

# THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCV. NO. 3



Does WWE Raw have its merits?

See Page 8

September 24, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

## Jewelry to fund the future

By NeNe Bafford  
Staff Writer

For many students studying abroad is life changing, but for Ben Lyon, a senior who spent last summer in Uganda, his experience not only moved him personally but also gave him the desire to help create change for the people he met.

Through the Minority Health International Research Training Program (MHIRT), Lyon was able to spend his summer in refugee camps interviewing former child soldiers. He heard them talk about the traumatic experiences they had gone through, which for some of them included being forced to kill their own parents. Listening to these stories caused Lyon to question the purpose of his visit to Uganda.

"The fact that I didn't contribute anything while I was there made me feel like a voyeur who was only interested in their suffering," said Lyon.

Lyon's conscience led him to the idea of establishing a small business that would help those in Uganda. Lyon's first idea came when a man that he met in Uganda, Okello John Speke, mailed him several beads that he had made for Christmas.

Lyon had been helping Speke get through school and knew that

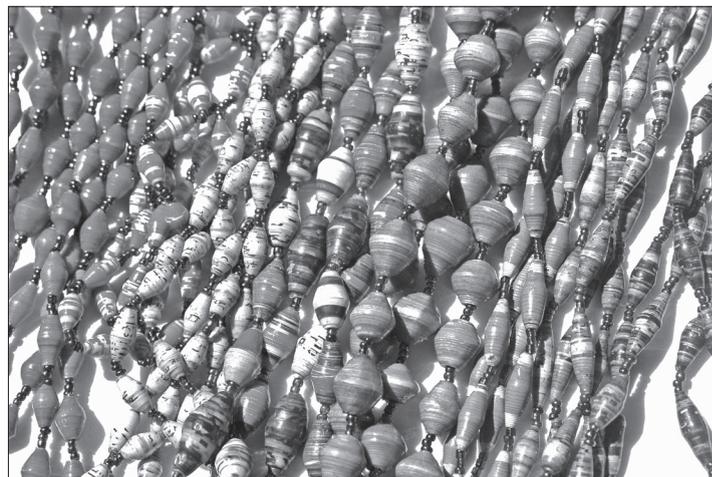


photo courtesy of Ben Lyon

Some of the jewelry currently being sold by Ben Lyon. Like all the jewelry, it is made by former child soldiers.

Speke was embarrassed that he had been taking money from him.

"Anytime you are the recipient of charity, you feel embarrassed," said Lyon.

To keep Speke from being embarrassed, Lyon told Speke that they could start selling his beads so that he could work his way through school, instead of depending on him.

A year later, Lyon started this small business, "Arudo Yat," which means "seedlings that grow from the stumps of trees" in the Luo language. He shares this business

with nine former child soldiers in northern Uganda.

The beads are made by Speke and the eight other former child soldiers and are made out of recycled paper that has been rolled end over end. The color of the beads is solely based on the color of the magazine advertisement that they use.

Lyon chose to make "Arudo Yat" a business instead of a charity.

"I think business is more reliable than charity, I'm register-

*Arudo Yat, continued on Page 4*

## RSG Update: Class Council Approved

By Matt McCulloch  
Staff Writer

The RSG conducted a senate session Thursday, September 11, where they discussed several issues.

During formal session, the Class Council's Constitution was approved. According to its supporters, the new councils will provide a voice to express class-related needs. For example, the sophomore council will assist students during their selection of a major, which the student body approved through a vote.

"I think this could be a great opportunity for students to become more involved in the continual development of campus life," said Allyson Pellisier, whose appointment as RSG Treasurer was approved at the meeting. "I hope to increase further the dialogue between Allocations Board members and student organizational leaders."

Other senators voted against its approval.

"We are already over-programmed and struggling to fill positions through elections," said Class of 2010 Senator Casey Mohan. "This is something that the students themselves should vote on and I hope they will take these potential problems into account when they do so."

There were also election matters that were decided and carried out. After an election and run-off, Matt McCulloch was elected to fill the position as Class of 2011 Senator. First-year students Jonathan Berube, Neha Mehta, James Chang, Ginny Keel, and Andy McGeoch were elected to the senate as well.

Along with appointments and elections, the senate discussed the progress of important campus issues.

The Student Services Committee reported that the move to the Burrow Center for Student Opportunity will take place during Winter break as scheduled. Student Organizations Relations Committee Chair Ben Lyons announced plans for the possibility of an on-campus Israeli-Palestinian conflict debate. RSG will be participating in Kappa Delta's All Sing fundraiser on September 26th. The Food Committee is planning one wine-tasting per semester, in addition to regular trivia nights. Senator Rachel Harpool is working with Campus Safety to adjust the "drunk cones," which are moved closer at night, at the Bailey Lane entrance.

RSG members spent part of the past weekend at their annual retreat, where they emphasized teamwork and the purposes of RSG.

## Interview with Dr. Helms

Janet E. Helms received her Masters degree in psychology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and her doctorate in psychology with a major in Counseling Psychology from Iowa State University. She is currently the Augustus Long Professor in the Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College and the founding director of the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, a scholarly organization that conducts research and training with a focus on racial and cultural diversity in scholarship, practice, and social policy.



Dr. Janet E. Helms

Each year the Institute sponsors a workshop with a focus on managing racial and cultural dynamics in education and mental health practice. Also, their national conference, Diversity Challenge, addresses significant societal issues pertaining to race and ethnic culture. She is President-Elect of the Society of Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association and a Fellow in the Society of Counseling Psychology and Society of Ethnic Cultural Diversity. She has also supervised the graduate research of more than 50 students who make positive differences in social policy by addressing diversity directly. As part of the African American Studies Lecture Series, Dr. Helms delivered a lecture on September 18 at Rhodes titled "A Race is a Nice Thing to Have." Below are excerpts from an interview that William Bruce, the News Editor of *the Sou'wester*, conducted with Dr. Helms after the lecture.

