

RHODES WEEKLY

Campus News And Information

Volume I, Number 12

December 6, 1999

RSG announces coffee bar plans

The java-heads of Rhodes have spoken. They want their Java City, and they want it served in Briggs.

Rhodes Student Government has announced that its coffee bar project will open around Feb. 1, 2000, in the lounge area of the Thomas W. Briggs Student Center. Aramark will provide funding for installation of the bar.

The results of a recent taste-test-

ing indicated that campus coffee-drinkers prefer Java City over Starbucks. About 60 percent of the tasters chose Java City as their preferred coffee.

Almost 700 people responded to a recent online survey to indicate their preferences about coffee and the location of the coffee bar. The respondents included 49 faculty, 80 staff, 485 resident students and 77

commuter students.

The Briggs lobby was the overwhelming choice of location by 439 respondents to the survey, including 300 resident students.

Most respondents indicated they would make between one-to-four purchases per week at the coffee bar. Nineteen people said they would visit the kiosk several times daily. ■

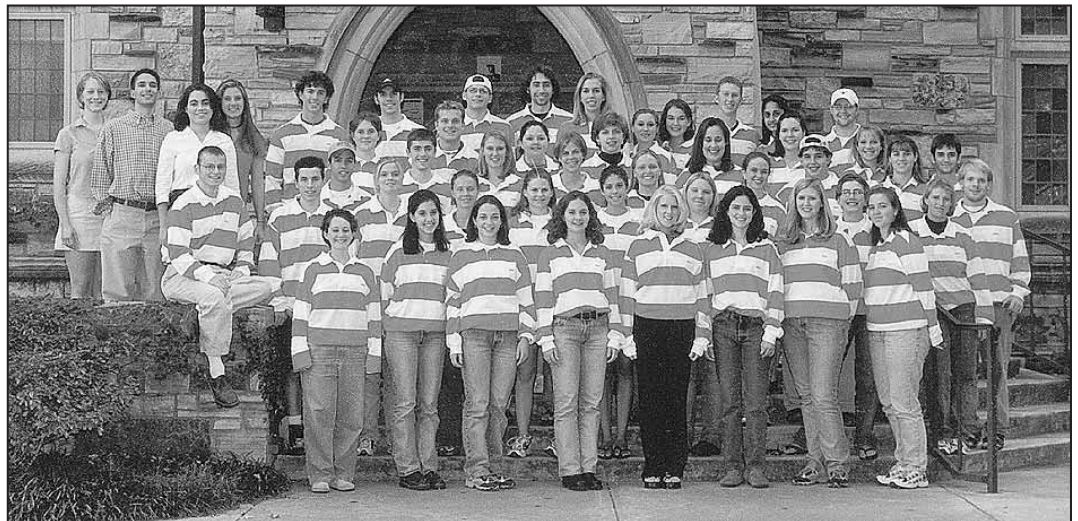
ARO guides rarely miss a beat on their backward feet

They have a special knack, those red-and-white-shirted AROs.

They can navigate campus walking backward while listing the benefits of an education at Rhodes College to touring prospective students and their parents. Their minds are stuffed with facts, figures, historical tidbits and myths handed down from one class to another.

Often, conversations with first-years and their parents reveal that treatment accorded them by members of the Admissions Representative Organization has been a factor in their decision to attend Rhodes.

"It's pretty neat when you're helping first-years move into the dorms during orientation, and five or six parents will pull you over and say, 'I just want to tell you that your tour was the reason why we chose Rhodes over another college,'" says Patrick Petar '01, ARO member and admissions intern.



Those backward-walking students wearing red-and-white rugby shirts are tour guides for the Admissions Representative Organization. ARO has 62 members this year.

Christie Brewer '01, also an admissions intern, says ARO tour guides receive compliments regularly.

"I've worked at the admissions desk when parents came back with a sophomore tour guide who had just given his first tour, and the parents were so thrilled and said what an amazing tour it had been because the student had had such a wonderful perspective and been so honest and knowledgeable," Brewer says.

Founded in 1986, ARO this year

consists of 62 sophomores and juniors who assist the admissions office in recruiting efforts, including campus tours and special campus programs such as open houses. Members and other admissions volunteers also help transport prospective students when they visit campus.

Many ARO members host high school students who request an overnight visit in a residence hall. "Hosting students is especially fun

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Crime prevention tips for a safe holiday season

By Campus Safety Director Ralph Hatley

If you're traveling during the holidays:

- Get an automatic timer for the lights in your home.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and perhaps even park in your driveway occasionally.
- Don't forget to stop your newspaper and mail delivery or have someone pick it up daily.

If you're out for the evening:

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV to give the appearance someone is home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside through a window or door.

If you're shopping:

- Stay alert to what's going on around you and give the appearance that you are alert. If you are being watched, a crook may be

less likely to target you if you look like you know what you are doing and where you are.

