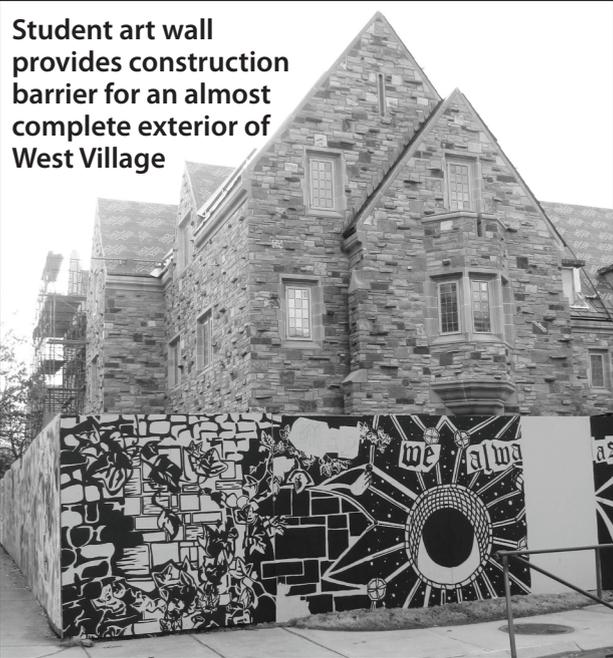




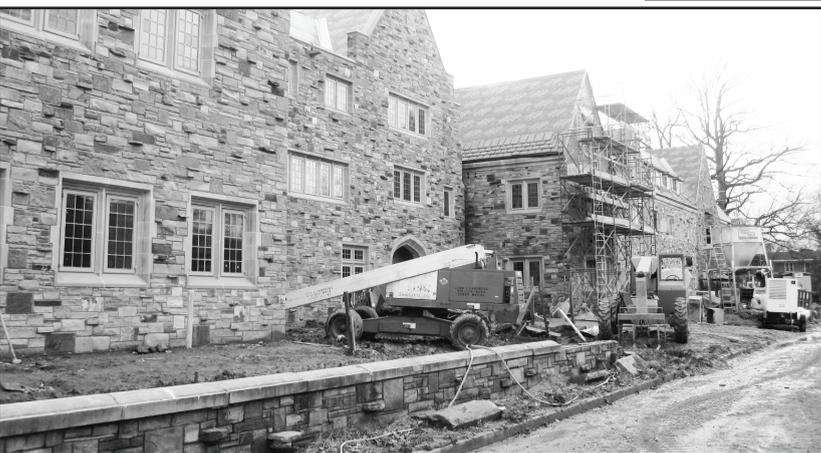
The construction of West Village: Photos of its current state

Swati Pandita
Executive Assistant

Student art wall provides construction barrier for an almost complete exterior of West Village



A future common room



A future single bedroom



Main staircase provides building with an eerie yet classic look

Frankie Dakin: A community advocate

Lydia Holmes
Staff Writer

Frankie Dakin is just like any other Rhodes student one knows. He is bright, driven, and overbooked, but there is one thing that sets him apart: he is running for political office for the position on the Millington, Tennessee Board of Alderman. As a native resident of Millington, Dakin has always shown an interest in his community and in politics. At 19 and seeking a local position, his dedication to his community shines. Dakin says it is hard to think about taking this task on as a student, but adds "when your community needs you, that's more important."

The city of Millington decided late in 2011 to revise their charter, making it the most recent revision in at least 10 years. After observing several instances of the board and the mayor being less than transparent, Dakin began to realize the need for someone with a different perspective to come in, and he believes that he has that perspective.

As a former resident of Millington and a member of the younger generation who will be affected by the charter long-term, he feels his fresh perspective is an advantage along with being a Rhodes student. Dakin says of his time spent at Rhodes that "your perspective changes." A change which he believes will give him the perfect arsenal to help Millington. He also feels that a perspective from a younger individual is important as well and projects, "We are designing a community for the future, and who better to give perspective on that than a young person?" Dakin attends every work session for the new city charter and plans to continue his participation as a citizen to ensure his voice is heard.

Dakin has also completed a significant amount of work in the Memphis youth community while attending Rhodes. He works with the Bridges program and specifically helped formulate a curriculum for leaders within the program designed for high school students in the Memphis area. The "youth leading youth" idea has worked well thus far and the students even gained the chance to receive training in leadership at the famed Highlander Research and Education Center. Dakin's purpose in this initiative is to work for the voice of the youth in the community. His work paid off when the group gained a voice on the nutrition committee for the Memphis/Shelby County Schools.

As a candidate for Alderman, Dakin aims to "encourage policy that will give [the people of Millington] confidence in their government." The elections for Millington Alderman take place in August and the revised charter is due to the state government in several weeks, soon bringing to light what kind of impact Dakin has made and will hopefully continue to make for the city of Millington.



First Lynx lacrosse game
See Page 8

In praise of roommates

Evan Katz

I'll admit it – I wasn't wild about the idea of living with a roommate when I first came to Rhodes. I've always been kind of a "personal bubble" type of guy, and the thought of having someone's clutter and bodily odors in my immediate vicinity seemed less than idyllic. The addition of finding out that I'd be living with not one but two people I'd never met was enough make my normally ninja-like breathing verge on hyperventilation. Despite my (perhaps) irrational worries, I've been amazed by the benefits of having roommates.