**William Bruce: What are schemata?**

**Dr. Helms:** In this case schemata are lenses that you view racial dynamics, and behavior. They're divided into six categories, and the environment we're in is what generally determines which one's characteristics we display most strongly.

**William Bruce: What would you say is the strongest schemata of a typical college student?**

**Dr. Helms:** In a predominantly white college, Contact is the most common schemata. Contact is where an individual's interactions with other racial groups are usually characterized by naiveté or curiosity. The person doesn't think of themselves as white and is constantly rediscovering other racial groups. I don't consider people to be restricted to only one schema though; people can have the characteristics of several different schemata. Also, their strongest schemata can change depending on what environment they're in and with whom they choose to interact.

Rhodes has a predominately white student population, and some consider it to be somewhat disconnected from the surrounding com-

*Interview, continued on Page 4*



Love Rhodes Radio but not sure when your favorite shows come on? Check page 4 for a detailed schedule.

# The government to the rescue... but was the government the problem?

By Paul Yacoubian  
Opinion Editor

In an ideal state the government should not have to interfere in the marketplace, but the past few tumultuous months have shown how far this idea is from reality. For example, not many people would suggest that the government should stop enforcing property rights. Our legal system is one of the many ways that government intervention contributes to our high standard of living in the United States.

Because the markets are not perfect, problematic situations invariably arise in which government regulation becomes necessary for the stability of the economy. In the current financial crisis, we can observe the effects of poor incentives in financial decision making. Many mortgage lenders were paid by the number of mortgages and did not have anything at stake in case a customer defaulted. Credit rating institutions were paid by those who desired a high rating on their securities, rather than investors who desired true valuations and practical information. Investment banks took bigger risks in investing since they were considered to be "Too Big to Fail" and bailed out by the Federal Reserve.

Because the Federal Reserve held interest rates below the free market levels in order to encourage economic investments, rational people began investing in projects with low rates of return. This explains why so many bad investments are now sitting on the books of banks, waiting to be rescued by one of the largest government bailouts of all time. Simply put, too many home loans were granted because credit was easy, thanks to low interest rates.

Although it is difficult to pinpoint a singular cause of the current financial crisis, we must understand that solutions to these economic problems lie in correcting bad government policies as well as regulating areas of market failures in order to ensure a stable economy. This is why when CNN.com asks the poll question, "Who's to blame, Democrats or Republicans?", I cannot help but think how stupid that question is considering neither party chose to condemn the seven million subprime loans. Instead, they found the increasing home ownership rates to be encouraging.

Few members of congress actually know about the real effects of government regulation. Ron Paul is one of these exceptions, since he sits on the congressional banking committee and chose to make the economy



photo courtesy of truckers4ronpaul.org

a cornerstone of his presidential candidacy. For more information, his views on this financial crisis are available at (<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/23/paul.bailout/index.html>).

He suggests that limiting regulation by the government to cases of market failure will be the most effective way to reduce the burden of the government on taxpayers while, simultaneously, strengthening our ability to sustain real economic growth. I recommend that you stay informed, because many uninformed people have lost their life savings because of bad personal finance decisions that could have been prevented with moderate knowledge of finance and economics.

The solution to these problems exists outside the realm of politics, yet it is the politician who will be the one to make these regulatory decisions in the coming days. Being less than 60 days away from the election makes this an especially dangerous situation, given the possibility of treacherous politicization leading towards a path of devastation.

## What celebrities tell us about ourselves

By Dean Galaro  
Staff Writer

How do you feel about yourself? Self-esteem is a complicated phenomenon wherein people evaluate themselves based on emotions or beliefs, and it can have a direct influence on the way a person acts. Low self-esteem can be unhealthy both socially and physiologically, but a newly published study in the *Journal of Personal Relationships* has shed new light on an interesting connection: the link between celebrity worship and high self-esteem.

These days there is no escaping gossip and news about the fashionable and formidable world of the entertainment industry, especially in print. If it is unclear as to whether Americans are hooked on celebrities then one must simply look to *People* magazine. It is the number one celebrity magazine in the United States with combined circulation sales (subscription sales plus single issue sales) of \$526,142,650 in 2007. Yes, half a billion dollars was spent last year on *People* magazine in the United States alone. *People* magazine's circulation (number of copies sold per issue) for 2007 was 3,676,499, meaning that they sell, as a weekly magazine, approximately 191,177,948 copies annually (0.67 copies per capita).

According to Shira Gabriel, head of the recently published study, when people worship ce-

lebrities it creates what is known as a parasocial relationship. These are relationships that are not normal, or in this case, outside the social norm. The kind of relationship a person forms with their favorite celebrity is not real or tangible in any way, yet some people feel very deep and powerful emotions about them, regardless of rationale. What comes of this is, as Gabriel puts it, is that the person may "experience movement toward the ideal self," thus boosting self-esteem, which is something people can have trouble doing in the real world. If pushed, the human brain can sometimes have trouble differentiating between relationships that are real and those that we imagine.

Obviously, these findings do not mean that everyone who reads *People* or watches "TMZ" is on the brink of a psychological breakdown or is a crazed stalker, but it can help shed some light on the condition of modern human relationships. While there are varying degrees of attachment to the lives of celebrities, there are millions of people who care, at least a little bit, to what is going on in LA (i.e. "The Hills"). Americans enjoy watching other people on television because they represent extremes: what people would like to be and what they can be glad they are not. Television today is populated with degenerates and divas that have become the measurements of success and failure. People use these measurements to define their

own self-worth, but celebrities are different from our friends because, from our perspective, they live in a fantasy world where everyone is good looking and wealthy. Sadly, for this reason, people drown themselves in paparazzi photographs and sound bites from "Entertainment Tonight" in an attempt to construct a bond with someone better than themselves. Following where George Clooney is eating lunch and with whom is a much easier way to cultivate a "relationship" than the time and energy it takes to make a real relationship blossom. Thankfully, for now, this is the exception and not the rule.

