her fingers seized my ear  
And twisted  
You know better  
A lingering chicken pock began to bleed  
A lingering tear fell  
Washing away the answer to number twelve  
Which was right  
I erased each wrong answer  
Until there was a hole under each bar.

## Letters

(Continued From Page 2)

Having served on boards of many community activities in the city, I can attest to the given that no matter when an activity is planned, there will always be conflicts for some who wish to be involved in the activity. Three of my sons and one daughter-in-law graduated from college on Saturday morning; one son also received his professional degree on that day. I am still uncomfortable with my difficult decision in these matters, i.e., of not attending wor-

ship services in favor graduation. The observant Jew, however, does not have this alternative. It would seem with seven days in the week, it should be possible to schedule such an important milestone without conflicting with anyone's religious beliefs; thus I commend very strongly and am very grateful for the decision of the College's Board of Trustees. Shirley C. Frisch  
Assistant to the Director.  
Financial Aid

## Miscellany

## RHODES COLLEGE ARCHITECTURE, Part Two: The Best Buildings

F. Grant Whittle

In my second article on Rhodes College's Architecture, I present to you my (perfectly subjective and opinionated) list of the five best buildings on campus.

**Palmer Hall** (Architect: Henry C. Hibbs, 1925): You wouldn't doubt that I'd select Palmer, would you? It's the oldest building on campus and by far the most interesting and beautiful. First, let's get something straight. When I speak of Palmer Hall, I mean Palmer Hall—not Gooch Hall (which is not particularly interesting) or Halliburton Tower (which, glorious as it is, is more a monument than a building). Just Palmer Hall, as it was built in 1925.

What is it about Palmer Hall that distinguishes it? Just look at it. It is a large building, but it has an indescribable homey quality. This is because the length of the building is broken up by numerous groups of windows, gables, protrusions, bay windows, and other architectural details. It is, doubtless, one of the most playful buildings I have ever seen, whether we speak of the little turret that sits to the right of the front door (a turret which by the way, is nothing but a little hall inside), or the clock that is installed above the back entrance.

Then we look at the inside. The cloister, which is the most memorable detail of Palmer with its groin vaults, slate floor, and marble stairways (the picture last week, by the way, was of the cloister being built) is seen first when you enter the building. And then everywhere within, Palmer cannot help looking just like a college building ought to look. Its classrooms, with wood-framed slate chalkboards and glorious bay win-

dows, are no less than inspiring to the students that sit within them.

**Robb Hall** (Henry C. Hibbs, 1925): Robb hall is the way every dorm in the world ought to be. Looking at it from the outside, it seems to grow from the pavement. Its first-floor windows are close to the ground, allowing this three-storey building to appear relaxed and comfortable.

But with Robb, while the outside is grand indeed, it is the inside that is dazzling. First the social room—the spindled doors that lead into the room herald an elegance of a time long since past. And inside, the sunken room with its elegant stone fireplace, handsomely-panelled walls, and slate floor make each resident feel he is living in the stately manor of an English nobleman. It's a shame that such a keen room is outfitted with such tacky furniture. Work on that, guys!

And then there are the dorm rooms. Nearly every one is a bed-sitter—having a bedroom or bedrooms and a sitting room. By no means can you say you live in a closet if you live in Robb. And each room is different. There are not rows and rows of the same room over and over again. There is variety and spice, which adds to the enjoyment of living there. Each student has a unique abode that he can call home. The rooms have many elegant touches, from the wood trim (including a wainscot) to the handsome light fixtures.

**Kennedy Hall** (Henry C. Hibbs, 1925) My third choice is Kennedy Hall. It is possessed of many of the features that make Palmer great. In addition, it has its own charm and

character. The groin-vaulted porches, for instance, echo the cloister in Palmer, but also have their own character. Look up in the center of each vault, you will find a most charming light-fixture—ornate, but eminently useful. The huge, nearly overpowering wings, with the huge expanses of windows to let the sun into the laboratories and lecture halls are striking features. Inside, you will find two marvellous lecture halls, with wooden floors and fixed chairs that put the ones in Frazier Jelke to shame.

**Neely Hall** (Henry C. Hibbs, 1925): Then we have Neely, which is the oldest part of the Refectory. The most exciting feature of Neely's exterior is its huge windows that line both sides of the dining hall. Also of interest are the handsome buttresses and the dinner bell that was imported from the Clarksville campus. Inside, the dining hall has a wonderful sense of hugeness which, harkening back to a constant theme, is understated and comfortable. The marble floor, handsome wooden ceiling and iron-wrought chandeliers all add to the gothic charm of the building.

**East Hall** (The Crump Firm, 1985): By now, you must have surmised that I have named most of the original buildings on campus. You might ask if I think nothing else has been of value. Well, just to show you that even the new buildings are good, I selected East. Its exterior lines are a perfect echo of the lines of Palmer, and its grand entryway is a glorious detail. Inside, its warm social room and modern amenities make it the most successful building on campus at uniting gothic charm with modern convenience.

