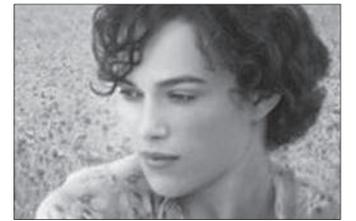


THE SOU'WESTER

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January 30, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Why so pensive? Find out in our review of *Atonement*.

See Page 6

Cook decodes 2008 elections

By Avery Pribila
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, January 23, political analyst Charlie Cook spoke to a large audience about the 2008 Primaries and Presidential Election.

Cook is the publisher of *The Cook Political Report*, an independent, non-partisan publication that examines campaigns and elections for a number of offices. Cook has appeared on the ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news programs, among many others. He has also served as an election night analyst for major networks, and is regularly heard on National Public Radio.

Cook began his lecture by giving a broad overview of the current political situation, calling this year "a very humbling year" for political analysts. He explained that the 2008 election is unique for a number of reasons. For the first time since 1928 a current president or vice president is not running for office. In fact, the candidates, especially the Republicans, are trying to distance themselves from the low approval ratings of the current administration.

Cook went on to describe the unfavorable conditions that exist for Republicans. He discussed morale problems that he believes plague the Republican Party. Cook went on to describe his experiences at the Iowa caucuses, describing the Republicans as dissatisfied with their choices. On the other hand, he said that the Democratic Party is very pleased with the diversity of candidates running for the nomination. In Iowa, he described the Democratic voters as "kids going into a Baskin Robbins; there were all these flavors."



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester

Charlie Cook, a national political analyst, was on campus last Wednesday, January 30, to analyze and explain the 2008 Primaries and Presidential election.

Cook then analyzed each major candidate. He first discussed Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani, saying that he doesn't meet his party's set social and cultural agenda. Cook described Giuliani supporters as "secular Republicans," or those who are driven by international and economic issues and don't care as much about social and cultural issues of importance to the party. He believes that Giuliani, while thus far moderately successful,

will ultimately not win the nomination.

Republican candidate Mitt Romney's success is surprising to Cook. He briefly explained that Romney has changed his position on a number of important social issues, and he believes that change will ultimately harm his chances. He explained that the core value of the Republican Party

Cook, continued on Page 4

Symposium celebrates differences

By Stephanie Cassel
Staff Writer

This past Friday, January 25, Rhodes hosted "Shakespeare in Color: A Symposium on *Macbeth* and African American Performances and Appropriations" in conjunction with current performances of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* by Hattiloo Theatre and Verdi's *Macbeth* by Opera Memphis.

Speakers during the day included National scholars, local artists, a film director and a Hollywood actor, participating in a discussion about African American adaptations and casting in productions of *Macbeth*.

The first speech of the day was

entitled "What is a Black Shakespearean?" and was presented by Ayanna Thompson from Arizona State University, who specializes in depictions of race in the Renaissance. She is currently working on a book project examining the way popular culture addresses issues of race through Shakespearean texts, appropriations, and adaptations.

The next speaker was Peter Erickson from William College who presented "Black Plays on Black Performers of Shakespeare." Erickson is working to "establish the study of race, including racial whiteness, in the field of Renaissance culture."

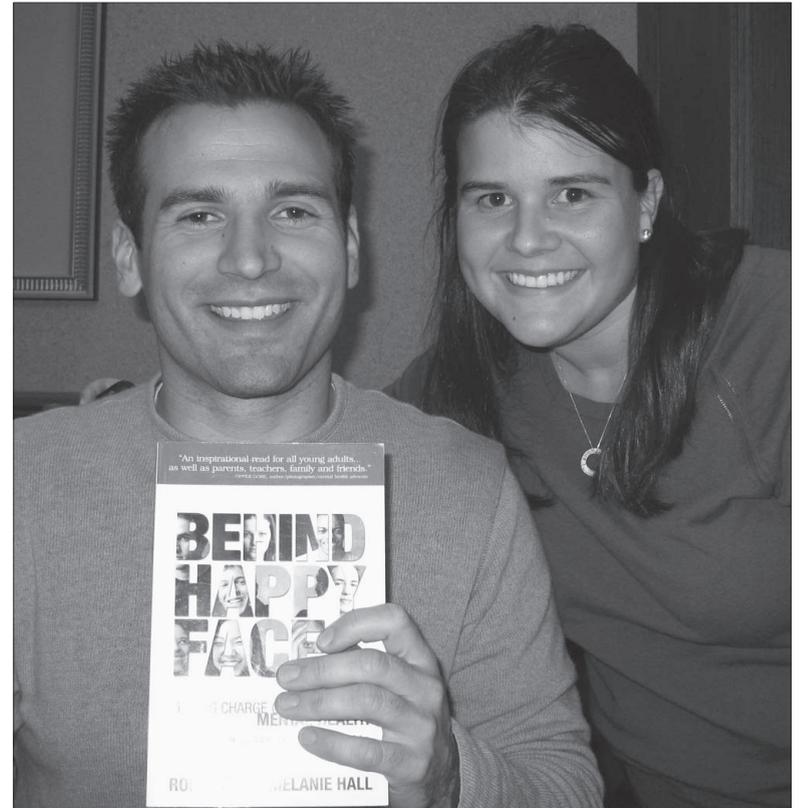
The third speech of the day, entitled "Primitivism in Welles' 'Voo-

doo' *Macbeth*" was presented by Marguerite Rippey of Marymount University. Rippey has interests in "race and identity in American performance traditions, including classic Hollywood cinema, the Harlem Renaissance, and modernist literature."

Following Rippey's speech was Amy Scott-Douglass of Denison University whose speech was entitled "Interracial Couples in *Macbeth* Spin-offs." Wallace McClain Cheatham, a composer, then presented "An African African Musician Reflects upon Verdi's *Macbeth*."

Cheatham is an award-win-

Shakespeare, continued on Page 4



William Bruce/The Sou'wester

Ross Szabo met with students like Sarah Barowka following his January 23 lecture on mental health stereotypes.

Mental health speaker debunks stereotypes

By William Bruce
Executive Assistant

In a charismatic lecture on January 23, Ross Szabo discussed the negative effects society has on youth and how college students are far more acquainted with mental disarray than they often realize. Szabo approached and comprehensively elaborated on a concept many people misjudge: mental disorders.

Szabo was born in Pennsylvania and was an honor graduate from American University with a degree in Psychology. Over the years he has talked with over half a million young people about approaching mental disorders, and has been featured on such networks as: CNN, PBS, and MTV. He has hosted the television network *What's on Your Mind?* and was voted best performer by *On Campus Activity Magazine*.

In the lecture entitled *What Happy faces are Hiding*, Szabo discussed how most tend to regard mental disorders as "monumental conditions such as depression or bi-polar disorder, or that people with them are to be looked down upon," but then went on to say that this assumption is a "gross stereotype."

According to Szabo, everyone has some form of disorder and the freshman year of college, for most, is "the most dangerous year of our lives." In light of this information, Szabo argued how the largest problem students face as young adults is "dropping their smiling faces" to talk about these issues, and to do so means "breaking away from an emotionally withdrawn society, no easy feat."

To better connect with his audience Szabo profiled his own experiences with mental disorders to help the listeners better understand his main arguments. As a child, Szabo said his brother suffered from a case of "bi-polar disorder" to such an extent that he at times forgot who his own family was.