While admiring celebrities can boost a person's self esteem, it should never replace human interaction. We should be wary as to how much we really care about television and lifestyle magazines. Shira Gabriel's work has shown that thinking positively about a person can help us feel better, but she warns that when push comes to shove the tangible relationships in life are the ones that will support us, not the one we foster with Rihanna. People need to take a step back and think about how much they've invested in their friends and family compared to how much they've invested in *People* magazine. Let's make sure we're resting our self-esteem on something a bit more stable than Lindsay Lohan after a night at the club.

## THE SOU'WESTER

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## How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

*The Sou'wester* is a member of the Student Media Board, a consortium that includes the editors of all student media outlets, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

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 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.

## Reaching *The Sou'wester*

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# Postmodernism and the downfall of civilization

By Austin Freeman  
Staff Writer

I have spoken several times to people who, during conversation, will try to convince me that nothing is real and nobody really exists (or at least that you can't prove it). Allow me a moment to roll my eyes in exasperation. This view, which I shall call 'postmodernism,' has become increasingly prevalent in our society today. I think that many hold to the view simply to be seen as "enlightened" or because it makes them feel like rebels against society. There are some serious flaws in the basic concept of postmodernism itself.

The first flaw is that of its human-centric bias. Postmodernists seem to have a view of humanity that the universe is defined by what WE perceive it to be or, rather, not to be. That seems a little arrogant to me. Much better to say that the universe is defined by what its Creator has fashioned it to be; humanity, even the postmodernists will admit, has vastly limited perceptions.

The second problem with this philosophy is one of definition. What is the definition of reality? The postmodernist will answer that there isn't one, and

that the word definition has no meaning. This is obviously false, as I can't be communicating to you right now without there being some meaning assigned to the concepts I am introducing. The argument that "something" has no meaning itself becomes meaningless, and thus should be disregarded. Anyway, postmodernists say that reality has no definition, but what they actually mean is that they don't want to give it one. If reality has no meaning, then I can assign whatever meaning I want to it, such that reality can be the sum of my perceptions and what I perceive to be other human beings. Or it could be purple elephant vacuum cleaner.

The postmodern view that "nothing can be proven to exist" falls prey to its own premise, in that such a statement would be an absolute in the universe, something which postmodernists deny.

Another problem with this view arises when one interacts with society. If there is no way to prove that other people exist, then I can do whatever I want to them, exploit them in any way I see fit, and justify it by saying that they're not really people at all. Does this sound familiar?

# FEMA finally doing one heck of a job

By John Ayers

Go back three years to the scenes of New Orleans underwater, people stranded on rooftops, fires burning, and the Superdome chaos. Come back to the present and look at the aftermath of Ike. Are you seeing the same thing? Are you people unable to get out of Galveston or Houston and FEMA failing to do its job? No.

We all remember the criticism facing George W. Bush after commending FEMA director, Michael Brown, for doing a "heck of a job." We were surprised to find our own people so helpless in such a historic city. New Orleans is just now recovering fully from Katrina, as a majority of its people have returned to life as usual. In fact, when New Orleans was threatened again earlier this month by Hurricane Gustav, Mayor Ray Nagin took the initiative in warning everyone to get out. Considering the failures of Katrina, the averted disaster by Gustav was further compounded by the resilience of the people and serves as a test of strength to the newly rebuilt levies.

Despite the situations in New Orleans being somewhat different compared to Texas, we can definitely take note that our disaster response has improved dramati-

cally over the last 3 years. Immediately following landfall, state and federal officials sent out helicopters, police, and firemen to stabilize the situation. Many people were rescued, food and water was distributed, and areas were canvassed for trapped or injured people in a timely manner. Our governmental agencies came through and fulfilled on their missions to serve and protect American lives.

The last official death toll stood at about 50. Many of the casualties resulted from failure to heed the advanced warnings and deciding to stay instead. Precipitating the storm, those who were unable to leave were aided by state and federal agencies and transported to safe areas. Not only that, but also agents went from door to door checking on people and advising those who were staying how to be best prepared for the storm. We should be proud of the preparedness of our government in this major ecological disaster. From President Bush down to the police and volunteers, praise should be granted for a job well done. Everything worked smoothly according to plan and many lives were undoubtedly saved by their efforts.

# I'm on a highway to Dell

By Ryan Costello

Dell computers never work. I own a Dell Inspiron 1525, and my experience is a testament. I am certain that anyone else who owns a Dell computer also knowledge of the usual problems. These computers click in random places, blue screens of death pop up abruptly and hard drives fail. The system overheats because it was not designed according to sound engineering principles. Consequently, buying a new hard drive is inevitable; however college students have trouble affording these pricey fixes.

If you call Dell Support or as many know it Dell Hell, chances are the call center half way around the world, with people can barely speak English will attempt to assist you. As you may expect, they fail miserably. First, you will be asked to repeat yourself multiple times in addition to speaking slower. Then, if you are lucky, they will transfer you to someone else who can "better assist you." If you are not lucky, they will simply say that they can not understand you and hang up. If you are transferred one time, you will be transferred again. Eventually, you will end up back with the person who answered your call.

This person will try to help you again and will suggest you try something you have already tried many times before you called. Because of his or her incompetence, they will try to re-transfer you, and the cycle starts over. Finally, you hang up angrily and blog about how much you hate