My first "maybe this won't be so bad" moment came on the first day of college. After stiff introductions, my new co-lodgers, Nick and James, promptly proceeded to roll in a mini-fridge, a microwave, a flat-screen, and essentially every other appliance known to mankind. I must have glossed over these items when purchasing my other college supplies, my mind more concerned with comfy sheets and such. Looking back now, I don't know if I would have survived first semester without these additions, especially considering that my diet consists mainly of Triple Cheese Easy Mac.

Things just kept on the upward trajectory from there. James instantly began a crusade to push my musical tastes past "The Crash Test Dummies" and "Spin Doctors," pointing out that it appeared all I listened to stemmed from an overdone 90s playlist. I've since been introduced to everyone from Paul Simon to Macklemore, and my iPod (and anyone driving in my car) has been quite grateful.

Once we live with someone, it's almost impossible not to find out little details about them that the even some of their close friends would never know. Take Nick, for instance – the first thing anyone who knows him will tell you is that he plans to be a Marine. What they probably don't know, however, is that this also means we have a small arsenal of edged weapons in our shared living space. This was a bit unsettling at first, I'll admit, but despite living on the edge (no pun intended—actually slightly intended) all these knives are starting to come in handy. Now that I've gotten over my fear of accidental impalement, I find myself saying things like, "Hey Nick, can I use your penknife to open this letter? Hey Nick, mind if I borrow your switchblade to cut this apple? Hey Nick, can I spread some peanutbutter with your broadsword?"

I almost had to have a serious talk with him when he mentioned he had ordered some throwing knives online, especially considering he asked if he could use my headboard as his primary target. Good thing I didn't – turns out it's hard to find a dorm activity (well, I guess I can think of a few) more entertaining than tossing mildly lethal pieces of metal at tacked-up pictures of your enemies. I'm actually getting pretty good, and I believe I could now kill a troublesome rodent at seven paces, provided it stands very still and gives me several tries.

One of the trickiest things to adjust to with dorm-style living is the lack of personal space. I'm no neat freak, but coming back to find your desk covered in Coke cans and Ghostbuster-esque goo can really put a

dampener on your homework (unless it's bio, of course, and your homework involves observing abnormal mold growths.) Sometimes I find it truly perplexing imagining how what appears to be a half-eaten cheese wheel has turned up on my bed. But, fortunately, this culture of communal space and property goes both ways. Since I ran out of my own supply ages ago, my hair has a different daily scent from sampling the array of shampoos in our bathroom (though I'm hesitant to ask to whom belongs the "Lilac Love" conditioner). Between the generosity of Nick's parents and James's sweet tooth we've also amassed several lifetime supplies of goldfish, skittles, and other foods deadly in large quantities that serve to assist me in my life goal to transition to a diet of pure sugar. They're not lying to you in Kindergarten – sharing really does have its benefits.

As almost every sitcom character can attest to, life is just better with roommates. Instead of my typical imaginary friend, I now have someone a bit more material to drag along to meals, the gym, and ill-fated double dates. But a roommate is more than just someone for me to lament to about my difficulties with the opposite sex and get calc homework help from. They're there to give you advice, help you get your life on the right track, and talk about your feelings to – wait, what? Sorry, guys don't have feelings. Football. We've actually started a tradition of the "Sunday Roommate Lunch," which involves going out to the cheapest restaurant we can find (excluding Taco Bell, let's not be morbid here) and discussing the events of the past week, a conversation that quickly turns to an argument over who talked to more girls that weekend drank more beer that weekend. I actually thought I might have won for the first time last week until I was gently informed that my high school sister's friends over skype "don't count."

Of course, ever so often living with roommates can be a bit overwhelming. You find yourself trying to write a paper at your desk while one roommate throws darts over your head to a soundtrack of the same three country songs on their fifth repeat. Meanwhile, things are starting to get a little out of hand with your other roommate and his girlfriend making out on the couch next to you. You briefly consider telling them to "get a room" but then realize, to your dismay, they already have. It's times like these where you just have to realize that writing your paper is a futile effort, and your typing could be put to better use – thus this article was born.

Note: A few things in this article were exaggerated for effect; please don't come knocking at our door demanding we hand over any weapons or dangerously sugary snacks because you'll be sorely disappointed. But we do appreciate your concern.



Courtesy of Evan Katz

The boys of room 124 decorate their "bare" door with a poster-sized self image.

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ASSOCIATED
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PRESS

Racial “Lin”-sensitivity

Daniel Gilham

Jeremy Lin sat on my friend Jack Ching in the summer of 2008. How I wish it had been me.

Picture it: Three full basketball courts populated by Chinese-Americans of all ages. Chinese kids wearing baggy shorts, headbands, wristbands, maybe even a compression sleeve or two. Grit in our teeth, sweat on our brow, the balmy California sun beating down on our heads.

This was at a summer retreat for youths attending various CCICs (Chinese Church in Christ) in Silicon Valley, the southern part of the San Francisco Bay Area. Jeremy, a devout Christian who grew up going to CCIC-Mountain View, was playing basketball for Harvard. Standing at 6’3,” weighing 185 pounds, when Jeremy went for up for a rebound, he jumped high enough to land on my friend Jack Ching’s back on the way down. What an honor!

Jack probably wasn’t too happy about being sat on at the time. The aforementioned squashing occurred years before Jeremy spent two consecutive weeks on the cover of Sports Illustrated, before he scored 38 points on 13-for-23 shooting against Kobe Bryant’s Lakers, and before he had 28 points, 14 assists, and 5 steals against the defending champion Dallas Mavericks. My friend Jack’s encounter with Jeremy’s bottom came prior to Lin’s game-winning 3-pointer with 0.5 seconds left against the Toronto Raptors. But right now we’re more than two full weeks into “Lin-sanity” and I think we can safely say Jeremy is pretty good at basketball. Any basketball fan in

their right mind would love to be sat on by Mr. Lin. He did, after all, score a record-setting 136 points in his first five starts, most ever by any player since the NBA/ABA merger. As of February 23, 2012, the once flagging New York Knicks team is 9-3 since Jeremy joined the rotation, catalyzing status updates and Tweets from animated throngs of Asian-Americans.