In spite of this disorder, Szabo's brother overcame tremendous ad-

Szabo, continued on Page 4

Candidates unimpressive on economy

By Nate Maxwell

Associate and Opinion Editor

As the primary season winds towards Super Tuesday, voters may be forgiven if they remain thoroughly unimpressed with the whole lot. Considering that this election has the most competitive field in years for both parties, it is quite disappointing, although not especially surprising, that none of the candidates have yet built a truly national appeal. The American people seem to be stuck choosing between the lesser of several evils again. In a time when economic worries are driving the election, nearly all the candidates sadly fail to truly understand the economy. As a self-identified conservative Democrat, it is quite disturbing to watch the Democratic Party continue to misunderstand and oppose the free market principles that have made the American economy so strong for the last half-century.

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, the Democratic front runners, have man-

aged to turn their campaign into a contest of immaturity, while their continually third-place tag-along, John Edwards, continues to pound a message that only Lou Dobbs could love. The Democrats run the risk of throwing away the best presidential opportunity they may get for several years. All things considered, however, it may be for the best if they do, as all of the "Big Three" continue to promote tired economic "solutions" that will solve nothing, as best exemplified by their positions on trade.

While Edwards is certainly the worst, all three candidates have a disturbing lack of trust in the liberal trading economy that the United States has (mostly) become. They continually hedge their support for free trade agreements, playing up the negative side effects from such agreements, while largely ignoring the tremendous benefits that trade brings to the American economy, although they are careful to avoid labeling themselves protectionists. By continually playing down

to the most pessimistic fears of the American people, the Democratic candidates are showing a disturbing lack of leadership and new thought on economic issues.

Democrats can only hope their candidates show further insight as the campaign wears on. Barack Obama has shown flashes of being a candidate who could bring new ideas to a petrified party, although he has yet to fully make the leap, and may never do so.

Unfortunately, the Republicans for the most part are no better, although they sometimes pick different issues to be wrong about. Amusingly, the candidate who has been probably the most correct about an economic issue was John McCain when he said he "doesn't really understand economics." Neither do the rest of them, Senator, only they mostly don't realize it. For voters who are looking for a President who can strengthen the American economy, 2008 could be a long year, followed by an even longer four years.

Rhodes exceeds freshman's expectations

By Dean Galaro

Opinion Columnist

As a second-semester freshman, I am afforded a unique opportunity to look back on the decision process that led me to choose Rhodes. With a semester of school under my belt to use as a comparison, I will go through the categories of analysis used in the *College Prowler* books, a series of very comprehensive college reviews, and decide whether the college experience I found here at Rhodes met up with the expectations I had last August. These categories are: Academics, Campus Life, Amenities, and Town.

For Academics, *College Prowler* gives Rhodes a B+. According to the book, "The workload at Rhodes is definitely challenging...There aren't any 'breeze courses,' so if you come to Rhodes, be prepared to use your brain if you want to maintain a high GPA." This seems to be an accurate statement. Although I have only taken a total of 8 classes so far, almost all of them have been challenging in some aspect. I came to Rhodes expecting to find very few "breeze courses" and so far this has held true with the exception of a few intro courses.

The book's main praise was for the faculty here at Rhodes, which heightened my academic expectations. The *College Prowler* raves that "what really makes Rhodes's academics so phenomenal are the professors...They're experts in their fields, highly gifted, and most are published, but the best part of all—they are extremely approachable." Although I have yet to sit down and eat lunch with a professor of mine, all my other expectations about the teaching staff here at Rhodes have been met. Almost all of my teachers have been fun, engaging, and challenging at the same time. The enthusiastic reviews of the professors here were a big selling point for me, and I have not been let down. Because of all this I would suggest Rhodes' academics deserve an A- instead of a B+. The academia here at Rhodes are wonderful, and my expectations were met and then some.

The category of Campus Life is split into many different areas all with their own grades. *College Prowler* gave Rhodes' student body diversity a D-, and I would have to agree with that grade. I did not come here expecting a widely diverse population and was not met with one. As the book remarks: "If you're looking for diversity, you'll either have to look elsewhere or help to change it." On the subject of men and women, guys on campus received a B- and girls a B. Although "in general, the student body at Rhodes is well over moderately attractive," guys received a lower grade because of the lopsided girl to guy ratio (about 3 to 2). In my experience that ratio has held true but I can't say that it's a negative factor for me.

I didn't come here expecting a huge athletic program or following and didn't find one. *College Prowler* does point out that "the best way to get your sports fix is to get involved in one of the many IM or club sports," and that is certainly true as I have discovered through the Ultimate Frisbee team, Rhodekill. Campus safety is ranked as good but at times a bit lax (receiving a B-). Even though I do feel safe on campus, it does seem like the guards at the main gate will wave just about anyone through.

Socially, I came here expecting the Greeks to control the social scene, and they do in a way. "The Greeks host most of the on-campus parties and play a large role in the social scene, but with the open invites, no one gets left out." It does seem like almost everyone I know is Greek (except me), but I have yet to feel excluded because of it. Campus strictness gets a B, another seemingly accurate grade. "The safety officers aren't Nazis, though, and they aren't actively out looking to bust people," but I have heard that punishment is taken very seriously.

The third section of the *Prowler* book deals with the campus amenities. First reviewed are the dining options, which only received a C. The blasé reviews of the dining here are fairly accurate, although I tend

to try to look optimistically on the food. It's certainly not five-star dining, but there's only so much that can be expected from cafeteria food.

The campus housing is reported as "[being] recognized numerous times for its spacious residence halls and rooms, and the student body, though they complain sometimes, know that they have it better than the bulk of other college students." I did not come here expecting much out of my college dorm, but in comparison to some other schools' dorm rooms, I've found that the accommodations are pretty good. In the area of computers, I expected broad wireless and fast connections. The wireless does work all over the place, but the speed and integrity of the connection can sometimes be frustrating. Even though transportation gets a C-, and public transportation in Memphis does sometimes feel "sketchy", I have found that there are enough people here with cars that getting around is not a problem.

Finally, *College Prowler* discusses the town of Memphis. I came down to Memphis (from small-town Connecticut) expectant of a lively downtown and have not been disappointed in Memphis. Whatever I want to do I have been able to find near campus, leaving Memphis highly deserving of the B+ for Local Atmosphere. Being from the North, I expected sun and warmth, and have found, as everyone often says, the Memphis weather is nice but very odd at times. Off-Campus dining gets an A from the *Prowler*, with a variety of restaurants everywhere which I have found to be delightfully true.

What this all means is that what is being said out there about Rhodes College is, for the most part, true. I decided to go to school here with a lot of expectations and after a few months here have been very glad to see all of my expectations met. Some things are better and some things are worse, but for the most part the prospects people have coming to Rhodes will be exceeded. To say the least, I am very glad to go to Rhodes College.

THE SOU'WESTER

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All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in *The Rhode'ster*, opinion columns, and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

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ASSOCIATED
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I'll tell you what I want...or don't...maybe?

By Joe Cody
Opinion Columnist

A recent *New York Post* editorial by Charles Hurt claimed that all of the Republican candidates had one thing in common this year; they all have suffered disastrous defeats. Now it is literally true that all of the front running candidates for the Republican nomination have lost at least one primary this year, but there is a gross distortion in this editorial. The implication of the column is that the Republicans are the only ones who have suffered defeat this primary season and that their numerous defeats signal the end of each of these candidates. I am not sure if this is based in pure ignorance, stupidity, or simply partisan banter, but one thing is certain: Hurt simply is wrong. He ignores the chaos of this year's primary process and the uncertainty that is dominating the minds of voters in the voting booth.