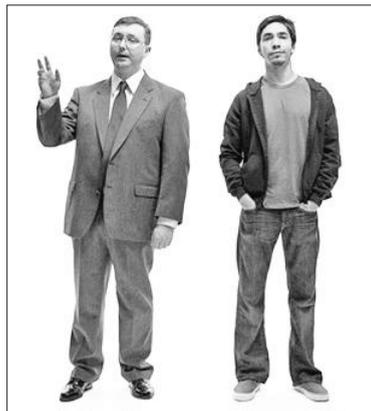
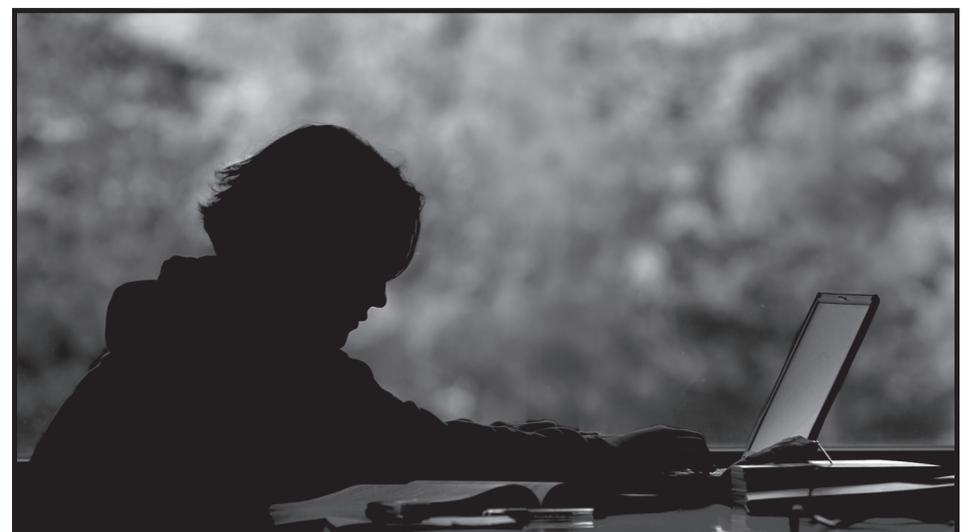


photo courtesy of cultureby.com

Dell, but your voice will get lost in the oblivion that is the internet forum.

The outsourcing of jobs that saves Dell millions of dollars each year compromises customer satisfaction. While Dell's shares continue to grow, customer satisfaction is at an all-time low. Dell has fired over seven thousand American employees in order to better serve the short-sighted stockholder. The largest outsourcing is surprisingly to India, where three call centers are located. Supposedly after many complaints, Dell decided that business customers will be re-directed back to the United States, but individual customers are still directed overseas. Therefore, the problem is not solved, but I am sure Dell will say that they are taking steps to investigate the problem and contrive solutions. My solution is to simply stay away from Dell.



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# Rhodes Radio Schedule

You can tune in to Rhodes Radio at 92.1 FM or listen to the webcast at [www.rhodesradio.org](http://www.rhodesradio.org).

- Sunday:**  
 4:00 PM- Laura Sellers  
 5:00 PM- Wes Barker  
 6:00 PM- Fire and Soul (Michael Pham)  
 7:00 PM- Americana the Beautiful (Prof. Johnson)  
 8:00 PM- Taking Bach Sunday (Farrell Varner)  
 9:00 PM- Trial Run/Class Episodes (You)  
 10:00 PM- Not Fade Away (Aaron Michelson & Sammy Knefati)  
 11:00 PM- Not Fade Away
- Monday:**  
 12:00 PM- In Bed by Eight-12:30- (Prof. Sara Gremillion)  
 3:00 PM- Red Rocks to Rocking Chairs: An American Jam Primer (Allen Peirce)  
 5:00 PM- Punk Rock 101 (Darren Findlay)  
 6:00 PM- Open All Night (Michael James Gossett)  
 7:00 PM- Overtime (Will Leibner)  
 8:00 PM- Rumpus Room (Emily Sellars)  
 9:00 PM- Electric Dream Machine (Casey Mohan and Emily Wheelwright)  
 10:00 PM- Dancin' Anson at 10 (Anson Jeng)  
 11:00 PM- Hora Decubitus (Andrew Miller)
- Tuesday:**  
 9:00 AM- Jon's Music Time  
 10:00 AM- The Gloryland Sunshine Routine-Michael Gosset and Alex Iberg  
 3:00 PM- Study Group (Brad Taylor and Charlotte Watson)  
 4:00 PM- Guerilla Radio (Justin LeBlanc)  
 5:00 PM- Gold Soundz (Stephen Noble)  
 6:00 PM- ANT Radio (Halley Johnson and Michael James Gosset)  
 7:00 PM- ANT Radio (Halley Johnson and Michael James Gosset)  
 8:00 PM- Gin and Tronic (Rebecca Bates and Derek Washam)  
 9:00 PM- The Afterparty's Afterparty (Kate Lindeman)  
 10:00 PM- TV Talk w/ Jeremy and Dillon (Michael Tufton)  
 11:00 PM- A Little Night Music (Tracy Barnhill)
- Wednesday:**  
 10:00 AM- Adam's Artist Showcase  
 3:00 PM- Red Rocks to Rocking Chairs: An American Jam Primer (Allen Peirce)  
 4:00 PM- Don't Think Twice (Scott O'hara & Kellie Montalvo)  
 5:00 PM- Don't Think Twice (Scott O'hara & Kellie Montalvo)  
 6:00 PM- Off the Grid (William Smith) News/Talk  
 7:00 PM- You're Living All Over Me (Mark Wadley)  
 8:00 PM- Charlotte Watson and Olivia Wood "Kill Wednesday"  
 9:00 PM- Dev Varm and Ben Freid  
 10:00 PM- Alex Iberg
- Thursday:**  
 12:00 PM- Wreckx-n-Effethics (Chad Ahren)  
 3:00 PM- Red Rocks to Rocking Chairs: An American Jam Primer (Allen Peirce)  
 4:00 PM- The Sou'Wester Show  
 5:00 PM- The Gun Show- Jeremy Culver and Jared Blanton  
 6:00 PM- Action Banter Fun-Time, Go! (Jonathan Cashon & Adam Teer)  
 7:00 PM- Steele French & Mark Handleman  
 8:00 PM- Steel French & Mark Handleman  
 9:00 PM- Between the Sheets (Mark Donnelly & Ryan Milvenan)  
 10:00 PM- Power Hour (Doug DesRoches & Blake Martin)  
 11:00 PM- The Afterparty's Afterparty (Kate Lindeman)
- Friday:**  
 3:00 PM- Jersey and Anson "Dancin Anson and Blue Jersey"  
 4:00 PM- Chris Gignoux  
 5:00 PM- RSG Rep Talks  
 6:00 PM- Hunter's Film & Metalworks (Hunter Duesing & Kevin Comer)  
 7:00 PM- Hunter's Film & Metalworks (Hunter Duesing & Kevin Corner)
- Saturday:**  
 1:00 PM- Blues Cruise (Wei Yu)  
 7:00 PM- New York State of Mind (T.J. O'Brian & Max Hardy)

## Retraction

We would like to retract two statements made in the September 17, 2008 issue of the Sou'wester. These statements were made in the "Islam on campus" article found on page one.