## Book Review

Jason Files and Scott Naugler

## Tales Too Ticklish to Tell

by Berke Breathed  
(122pages)

*Tales Too Ticklish to Tell*, besides being a wonderful example of alliteration, is Berke Breathed's latest Bloom County anthology, and what a stupendous showing of avant-garde short fiction interspersed with poetry it is (amply illustrated, of course, by Breathed himself). Breathed's use of literary convention is as sharp as ever, and the old familiar characters have new complexities that add a great new depth to his writing.

In the introduction, Mikhail Gorbachev praises Breathed's characters as a new breed of heroes in American literature. Gorbachev compares the themes in *Tales Too Ticklish to Tell* to Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*: "The lone individual in his struggle with the imposed injustices of his oppressors," and "the social degradations of a system unresponsive to the particular needs of its citizens." Indeed, I believe that Mr. Gorbachev has hit the proverbial nail on the head—Breathed's characters speak with the voice of America, freedom, and good taste.

The style of dialogue that is adopted in the book is colloquial English, which creates a situation of perfect dramatic irony because the characters speak so universally for the human race. An excellent example of this is when Bill the Cat is transformed into 'Oral Bill,' a fabulously successful television evangelist.

Of all the characters in Breathed's microcosm, perhaps the one that relates best to each of us is Steve Dallas—with his tragic flaws he

symbolizes the comings and goings of humanity. One critic has called the Bloom County collection an "epic of the times," in which I have no doubt that Steve Dallas is cast as the epic hero.

The use of literary allusion and metaphor is so subtle that it borders on the comic. Opus the penguin (an obvious allusion to Shakespeare's Hamlet) uses metaphor constantly to put forth a message of peace to mankind. For instance, when Opus is cruelly asked to leave his boarding house, he says that he is going to get a job as a towel boy for "the skinny-dippin' wolf women of planet Heineken at their nude nitrogen pudding baths."

The cosmic irony here is clear: Opus simply wants a house in the clean country with a mate to care for and reciprocate his affections, something everyone yearns for.

As usual, Breathed incorporates a number of current political figures into his stories, often placing them in melodramatic situations in order to show them in the white light of truth. Among the most noteworthy are the legendary Star Trek figures, as well as Santa Claus and all of the major news anchormen.

Breathed has characterized the human race so well that it seems impossible that he can keep on at his current pace, turning out a short story every day. But he's been consistent so far, and we can only hope that he continues for the invaluable insights into ourselves that he gives us.

## FRESHMEN

by Anisa Cottrell

Before I came to college, I had little idea of what it really meant to be in a Greek organization. I had no idea of what a big deal it would turn out to be. This made the first few weeks of school a bit strange—women suddenly began talking to me as if I should have met them before. Finally, someone told me that this was the beginning of Rush. It all seemed so deadly serious—all of that friendliness seemed to cover some sort of ulterior motive. As I tried to figure all of this out, I have to admit that I was a bit confused—about both the Greek system and my place in it. This all seemed easy for an amazing number of people; most of my friends seemed so excited about the whole ordeal. I was forced to reconsider my

by Frank Howell

This week marks the final days of fall rush for the some 70 percent of freshmen and transfer students at Rhodes. While this is an exciting time for many of the rushees and fraternities/sororities in general, I believe that the present rush system needs to be analyzed in terms of its excessive length.

As a freshman going through rush, I can honestly attest that the last six weeks have been hell. No doubt, it's been fun, but at the same time very strenuous; going out most nights, spending lots of money, worrying about early bids, trying to recall several hundred names, and waking up for your morning class not having any idea what your homework was the night before.

position on this issue for the first time since I sent the preliminary forms in during the summer.

Now that Rush season is winding down, I am really satisfied with my decision to abstain. I've managed for eighteen years without a sister—I'm not ready to start adopting them right and left. I also have a problem with standing in a circle and screaming (I think that this is meant to be understood by the "chosen few".) Lots of people seem to think that life outside of the Greek system is devoid of purpose. This simply doesn't follow. I have yet to become a recluse, delegated to a life of loneliness and despair simply because I haven't rushed. I will miss out on the abundance of shirts, hats, buttons, cups,

The only clear solution to this problem would be to make rush shorter. This could be achieved by either having a short, compacted rush at the beginning of the school year or enacting a second semester delayed rush, similar to the one at Vanderbilt.

On the surface, the latter sounds like a real good idea. People would have ample time to look at each house (and vice-versa) and make a sound decision. Also, the pressure to go out every night would not be near as great.

Yet, on the other hand, rushees would have to be "on stage" for the whole semester, which is a very unpleasant thought. By this time, most freshmen would know which frat/sorority they were going to pledge, but not being able

hairbows, and other paraphernalia that seem so vital to the college experience, however. How sad.