On February 5th, which most of you probably remember as the Super Bowl, I posted this Facebook status: “Super Bowl? Psh. I’d rather be watching Jeremy Lin highlights.” One of my friends, who will remain nameless, called me a pretentious snob. (Okay, it was Austin.) That was a day after Lin torched the New Jersey Nets for 25 points and 7 assists, our first glimpse of Jeremy’s basketball brilliance. You’ll have to excuse my snobbery, but I was exhilarated. Since then, I may have illegally streamed a few or all of the Knick’s games online. My grades may have plummeted since Jeremy hit the big time due to Procrast-Lin-ation (Has anyone done that one yet?). I know for sure I’ve role-played hitting the game winner against Toronto about forty thousand times in the BCLC. But the phenomenon known as Lin-sanity has been more than just pun and games.

On February 19th, an ESPN employee was fired for writing a story, titled “Chink in the Armor,” about Jeremy Lin, noting that he was piling up a record-setting number of turnovers along with his eye-popping offensive statistics. Anthony Federico, the editor responsible for publishing the offending headline on ESPN’s mobile website, was reportedly oblivious to the fact that “chink” was a racial slur. However, what pains me more than the insensitive headline is the fact that Jeremy’s race has always been perceived as a liability by coaches, players, sportswriters, and NBA GMs. I’m guilty, too.

Back in 2008, I never thought friend-squashing Jer-

emy Lin would ever achieve basketball success. To my discredit, my skepticism had to do with race. Kind of awkward considering I’m of Chinese / Taiwanese descent too. If Woody Allen is a self-hating Jew, I’m a self-hating Asian. This identity crisis is further complicated by the fact that I’m only half Asian—Chinese/Taiwanese (this distinction is an issue for another article) on my mom’s side, white on my dad’s side. I mean, how good could he actually be? He’s Asian. Jeremy, though, has experience overcoming racially stereotyping naysayers. He’s been proving skeptics like me wrong his whole life.

Jeremy probably expected to be recruited heavily by Division I schools given that he led Palo Alto High to a State Title, was first team All-State, and won Division II Nor-Cal Player of the Year. He wasn’t. I think it’s fairly safe to say race played into Stanford, UCLA, and Berkeley all denying Lin athletic scholarships. After an extremely successful four-year college career, race *just might* have had a role in Jeremy going undrafted, despite being a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award as one of the nation’s best collegiate point guards. After giving up 38 points to Lin, Kobe Bryant was quoted as saying, “Players playing that well don’t come out of nowhere...if you can go back and take a look, his skill level was probably there

Race *just might* have had a role in Jeremy going undrafted, despite being a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award as one of the nation’s best collegiate point guards.

from the beginning. It probably just went unnoticed.” Lin’s talent was always undeniable but skill wasn’t enough; he had to overcome the pervasive assumption that Asians can’t be successful basketball players at the highest level. Jeremy also needed a chance to play, which finally

came when Carmelo Anthony entreated Knicks’ coach Mike D’Antoni to give Lin playing time against the Nets. Now coaches and GMs everywhere are wishing they had taken a closer look at Jeremy Lin.

Lately, I’ve been trying to play up my associations with Jeremy. My sister took on the last name “Lin” when she married my brother-in-law. No, my brother-in-law is not related to Jeremy, but hey, they have the same last name. That’s got to count for something. In the summer of 2010, I played pickup basketball with Joseph Lin, Jeremy’s shorter, willowy younger brother who goes to Hamilton College in New York. He destroyed me, but I think I scored once. That’s right, I scored on Jeremy Lin’s younger brother. My best friend’s girlfriend is the sister of Jeremy’s brother’s wife. Yep, I’m grasping at straws here.

All true stories, but I don’t actually know Jeremy Lin personally. I feel like I do though. I relate to him because I love basketball and enjoy watching him slice defenses to pieces. I identify with him because he is a tremendously courageous Christian who is outspoken about his faith. I admire him for being a humble, articulate twenty-three year old who defers to his teammates and coach without fail in postgame interviews. His name is also really good for punning. I, like many Asian-Americans, identify with him because of my race. He makes me proud of my ethnic and cultural heritage. He disproves negative stereotypes about Asian Americans. If he can be a basketball player, Asian-Americans can be poets, writers, filmmakers, actors, politicians, and CEO’s. Maybe one day I’ll no longer be a half self-hating Asian. I suppose Jeremy Lin is pretty cool, but no matter how many points he scores, I’ll never forgive him for sitting on Jack in 2008. It should have been me!

The weekly sassy lesbian column

Learning the queer alphabet

Rin Abernathy
Staff Writer

Covering all the labels for different sexualities and gender identities can sometimes feel like a bowl of alphabet soup. There are many letters, but for most people they’re not spelling actual words. Most people I know are familiar with at least the letters for LGBT, but as more letters are added (QIA, sometimes U, sometimes a 2 gets thrown in), it becomes understandably confusing. Sometimes, after staring down all these letters, I can’t even remember what I identify as. Checking my column title... oh, yes, I’m an L.