1. We incorrectly stated Shan Khan was the Director of publicity for the Muslim Student Association. Khan is actually the Co-Vice President.
2. We also incorrectly stated that September is the month of Ramadan. Actually the timing of Ramadan changes every year.

# CAMPUS SAFETY

September 14-20

- 09/14**  
 11:10 am: Due to the high winds, a tree branch fell on a student's car. Campus safety enlisted the help of maintenance and their forklift to remove the limb. Vehicle suffered some damage; photos taken, report filed.  
 1:00 pm: Vehicle belonging to Lynx Lair employee repossessed.  
 10:55 pm: Fire alarm Stewart Hall; cause of alarm dirty smoke detector.
- 09/15**  
 7:50 am: Accident at the intersection of University and North Parkway. MPD made the scene; no Rhodes student or faculty involved.
- 09/16**  
 8:05 am: Two counts of vandalism; one in Buckman Hall and the other in Palmer.
- 09/17**  
 8:00 am: Both University and Tutwiler, adjacent to the church, coned out for this weekend's Clam Jam Fry.  
 4:16 pm: Residents on Tutwiler called Campus Safety complaining about student's vehicles always parked in front of their homes.
- 09/18**  
 1:00 am: Noise complaint; officer dispatched; problem resolved.  
 7:22 am: Vandalism in Hassell Hall; report filed.  
 1:00 pm: Two individuals observed attempting to jump the fence off of University. Subjects questioned, stating that they had been coming here for years to play basketball. Both subjects were turned away.  
 3:00 pm: Fire drill Trezevant and Williford.
- 09/19**  
 1:23 pm: Alarms going off in Buckman, Palmer and Barret due to a power glitch; systems reset.
- 09/20**  
 2:59 pm: Five alcohol violations cited in the Mallory parking lot.  
 4:00 pm: SAE fraternity house advised about playing music too loud.

*Arudo Yat*, continued from Page 1

ing the company with IRS as a small business," said Lyon.

"As the sole proprietor, I will keep 10% of the profit for administrative and marketing costs, and the remaining 90% will go back to the cooperative in Uganda. This way everyone involved gets 10%," said Lyon.

So far, Lyon has received one shipment from Uganda, which included 400 necklaces and bracelets. Within one month, Lyon sold nearly 300 bracelets and necklaces and has sent back the equivalent of three years income back to Uganda.

Lyon is also establishing an emergency fund which will help pay for medical expenses and cover unexpected costs like the burial of a loved one for the members of the business in Uganda. He hopes to keep expanding the business to include more people.

"My greatest hope is that our members in Uganda will use the money to hedge against uncertainty and invest in their futures," said Lyon.

The cost of the jewelry ranges from \$3.00 for bracelets to \$12 for triple strand necklaces. Soon Lyon will be selling earring sets as well. If you are interested in buying this jewelry, you can either email Lyon at [lyobml@rhodes.edu](mailto:lyobml@rhodes.edu) or visit the website at [www.arudoyat.org](http://www.arudoyat.org), which will be fully functional and PayPal accessible within the next month.

*Interview*, continued from Page 1

munity.

**William Bruce: How do you feel this affects Rhodes students?**

**Dr. Helms:** Well, if they never have to think about the subject of race then they never get challenged. It's important to discuss race because that's how people work to better understand it. If you don't get out of the cocoon of a predominantly white environment you could go through your life not recognizing that other people are different. This means a typical student is likely to find himself in a situation where he has to function with people of a different race, and he'll realize that he lacks the skills to know how to do so. Students need to challenge themselves by talking about these issues and reflecting on who they are as a member of a race.

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Daily SuDoku: Tue 16-Sep-2008

medium

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## One-Man-Bands: popping up in pop culture

By Lizz Glaus

The popular music scene is beginning to experience a major comeback from the "one-man-band." Myspace and iTunes are now officially flooded with young, up-and-coming solo artists seeking the levels of success Daniel Hunter (PlayRadioPlay!) and Bryce Avary (The Rocket Summer) achieved.

There are several artists on the rise that I think deserve an extra dose of attention to keep them going.

Probably the most well known, and certainly the oldest, even at age 31, is Canadian blues and folk songwriter Jeremy Fisher, who released his debut album, *Back Porch Spirituals*, independently in 2001. After a six month trans-Canadian tour on a bicycle, Fisher signed to Sony BMG, and released *Let It Shine* in 2004. In 2007, he launched himself into the American folk music scene with *Goodbye Blue Monday*, which I discovered one day through a Paste magazine CD sampler, and fell in love.

This latest release features the harmonica and acoustic guitar, and is full of soulful, upbeat melodies you will never want to turn off. In a nutshell, *Goodbye Blue Monday* just makes me feel good. It's one of those albums you'll always keep in your car for a rainy day or a long trip, and it will always cheer you up.

Fisher recently released a new single, titled "Remind Me," with Wind-Up Records. The full album attached to the single promises to be just as phenomenal as the first three (you can listen to "Remind Me" at [www.myspace.com/jeremyfisher](http://www.myspace.com/jeremyfisher), which he keeps well updated) and should come out later this year or early 2009.

I should also note that Fisher's homemade videos for "Scar That Never Heals," "Cigarette," and "Jolene" are well worth a look on YouTube.

Next on my list is Chase Coy; perhaps better known as "Dear Juliet," a pseudonym he dropped earlier this summer. Coy is a 17-year-old acoustic indie/folk performer from Greenwood, Indiana. He falls easily into my "ultra-mellow" category on iTunes—and I highly recommend his second EP *Goodbyes and Autumn Skies* (May 2008), as well as the *Dear Juliet* EP from 2007, or any older demo singles if you need a good cry, or a solid night's sleep.