- Park in well-lighted spaces and be sure to lock your car. Close your windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card instead.
- Avoid carrying too many packages. You need to keep your hands as free as possible and your attention on your surroundings, not on what you are carrying.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers by not carrying too many packages. Put a wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside zipped coat pocket. Carry your purse "away" from the crowd with your hand on it. Do not cross the purse's strap across your body. If your purse is snatched, you could be dragged by the attacker and injured. Instead, keep it on the shoulder side you are carrying it on.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them

to go to a store clerk or security officer immediately if you are separated. Take along an extra adult to help supervise, if possible.

Take a holiday inventory:

- This is a good time to update or create your home inventory. Take photos, make a video or list items along with identifying information such as serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, a detailed inventory can help police identify stolen items later and makes insurance claims much easier to file.

Strangers at the door:

- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers, delivery persons, etc. It is not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of other people's generosity by going door-to-door soliciting for false charitable needs. Ask for identification and question the organization and how funds are spent. If you're the least bit suspicious, don't give. ■

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because the conversations become more personal and you can really highlight what makes you happy here and what might make the prospective student happy here," says Lisa Bloom '02. "I think the most important role of ARO members is to serve as an example of an enthusiastic, energetic student who loves the academic and social aspects of Rhodes and who appreciates the opportunities this college opens for the future."

ARO volunteers are essential to the admissions office, says ARO Coordinator Dorothy Brownyard, because they allow prospective students to see the Rhodes campus from the perspective of a real student.

An ARO tour guide may be the only student contact a visiting student has, says Brent Robson '01.

"I joined ARO because when I went to visit colleges, I really liked the idea of being the first and greatest student impression visiting students may get during their college visit," Robson says. "I enjoy getting to talk with students and parents one-on-one after a tour, or in a small tour, and share more details of my experience and find out more about their college search."

Admissions intern Bryn McDougall '00 enjoys being a member of ARO because "You get to share your school with other people."

Each January, rising sophomores and juniors are invited to join ARO. A 2.5 grade point average and a desire to be involved in college activities are about the only requirements. Brownyard and interns review submitted applications and then invite applicants for group interviews. Admissions selects mem-

bers for the next academic year during February and then provides them with training and a printed script containing important information to relay about the college during those backward-walking tours.

Group dynamics of each tour vary, according to Brewer, Petar, McDougall and Sarah Kate Allen '01, another admissions intern.

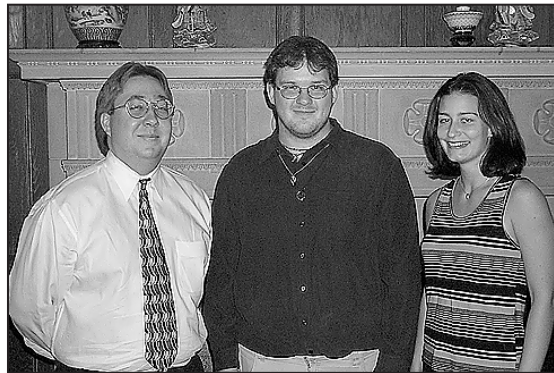
"You use your own style when you're

see ARO Guides, page 4

Rhodes Weekly is published by the Rhodes College Office of Communications. Design by Larry Ahokas. Please submit news items to Ginny Davis, editor, 136 Palmer Hall, or fax 843-3553, or e-mail weekly@rhodes.edu. Include complete information and a contact name and phone number.

ODK Initiates Members

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) recognizes service and leadership in extracurricular activities. On Nov. 21 three seniors were inducted into the Rhodes chapter: John Trout, Steele Means and Kristin Kleber. According to chapter president Barry Fullerton '00, the three were selected for membership in January but were studying abroad and unable to attend last spring's initiation. At that time ODK initiated student leaders Jessica Anschutz '00, Teal Baker '00, Brandon Barr '99, Ekta Baxi '00, Mary Allison Beasley '99, Kristin Burford '00, Rob Cole '00, David Elder '01, Barry Fullerton, Kelly Gill



New ODK initiates are, from left, seniors Steele Means, John Trout and Kristin Kleber.

'99, Jason Jowers '00, Amy Killebrew '00, Christine McClatchey '99, Robyn

McKeller '00, Matt Marcotte '99, Wes Meador '00, Emily Monroe '00, Marissa Murphy '99, Kathleen O'Leary '99, Emily Painter '00, Joe Peoples '00, Jill Peterfeso '00, Anna Pinchak '00, Trent Pingnot '00, Erin Post '99, A. J. Robison '99, Kathryn Royster '99, Alice Scarpinato '99, Josh Solomon '00, Jennifer Stefan '00, Dave Thomasson '99, Brigitta von Messling '99, Elizabeth Watt '00 and Casey Williams '00. ■

Holiday season begins with concerts, tree lighting

The Rhodes Singers and the Music Academy Children's Chorus will give the gift of music as they present a Christmas concert at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, 692 Poplar Ave., Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Selections will include the *Ave Maria*, *Sir Christemas*, *Birthday Carol*, *Silent Night*, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and other favorites.

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, the campus Christmas tree will come aglow during the annual tree lighting at 5:15 p.m. just south of Buckman Hall.

Members of the Rhodes community are invited to attend, including students from Snowden School. Hot

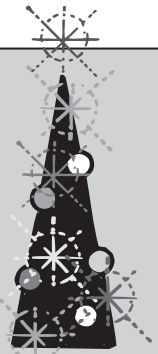
chocolate, cider and cookies will be served afterward.