It is true that Mike Huckabee won a stunning victory in Iowa over then-front runner Mitt Romney and maverick John McCain, but this is

not a huge surprise when the makeup of the Iowa electorate is considered. Only a very small portion of the Iowa Voting Population votes in the caucus process, and you must be a registered party member to cast a vote in its primary, meaning the people who voted were ideologically more aligned with the right wing of the Republican Party. That combined with the relatively large evangelical vote in the state, gave Huckabee a good shot at an impressive showing. His other defeats have come in states that do not have that large contingent of evangelicals and have different registration rules than Iowa, making these expected defeats for the former Arkansas Governor, not "disastrous defeats." Honestly, how many people thought that a fundamentalist Baptist minister stood a realistic chance at capturing the White House?

Senator John McCain lost in Iowa and appeared dead in the water, but won in New Hampshire, propelling him to the front of the G.O.P. polls in a matter of hours, but then lost Michigan to Romney. This was classified by

Hurt as his "disastrous defeat," but an academic look explains his loss just like Huckabee's. Although he won Michigan in 2000, McCain has spoken out against the auto industry's lack of progress in the alternative fuel market, has been critical of Detroit's dependence on Washington has failed to offer solutions to the number of jobs leaving the state, and ended his campaign there with a Jimmy Carter-esque defeatist speech days before the primary. In a year where the economy has surpassed Iraq as the number one issue concerning voters, especially in industrial Michigan, there was little chance of a victory by McCain. This especially proved true in opposition to native son and brilliant businessman Mitt Romney, who can outdebate any candidate on both sides of the aisle on economics. He is considered by some the current front runner, and political handicapper Charlie Cook believes that he has the best chance of securing the nomination. However, McCain's recent victory in South Carolina means that the lead for the nomination continues to be hotly contested.

Romney outspent everyone in Iowa and has put around twenty million of his own money into his campaign, leading many people to expect victory in Iowa and/or New Hampshire. However he didn't gain a significant victory until Michigan. Again, this should not be that big of a surprise. As the candidate occupying the middle ground between the conservative Huckabee and the more liberal McCain, second place in both Iowa and New Hampshire was a decent showing for a former moderate Governor of Massachusetts. Neither were the victories he had hoped for, but did not necessarily expect. He had a convincing victory in Michigan, but has achieved an often over looked goal in a tight primary race. He currently has the most delegates which could be important going into Super Tuesday, especially if a winner does not emerge from this "national

primary."

Each of the Democratic front-runners has had their share of disappointments as well, another fact overlooked by Hurt. Hillary Clinton was far and away the national front runner for most of the year, but was stunningly upset not only by Barack Obama, but also John Edwards in Iowa. Some people thought it was the end of the first viable female candidate, but she stormed back to upset the 9-13 point favorite Obama in New Hampshire a few days later as he failed to capitalize on the momentum and fundraising generated by his victory. John Edwards has failed to show that he can seriously compete with both in what I would declare a campaign in a coma. Each of the "big three" candidates on the Democratic side have suffered their own "disastrous defeats" as well, but this isn't shown by Hurt, among other omissions.

What Hurt fails to examine is the volatile environment in which all candidates are running this election year. Each of these candidates "disastrous defeats" can be explained through elementary political science. Not only do the American people hate President Bush and the Republican label, they also currently dislike Democrats. The Democrats have failed to capitalize on their new found power in Congress and were unable to accomplish many of the November 2006 promises they made, leading to approval ratings that are even lower than Bush's. He does not examine both sides in this primary process, and if he did, a stunning pattern would have emerged. The simple fact is that the people want change, but do not know who their candidate is yet on either side, leading to "upsets," victories, "disastrous defeats," and most importantly, parity in a crowded field. I expect it to be a bit longer until the field narrows, leading to an exciting process in the coming weeks and months for both Republicans and Democrats.

The State of the Union: Bush's awkward goodbye

From Uwire
By Chuck Lippstreu

Everyone could see the raincloud over George W. Bush's head during Monday's State of the Union address.

Sure, he went through every bit of pomp and circumstance that these things demand. He put on a suit, walked to the "rostrum" (his word, not mine) and defended his legacy as best as a man in his unenviable situation could.

We even saw some of the fire that rocketed him to victory in election after unlikely election over the years. Bush managed to maintain his trademark "my way or the highway" style, for example, in threatening veto after veto should the Democratic Congress not cut earmark spending.

He made some strong policy-specific demands to lower taxes. He touted the recent bipartisan decision to hand out free money, and he managed to take a cute little shot at Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, whom he roundly despises.

But frequent references to, and defenses of, his past policy made most of the speech feel like an awkward cross between heartfelt farewell and "Hey, I tried, don't blame me," apology.

Bush defended the No Child Left Behind Act, one of the most controversial and utopian pieces of legislation ever concocted, as a major reform for which he should be remembered.

He lamented the fact that his fantastically conservative nominees to the judiciary are being "unfairly" stalled in Congress. But he focused just as much on his legacy, emphasizing that he has always "submitted judicial nominees who will rule by the letter of the law."

The president invoked 9/11 not so much as a call to action, as in past years; he spoke of the war on terror in a more philosophical tone, seemingly as a reminder to America that he has had a lasting impact on terrorism. He wants everyone to remember, on Inaugura-

tion Day in 2009, that we're actively "spreading the hope of freedom" as a legacy of George W. Bush.

The president wants to be remembered for all of these things and more. This is not historically unprecedented for an American president, nor is it unusual to human nature.

But everyone knew Monday that Bush's time in the spotlight has passed. As he wrapped up his address with a call to the "confidence in freedom's power and trust in the people" – a summary statement of the neoconservative policy that has shaped his administration – it was impossible not to think of the people who have already wrested American politics from this president's arms with a year left in his tenure.

Sen. Ted Kennedy and Rep. Patrick Kennedy made more political waves at American University on Monday morning than Bush could have done with a three-day State of the Union speech. Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, whose ongoing feud has spelled an incredible and dramatic rift in the Democratic Party, will likely take back every headline from the president by Wednesday morning.

Perhaps most telling of all, Sen. John McCain skipped Bush's final State of the Union address to campaign as a front-runner in Florida for a nomination that should have been McCain's eight years ago.

George W. Bush had one of the most riveting presidencies the world has seen, for better or for worse, but his time has come to an end.

His political capital is squandered. His approval rating continues to hover just above 30 percent. He faces a hostile Congress for the last few months he'll enjoy in office.

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Cook, continued from Page 1

is competence, and Romney "seemed perfectly positioned to be the competence candidate," until he changed his views. However, Cook went on to say that "there are 150 million reasons to take Romney seriously...that's his net worth." Overall, he believes that Romney is someone to watch, but who will probably not win.

Republican candidate Mike Huckabee's support, according to Cook, is confined to social and cultural conservatives and evangelicals. Cook said that the thing holding Huckabee back is that he is a Baptist Minister. While he described Huckabee as nice Cook did say that "there are reasons to not elect Huckabee; he probably couldn't find Africa on a globe." According to Cook, Huckabee is seemingly unlikely to win his party's nomination.

Republican nominee John McCain is, in Cook's opinion, the startling front-runner. "I declared John McCain dead in vivid terms last summer," Cook said, but now he explained that diagnostic factors point towards McCain. While his age is a major concern for many (he will turn 72 in August) his interesting story and experience make him likely to receive the Republican nomination.

On the Democratic side, Cook said that it comes down to Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Cook

explained that Clinton resonates with the fundamentals, or groups typically associated with the Democratic Party. However, in Iowa "the rulebook got thrown out the window" when Obama won the primary. He explained that Clinton's experience is a bonus for her, and that Obama's age and youthful appearance could be problematic for voters. "Obama's problem isn't that he's black, it's that he looks green," said Cook.