Chase is currently in his basement working on a full-length album to be released November 18, 2008. Both the *Dear Juliet* EP and *Goodbyes and Autumn Skies* are available only on iTunes but they are well worth the hassle of adding a few extra bucks to your account.

Updates for Chase Coy can be found at [www.myspace.com/chasecoy](http://www.myspace.com/chasecoy).

Another 17-year-old, from Joplin, Missouri, is Christopher Drew, or nevershoutnever!, whose most recent release,

*The Yippee* EP, made me want to meet him, just so I could pinch his cheeks. His songs feature acoustic guitar, piano, a lot of well-timed clapping, and upbeat electronic background tracks that channel Hellogoodbye and PlayRadioPlay.

A word of caution, though—nevershoutnever! songs can and will get stuck in your head. So he may not be the best choice for those of you who don't want to be seen sitting in class bobbing your head and tapping your toes for no apparent reason.

Nevershoutnever! appeared on MTV's TRL about a month ago. He has one previous release that I am aware of, entitled "Demo-Shmemo." And he is always cranking out new songs to be heard on his trusty Myspace profile ([www.myspace.com/nevershoutnever](http://www.myspace.com/nevershoutnever)). If you love Hellogoodbye and Postal Service as much as I do, you are sure to enjoy the soothing synth-pop sounds of Christian artist Owl City (Adam Young), from Owatonna, Minnesota. His 2007 EP *Of June* is wonderful—one of those rare albums you can listen to all the way through without even noticing that the songs changed because the transitions are so smooth. His most recent release, a full-length album entitled *Maybe I'm Dreaming* (March 2008), is equally fluid and captivating. Both albums are available on iTunes.

Last but not least is another acoustic folk artist named Jacob Disedare, better known as The Passing Lane, from Monroe, Louisiana. I had the privilege of sitting on stage next to him as he performed at a small show in Auburn, Alabama some time last year. I bought his earliest EP, *Where The Road Ends*, at the end of the show and soon afterward I knew every song and began my obsessive search for more of his music. He released *When I Get Home* late in 2007 and is currently hard at work on his first full-length album, *Ghost*, for 2008 or early 2009, and I am on the edge of my seat.

You can download several of The Passing Lane's songs on Jacob's Myspace profile ([www.myspace.com/thepassinglane](http://www.myspace.com/thepassinglane)), and *Ghost* will hopefully appear on iTunes "sooner, rather than later," according to The Passing Lane himself.

There is certainly no shortage of amazing, genuine artists like these that deserve exponentially better coverage than they are getting now. I encourage you to take the time to find them, whether it's going to shows (some of the best I have been to were only 5 or 10 dollars), searching online, or in music magazines such as Paste, Under the Radar, Alternative Press, and Alarm. Jeremy Fisher listed Canadian folk artist and accordion player Geoff Berner as his current favorite, if you are looking for a good place to start!

## Sun Studio: a musical must for Memphians

By Jerica Sandifer  
Executive Assistant

Hours: 7 days a week, 10:00- 6:00  
Tour Times: 7 days a week, every half hour  
10:30-5:30  
Prices: \$9.50, children 3-12 are free

If Elvis is the "King of Rock and Roll," then Graceland might be called the Kingdom of Rock and Roll; but not because Elvis first recorded there, as you may assume. He wasn't the first. I'm going to make you take the tour to find out who actually recorded what music historians call the first Rock and Roll song.

There are just some places you have to go, if you are going to be a true Memphian. As the tour guide, David Brookings, said, "It's just not right to not see Sun if you live in Memphis." And Sun Studio is not just about Elvis. If you watched the 2005 film, *Walk the Line*, then you might be interested to see the original studio where Johnny Cash walked up to Sam Phillips and begged him to listen to his songs. The tour also includes trivia about B.B. King, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Bono. Yes, Bono. U2, Paul Simon, Ringo Starr, Def Leppard, Bonnie Raitt, Maroon 5, and even Dennis Quaid have recorded at Sun in the past few years. If you would like, you can join the ranks and make your own record at Sun for \$30.

You may not have \$30, but if you have \$9.50, my advice is to take the tour. Whether you were a Rock and Roll fan previously or not, Sun Studio will make you one.

What really made the tour was the guide, David. He adds humor to the tour and even

throws the vintage mic around. David has his own music career, so he is knowledgeable about the business; I listened to his CD and it's quite good, by the way. It has the 60's feel of the Beatles, but that is a different story.

The tour is sort of magical: it takes you back in time. According to David, his favorite part about guiding the tour is seeing people's expressions.

"You really feel something when you walk into Sun." Some people feel it so much they cry. Yes, Sun Studio has seen several tears, so there's no shame for you die hard fans out there. Although, perhaps what you feel is ghostly activity. BBC's show, *Dead Famous*, came to Sun to search out ghosts of its musicians. David thinks they are there, but friendly, so have no fear.

Sun Studio is so special it was made a National Historic Landmark in 2003. It is the only recording studio to hold that honor. In the addition to the original studio, there is an old fashioned soda fountain and tons of merchandise. There is all the standard memorabilia like t-shirts, hats, and mugs, in addition to original newspapers with the news of Elvis's death, CDs sold only at Sun, and vintage records and posters.

But Rhodes students make up a very small part of the tour groups. Brookings says, "Occasionally, a few Rhodes students will come in for a project or something, but we should be seeing truckloads of Rhodes students in here. I think music is important to Rhodes students, and Sun is important not just to music history, but also American history."

If you have any interest in music, you should have already been. If not, please correct your mistake immediately.



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# Tyler Perry delivers movies with faith and hope

By John Bryant

A popular director, playwright, and writer, Tyler Perry has burrowed himself a cozy niche within a loyal African-American demographic. Despite his narrow market, his movies consistently break box-office predictions, his plays are performed in sold out theatres, and his book, *Don't Make a Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings*, peaked at number one on the New York Times Best-seller list. Clearly he has struck a chord with his audience.