L is for lesbian. Lesbians generally identify themselves as women who have a romantic and sexual attraction to other women. G is for gay, generally referring to men who identify themselves as romantically and sexually attracted to other men. Let me go ahead and complicate this by saying “gay” can sometimes refer to females, but “lesbian” never refers to men. Bisexual refers to someone of any gender who has a romantic and sexual attraction to either men or women. T stands for transsexual or transgender. Transgender refers to someone whose gender identity does not match their sex, which is anatomy. Transsexual refers to someone who is transgender and is taking medical steps to help their anatomy better align with their gender identity. Transsexual is only a planet in the galaxy of Transylvania when one is watching *Rocky Horror*.

Here’s where most people get lost. Q can be queer or questioning. Queer is... my word count and my current queer theory course won’t let me give an accurate description, but generally non-heteronormative is a shorthand meaning for queer. Questioning means someone who is exploring their sexuality and/or gender identity. I is for intersex, which refers to a variety of conditions in which a person’s anatomical sex has traits that are not clearly assigned male or female. Intersex children are fairly common. Current movements discourage surgery on these infants (the procedures are often medically unnecessary) and instead favor allowing the child to pick a gender identity as the child gets older. A stands for asexual or ally. Asexuality in humans refers to someone who is not sexually attracted to other people. Asexuals may be romantically attracted to others, or they may only be interested in friendships with other people. Allies are those people who typically identify as heterosexuals who are supportive of all the other letters of the alphabet.

I hope that this clears up some of the alphabet soup confusion. I didn’t explain how U or 2 get thrown in there, because the alphabet can be confusing even for me. “Queer” can generally stand in for LGBTQIAWTFBPPQ and be understood by most people. Finally, that fact that we need so many letters shows us that, when we start to examine our sexualities, we’re all a little more queer than we first thought.

Have a question or a topic you’d like addressed? Want advice or opinions full of semi-witty and sarcastic answers? Email abere@rhodes.edu.

Student Voice

In honor of the new dinosaur exhibit at the Memphis Zoo, we asked students:
“What is your favorite zoo animal?”



“I like the Panda Exhibit. It’s unique to Memphis and something you don’t see everyday.”

-Blake Wren ‘14

“All of them! But our favorite is the Creatures of the Night exhibit. We love seeing the snakes and spiders and owls.”

-Jordan Gilmore ‘12 and Ivy Thompson ‘12



“I love the pandas! They just lay around and sleep all day, and I wish I could do the same!”

-Ivonne Cornejo ‘15

“I love the lions!”

-Lindsey Beirle ‘12



“I like the polar bears. The best part is when they run really fast and then jump in the water.”

-Adam Drake ‘13

A Q&A with Sir Peter Crane

Amy Stout
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 1, Rhodes College will host renowned biologist Sir Peter Crane, Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University and former director of the Field Museum in Chicago. Dr. Crane was knighted in 2004 and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His lecture, organized by the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program and co-hosted by the Biology Department, Environmental Studies Department, Spence L. Wilson chair Dr. Jonathan Judaken, and the University of Memphis’ Department of Biological Sciences, is titled *The Future of Plants: Diversity, Conservation, and Sustainability*, and will focus on Crane’s work in plant evolution and biology. Sir Peter Crane will speak at 7:30pm in Hardie Auditorium on March 1.

Dr. Crane’s work focuses largely on the diversity of plant life, including the origins and fossil histories of plants, and their current use and conservation. Crane believes that plants are vital to human survival, since they provide us with food, medicine, raw materials. In addition, he says, plants are regulators of ecological processes both globally and locally, but often little attention is paid to how these plant resources, accumulated over more than 450 million years of evolution, will be managed. Dr. Crane uses his background as an evolutionary biologist to focus on the big picture of the conservation of plant diversity. Dr. Crane integrates studies of living and fossil plants to research large-scale patterns of plant evolution in our world. He has authored more than a hundred scientific publications, including several books on plant evolution, and is engaged in several initiatives focused on the conservation of plant diversity. Here he answers a few questions about his work and life.

Q: Over the course of your career, what changes have you seen in people’s perception of your work? Are people more or less interested now in learning about conserving plant diversity and managing plants in sustainable ways?

A: I think people are increasingly interested in a wide range of issues related to plants—you see this in so many areas, from herbal medicines to local or organic food—and from discussions about appropriate land use to questions about how biofuels might collide with food production and the issue of how we should feed the world. So, I think plant conservation has more promi-

nence now among some segments of the US population than it has had in the past, and many people increasingly understand the importance of plants in their lives. Unfortunately it is also true that many young people have no contact with nature and have only a slender grasp on the basic biology and ecology that underpins every aspect of our human existence.

Q: You not only look at the consumption and conservation of plants today, but you think about the evolution of plants over millions of years and consider the challenges of the future in plant conservation and management. How do you tie together information over such broad frames of time without getting overwhelmed by the volume of data?

A: I think my paleontological perspective has influenced me to think carefully about time—the timescales of our lives are so short compared to the timescales of evolution or even the lives of great trees like a Red or a Bristlecone Pine. We need to reflect on the environmental impact of our short-term actions in the context of the long-term history and future of life—including the life of our own species.

Q: How do you recommend that we manage our plant resources today to ensure that we can continue to benefit from them far into the future?

A: We always need to be thinking long-term—thinking about sustainability in the true sense of that word. We need to reduce waste and steward our resources for so that we do not leave future generations with a biologically impoverished world and a reduced opportunities for their own futures. It is a matter of intergenerational equity.

Q: When did you realize that you wanted to spend your life working with and researching plants? How did you proceed towards your goal, and what advice would you give to current students on following their interests and becoming involved in research?