Greek life has plenty of attractive qualities, but I have problems with the concept. Some people are bound to fall through the cracks in any sort of community, but it seems unnecessary to encourage such a situation. It would bother me to support this aspect of Greek life.

Although I am happy with my independent status, I wish it weren't such a big deal—I feel the need to explain myself lots of times, and this gets a bit old. I guess I would rather explain my reasons for remaining independent to other people than justify joining a sorority to myself, the person I have to really get along with.

to enjoy any benefits of that decision. Also, I seriously doubt that any house would want to wait till January to fill up its pledge class.

Therefore, the only logical solution to this would be to have a shorter rush at the beginning of the school year. The first 1½ to 2 weeks of school (including orientation) could be used as fall rush. We could compact many of the present 6-week long activities into that time frame. This way, rush would only cut into about a week of school; a week that is pretty boring and grade-less anyway. For those who choose not to go through rush, the school would also provide activities during that period. (Much the same as they do now.)

(Continued On Page 6)

## FACULTY FORUM

## AN UNHOLLYWOODEN JESUS

by Mark W. Muesse  
Assistant professor of Religious Studies

With the great furor generated over "The Last Temptation of Christ," perhaps it's time to look more closely at its theological content to see how well it fares with respect to the traditional Christian affirmations about Jesus. A careful reading of Christian history and a careful understanding of the movie will show, I think, that the film actually presents little or nothing that could be said to contradict what Christians have historically maintained about the Christ. Although it cannot be denied that the portrait of Jesus that emerges from the film often jars our modern images of the man—formed through twenty centuries of theology, art, and ecclesiastical preaching—one would still be hard pressed to name the points at which the movie flagrantly opposes traditional Christian theology, especially those doctrines that concern Jesus' complete humanity and divinity.

Some critics, no doubt, will object to the simple fact that the film has taken some liberties with the biblical stories about Jesus, suggesting, for example, that he was not only a carpenter but a carpenter benefiting from the Roman crucifixion indus-

try, or that he conspired with Judas to arrange his arrest and execution. But at these places, the movie merely speculates beyond the bare facts of the gospels, attempting imaginatively to fill in the gaps left open by the biblical narrative. True, the New Testament never says that Jesus was a cross-maker before he was a cross-taker; but then, it does not say he wasn't either. The New Testament, quite clearly, does not tell us everything about Jesus. Like all great literature, it demands that we use our imaginations to understand and interpret it. It is this very fact that has made possible the twenty centuries of art and preacherly discourse that has shaped our present images of the Christ. To criticize Kanzantzikis merely because he has "fictionalized" or embellished the gospel narrative is to undercut the whole tradition that allows us to understand anything about Jesus in the first place.

A more profound criticism will be based on theological grounds rather than on the objection that the film takes poetic license. From the theological point of view, critics have assailed the movie because it seems to compromise the divinity of

Jesus. "The Last Temptation" presents a Jesus who hungers, gets tired, is tormented by self-doubt, is unsure of himself, and is even a little cowardly. For some, these attributes will not seem consistent with the idea that Jesus is the Son of God or God incarnate. How can an omniscient God have self-doubt? Such precisely is the paradox (some would say absurdity) that lies at the heart of traditional Christian claims about Jesus the Christ. Despite its apparent contradiction, Christianity has maintained that Jesus of Nazareth was (and is) fully God and fully human, and both simultaneously. Few Christians have ever really been comfortable with this christological formulation. Although almost every Christian will pay lip service to this idea, most believers in practice tend to accent one side of the equation to the detriment of the other. Conservatives will often err on the side of divinity, failing to take Jesus' humanity seriously; liberals frequently take the opposite tact, making Jesus so human as to be theologically irrelevant.

I doubt that anyone will argue that "The Last Temptation" has failed to do justice to Jesus' full humanity.

The question the critics raise is whether Jesus' humanness has been portrayed in such a way as to discredit his divine nature. Some will surely answer yes and point to Jesus' internal struggles, his cowardice, and his imagining a life married to Mary the Magdalene. But none of these necessarily diminishes the assertion of Jesus' divinity. Consider the matter of Jesus' self-doubt. The film clearly depicts Jesus wrestling with his sense of destiny, uncertain of his mission, not even sure whether the voice he hears is that of God or the devil. Can such an indecisive, apparently intellectually limited human being also be the Son of God? Those who would demand that the Christ be all-knowing have probably not considered just how ridiculous such a claim is. On such a view, the newborn baby Jesus had a complete grasp of, among other things, quantum physics, noneuclidean geometry, and linguistics! Of course, if Jesus were not born omniscient, he would have to learn, develop his mind, and struggle with existential questions, and this is precisely what the movie portrays.

Self-doubt and intellectual insecurity are implied by the affirmation of

Jesus' full humanity. The hallmark of human existence, the tradition avers, is finitude. There are limitations placed on human possibility. Human beings must eat because they are not self-sustaining; there are limits to the things they can know and understand; they must die. To say that these limitations do not apply to Jesus is therefore to deny his full participation in the rich and painful ambiguity of true human existence. None of his is to suggest that Jesus was somehow sinful. There is nothing sinful about not being omniscient. If that were true, then the smartest among us would be the closest to God. There is a vast difference between being merely finite and being sinful.