Cook went on to describe a change in the Democratic Party that may allow Obama to succeed even though he doesn't necessarily resonate with the typical Democratic voter. He described this change "like they've been eating vegetables for a long time and now they want to eat something that tastes good," meaning that while Clinton may have the experience, Obama brings something new and something fresh to the race. He said that "Democrats feel constrained" by responsible but not necessarily fun politics, and Obama may be a way to escape those constraints. However, he also stated that Obama is a concept candidate, and may be larger than life.

In the end, Cook said that the Democratic race is too close to call, and that it may become clearer after February 5th and the final primaries. He said he is extremely interested to see what direction the Democratic Party takes.

Shakespeare, continued from Page 1

ning composer, organist, scholar and educator. He has introduced "the works of major African American composers to Midwestern audiences, and has penned a number of scholarly works on race, classical music and opera."

Two roundtable discussions were then presented, the first in conjunction with *Opera Memphis*, and the second with *Hattiloo Theatre*. Both are presently hosting performances of *Macbeth* in Memphis. Film Director Aleta Chappelle and Actor Harry J. Lennix co-presented, "Adapting *Macbeth* for Today's Film Audience," following the roundtables.

Szabo, continued from Page 1

versity and is currently pursuing a doctorate in astrophysics. Szabo himself once suffered from an extreme case of bi-polar disorder, to such an extent that he had to take sick leave from college for years and even became institutionalized for suicide watch. Over time, however, he too overcame his disorders and is alive through communication with others.

"We are all treatable, but only by opening up to others about our issues," said Szabo.

Aleta Chappelle is the director and writer of the awaited *Macbeth*, "an adaptation of Shakespeare's play set on a Caribbean island, starring Harry J. Lennix, Terence Howard, and Blair Underwood." Chappelle has worked in Hollywood for two decades, casting movies including *Drumline*, *The Nutty Professor*, and Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather III*, and directing *Goosed* (starring Jennifer Tilly).

Harry J. Lennix has acted as Commander Lock in *The Matrix* series, as well as television roles in *Commander in Chief* and *24*. "Among his many Shakespearean credits are Aaron in Julie Taymor's *Titus Andronicus* (stage and film) and the lead role in a recent African-

American production of *Macbeth* in Los Angeles. He was part of the first American company to be invited to the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2001."

Closing the Symposium was a reception featuring the Rhodes Jazz Ensemble playing selections from Duke Ellington's *Such Sweet Thunder*.

The symposium was sponsored by CODA, Rhodes' Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts. Additional support came from the Departments of Theatre, English, and African American Studies. For more information, please contact Scott L. Newstok at newstoks@rhodes.edu.

Szabo mentioned how those who suffer from any mental disorder are in no way superior or inferior, regardless of what society deems us as, but instead we are all simply "different."

This lecture was made possible by CHEERS (Coalition Helping Educate and Empower Rhodes Students) who, according to Sarah Barowka, a member of the CHEERS leadership team, has the primary goal of "helping students make the best decisions of any kind."

Barowka said she hopes this mental health discussion will be

"the beginning of a campaign to aid the mental health of students."

In addition to CHEERS, this event was co-sponsored by the Provost's Office, Dean of Students' Office, Counseling Center, Health Center, Greek Life, Psychology Dept., and Neuroscience Dept. Szabo is also the author of the book *Behind Smiling Faces*, which will be available in the bookstore for the next few weeks. Also, for those needing to discuss any concerns such as loneliness or depression, the counseling center is available to help students.

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Joe Thompson: Identity Revealed

By Scooter Biceps

The spring semester brings about many great things; spring break plans, the end of another academic year, and all of the spring sports, including basketball. Unfortunately for the Rhodes community, the 2007-2008 basketball season has already been marred with controversy and deceit. One of the team captains, Joe Thompson, '08, of Nashville, Tennessee, has been wearing glasses during competition, revealing what many had already begun to regretfully suspect: Joe Thompson is a nerd.

Thompson is a dork. A geek. A nerd. When asking who the smartest person on the court is, the answer must invariably go to four-eyed Joe Thompson. He might as well wear a pocket protector on the court. "What's the trajectory of this 3-pointer?" It doesn't matter, nerd, you were too busy sucking on your inhaler to take the shot. Who put the Battlestar Galactica poster up in the locker room? Oh right. The nerd. However, unveiled by some highly motivated investigative reporting by yours truly, the geek-shades of Mr. Thompson were merely the tip of the proverbial ice berg.

A source in the registrar's office at Rhodes College has revealed that Joe Thompson, in fact, has a 3.94 GPA in Astrobiology, with his only B+ coming from his physical education class (it wasn't even basketball; it was squash). Further investigations have uncovered a secret compartment of his locker that is full of text books and hand-written notes, all of which were written in Klingon hieroglyphics. In the margins, there were also doodles of what appears to be the fully-operational Deathstar as well as plans to construct an actual working Star Trek phaser. His clothes were also neatly folded in his locker, as well (don't worry-me and some other people put them in the shower).

Speaking of books, the local book emporium is another dead giveaway to Thompson's hidden dorktivity. As one can usually tell, Thompson can most likely be found on a library couch on the first floor. But what is he actually reading? Investigations of library records have produced appalling conclusions: Joe Thompson is reading for pleasure.

Terry Ursin, coach, disqualified from IronMan

By Tim Whatley

Terry Ursin, Lynx football coach and resident BAMEF, will not be competing in the 2008 International IronMan Competition in Deusseldorf, Deutschland. A regular staple at the gym, Coach Ursin can usually be found pumping iron, pumping desks, or pumping some dude's face in the BCLC gym Monday thru Monday, from around 4 a.m. to around midnight, when he goes to bounce drunken students eight city blocks at Hollywood Raiford's.

But perhaps "disqualified" is not the appropriate term. Maybe "overqualified" is a more apt reflection. The answering of the application form was an early indicator of the difficulties ahead. When asked "How much do you bench press?" Ursin was forced to answer "All of them." The form also inquired as to how much Coach Ursin squats when, obviously flustered by such trivial and unimportant questions, answered with another question: "How many cars can you fit on a bar? Not enough."

Coach Ursin was also a little upset at the idea of there being an actual "competition," because "competing" seems to infer to some degree that there is a chance that Ursin would somehow



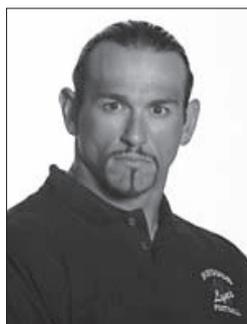
"Looks like the Magic Tournament got out early..."

Records have revealed that the last three books Thompson has checked out are not required for his classes, meaning that he is using those horn-rimmed horrors for more than just physical protection on the court, but worse: to READ. His paleness should also be noted as a hint that he rarely leaves the library. No one can be that pale without trying.

But one can all too clearly recognize the tell-tale signs: driving with his hands at two-and-ten on the wheel at all times. Referring to his glasses as his "bioptikon." Wearing suspenders anytime he tucks his shirt in, which is all the time. Wearing argyle socks. His unusual collection of Dungeons and Dragon's twelve-sided dice. His entire aura reeks of nerd. His teammates were devastated, but not necessarily surprised. "I mean, you always get the feeling there's something different about him,"

lose. "I'd like to see how many other guys could strangle a grizzly bear with an anaconda..." Ursin could be heard grumbling. It's not even clear that Ursin has been training for the IronMan itself, but instead could be training for something much more dangerous: what ever he wants.