A: I have been interested in plants, evolution and paleontology since I was a teenager. I have been enormously fortunate in being able to follow my passion—it has never really been a “job” for me. My only advice to a student would be to do something that you love—follow your passion—only from that will come the energy and determination to work hard and excel.



courtesy of S. Newstok

Professor offers advice after finding dream job

Julia Fawal
Staff Writer

There is a rising level of pessimism among college students. Many are questioning if they have chosen the right path, and many more are not even sure where to begin. Professor Daniel Ullucci is very familiar with this struggle. He is new to the “Rhodes Religious Studies professor” label, having signed his contract to be a full-time faculty member just last week. Though he is elated about reaching this position, the journey he took to get to this point was a trying one—but one that can give students some perspective and hope.

Born and raised in Johnston, Rhode Island, Ullucci grew up with a strong Catholic background. However, he did not always dream of becoming a religious studies professor. He wanted to be a professional French horn player. He chose Boston University for that reason but began questioning his choice.

“My first year there was a humbling experience,” he said. “I knew that it would be very competitive, but I soon realized that I wasn’t good enough, and it was not going to happen the way I wanted.” So, like many college freshmen, he switched majors.

While taking a class on the New Testament, he soon realized that, instead of music, the study of history and religion was the direction he wanted to go in. Teaching became his new dream.

He majored in Religion, and he knew his next step would be graduate school. With the number of people getting accepted being small, and the number who graduate and get jobs even smaller, Ullucci credits his teachers for giving him the honest guidance he needed.

“They said to me, ‘If you’re not going to get into one of the top programs, don’t do it.’ And that was hard to hear, but it’s important to have people in your undergrad who will say those things.”

Ullucci tried to do everything he could

to position himself for getting into a good graduate program, and he applied to the top programs in early Christianity and theory of religion. However, he did not get in to any of them. At that point, most would give up.

“It was tough. There were definitely many points through this whole thing up until this year where you think, ‘well, it’s not going to happen,’” he said. However, not ready to accept that, he decided to do a one year classical languages program at the University of Pennsylvania. Then, he applied again and got into Brown.

After finishing his PhD, Ullucci was thrown into the job market during 2007-2008—the worst time. Almost all jobs were cancelled, but he was lucky to find visiting positions at a variety of northeast colleges.

think about what they’re doing now. They must be as flexible and realistic as possible. But absolutely do the thing that you love, just have a plan in case it doesn’t work out the way you want.”

With constant talk of the failing economy and paucity of jobs, it is easy to get depressed when thinking about “the future” that always seems so distant until it is time to declare majors, apply for internships, or send out gradation invites.

Ullucci noted this sense of dread among college students, saying that he has watched students become less energetic and more depressed throughout their four years. Though he is certainly familiar with the pressures, he added that it would not be a bad idea to keep some perspective.

“A Rhodes graduate has received more education than something like 99.99% of the humans who have ever existed. They are part of a very small number of people in human history who have had the opportunity to think through what has come before them and where they are going. Most people simply never have that chance.”

It is easy to lose track of one’s place in the world when attending a school full of immensely bright students busy with projects and accomplishments that often seem superior to one’s own. It is easy to compare and judge and question if things are going the way they should. During those times, it is best for students to remember their strengths, remember what they love, and remain positive.

“Being a happy, optimistic person who adapts to things as they come will not guarantee you a job, but it will definitely help,” said Ullucci. “There are good and exciting things out there,” he adds. “Find something to do that’s useful to the world—something that you can look back on when you’re old and say, ‘Wow, I got to do something that I love, and it was something important.’”

“Absolutely do the thing that you love, just have a plan in case it doesn’t work out the way you want.”

“The fear everyone in academia has is that they’ll end up at a school in the middle of no where,” he said. “For the last four years, I’ve lived in a different place almost every semester. It really does impact your life, and you have to be willing to do what it takes.” But Ullucci smiles and looks around his room before adding, “But this is the best job ever. I mean, who gets to do this?”

It is clear Ullucci loves his job despite it not being his first dream. Unfortunately, the reality is that not everyone is so lucky, and college debt is very real and very much an issue. When discussing choosing a major ones loves versus choosing one that is practical, Ullucci said, “Students really have to



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Annual Fund Week

February 27 - March 2

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There will be a trivia night in the Lair to end the Annual Fund week at 6 pm on March 1st!

A love letter to the movies: The 84th Annual Academy Awards

Shelby Lund
A&E Editor

In a night filled with laughter, tears, and not a few foreign accents, the 84th Annual Academy Awards showcased just how much those in the movie business love what they're doing. From testimonial videos from actors, to a stunning performance by Cirque du Soleil, to a moving tribute to the cinematic greats who passed away this year, the Oscars were all about celebrating cinema. Therefore, it was a surprise to no one that the two biggest winners of the night were films that celebrated cinema: *Hugo* and Best Picture Winner *The Artist*.

Host Billy Crystal was a side-splitting success, keeping the mood light and entertaining. His supporting cast, the presenters, struck a nice balance between serious and humorous. The best presentation was Colin Firth, as his personalized speeches to the Best Actress nominees were a mixture of touching and hilarious. Funniest presentation is a tie between the triple-award presentation by the cast of *Bridesmaids* and the "cym-bolic" presentation of Best Original Song by Will Farrell and Zack Galifianakis,

with honorable mention to Robert Downey Jr. and Gwyneth Paltrow for presenting the Best Documentary awards while channeling their *Iron Man* roles of Tony Stark and Pepper Potts, which they are set to reprise in this year's *Avengers*.