Some critics, of course, have argued that Kanzantzikis' Christ has been portrayed as a sinful human being. Indeed, there are vague intimations in the movie that Jesus sinned. At one point he made some remark to Judas that would lead one to believe that Jesus thought of himself as sinful. But my point is that the film never shows Jesus committing a sinful act. To think oneself sinful is quite

(Continued On Page 5)

## LAST TEMPTATION

(Continued From Page 4)

different from actually committing sins.

Much has been made about Jesus' relationship to Mary Magdalene, and critics point to this as the chief instance of the sinfulness of Jesus in the film. Particularly upsetting so some is the series of scenes near the end of the picture in which Jesus is married to Mary, fathering children, and living the peaceful life in Galilee. As the film closes, these are revealed to be only fantasies—in fact, they constitute Jesus' "last temptation." Evidently, some people take Jesus' imaginative "what-if-ing" to have some blatant sexual content. They seem to think that the last temptation is one of lust, and as we remember from Jimmy Carter's campaign, "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). But these kinds of criticisms do not really touch the movie. The last temptation is not so much one of lust as it is the temptation to give up a divine destiny and settle for the comfort and security of middle-class existence. Perhaps what genuinely upsets conservative critics is not the hint of Jesus' sexuality but his apparent rejection of

their bourgeois life. Furthermore, it is very hard to label Jesus' fantasy as somehow lustful. Quite clearly, whatever sexual imaginings he may have had (and these are never directly depicted in the film) were viewed within the context of marriage. Jesus simply imagined what it would be like to be married, have children, and forget all of his messianic intentions. How could this be sinful? If it is, then the mere contemplation of marriage and family life—what everyone who dates does—is an offense to God.

But even beyond this, and perhaps more to the point, the movie *never* shows Jesus as succumbing to any temptation, whether this last one or the ones before. His final words on the cross, "It is accomplished," are a cry of triumph. And in this respect, the film is consonant with Christian tradition.

From a theological perspective, there is much to recommend this movie, more things than I can elaborate here. To me, its greatest value lies precisely in the fact that it distances us from Jesus, rattling our comfortable images of him. Considering much of what is popularly written and said about Jesus, it sometimes seems that many people

forget that Jesus was the product of a culture very different from our own. To be sure, Christians would not want Jesus to seem so foreign as to be irrelevant or unintelligible to contemporary life. But there is a problem when we become too comfortable, too familiar with our images of him: Jesus becomes domesticated. "The Last Temptation" shows us a Jesus who does not conform to our images; he doesn't even quote the King James' Bible! When we hear words or see images over and over, they lose their sharpness, their ability to pierce our soul, like a record that is played over and over, smoothing out the grooves, diminishing the music's pristine purity. In past efforts, Hollywood has simply played the old, familiar tune—the Jesus in the white robe and the flowing hair, Jesus the "all-you-need-is-love" proto-hippie. In "The Last Temptation," we have, at last, a movie about Jesus that takes seriously the fact that he was a human, from a world very different from ours, and presents him as a character who shares the pains, the ambiguities, the doubts of finite human existence without, in the final analysis, compromising that within him we call divine.

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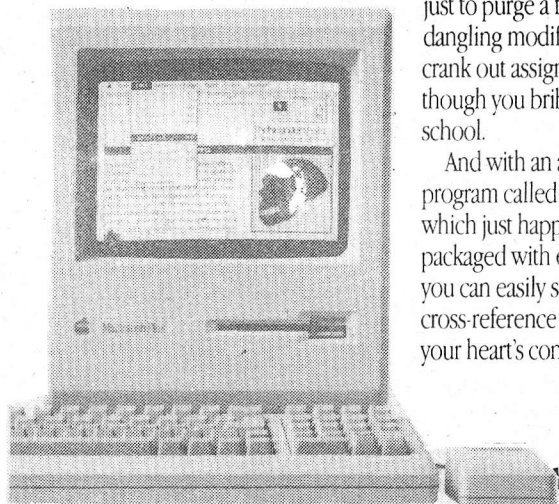
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Thursday, September 29, 1988

## Season 8 Begins at McCoy

by Frank Howell

The McCoy Theatre begins Season 8 this fall with two performances, *The Robber Bridegroom* and *All My Sons*. Like last year, the shows will be in repertory, a process by which two or more plays are running at the same time period.

This year's performances, however, have been cut down to two productions instead of the three last year in the fall.

"The reason there are not three is that three is too many in repertory for a small theatre," said Joe Tamborello, a member of the McCoy Company and involved in both productions. "It was very hectic and very difficult to coordinate. Two will be much more manageable."