Coach Ursin, as many of you know, is a former Lynx Cat himself, and holds a number of previously unheld and somewhat unorthodox records. Coach Ursin currently holds the record for most games played after being cast in a Disney movie (the role of Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* is said to be loosely based off of Ursin's tremendous physique), most people exploded into tiny bits on special teams, and is currently the only person in NCAA history to yell so loudly that he not only caused a fumble but also a



TERRY URSIN

says junior Jeff "Ludacris" Blumenthal, "but you kind of shrug it off. You just tell yourself that those Discovery Channel Documentaries are someone else's and overlook them. It doesn't mean it's easy though." But what are the rest of us, as responsible members of the Rhodes community, to do?

The answers are as numerous as they are obvious. We must allow him to embrace his nerd heritage. Go ahead; it's what he really wants deep down. So go ahead and give him a firm noogie. Maybe ask "what's that?" on his shirt, and then give him a strike about the snout. Refrain from wedgies, because true to his nerd-DNA, he has already pre-torn his underwear for maximum protection. And finally, remember that there should be a collective groan from the student section every time he touches the ball, because nerds cannot play sports.

safety. He also holds the record for most profanities strung together in one cogent and grammatically correct statement in a game. The referee receiving those profanities is yet to have recovered his hearing, or his sight in one eye.

But perhaps there is more on the horizon for Coach Ursin to look forward to. Rumors have it that many of Tinseltown's most puny stars are looking to Ursin to coach them into shape. It is said that Toby Maguire borrowed his six-pack from Ursin for his role in the *Spiderman* films, as Coach Ursin has an Arkansas thirty pack and can give them away as he wishes. Rhodes College's own local celebrity, President Troutt, has been spotted in Ursin's section of the gym getting what is known as an "attitude adjustment" (basically this consists of Troutt holding a medicine ball over his head while Ursin beats him in the gut bellowing "ALL ABOARD THE PAIN TRAIN!"). He also teaches a weightlifting class, so if you need that one more P.E. credit, look no further than our neighborhood IronMan for your needs. Maybe you'll even find a backbone while you're working out (hopefully he won't find that out, because he'll probably just rip it out when you are least expecting it).

Ask An Alumnus

By Terry Gaither, class of '81

Ask An Alumnus is an annual advice column sponsored by the Sou'Wester. It features a prominent alumnus, Terry Gaither ('81), in which he lends his own advice and wisdom from his twenty years of working in the professional field on Wall Street and his last six years working from his cell in a maximum security, 24-hour watch mental facility.

"Dear Terry,

I need to get prepared for the real world AND FAST! What are some useful internships I can sign up for?"

Super Excited,

Second Semester Senior Sylvester

Real world, huh? To fully grasp that whirlwind and magical experience, find a space, such as an empty room or a back alley. Then give yourself a sharp and forceful blow to the crotch. Make sure you hit yourself hard enough to induce vomiting. That should be a pretty accurate description, at least from my account, of the real world. Internships? Why don't you try these jobs on for size. Or don't. See if I care.

Stock Broker Page: This should get you some inside looks at how the market, and the American economy itself is run and managed, and will be an integral cog in the gear of society. You'll fetch coffee and bagels for some of the richest people who will never remember your name. And hey, if you get a chance to get on the trading room floor, the pick-pocket opportunities are awesome. How do you think I paid for all of that "therapy"?

Hospital Intern: Like changing bedpans ISN'T on your career wish list. If you treat work like I did (when I was actually gainfully employed), finding places to take four to five hour naps is of the utmost concern, and a hospital has more than enough bedrooms with locking doors to accommodate your needs. Have trouble sleeping? You should be able to round up enough prescription notepads to keep you asleep for eight to nine months.

Insane Asylum Orderly: You're going to want to know your future surroundings. Especially if you plan on marrying a clap-having jezebel, like I did. And if you plan on marrying, you probably will.

"Cherche Terry,

Est-ce que tu peux parler français? J'espere que tu peux le faire!"

Oui oui, j'aime to wee wee,

Jean LePeupeu

Excuse-moi, but I would read and respond but as soon as I recognized that it was written in French, I went into a rage-abounding frenzy, and had to be restrained by eight "nurses" by four types of elephant tranquilizers and the letter was destroyed. Sorry (not really, but I am polite)!

"Dear Terry,

I've heard that the business dept. only encourages investment banking. Why is that?"

I Like Money,

Debbie Does Banking

Because they're lonely. Oh and they want to live their lives through you, in the impotent hopes that maybe if you're successful they won't feel so hollow and weak. Sorry to go on a rant, my dad teaches investment banking and wrestling. So maybe I'm biased. Or maybe I'm kick ass. I think the latter.

Atonement certainly deserving of Oscar nods

By Meaghan Farno
Staff Writer

Heading out to the theatre to see *Atonement*, recently nominated for Best Picture of the Year? Make sure some warm cookies are waiting at home. While all may be fair in love and war, the combination makes for a pretty heart-breaking movie.

Heartbreak aside, Joe Wright, the award-winning director of 2005's *Pride & Prejudice*, has done a beautiful job. Like *Prejudice*, *Atonement* is a literary adaptation from the novel of the same name written by Ian McEwan in 2001. McEwan's story was short-listed for the prestigious Booker Prize, so it comes as no surprise that Wright's theatrical translation of this moving love story has caught the attention of viewers as well as the Academy.

The story begins on the hottest day of 1935 on the Tallis family estate. 13-year-old Briony Tallis (Saoirse Ronan), an aspiring playwright, has composed a play for her older brother, Liam, who is returning home that evening. Commissioning her younger and uninterested cousins as her actors, this rigid young girl with a rich imagination is introduced to the audience. As her actors abandon Briony's rehearsal, she, along with the audience witness something in the courtyard below: Briony's 23-year-old sister, Cecilia (Keira Knightley) undressing and jumping into a fountain at, what seems to be, the command of the Tallis' maid's son, Robbie Turner (James McAvoy), Cecilia's Cambridge classmate. What the young Briony cannot possibly perceive from her distant perch is the complicated status of Cecilia and Robbie's relationship, something they struggle to define and understand themselves.

Wright does a remarkable job in the film of contrasting these different characters' perceptions of the same events. While McEwan was easily able to change narrators, Wright must visually recreate McEwan's multi-protagonist novel through camera angle changes, thereby showing the shortcomings of a particular viewpoint.

Briony, alarmed by the exchange she has seen take place below her, also intercepts a racy and private message from Robbie to Cecilia, fueling her assessment of Robbie as a crazed sex fiend. Briony again intrudes on Cecilia and Robbie, at the very moment they surrender to their mutual attraction later that night. Combining the present scene with her confused interpretation of what she oversaw earlier, Briony mistakes their love making as Robbie's brutal attack of her sister. After dinner, one of Briony's actor-cousins, Lola, is assaulted in the family garden. Briony is certain that Robbie is the attacker and testifies that she saw Robbie harass her cousin with her own eyes. Robbie is arrested solely on Briony's misguided accusation, as no one aside from Cecilia and Robbie's mother believes in his innocence.

What I believe is most intriguing about the novel and the film is the sheer breadth of its emotional and physical scope. Already having served three years of his sentence, the outbreak of World War II gives Robbie the option of enlisting in the British Army to fulfill his debt to society. Picking the "lesser" of the two evils, Robbie is shipped to Dunkirk, France, soon to be part of the Dunkirk Evacuation of 1940. Wright's talent is undeniable in the poignant and disturbing panoramic view of the Dunkirk beaches.

As Robbie struggles through a grisly war, Cecilia struggles through her daily duties as a nurse, never giving up her hopes to be reunited and to rekindle a love that was never fully realized. Meanwhile Briony, as time passes, begins to grasp the gravity of her accusations. Forced to live with her guilt, Briony, like her sister, trains to be a nurse, indirectly seeking redemption by treating wounded British soldiers while always anxious that she might find Robbie among them.