The acceptance speeches were shorter than average, with barely any winners getting played off the stage. They also featured a large number of foreign accents, from Iranian director Asghar Farhadi winning Best Foreign Film for his movie *The Separation* to multiple winners from *The Artist*, which featured a large number of French natives amongst the cast and crew. The best acceptance speech was Meryl Streep receiving her aforementioned award for her role in *The Iron Lady*, where she joked about how half the country was probably groaning about her victory before going on to touchingly thank her husband before anyone else. The most emotional speech was Octavia Spencer winning Best Supporting Actress for her role in *The Help*, as she was unable to finish due to breaking down in tears.

If you missed the ceremony, here's a complete list of the evening's winners:

- **Best Picture:** *The Artist*
- **Best Director:** Michel Hazanavicius, *The Artist*
- **Best Actor:** Jean Dujardin, *The Artist*
- **Best Actress:** Meryl Streep, *The Iron Lady*
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Christopher Plummer, *Beginners*
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Octavia Spencer, *The Help*
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Woody Allen, *Midnight in Paris*
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash, *The Descendants*, based off the book *The Descendants* by Kauai Hart Hemmings
- **Best Animated Feature:** *Rango*
- **Best Foreign Language Film:** *The Separation*
- **Best Documentary:** *Undeclared*
- **Best Documentary-Short Subject:** *Saving Face*
- **Best Live Action Short Film:** *The Shore*
- **Best Animated Short Film:** *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*
- **Best Original Score:** Ludovic Bource, *The Artist*
- **Best Original Song:** "Man or Muppet" by Bret McKenzie, *The Muppets*
- **Best Sound Editing:** Philip Stockton and Eugene Gearty, *Hugo*
- **Best Sound Mixing:** Tom Fleischman and John Midgley, *Hugo*
- **Best Art Direction:** Dante Ferretti and Francesca Lo Schiavo, *Hugo*
- **Best Cinematography:** Robert Richardson, *Hugo*
- **Best Makeup:** Mark Coulier and J. Roy Helland, *The Iron Lady*
- **Best Costume Design:** Mark Bridges, *The Artist*
- **Best Film Editing:** Angus Wall and Kirk Baxter, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*
- **Best Visual Effects:** Rob Legato, Joss Williams, Ben Grossmann, and Alex Henning, *Hugo*



Student Musician of the Week: Rue Tsoka

Molly Whitehorn
A&E Photo Editor

With parents from Zimbabwe, her family in St. Louis, and her current home in Memphis, various sounds have shaped the musical preferences and influences of senior Rue Tsoka. As Tsoka describes it, she "grew up with a lot of diverse sounds" both inside and outside her home.

"Everyone in my family does music, but it's not a big deal. We would all sing together; it was like living in a musical," said Tsoka.

Memphis seems to have been particularly important in shaping Tsoka's musical tastes and sound. "The history is just so rich in Memphis; you can't not be affected by the sound. Memphis is one of those places that touches you."

Tsoka draws inspiration not only from her environment, but also from other performers. When she was a young girl, she watched Mariah Carey's 1993 Thanksgiving performance obsessively. "My mom recorded it and I watched it every day and killed my voice."

At Rhodes, Tsoka has become heavily involved with music, particularly music arrangement and singing (she also plays the piano). Driven and sociable, Tsoka is a prominent member of three Rhodes singing groups: Lipstick on Your Collar, Finesse, and the Miner 49ers. All three groups have distinct sounds, and each has presented its own challenges and rewards for Tsoka.

Almost every student has heard Lipstick on Your Collar perform at Rhodes, but the other two groups might not be as familiar to the average student. Finesse is a group that was founded by girls like Tsoka who felt that they "didn't have a real outlet musically." Tsoka points out that there are great musical groups on campus, but that they don't usually represent

the "African-American style" of music. Finesse was created for girls who wanted to express themselves musically and could not find a perfect match with any of the other groups on campus.

With the Miner 49ers, Tsoka is the lead singer. She describes their sound as "classier" and inspired by "soul from the '60s and '70s." One of her proudest moments with this band is when they got to perform at Rites of Spring last year after they won the Battle of the Bands competition at Rhodes.

"We opened for the Ying-Yang Twins and David Banner. We ended up having to have a jam session because one of the acts was running late. They were like, 'Y'all are going to need to play for another 45 minutes.' We had already been playing for an hour! But, it ended up being really fun."

Along with singing, Tsoka also writes to express herself. "I write because I can't express my emotions. When I have a conflict, I won't talk, I'll write."

Tsoka sometimes combines her two artistic passions to write lyrics. "Freshman year, I wrote this song for this boy. It was the most ridiculous school girl crush. It got to the point where I even planned out the music video in my head [laughs]."

Tsoka wants other students to know that there are many ways to get involved in music on campus and you don't have to fit into one particular sound.

"There are so many options [at Rhodes]. You don't have to sing opera or be in Rhodes Singers. You can take really interesting classes on music or join jazz band, which I wish I had more time to do. And if what you want isn't here, there's no reason you shouldn't make it for yourself."

