

# Dennis Rodman much better than image

By JAMES BELL

Dennis Rodman is nothing more than an overpaid bum! Dennis Rodman is gay! Dennis Rodman is a disgrace to the National Basketball Association! All Dennis Rodman does is cause trouble! Dennis Rodman is a colored-hair freak! They should kick Dennis Rodman out of the league!

## Centura locates center on campus

By MONICA ALSTON

Centura Bank is dedicated to the success of quality banking and their corporate learning centers prove this. These centers provide the current and new employees of Centura Banks with training for exceptional quality service.

By offering programs in many service related areas, employees learn the skills that will better

## Gay support group formed at Wesleyan

A new gay, lesbian, and bisexual support group has found a home on the Wesleyan campus.

Led by professors Dana Ford and Dr. Elizabeth Edminston, the main purpose of the organization for now is to "provide educational and emotional support to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community on campus," Ford said.

A number of students, as well as professors, have joined. Some of the short-term goals for the group are to provide support (resources, educational, etc.) for its members, develop a cohesive community of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, and to enhance visibility on campus.

Some of the long-term goals for the group are to gain recognition through SGA, offer educational resources to the college community, and to investigate national affiliations.

Membership is totally confidential, meetings are presented at off-campus sites, and there are no activist movements supported by the group. It is merely a support group for students, faculty, and staff on the Wesleyan campus.

Those interested in joining may contact Ford at 5171 or Edminston at 5154.

These are some of the things that I overheard about the rebounding Chicago Bull recently while having dinner at a local restaurant.

I want to disagree. And disagree with a passion.

I would like to argue that Rodman should be considered a modern hero, someone that we can look up to and admire. A person

serve their customers as well as develop their own careers.

The classes offered in the training program are categorized to include Service Quality, Loans, Computers/Technical, Sales, and Insurance Continuing Education. The days for these training courses vary in length from one to three days. Under the Service Quality program employees learn customer relations which is required for all employees and managers.

A Phoenix three-day seminar under this category helps employees to develop their communication skills as well as evaluate their personality strengths and weaknesses.

In the Loans training category, an introduction lending course is offered, three days in length. Other courses included are commercial and mortgage loan.

Software packages are offered in technical training computer classes. The packages included are: Window/Word, Excel, Excel II, Word II, PowerPoint, and Online Money Management.

Sales training courses include two- and three-day programs: Proactive Relationship Banking, Extraordinary Service Management, and New Business Development Techniques.

"The Extraordinary Service Management course is one day that provides service managers with tools to lead their service team in providing extraordinary service," states the Centura Training Schedule.

There are several locations throughout this state: Brevard, Goldsboro, Greenboro, Granite Falls, and most recently on Wesleyan's campus in the Gravely Science wing. The Wesleyan location will be available for classes during the last few days of February and early March. At this location there are three classrooms, two of which have computers.

## Opinion

who embodies many of the qualities that we consider admirable in people. Qualities like individuality, hard working, and a man who takes care of his daughter.

Dennis Rodman is a man who was considered a nobody who came from nowhere. Dennis Rodman came from a very poor family in Dallas. He lived in the projects where the chances were better that he would end up dead or in jail, rather than a success. He was raised without a father and was homeless at times. But when the opportunity came to go to college, he went. He had an ability, a talent, he could play basketball. The game was his ticket out of the ghetto. Isn't that the American Dream? To rise out of poverty, every man with the same chance, to make something out of nothing — has that not been an idealistic American Dream for years? So, isn't Dennis Rodman a product of the American Dream?

Yes, Dennis Rodman is a loner who may be called a rebel. However, when we read about romantic heroes in literature they are often loners. Rodman stands on

his own and he stands by what he says. He is honest and calls it as he sees it. Are these qualities that we as a society find respectable? I think so.

Dennis is a hard working man. He works harder than most other players on the basketball court. He is a 6'7" (depends on what he is listed at on a given day) undersized power forward who has to play defense against players like Shaquille O'Neal and Kiembe Mutombo. These players are stronger and taller than Rodman, yet he still out-rebounds them while shutting down their offense. As a society, do we not appreciate a man who is a hard worker? I think we do.

Alexis, Rodman's only child, is his main concern. Her care and well being have always been a number one priority in Dennis Rodman's life. This year when Rodman signed a \$9 million dollar plus deal with the Chicago Bulls, he had almost one third of the money deferred into the next century for his daughter's education. When Dennis Rodman tried to see Alexis on the Oprah Winfrey Show and was not allowed because of his vindictive wife, he cried. He told the world how much he loved his baby. As a society we denounce men for

not taking care of their children, and we love those who do. So should we not love a father who does care? I think we should.

Yes, yes, I know that Rodman does some stupid things on the court. He kicked a cameraman in the groin, (even though the replay showed the man was actually kicked in the leg) and he head-butted a referee. Yes, he is bizarre, he wears dresses and make-up, he has no fashion sense, he looks like a muppet on crack with his hair and tattoos, and is pierced more times than a pin cushion. He even married himself.

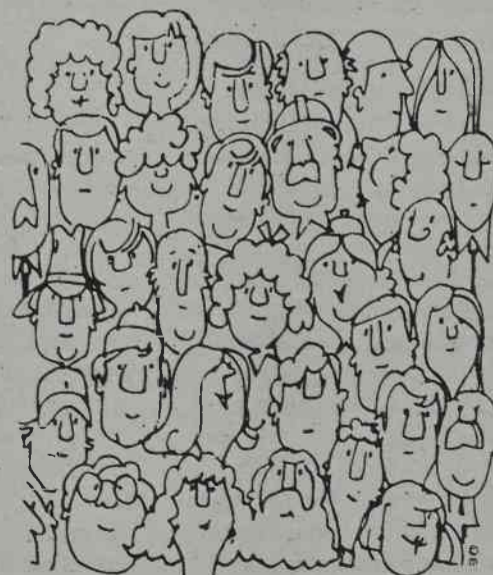
But through it all he is there for the fans. After every home game he gives a game jersey to a young fan. At this point in the season Rodman is playing basketball for free, donating his game salaries to various charities.

Because Rodman is honest, an individual, a hard worker, loves his daughter, and gives his all to his fans, all the strange qualities about him are just not important.

Dennis Rodman is a great basketball player. And the real Dennis Rodman — not the media-created version or the self-proclaimed bad boy but the one that has the heart of a champion — is a terrific person as well.

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