Since *Atonement* is one of my favorite novels (fans of the movie should definitely pick it up), I was anxious to see how all the characters transitioned to the screen. Particularly interesting is Briony, who is not only the narrator for most of the novel, but whose perceptions and actions serve as the catalyst for the story itself. I was not disappointed. Knightley (who also worked with Wright on *Prejudice*) and McAvoy (of *The Last King of Scotland*) both give passionate performances. Without Knightley and McAvoy's palpable chemistry, *Atonement's* love story would have gone flat. I was most impressed with the young Briony, played by 13-year-old Saoirse Ronan. Ronan, especially as such a young age, was able to capture Briony's shyness and unruly imagination. The film opens by following Ronan as she rigidly weaves her way through the halls of the Tallis home. With her back held uncomfortably straight, Ronan methodically makes 90-degree turns at each corner, perfectly fitting to her character. Although Briony has a vivid imagination, her behavior in the real world is cold and awkward. Moments where Briony lets her guard down, particularly with Robbie, serve to show the audience the guard she usually



photo courtesy of movieposteraddict.com

keeps in place, choosing instead to escape into her own created world.

On the whole, Wright's *Atonement* stays true to the spirit of McEwan's novel. While it is almost always true that books are better than their film versions, I would argue that *Atonement's* transition to the screen adds a new dimension to McEwan's thought-provoking commentary on the tragedy of love and life torn apart by war, and the fact that life does not always afford for second chances.

Happens All The Time

By: Matt Jack



The icon that is Bond

By Adam Teer
A&E Editor

Bond, James Bond. It is a phrase everyone has heard countless times and is arguably one of the most recognized phrases in the world. The twenty-one officially released James Bond films have earned 4 billion dollars worldwide, -11 billion, if adjusted for inflation, making the series second to only the *Harry Potter* films. Ian Fleming, once just a British journalist, truly created an iconic character.

Last week the title of the 22nd Bond film, which stars *Casino Royale* alum Daniel Craig, was officially released at a press conference. The official title, I must regrettably inform you, is...*Quantum of Solace*. That's right, *Quantum of Solace*. There have been a few Bond movie titles that have been a little odd, like *Octopussy*, but most at least sound cool, like *The World is Not Enough*, or *License to Kill*. But *Quantum of Solace* sounds like the secondary title for a RPG videogame: *Final Fantasy: Quantum of Solace*. It's creative, certainly, but hard to take seriously.

Originally, for most of the films, the titles were taken from the novels by Ian Fleming, like *Thunderball* and *Live and Let Die*. *Casino Royale* was the most recent movie installment, which also took the last of Fleming's book titles. Most of the other titles used, like *The World Is Not Enough* and *Goldeneye*, come from the Bond world, but not a novel title itself. "The world is not enough" is the motto on Bond's family coat-of-arms, and

"Goldeneye" was the name of Fleming's Jamaican estate. *Quantum of Solace* gets its title from a short story in Fleming's *For Your Eyes Only*, but the film's plot has absolutely nothing to do with the story. For that matter, the short story is not even spy related, nor does 007 have a large role in it. It revolves around the governor of the Bahamas telling a story of the relationship between a former civil servant and a flight attendant. Doesn't really fit, does it?

In response to some criticism about the title, Daniel Craig said, "I was unsure at first. Bond is looking for his quantum of solace and that's what he wants, he wants his closure. Ian Fleming says that if you don't have a quantum of solace in your relationship then the relationship is over. It's that spark of niceness in a relationship that if you don't have you might as well give up." Later on in the interview, he said that *Quantum of Solace* refers to something else in the movie as well. I just hope that it is not the name of the secret organization that was introduced in *Casino Royale*.

Let's break down the words to see if that helps make it any less inane. Quantum means a quantity, amount, or portion. Solace refers to comfort in sorrow, misfortune, or trouble. So taken in context with what happened in the last film, it does make sense. Bond is still recovering from Vesper's death, so the title could be in reference to his lack of comfort

Bond, continued on Page 7

Rambo misses the target A Friday night at Senses

By Matthew Marker

John Rambo has had a long, interesting career (though less so with each passing sequel). In 1982's *First Blood*, easily the best of the bunch, Rambo is still dealing with the psychological scars he received in Vietnam. It is first and foremost a drama, not an action flick. Only one person dies in the entire film, since the point of the movie is to express Rambo's fragile state of mind and how he is unable to maintain the boundary between Vietnam and the real world (Washington state police hunt him for much of the movie after he 'forgets' this distinction). As the sequels went on, the franchise forsook this dramatic element in favor of action, culminating in *Rambo III*, which resembled *Die Hard: Afghanistan* more than an intimate character study. And now comes the latest installment—*Rambo*.

In terms of tone, this film probably falls somewhere between the second and third entries in the franchise. It's been 20 years, and Rambo is still living a quiet life in Thailand. Of course, somebody throws a monkey wrench into the works, as he is beseeched by a group of missionaries to take them to Burma and help the civilians there, who are being raped, tortured, killed, etc., by the Burmese military. After some hemming and hawing, Rambo consents. Of course, then things go wrong; arrows, bullets, machetes, and explosions ensue. On paper, this sounds like fun, but the movie takes itself way too seriously. It starts out with actual news clips of Burmese atrocities, suggesting that this movie is trying to tap into our need for a hero, someone who will go 'over there' and get the job done. No muss, no fuss. This might still be a workable formula, if it weren't for the other problems plaguing the movie.

Some of the dialogue is so bad as to be unbearable, and much of the acting is hammy; Stallone does an okay job, but others like Julie Benz (who is apparently only capable of acting when she's on *Dexter*) refuse to give up their straight-to-DVD acting styles. Then again, it's hard to act when they're not given all that much to work with, as most of the characters

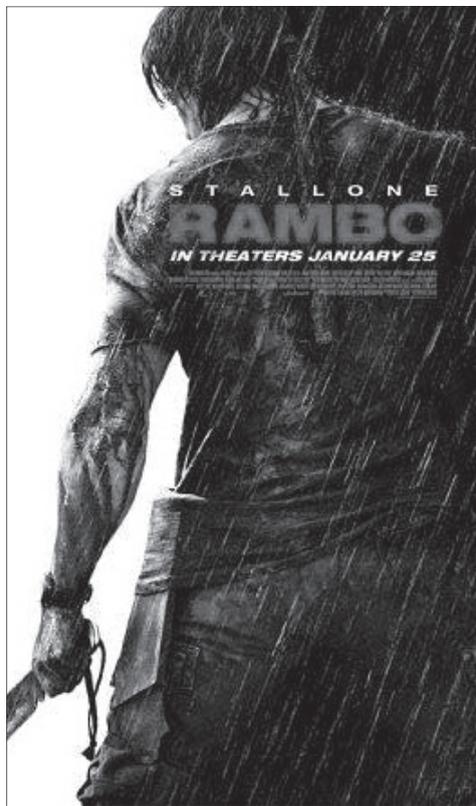


photo courtesy of movieposteraddict.com

are fairly one-dimensional. Stallone tries to drown these problems in blood and limbs, but once you've seen 50 innocent civilians get butchered, you've seen them all. Granted, there are some 'oh snap' moments when it comes to butchering the bad guys, but even these sequences get monotonous pretty fast (total body count = 236, according to the website Dark Horizons).

Rocky Balboa proved that Sylvester Stallone was capable of rejuvenating a franchise, bringing newfound humanity and emotion to a character that had hit new lows with *Rocky V*. John Rambo, on the other hand, was never really meant to have more than one film. To do so destroyed the nature of the character, transforming him from an emotionally tortured underdog into a one-man army. So, when standing at the movie theatre trying to decide how to spend nine dollars for a ticket, avoid *Rambo*. And go see *Cloverfield* again.