*The Robber Bridegroom*, written by Robert Waldman and Alfred Uhry, is directed by guest director Barry Fuller. Based on a Eudora Welty novella, it is a musical comedy about a girl and a bandit falling in love, neither knowing that the marriage arranged for them is with each other.

"It is a lot of fun," said Tamborello. "It's a lot different from anything we have ever done before. Everyone is always on stage, always acting and reacting. It is a hoot and definitely not conventional theatre."

Dates for *The Robber Bridegroom* are; October 21 and 22 and November 3, 4, 12, 17, 18 and 19.

Arthur Miller's classic, *All My Sons*, is an honest, forceful wartime drama about a group of people caught up in a swindle that leads to the death of 21 Army pilots.

"It is an angry play about an angry time," said McCoy faculty member and play producer Julia "Cookie" Ewing. Her favorite description of the play was given by critic Robert Hogan: "The larger society is reflected by the little society of family."

"It shows the conflict of war to larger society and then to the smaller family. It deals with several issues of war, business, and family. It will cause you to look at yourself carefully and where you put your values."

Dates for this performance are October 28, 29 and November 5, 10 and 11.

Both plays feature a large percentage of students and McCoy Company members.

McCoy will also be presenting two shows in the spring, *The Ladies At The Alamo* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Tickets are still available at the Box Office in the theatre at a special student rate. The cost for all four performances of the year is \$12 for a single and \$24 for a double. Also, cash box office prices are \$4.50 for musicals and \$3.00 for plays.

## THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

### Thursday, September 29

The Foreigner thru 10/30 - Gaslight Dinner Theatre  
 Lisa Rivas: Crystal Frontiers thru 9/30 - Bingham Gallery  
 Mid-South Fair thru 10/2 - Fairgrounds  
 Ke Francis thru 10/2 - MCCA (Memphis Center for Cont. Art)  
 Judge Crader - Antenna  
 Don McGregor - South End  
 Victims of Circumstance - North End

### Friday, September 30

Films Under the Stars "Elizabeth the Queen" - Dixon Gallery and Gardens  
 Kaya and the Weldors - South End  
 Beatle Bash - Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza  
 Sid Selvidge - North End  
 Think As Incas/Sold America - Antenna

### Saturday, October 1

"Stars of All Sorts", planetarium show - Pink Palace  
 Mojo Nixon/Skid Roper - Antenna  
 Beanland - South End  
 Memphis Festival for the Visual Arts thru 10/2 - Agricenter International

### Sunday, October 2

Stars of All Sorts - Pink Palace  
 2nd Annual Downtown Home Tour - Court Square  
 Davy Crockett Festival thru 10/8 - Rutherford, TN  
 Memphis Symphony Pops Concert - North End

### BEATLE BASH

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza is hosting a Beatle Bash on Friday, September 30 in their lobby. T. O. Earnheart and the Memphis Allstars will feature music from Beatlemania. The party will begin at 5:30 and last til midnight. There will be a cash bar and food available.

### 2ND ANNUAL DOWNTOWN HOME TOUR

The buildings in this years tour are the Porter Building, 137 S. Court, The William Len, The Claridge House, and the Shrine Building. The tour will begin at Court Square at noon, ticket includes lunch at Court Square Cafe, and dessert at the King Cotton Cafe.



## 'Harlem Suite' Opens This Week at Orpheum

by Toddie Peters

Maurice Hines, Stephanie Mills, and Queen Esther Marrow are currently starring in the new dance-musical sensation "Harlem Suite" playing at the Orpheum Theatre. They opened to rave reviews in Washington, then travelled to Philadelphia, and will be playing in Memphis through Sunday night.

Hines said that he based the plot of "Harlem Suite" on the personal account of his grandmother, Ora Hines, who was a Cotton Club showgirl. When Hines was younger he would ask his grandmother for advice on his singing and dancing, and she continually told him the necessities of "returning to your roots." It is to artists such as Florence Mills, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, and John Bubbles that this musical is directed. Hines feels that black artists "have a tendency to forget our

roots, and that's why this show is so important." It will give exposure to some of the great entertainers of the 20's, 40's and 50's who are in danger of being forgotten. "Prince and Michael Jackson are good dancers, but they will never, even at their highest point, be as good as Sammy Davis, Jr.," said Hines.

Hines has also been upset with the restraining stereotypical roles that are available to black actors and actresses in Hollywood as well as in New York. "I found out that if I was going to present the positive attitude of the black actor and actress, then I was going to have to do it myself, in my own production. I have a need to be able to present black women glamorously instead of the way they usually are portrayed in television and films." In "Harlem Suite" Hines has certainly done that through glamorous

costumes as well as exciting songs and dance numbers.

Stephanie Mills, who played Dorothy in "The Wiz" and is also a Grammy Award winner, plays Hines' partner. Together they ask Granny Hines (Morrow) for advice to spruce up their act. She takes them through her career via her scrapbook, showing the high points of black entertainment in the 20's, 40's, 50's and 70's. Some of the songs included in the show are "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate," "Earth Angel," "Shake a Hand," and "God Bless The Child."