President and Mrs. Trout, Rhodes Student Government and the Kinney Program are sponsoring the event.

Following the ceremony, at 6 p.m. in Burrow Refectory's Hyde Hall, the Rhodes Singers and Children's Chorus will give a reprise of their Christmas concert. ■

By the Numbers

Since 1992, the Salvation Army Angel Tree at Rhodes has been sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa, the college's oldest honor society. Each year the names of 100 children needing a Christmas gift have been hung on the tree, except in 1997, when there were 150 names to observe the college's 150th anniversary.



Shaffer accorded French honor

Brian Shaffer, associate professor of English has written the introduction to a collection of critical essays about Kazuo Ishiguro, Japanese-born author of the international best-selling book *The Remains of the Day*.

Lectures d'une Oeuvre – The Remains of the Day – Kazuo Ishiguro was recently published in Paris by

Editions du Temps.

The Remains of the Day has become part of a body of works that are required reading for college students preparing to take the French national exam certifying them to teach. The volume of critical essays accompanies the novel.

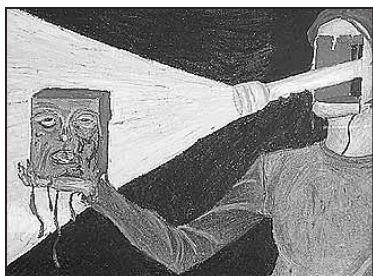
Shaffer wrote the 1998 book *Understanding Kazuo Ishiguro*, the first pub-



Brian Shaffer

lished about the acclaimed author whose works have been translated into 27 languages.

Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* was awarded the Booker Prize and was adapted for a 1993 Academy Award-winning movie starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson. ■



Top left: *Disease in Mixed Media* by Natalie Harris '03 for World AIDS Day. Bottom left: Chi Omega fraternity's kingdom of cans valued at \$1,500. Trent Lutc '00 in a play about AIDS.

Reminders

- On Thursday, Dec. 9, President and Mrs. Troutt will host Rhodes seniors at a holiday reception in their home, 91 Morningside Park, from 5 to 7 p.m.
- The Rhodes Bookstore will hold a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day Friday, Dec. 10, with extra discounts and refreshments provided.
- Rhodes students can order or reserve spring semester textbooks online at www.rhodes.bkstr.com.
- *Rhodes Weekly* will publish its last edition of the fall semester on Dec. 13. Publication will resume the week of Jan. 17.

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conducting a tour," says Brewer. "You reflect on little things that you've experienced, especially when you talk about things such as the honor code or the computer center. You pick out little things that you've had happen or examples of it working."

Tour guides also tailor their tours to the interests of the students on the tour, says Petar. "We'll start off by asking, 'Is anybody interested in anything in particular?' And if someone is interested in the theatre department or the basketball team, you can tailor it around that."

Parents usually ask about academics, percentages, safety and how many volumes the library contains, Brewer says. "But the students are really interested in student life, dorm rooms, food and living conditions," she says.

ARO members tend to be a dedicated group, says Petar. Each year a few of them go on to be admissions interns, who usually serve two semesters and earn pay for their work.

McDougall says being an intern this year is her way of staying involved with admissions and ARO, since, as a senior, she could no longer be a member of ARO.

Petar says, "Whenever I get into

something that I really enjoy, I try to go as far as I can in that organization. I guess this would be the pinnacle of being involved with ARO."

Admissions interns learn workplace skills, Brownyard says. They plan campus visits for prospective students and other guests and work with other student organizations. They coordinate class visits, meetings with professors, lunches and overnight hosts for visiting students. They also maintain a database, help train new ARO members and help organize special events.

Currently, admissions interns are planning next spring's Campus Day, a big service project in conjunction with the Hands on Memphis volunteer agency, the Black Student Association and the Kinney Program. The project will expose a diverse group of high school students to the college experience in order to increase the possibilities that they will graduate and enroll in an institution of higher learning.

A total of 40 students from four Memphis high schools will visit campus on Feb. 2 and March 15. They will be paired with ARO and BSA members who will serve as mentors. Together, the students will attend classes, have lunch, participate in panel discussions, and enjoy

entertainment and other activities.

"This is a great opportunity not only to get involved with Hands on Memphis, but for ARO to be doing service, as a group, outside our daily tours," says Brewer.

During the campus tours, ARO members sometimes like to embellish the script they use to relay information. They toss out stories about the so-called "passion pits" in Voorhies Hall, the alumnus who allegedly went squirrel hunting in Fisher Garden or Tennessee Williams, who purportedly wrote his first play on the third floor of the Burrow Library.

"It's an art the tour guides have to learn," Brownyard says. "The tours last more than an hour, and they are talking the whole time."

Occasionally a guide walking backward takes a tumble. Robson says he has not fallen while giving tours during the past year-and-a-half, but he did lose a family once. Another time a member of a touring group left a dorm by an emergency exit, which spurred a visit by the Memphis Fire Department.

No one really knows why ARO tour guides walk backward. They have never been told to walk backward. It's just a tradition. ■