Bond films. It does not truly matter what the title of the 22nd Bond movie is, because people are going to pay money to see it regardless. Honestly, this is all the studio executives care about. James Bond has become an icon today and the name has a strong appeal attached to it. Every movie goes to number one at the box office and companies, like Omega and Smirnoff, line up to have James Bond endorse their product. They can do whatever they want, like reintroduce the character, and people are still waiting there with their eyes wide open in anticipation.

I understand that they are trying to stick with titles that Fleming created, but this is one title I would reject. However, as critical as I am of the film's title, I am still going to see it, which just goes to show that people want their James Bond fix, even if the next film sounds like a video game.

By Ralph MacDonald
Staff Writer

Senses, the nightclub with a strip club's name, is a locale rarely visited by most Rhodes students. Questions about the club's reputation are most commonly answered with descriptions such as "sketchy," "ghetto," and perhaps most damning of all, "University of Memphis hangout." My own investigation at first did little to dispel these rumors as it was marked by an encounter with six bouncers, a trip through a metal detector, and a full pat-down before finally being admitted into the club.

Once inside, one can visit the club's four bars: one outside the dance area with TVs playing ESPN all night, two near the dance floor, and one in the "V.I.P." section. The V.I.P. section was located about five feet above the dance floor with its own bar and booths, but had little else to justify the additional expense of sitting there.

The dance floor itself was surprisingly small, and was bombarded by vicious disco lights operated by a middle aged man who appeared very unhappy that his life had led him to this current position. A good number of the more badass patrons fought the disco lights' effects with sunglasses. One extremely hip client combined the glasses and gait of Stevie Wonder with the chains of Flava Flav, a combination that had all of the ladies swooning. Even cooler was his 5'11", 100-pound friend's facial hair that can best be described as a "molestache".

The action at the time of my ten-thirty arrival was rather slow. A blonde haired, bespectacled DJ was playing the latest rap as a small group of homely girls danced with each other, either for the joy of dancing or for lack of willing male partners. The over-forty-five crowd was beginning to fill up the V.I.P. room and was occasionally joined by some younger men who, at first glance, should not have been with the women they accompanied. However, I suspect these men were Memphis "Big-Shots," something that would not raise an eyebrow in most major cities, but is at least enough to bring in the premium *Senses* hotties. By eleven, there was a growing crowd of women on the floor and even dancing in the four elevated circles on each corner of the dance floor. No men had entered the dance floor, except for one who had unsuccessfully attempted asked one of the girls to dance on a dare.

Juvenile antics aside, no guy had yet attempted to dance with any of the eager ladies. It seemed as if being the first man on the dance

floor was a risky proposition. If the first attempt to dance with a girl is rejected, the prominent rejection can make future attempts that much more difficult. At Rhodes, this is usually addressed when some girlfriends drag their men onto the dance floor and other guys thus feel safer to make their move. At *Senses*, the single-sex dance floor was only broken up by about eight very talented black dancers, some of whom quickly found a female counterpart. Unfortunately, it took the white guys until almost midnight to make it onto the floor, possibly due to the talent displayed by the other dancers. The dance floor is a lonely place to do "The Twist," when everyone else is doing an outstanding performance of "The Superman." Perhaps if the D.J. had played "The Electric Slide," things might have evened out.

Once the booze was flowing and the dance floor opened up, the reservations left and pandemonium ensued. A couple moved a combined six-hundred pounds of girth, rubbing and grinding right in front of a high schooler who had been double-fisting Red Bulls all night. The boy began shaking and I suspect he was saved from a heart attack only by a drunk girl yelling "PARTY!" at him before being dragged away by her sober friend.

All four of the elevated circles were occupied, some by girls who probably left their house wearing something else so their parents would not object. Nearly everybody on the floor by this point was paired, if not tripled, up with people watching from the sides with envy.

Slick moves performed in the same vicinity begat small dance-offs that ended with an ultimate dance-off that took up nearly half the dance floor. No girls participated in the showdown but every guy who had skills was rewarded when the D.J. went "old school" with Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On." The song seemed to have a magical effect on the whole club, and even the Red Bull-guzzling high schooler found himself between two girls wearing an awkward expression of a boy trying to look cool about his surprising success.

Senses will never overtake *Zinnie's* as a Rhodes gathering place. Still, the place is normal enough that it is worth skipping an eighth straight night of *Guitar Hero* or a Jean-Claude Van Damme movie marathon to check out at least once. The combination of interesting people and an abundance of alcohol tends to lead to good things, so throw on some Air Force Ones and make a night of it.

Senses is located at 2866 Poplar Ave.

Bond, continued from Page 6

since her demise, leading to a streak of anger and revenge. On further review, the title is not as bad as it sounds, but I still do not think it works.

Since James Bond is so huge today, the producers can get away with pretty much anything. The reintroduction of James Bond as a hardened assassin in *Casino Royale* was a bit risky, but it worked overall. *Casino* took the franchise from light-hearted action flicks to a tougher and grittier place. This change was attempted earlier with 1969's *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, starring George Lazenby in his only performance as Bond but was not as well received as *Casino Royale* two years ago. This change shows that today's group of fans will eat up whatever is thrown at them, further seen in the most recent Pierce Brosnan

The Puzzler

? Estimate the number of piano tuners in Chicago. ?

? ? ? ? ? ?

If you think you know the answer, send it to rinsl@rhodes.edu for a chance to win two movie tickets!

Lynx hoopsters still struggle Track and Field opens

By Will Leibner
Staff Writer

The Rhodes Men's Basketball team suffered a pair of tough losses last weekend on a Texas road trip to Trinity and Southwestern. Sitting now at 7-11 overall and 2-6 in SCAC Conference play, the Lynx have their work cut out for them in order to make a late-season push to jump back into contention.

On Friday January 18th, the Lynx went down to Trinity 77-64 in San Antonio. Rhodes was led by strong backcourt play as senior point guard Joe Thompson poured in a career-high 28 points and junior shooting guard Cory Smith paced the Lynx with 18 points. Rhodes hung around for much of the first half, trailing 40-32 at the break. The Lynx looked poised to pull off an upset, pulling to within two points early in the second half, but a 14-0 Trinity run put the Lynx away for good. The Tigers were led by Patrick Robinson's 24 points, including 6-7 three-point field goals. Rhodes shot extremely well from deep, converting 48% on three-point attempts, including 10-13 from Thompson and Smith alone, but were unable to stop the 12-2 Tigers from opening up a lead that ballooned to 25 points at one point in the second half.

Rhodes traveled up the road to Georgetown to take on Southwestern on Saturday evening, falling 80-71 in a hard-fought battle. The Lynx got out of the gate quickly, jumping to an 8-0 lead to start the game and parlayed that into a 39-35 halftime advantage. In the second half, Rhodes struggled again, allowing 45 Southwestern points including a three-pointer from Pirate sophomore Anthony Cox just three and a half minutes into the half, which put Southwestern up to stay. Sophomore forward Reid Hamilton led the Lynx with 22 points and 12 rebounds, providing major life. Cory Smith again was solid, netting 21 points on 7-10 shooting, including his 1000th career point, a baseline jumper early in the first half. Smith became the 27th Rhodes player to accomplish this feat. He leads the SCAC in overall scoring with 306 points and figures to be an All-Conference performer yet again this season.

Women's basketball splits games

By Rebekah Keller
Staff Writer

The Rhodes women's basketball team split their games this weekend, winning Friday evening against Austin College before falling to Colorado College on Sunday. The games leave the Lady Lynx with an overall record of 8-10.