While Mills said that theatre was most important to her, she would never take a role that didn't "feel right." "In 'Harlem Suite' it's perfect for me. To sing authentic jazz and not make it my own is a challenge for me."

### RUSH - (From Page 4)

A common objection to this scenario is that it is not enough time for a reasonable solution to be made by all people. To some extent, this is true, (although in many cases, some fraternities already have a large portion of their pledge classes in the first two weeks of informal rush.)

For those that feel that their decision is not attainable in this time period, there should also be a second semester, week-long rush similar to the first one. Frats/sororities would be advised not to fill up their incoming class and to save room for those coming through rush at this time.

I am just as excited about this weekend and my prospective fraternity as anyone, but I cannot help to think how much more convenient it would be to have already been finished.

### Assembly Notes

Congratulations to junior transfer Daphne Wiggins on her nomination as the new junior class representative to the Student Assembly.

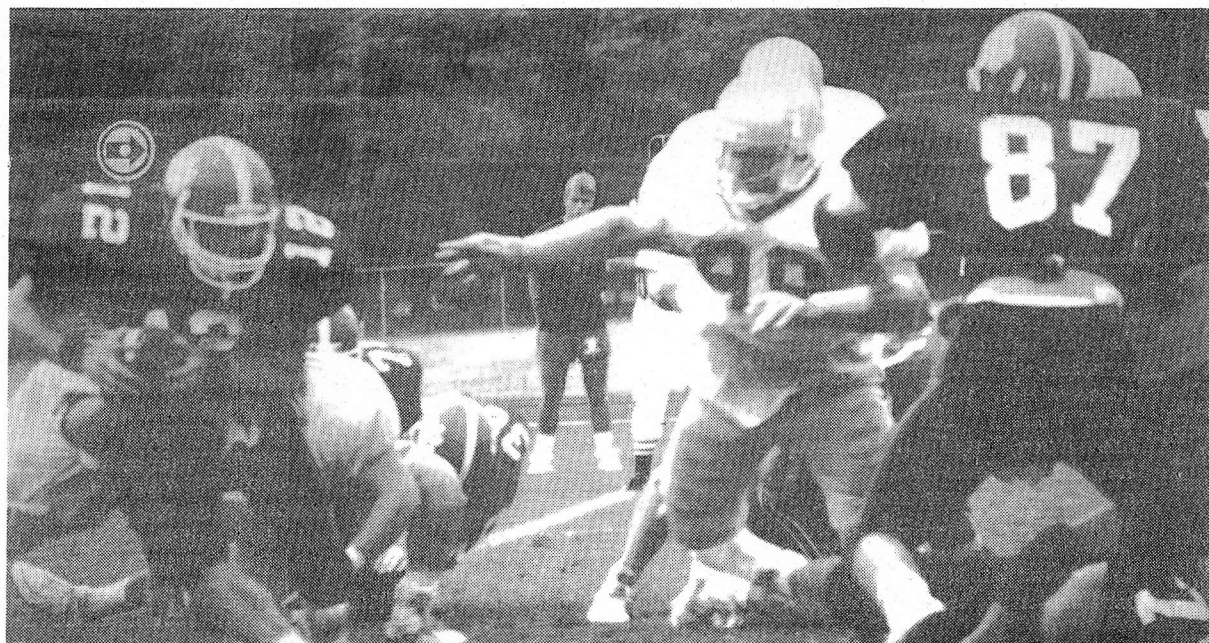
In her Questions Update, President Dixon announced that checks will once again be accepted in the Pub. She also announced that cable had been installed in East Lounge. Other announcements made were that senior pictures are tentatively scheduled to be taken after Fall

### Amy Savell

Break (around Oct. 17-19th)

Doug Halijan made a presentation and answered questions concerning the controversy over this year's commencement ceremony set for Friday, May 5th. It will be discussed at the next Roundtable meeting, set for Tuesday, October 18th. Also, the constitution for COMMUNE, a new organization with Gabriel Shirley as its president, was accepted. The organization was also awarded \$350 from the budget committee.

Be Heard —  
 WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



#12 quarterback Van Cleve dodges a Lambuth tackler in the Lynx 38-14 win Saturday.

## Lynx Hammer Lambuth

MEMPHIS — The Rhodes football team used a high-powered offense to dismantle the Lambuth College Eagles 38-14 at Fargason Field Saturday. The Lynx generated 359 yards total offense and committed only one turnover en route to victory.

Junior quarterback Bill Van Cleve was the key ingredient in the attack with a 12-of-18 passing performance that accounted for 202 yards and a six-carry rushing performance good for 61 yards. Tight end Scott Decker was Van Cleve's favorite target with eight catches for 90 yards. On the ground, Chad Dunston was again the workhorse with 90 yards on 14 tries.