Despite his popularity, Tyler Perry and his brand have come under heavy fire from critics. The biggest criticism hurled at him is his heavy-handedness as a director: his films are often considered threadbare pretenses for the tedious mixture of self-righteousness and didacticism that bleeds through. Another dagger thrown is a condemnation of his cinematic style: his films are uniformly stamped with a scatter-

shot mix of preachy melodrama and poorly executed sitcom comedy, with the jarring switch between the two styles often causing cinematic whiplash. The final brunt of the criticism concerns the Madea character (played by Tyler Perry himself). Loud, abrasive, and honest to a fault, she is considered an unfair caricature of the African-American matriarch. I must concede that it is often easy to be cynical about Tyler Perry movies, but I have found that the moment I separate myself from my "critic's sensibilities" and simply watch them as a human being, I begin to love them. Tyler Perry has a strange way of dismantling my cynicism and I now find his movies enormously powerful and vital. I am a convert, a Tyler Perry disciple.

My first point of defense: calling the Madea character a simple parody of black women is cruelly dismissive. Sure, there are elements of parody, but, having studied Ty-

ler Perry's films long enough, I have come to appreciate her character as an embodiment of something else: the ethos of African-American consciousness funneled into a six foot five pistol-packing African-American matriarch. That is to say, what appears on the surface to be a gross stereotype actually belies a careful degree of subtlety Tyler Perry has put into the character to make her speak for something much larger than herself. Onscreen, she is the mouthpiece for an entire culture, a choragus standing in and echoing the audience's appreciation for and understanding of the fundamental values of forgiveness and faith. It is a high-wire act for sure, walking the line between parody and sincerity, but the character embodies this paradox and works them in tandem to produce something greater than the sum of its parts. Seeing her onscreen, you are at once struck by the wit of her one-liners and antics, but are also taken aback by the careful way she resonates with the African-American frequency.

It is in his latest move, *The Family That Preys*, that I rest my second point of defense and attempt to dissuade those who would otherwise label Perry movies as preachy soap operas. *The Family That Preys* shows Perry working at his peak, weaving a tight melodrama into the stitching of a larger pattern: faith, grace, and redemption. There is a notable absence of preachiness here (a point which I usually cede to my Perry nay-

sayers). The characters never feel like simply the "whore" or the "righteous man," but have come to inhabit real space and feel like real, breathing characters. This is especially true with the story's two heroines: the aging southern bell, Charlotte (Kathy Bates), and her long time African-American friend, Alice (played absolutely wonderfully by Alfre Woodard), as they both try to deal with the problems they and their families face: adultery, greedy business deals, debt, and drug addiction. The result is Tyler Perry working in his element, conjuring a tight, subtle drama that resonates on a deep level with the intended African-American demographic. That is Perry's relevance. It is hard to find a director nowadays so in tune with his viewer's attitudes and so adept at re-affirming onscreen what they cherish most. In the theatre, I could not help but look around and realize that perhaps I was the only white person in the theatre; beyond that I was amazed at just how receptive the audience was to his message, often physically nodding in affirmation, reciprocating feedback by saying "That's so true" and "Oh yes, that's right." It is a kind of intimate connection between artist and viewer that is unheard of nowadays. And in a world so often skeptical and disoriented about right and wrong, it is comforting to find a director boldly endorsing what he believes to be the simple, best things in life: faith, forgiveness, and doing the right thing.

# Coen brothers true to form in *Burn After Reading*

By Hal Flowers  
Staff Writer

How to make a dark comedy à la Coen brothers: 1. Create a number of clearly flawed, easy to relate to characters 2. Provide said characters with opportunities to meet each other in supremely clever and crafted situations 3. Allow mindless violence to ensue at the whims of fate 4. Do the aforementioned tasks with immaculate tone, spot-on sense of locale, intensely morose irony, and a dash of brilliance. Despite their often formulaic approach, rarely does the sibling duo fail to provide an entertaining, insightful cinematic experience, and *Burn After Reading* is no exception. This is director/producer/writers Ethan and Joel Coen's (*The Big Lebowski*, *Fargo*, *No Country for Old Men*) thirteenth feature film.

For their latest mishap account, the Coen brothers take us to Washington, D.C. for a self-proclaimed character-driven spy flick. When Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich) quits his job as a CIA analyst after being demoted for his boozing, his scheming wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton), decides it's time for a divorce and, in preparation, copies his personal and financial computer files. Inevitably, the files, which include drafts of Cox's memoir, end up in the women's locker room of Hard Bodies gym.

Enter Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt), a delightfully benign bubble-gum smacking, bicycle riding, silly dancing, fitness freak and employee of Hardbodies Fitness Center, and Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand), a fellow employee and the would-be recipient of a myriad of cosmetic surgeries, if she only had the money.

Like any two sensible individuals would do in this situation, Chad and Linda assume the files are highly confidential and set out on a haphazard attempt to reap the rewards of being "mere Good Samaritans," an effort that looks more like slapdash extortion than anything.

When their labors are to no avail, they turn to the Russian embassy, who they reckon actually will pay them for classified information. Meanwhile, Treasury agent Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney), who is incidentally having an affair with Cox's wife, works to thwart the efforts of both parties.

A cast this stocked promises endless fun, and they don't disappoint. Seeing George Clooney and Brad Pitt in such asinine roles is a breath of fresh air. Pitt, in particular, succeeds in stepping down from powerhouse roles in movies like *Ocean's Eleven* and *Fight Club* to play the simple-minded Chad. He's constantly sipping from his plastic water bottle to "stay hydrated," and you can't help but love him when he patronizingly guffaws at the man he's extorting for assuming his bike is a Schwinn. Clooney also nails his role as a silly Don Juan character with self-esteem issues that has him constructing the Taj Majal of sex toys and a few scenes later, unloading his emotional baggage on a bewildered Linda. Malkovich's Ozzie Cox alternates as threatening when the nemesis of Linda and Chad and is intensely pained by the loss his wife and job. McDormand, a Coen brothers' regular, shines as usual in one of the only empathy invoking roles in the movie; her romance woes are amusing in their ridiculousness but at times real enough to understand. She reflects a true guilt when she realizes the man she is sleeping with is married.