In Friday's game, Rhodes defeated the Austin College Kangaroos by a score of 69-64. Though the score remained extremely close throughout, Rhodes was able to keep their composure and pull out their first conference win of the season. Senior center Cameron Whitaker helped out by scoring a career high of 19 points and 11 rebounds. Senior guard Ashley Farrell also scored 19 points with 7 assists, while sophomore guard Becky Atnip contributed 17 points to give the Lynx the advantage they needed to overpower the Kangaroos.

Friday's victory marked an important one for the women's basketball team, as they are now tied with Sewanee for SCAC tournament play later in the season. "After last week, we'd pretty much hit a low point, so we could only get better from there," said senior Anne Brad-



Gwen Weil/The Sou'wester

The Lynx hold a 7-11 overall record after a series of tough road losses.

Rhodes looked to avenge their losses at home this past weekend. After falling yet again 70-61 at the hands of the Austin College Kangaroos on Friday night, the Lynx got back on the winning side with an 88-72 victory over Colorado College on Sunday afternoon. The Lynx jumped to a 12-0 lead early on and never looked back, en route to an important in-conference win. The Lynx were led by junior Smith yet again, who scored 24 points on the day including a thunderous dunk in the second half. Sophomore Reid Hamilton paced the Lynx down low, netting a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Lynx look to use this win as momentum as they head into road games at Millsaps and Hendrix this weekend to jump back into contention in the SCAC.

shaw. "Even though right now we're at the bottom of the conference, it only matters if we can make it into the tournament."

Sunday afternoon's game versus Colorado College was a battle on both sides. Though each side worked hard to maintain their lead, neither team was able to successfully do so for long, as the advantage was passed back and forth before the Lynx ultimately fell to the Tigers 77-72. The game's outcome was uncertain even in the final moments, as the Tigers held a mere lead of 73-69 with 26 seconds left to play. Although in the end Rhodes suffered a discouraging loss, Farrell had a standout game, leading the Lady Lynx by scoring a total of 32 points.

Rhodes looks forward to welcoming back a player from their bench, junior Kristen Lytle, who has been out with a broken leg and will be able to return earlier than expected, hopefully in next week's games. The women's basketball team heads for the road next weekend, looking to even out their record with games against Millsaps and Hendrix.

By Matt Bucholz
and Dave Huntzinger

The Lynx traveled to the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana this weekend for their first meet of the 2008 season. On the women's side, one of the highlights of the day was the women's 4 X 200 relay. Comprised of senior Sha King, sophomores Julia Goss and Kristin Forbes and freshman Molly Buck; the relay came in first with a time of 1:46.72. This bested the Rose-Hulman Sports and Recreation facility record by 2.32 seconds. With the same members the 4 X 400 relay followed up with a 1st place finish in a time of 4:06.68. Forbes also led the way in the open sprints with a winning of 7.39 seconds for the 55-meter dash; this is only .07 seconds away from the NCAA provisional national qualifying mark.

The Lynx competed very well in the jumps as well; Julia Goss came in first place in the long jump with a leap of 16' 11.5". Also placing first in her event was junior, Bekka Russ who cleared 5' 1" in the high jump.

The Lynx distance runners placed three runners in scoring spots in the women's mile. Senior Nici Thomas executed flawless race tactics and ran a well paced race to run a personal best of 5:33.83, good for 4th overall, and nearly four seconds ahead of her next competitor. Thomas' time was a twenty-three second improvement from a year ago at the same meet.

The men's track team opened the season

Why we hate the Patriots

By Ralph MacDonald
Staff Writer

For eighteen straight games now, the New England Patriots have gone undefeated and with each win it seems that America roots harder and harder for them to lose. The Patriots have become the new National Pariah of sports, taking the mantle from the New York Yankees.

That's mainly because the former "Evil Empire" seems to be neither anymore.

The Yankees have failed to win a World Series title in the last seven years, "The Boss" George Steinbrenner seems more preoccupied with not soiling himself in public than aggressively pursuing high-priced free agents, and in his absence general manager Brian Cashman has lowered the payroll to a level where competitive balance maniac's neck veins are at least a little less prominent.

Fortunately, the Patriots have stepped up to fill the void to give our nation of sports fans a common enemy to unite against.

On a personal level, this version of the Patriots is very easy to despise. They have a leader in Bill Belichick whose evilness knows no bounds. Belichick is short with the media, a quality that makes him appear aloof and superior and eminently hate-able. Furthermore, since he has been caught cheating in the opening game against the Jets, Belichick has seen it fit to run up the score on almost every team he's played—a show of poor sportsmanship that earns his team all the more scorn.

Belichick's devotion to running up the score has resulted in records being broken by players we do not want to encourage. Few people were happy to see stern, reserved Tom Brady break the affable Peyton Manning's single season touchdown record. Catching a single-season record of these touchdowns was the cocky Randy "I play when I want to" Moss, who took the distinction away

with many new faces eager to begin their college careers. In the throws, junior Larry Hurd placed 8th in the shot put with a toss of 40' 2.75". The 4 X 200 meter relay team featuring freshman Greg Palm, sophomores Greg Cook and Josh McMurray along with junior, Sean Jacobs finished 2nd overall with a time of 1:34.84.

The Lynx had 3 competitors in the finals of the 55 hurdles including freshman, Jonathon Mervine (2nd) and sophomores Jeremy Moye (5th) and Anson Purdy (7th).

"Mervine's performance today in the 55 hurdles is perhaps the fastest ever run by a freshman in Rhodes track history," said Coach Robert Shankman. "This bodes very well for the rest of the season".

In the jumps sophomore Greg Cook led the way with a second place finish in the triple jump with a mark of 42' even. In the high jump, senior Will Pitts, took 3rd place while Mervine placed 5th.

The Lynx distance squad got their first chance to turn over their legs on the track following a record setting cross-country season. Junior mid-distance specialist Steele French led the way, matching his 2007 indoor best with a 4:33.44 mile, good for 7th overall.

The Lynx have a three-week break from competition before they conclude their indoor season at the Depauw Classic in Greencastle, IN on February 16th.

from the hard-working and humble Jerry Rice. Moss is also in legal trouble for the second time since he's been in the league, this time for alleged assault of a woman friend.

But personal flaws are only a small part of the National Pariah recipe. The Cincinnati Bengals 54 man roster managed to get arrested 10 times in one calendar year, a record currently under assault by the single-handed efforts of the Titan's Adam "Pac-man" Jones and yet we seem to despise neither team. Nobody roots against the hapless Heat because of Ricky Davis, a renowned party animal who once threw the ball off his own goal in order to collect a triple-double.

No matter how unlikable a team is, on or off the field, the most crucial element to being the National Pariah is you must win. People did not develop a hatred of the Dallas Cowboys during the mid-nineties because of the Steinbrenneresque Jerry Jones, the egotistical Deion Sanders, the brash Michael Irvin, or even the drug-peddling Nate Newton. They developed the hatred because during the mid-nineties the Cowboys won three Super Bowls.

Like the Yankees, the hatred of the Cowboys has decreased from their twelve-year Super Bowl drought, but not even the insufferable Terrell Owens is enough to bring Pariah-ship to a losing team. The Patriots are establishing themselves as the first NFL dynasty since those much-hated Cowboys by earning Super Bowl wins in 2001, 2003, and 2004, with another ring for 2007-08 season looking imminent. Throw in an increasingly loud contingent of New England fans and their bandwagon passengers due to their recent domination of the baseball, basketball, and football scene, and we have set the stage for America vs. The Patriots.

A new National Pariah has been born and in less than a week, America will put its faith in Eli Manning to defeat it. God help us all.