The Rhodes defense played in much the same fashion as it had in the last two outings, allowing lots of yards but few points. Lambuth was able to pile up 340 yards offense (93 rushing, 247 passing) but found the end zone only twice. The Eagles gave the ball up six times, once on a fumble and five times on interceptions.

Head coach Mike Clary said that the team looked better Saturday than in either of the two previous games, but he stopped short of saying they were where he wants them to be. "Overall, I think that our execution of our offensive and defensive gameplans . . . was the best we've had this year . . . There may be some areas where we've got to improve," he said, citing run blocking and pass rushing in particular.

The Eagles were able to start out on the right foot, scoring seven minutes into the period when Barry Clark went over from the one on third and goal. The Lynx came

storming back though and scored on their next offensive play. Operating from the 20, Van Cleve dumped a screen pass off to Decker who lateralled to a trailing Chuck Wade. Wade then went untouched down the sideline for 76 yards and a Lynx touchdown. The extra point attempt was missed and Lambuth still led 7-6, but not for long.

Rhodes stuffed Lambuth on the ensuing series and then quickly added the go-ahead score when Wade scampered in from six yards. Charles Holt added the two-point conversion to make the count 14-7 with 2:29 on the first-quarter clock.

The Lynx moved the ball well again on its first drive of the second quarter but had to settle for a 28-yard Ty Brunson field goal. The visitors narrowed the gap two series later when Jeff Allen hauled in a 37-yard Brad Garner pass for the second Eagle score. Mike Kennedy tacked on the PAT kick to make the score 17-14.

Rhodes came up with one more tally before the half to make the difference 10 again at 24-14. The score came with 1:41 left in the period on a 24-yard pass from Van Cleve to Marcus Kimbrough.

The Lynx took the second-half kickoff and started moving the chains again. The touchdown came after two minutes and 15 seconds when Van Cleve rambled 39 yards on an option keeper. The home team found paydirt again on its next possession four minutes later when Van Cleve found Decker in the end zone on a 13-yard toss. Brunson's kick split the uprights and Rhodes led by a score of 38-14, the eventual final.

## Sports Briefs

Compiled By Brad Todd

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

The team upped its record to 3-0 over the weekend with easy wins over Delta State and Mississippi University for Women. Both wins were by a match score of 8-1 and five singles players remained unbeaten. Team members, in order of position, include Shelly Griffin, Tricia Browning, Maureen McCabe, Elizabeth Hickman, Molly Soper, and Kelly Nolan. The Lady Lynx begin W.I.A.C. play this weekend against Centre and also face non-conference foe Washington University.

### SOCCER

The men's team lost another heart-breaking 2-1 game, this time against Earlham. Coach Sepp Huber said that the game could have gone either way and that he felt the teams "were about equal" in ability. He was pleased with his team's effort overall and felt the two minute lapse in the second half cost them the game. "The boys played much better than they have in the past. They played more like a team . . . (but) lack of concentration for 90 minutes was a problem," he said. Earlham scored both goals between the 62 and 64 minute marks and Rhodes cut it to 2-1 when freshman Kelly Agee scored seven minutes later.

The Lynx are now 1-4-1 overall

and all four losses have been by a score of 2-1. "I think our record doesn't indicate the calibre of our play . . . all those games could have gone another way," commented Huber. He said the fact that the game was on the road hurt Rhodes because Earlham's crowd rivaled the one at the football game in size and enthusiasm. "That really kept their team motivated." The Lynx played Memphis State last night and travel to the University of Arkansas-Little Rock tomorrow. The women's team continued to struggle, losing both games of a road trip to Georgia. Berry College of Rome, Ga. defeated the Lynx 12-0 Friday and Emory University of Atlanta downed Rhodes 5-0 on Saturday.

### J. V. FOOTBALL

The junior varsity Lynx took on Lambuth College in Jackson Sunday afternoon and came away with a 24-10 victory and a "tremendous learning experience" according to Coach Gordon Ellingsworth. Rhodes scored in the first quarter on a seven yard run by David Kahalley to take a 6-0 lead. A five yard scamper by Ray Rando in the second and a Bruce Zachuruk extra point kick gave Rhodes a 13-0 halftime lead. The difference was still 13 at the end of the third after an exchange of field

goals. The Lynx capitalized on a fumbled punt in the fourth and added another touchdown on a Trey Babin to Benny Watson pass of 30 yards. The snap was high on the conversion, so Babin ran it in for two to make the final 24-10.

### VOLLEYBALL

The Rhodes College volleyball team picked up a pair of wins this weekend in Willimore, Kentucky at the Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Kickoff Tournament.

The Lady Lynx beat the Lady Colonels of Centre College 15-12, 15-7 and pounded Berea 15-3, 15-2. Angie Zakrezewski paced Berea with six kills against Centre and five against Berea. Erin Toye was the leading server with seven aces in the Berea contest.