Theatre Review: Germantown High School's *Into the Woods*

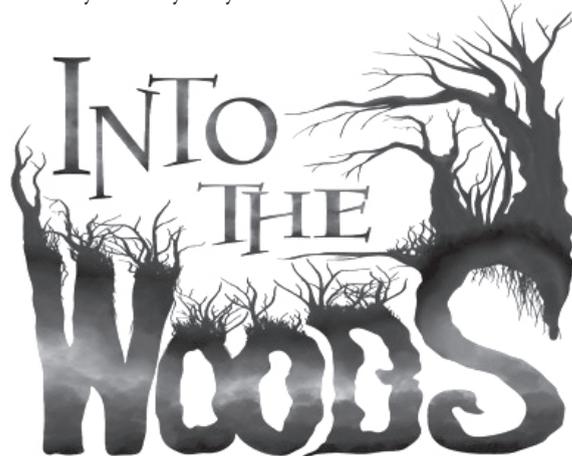
Leah Ford

Germantown High School's Poplar Pike Playhouse is currently performing Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Tony Award-winning musical *Into the Woods*, which I had the pleasure of viewing on its second night. This musical is a humorous inversion of popular fairy tales focused on breaking conventions. The musical mixes the stories of Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, and Little Red Riding Hood, giving their perfect endings in the Act I finale only to break for intermission with a "to be continued." The second act then teaches the characters to be careful what they wished for, as the play continues past their happily ever after.

In the second act, the Giantess, whose husband has been slain by Jack, comes back for revenge against the characters. Although I don't agree with Germantown High's playbill, which states that "the chaotic impact of the Giant has been likened to nuclear war or the AIDS epidemic," the Giantess does turn the world of the characters around on its axis. The musical takes on a didactic tone as it teaches viewers that morality is not black and white, as "good people" can die and "bad people" can tell the truth. *Into the Woods* is ultimately a coming of age story that deconstructs every lesson children may have reaped from the fairy tales of their youth.

Being a graduate of Germantown High School, I am fully aware of the lengths to which

their theatre program goes for every performance. The cast and crew pull out all the stops one would expect in a high school arts program. Their costumes are extravagant, and their set and props are intricately designed to function exactly the way they need to with no shortcuts



Germantown High's production of *Into the Woods* looks good, but falls flat in the performance.

taken. They even have a rotating stage – an unusual investment for a high school.

Because of Germantown High's ridiculous arts funding, the performers are able to avoid worrying about funding and focus on putting on a great performance. That being said, there

were many issues with timing, overacting, and intonation. According to first-year Rhodes student Devon Greig, "the production and staging was all really good. I'm impressed with the stage crew. But the acting was a little too much, and the singing wasn't great either."

However, the comedic timing and hysterical roles of Cinderella's prince, Rapunzel's prince, and Little Red Riding Hood's wolf were huge crowd pleasers that saved the show. Other memorable moments include when the princes sing "Agony," a duet in which they lament their princesses being out of reach – and when they reprise the song in Act II, only now they're singing about new unachievable women, having tired of their current wives—as well as when the omnipresent narrator gets recognized as a part of the story and all of the characters turn against him.

Into the Woods is an enjoyable musical with valuable lessons about the lack of good/bad dichotomies, parenting, and the quest for experience. While Germantown High's production was entertaining, it didn't exactly leave one with the desire to search through one's own woods. However, the production itself is a night of entertainment and laughter, and I recommend going on your own journey out to Germantown for a viewing.

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

New Movie Releases 3/1/12:

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
Project X
Being Flynn
Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie
Boy
The Salt of Life

Television Highlights (2/1-2/9)

Revenge, Wednesday, 9 pm, ABC. The Graysons unite in the face of recent scandal; Amanda's location is questioned.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, Wednesday, 9 pm, CBS. When a child is abducted during a blackout, the team investigates using old-school methods.

The Big Bang Theory, Thursday, 8 pm, CBS. Penny introduces Raj to a woman he can communicate with.

Vampire Diaries, Thursday, 8 pm, CW. Bonnie thinks her dreams could help her figure out how to kill Klaus.

Nikita, Friday, 7 pm, CW. Nikita asks Owen to help her steal another black box; Alex moves in on Semak.

Grimm, Friday, 8 pm, NBC. When a botched robbery ends in murder, Nick and Hank must search for rare coins.

The Dark Knight, Saturday, 7 pm, TNT. Movie. Batman battles a vicious criminal known as the Joker.

Once Upon A Time, Sunday, 7 pm, ABC. Mary Margaret and Leroy join forces to help nuns sell candles at the Miner's Day festival.

Castle, Monday, 9 pm, ABC. Beckett tries to help when Martha and Castle are held hostage by bank robber.

Ringer, Tuesday, 8 pm, CW. Agent Machado's past is revealed; Siobhan deceives Malcolm; Tyler takes something from Siobhan.

Whitney & Me: A tribute to the Queen of Pop

Jasmine Gilstrap
 Editor-In-Chief

Similar to the 9/11 tragedies, the triumph of Michael Phelps at the 2008 Olympics, and the destructive tsunami in Japan, I remember exactly where I was when news broke of Whitney Houston's death. I was at the cast party for *The Vagina Monologues*, and celebrated her life with the rest of the attendants by doing the only thing we knew to do: listen to her music.

In writing this tribute, I do not want to simply write an obituary listing her accomplishments. That does nothing to truly honor her legacy. Her role as a producer for both *Princess Diaries* films and the first two *Cheetah Girls* movies, in addition to her nominations and wins for her various films and music contributions, may have landed her monetary and critical success. But they do not define Whitney's impact on our culture and on my life.

My story of how I came to know Whitney is both similar and different to everyone I have talked about the Queen of Pop with. Many of my childhood memories are connected with the voice of Whitney Houston, beginning with a dance routine to "How Will I Know," which I played non-stop via my dad's copy of *Whitney Houston* on vinyl. Christmas 1996 was filled with *The Preacher's Wife*, having watched the film on VHS numer-



courtesy of Google Images

Jordin Sparks and Whitney in a movie still for the upcoming film *Sparkle*, the last feature film role for the late great Whitney Houston. The film is set to be released August 12, 2012 and is a remake of the 1976 film with the same name.

ous times and thoroughly exhausted the cassette tape of the soundtrack.