*Burn After Reading* is the violence of *Fargo* but without the seriousness that marked *No Country for Old Men*. It's the wit of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* but without the absurdity of *Raising Arizona*. Although it will never be considered among their finest works, *Burn After Reading* is a classic Coen brothers' dark comedy and that's enough to justify a trip to the theatre.

Even nature says  
it's time to change colors.



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# Rhodes victorious in home opener against Birmingham College

By Andrew Mullins Williams

Facing an overmatched Birmingham Southern team, Rhodes College showed poise and energy while notching their first victory of the season.

After an unfortunate loss to Louisiana College last week, the Lynx proved to have no aftereffects in their home opener. "We were a little concerned about the short week, but I think our guys handled it very well," said Head Coach Joe White.

Perhaps that was a bit of an understatement.

Going into the year, the Lynx offense was the unanswered question mark hovering over the team. By graduating 24 seniors last year, the team was expected to have some growing pains. However, the young Lynx offense found no excuses, even with the muddy field conditions, and continually pounded the ball down the throats of the Panthers.

Running back Charles Hoggard ran the ball 31 times and posted 161 yards on the ground. His one-yard touchdown run with 7:34 left in the second quarter all but sealed the fate for Birmingham Southern.

Quarterback Brett Stoots completed the one-two punch by

throwing for 143 yards and two touchdowns. Special teams also added a safety and two field goals to help cap off the scoring.

While the Lynx offense was running on full cylinders, the defense never allowed Birmingham Southern to feel comfortable. The Rhodes' defensive line continually won the line of scrimmage and recorded 19 tackles for a loss and six sacks. Mason Mosby lead the team with 12 tackles as they forced the Panthers into numerous three-and-outs.

"When you play great defense you have the opportunity to be in every game. We expect to compete in every game we play," said Coach White.

For as well-rounded the Lynx were on Saturday, Birmingham Southern was just the opposite on the other side of the ball. On offense, BSC only mustered 127 total yards, and the defense consistently looked overmatched and outmanned.

In beating a weak Birmingham team, Rhodes College proved that it has the tools and coaching to be successful on all sides of the ball. As they go forward into the year, the Lynx now have a bench mark for their continually soaring expectations.

# Punter in a blue dress

By Ralph MacDonald  
A&E Editor

A fit of ADD and an impending deadline is forcing me to go into a rapid-fire series of thoughts concerning the state of recent athletics.

The NCAA and NFL should eliminate the "running into the punter" penalty and definitely implement much more stringent rules regarding when to call the "roughing the kicker" personal foul penalty.

I understand the rules' intentions and agree that players with no means of protection should be protected. However, the fact that you can turn a fourth down into a first down after your punter gets tapped by a real football player and performs a flop that would embarrass a soccer player is a disgrace to a game that derives much of its entertainment value from its physical nature.

The punter is already the redheaded stepchild of any football squad—but the current rules have made them more thespian than football player.

Miami coach Randy Shannon and alumnus Warren Sapp were up in arms after Urban Meyer called for short a field goal in the waning seconds of a 26-3 Florida victory two weeks ago. But missing from Shannon, Sapp and the media's analysis of this allegedly "classless" move was a very important aspect of the field goal—it put Florida up twenty-three points, which meant a lot to the people in Vegas.

Last year, Florida State had a kicked a field goal in a similar situation against Duke. The lesson learned is that big-time boosters for football teams probably have their coaches' ear more than the NCAA or any casual fan would want to believe.

There was no strategic purpose for either field goal, which means that the coaches were almost certainly trying to cover the spread, and that they probably knew somebody important who wanted that spread covered.

# WWE Raw: Sport? No, but that's not the point

By Onalee Carson  
Sports Editor

Even as a huge sports fan, I never thought I would find myself at the FedEx Forum last Monday night sporting a "Show Me Kofi" poster, booing wrestlers, and just generally screaming my head off along side die-hard fans. Yes, I was at WWE Raw—and might have been spotted on live television if anyone was looking close enough.

I'm not going to lie, Raw was my first real experience with professional wrestling, apart from memories of boys in sixth grade pretending to body slam each other

on the playground. And that's kind of how I see it still.

While I know I am probably not alone in my possible misunderstanding of this organization, I also know that FedEx Forum was full of individuals that would likely challenge me to a cage match if they heard me say that WWE is nothing more than entertainment with athletic components—or would they?

Like me, many bash professional wrestling for its fake matches, bogus personalities, and contrived drama. However, those of us who automatically shun WWE because we don't see it as a sport forget that maybe others see it that way too. One of the announcers called WWE "the larg-

est traveling entertaining juggernaut" in American entertainment.

Many times throughout the night, the jumbotron was filled with images of wrestlers visiting troops in the Middle East. There was a huge emphasis on giving back to the community, something that I was embarrassed to be surprised about.

What I saw Monday night was more than entertainment, it was a culture. Entire families were present, from all walks of life, all ethnicities—it was amazing. While I can't say that I am now a convert to professional wrestling, I can now take it for what it is—entertainment—and quit bashing it for not being something I think it should be.

# Rhodes soccer teams successful in "Flood the Stands" campaign



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester

Friday, September 19, Rhodes Soccer did their part in aiding those effected by Hurricane Ike. The "Flood the Stands" campaign was designed to raise money for the Red Cross' hurricane relief efforts. However, Rhodes Soccer also had hopes that the charitable campaign would bring out the largest crowd to ever see a soccer match.

While a different kind of flood also occurred on Friday (an afternoon thunderstorm made for a soggy field), the Women's team didn't let it rattle them, defeating Trinity 1-0. It was Rhodes' first defeat of Trinity in 17 years.

The Men's team, however, was not as victorious. Their undefeated streak was halted by a 5-1 loss to the No. 2 ranked Trinity.

The teams' next home game will be October 4 against Hendrix College.



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester



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