Rhodes lost close games to Fisk (10-15) and Asbury (13-15, 15-13, 3-15) and was beaten soundly by Sewanee (0-15, 11-15) and Maryville (5-15, 7-15).

Coach Patricia Lasky said the team played "super defensively" and lauded Katie Jacobs, Nancy Brown, and Sage Lambert in particular. "Defense is still the stronger of our game, but we're still working our offense and it came through a little bit in this tournament," she added.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The Lynx finished third in the Memphis State Invitational at Audubon Park behind M.S.U. and Arkansas State. Darol Timberlake was the fastest Rhodes finisher (6th overall) with a time of 22:28 in a four mile race. Scott Johnson took eighth with a time of 22:40 and Ben Schulze finished twelfth at 23:00. The Lady Lynx again had to compete on an individual basis since only four runners could attend. Cindy McCraw took eleventh in the meet with a time of 24:10 while Linda Malinauskas came in twelfth with a clocking of 25:42. The team travels to Jonesboro, Arkansas Saturday for a meet hosted by Arkansas State.

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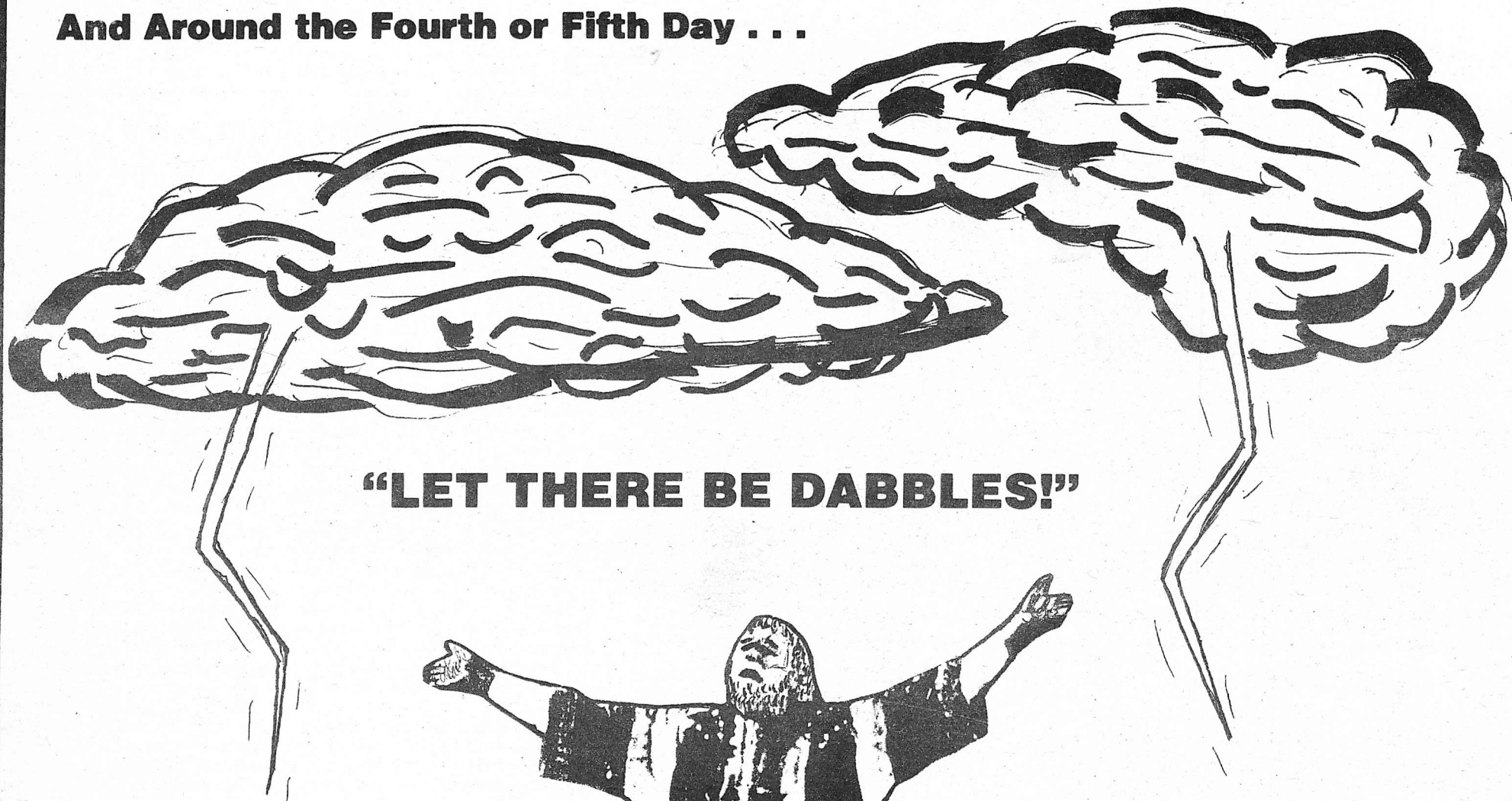
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