It wasn't until 1998 that I really secured my love for Whitney, finally watching *Waiting*

to *Exhale* and parts of *The Bodyguard* because my mom thought I was too young to watch them both before. The soundtracks to both films were continuously played on my tiny purple boom box, and I really flipped when *My Love is Your Love* was released later that year on CD. Between all those films, soundtracks, albums, and the release of *Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, Whitney brought me into the new millennium and gave me a solid foundation from which to appreciate good music. Her voice had such soul and class that it goes beyond the ears and into the spirit.

The loss of Whitney Houston was felt by the entire music community, most of which cite her as a primary influence on their music, female or male. The tributes done by various artists at the Grammy's, on *Glee*, and at Whitney's home-going service were great in their own ways, but the ones that will honor Whitney's legacy and will allow Whitney to live on are not the ones televised. They will not be the ones critics and news media discuss for years to come. The best tributes that can be made to Whitney and all those that we lose are the ones that we make personally on a day to day basis. Rest in peace, my greatest music love of all. We will always love you.

Men's Lax opens inaugural season

Tyler Springs
Sports Editor

Saturday morning dawned crisp and sunny, a happy occurrence for all the fans clad in red and black that gorged on burgers and dogs in the bleachers. The brilliant weather paralleled the high hopes for success for the budding Rhodes men's lacrosse program, a team three years in the making. An incipient roster of 20 intrepid Lynx players was about to be part of something historic: the first official Division III varsity lacrosse game in school history.

"I see a bright future for us," said midfielder Peter Hall, the undisputed guarantor of the program's existence. "It was fun to have a nice, welcoming home crowd."

A captain from Virginia, Hall is one of three (the others being captains Will Hornaday and Van Roerty) who have been part of the program since their freshman year. Hall's commitment to lacrosse was apparent even back then. After three years of long van rides, hundreds of wind-sprints and an intangible amount of behind-the-scenes hours working on the details, there is nobody more well-versed in commitment, hard work, and patience than the wiry senior.

Saturday would drive home each of those values for Hall and his teammates.

In a difficult first half, the visiting Piedmont College (GA) Lions proved how much of a difference even one year makes. Though they brought a young squad of only 18, each of the 17 freshmen had been recruited specifically for lacrosse,

and they played like it, at times very much in contrast to the athletic but inexperienced group on the Rhodes bench. Rhodes hired head coach Dave Zazzaro last June, but the Lynx are playing at the varsity level this year rather than waiting a year for a full recruiting class.

In a lopsided first period, the Lions raced out to a 3-0 lead before Rhodes was able to score, with a goal finally coming from junior attackman Hugh Madison with just over six minutes remaining in the period. By the quarter's end, the margin was already 7-1. The second quarter brought a Lynx team playing with more resolve despite struggles from the defense as one of the three scores netted by Piedmont came in a man-down situation for the defense during a Lynx penalty. When the halftime horn sounded, the Lynx trailed 10-3; Rhodes tallying 12 shots to Piedmont's 31.

After the break, the defense didn't allow Piedmont to score in any of their three extra-man advantages, but the offense could not get much going for most of the third quarter, tallying only one goal from Hornaday prior to the 2:00 mark in the period. With Piedmont holding a seemingly comfortable 16-4 advantage, the Lynx went to work. Senior Hornaday started the assault on the Piedmont lead, scoring his second goal at the 1:33 mark. A minute later, Hall assisted Roerty, a senior face-off specialist, on another Rhodes goal moments before the end of the quarter, and the

rally continued into the final period, rousing the loyal crowd of Rhodes supporters. Playing significant minutes for the first time after breaking his hand in the offseason, Hornaday kept making plays, feeding fellow attackman William Posey for two goals in the space of four minutes, cutting the lead to 8 with 10:24 remaining. Posey had an efficient day, scoring three total goals on just four shots while demonstrating remarkable body control in front of the cage.

"I thought Hornaday and Posey looked composed," Zazzaro said. "[They] were able to handle some of the pressure that Piedmont was doing to us, forcing us into bad spots."

Understandably, Rhodes' momentum slowed as the contest wound down, with the defense allowing the Lions three more goals in the last ten minutes, but Hall, ever the persistent one, found Posey for his final goal and set up junior midfielder John Sanford for one as well. By the end of the 19-10 defeat, the Lynx had collected 42% of the face-off draws and got 13 hard-fought saves from senior rookie Tommy Lockwood, who was making his first varsity appearance in goal. The 94 total ground balls between both teams demonstrated the occasional sloppiness of the game, but it's a good sign that the Lynx managed to pick up 40 of them. This ought to serve them well as their inaugural season progresses.

**Next game: Today (2/29) at 2pm
Home vs. Augustana, Lax Field**

Retraction

In an article titled "Rhodes swimmers gearing up for SCAC championships," published in The Sou'wester two weeks ago, some of the facts were wrongly noted. The corrections for these errors follow this statement. The Sou'wester regrets these errors and apologizes to all parties affected.

Chad Bohls won the 1000-yd. freestyle and the 500-yd. freestyle events.

Erik Campbell swam a strong anchor leg of the 200-yd. freestyle relay, helping the Lynx to a second place showing in that race. That finish allowed the men's team to win the meet overall.

In addition to winning the 50-yard freestyle race, Kelsey Wilson also won the the 100-yd freestyle and the 500-yd freestyle events.

Seniors Susanna Kirby and Hannah Emery won the 200-yd freestyle and 200-yd butterfly races, respectively.

**-Tyler Springs,
Sports Editor**

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