



Checkout a review of the new Murs album and a chance for free stuff.

October 29, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. XCV. NO. 8

See Page 7

Rhodes well positioned to deal with economic turmoil

By William Bruce
News Editor

The recent economic turmoil is being felt by colleges and universities across the country in many different ways. Although the economic backlash continues to spread throughout the education system, Rhodes is currently in a good position to weather the oncoming economic hardships.

The economic crash was topic discussed at a recent trustee meeting. The main subject was how the economic disorder might affect the lives of Rhodes students.

"Coming from our discussions were two resolves- to continue to move forward with our campaign for Rhodes and to pay special attention to unanticipated challenges students may face in light of the current economy," said President William Troutt.

The economic crisis has spread to universities across the country. Many colleges are currently initiating hiring freezes, putting construction projects on hold, and dealing with large budget cuts.

For the past three decades Rhodes has had a balanced operating budget, and over the years has made fund raising progress. Members of

the department of business and finance affairs cite the recent Bond rating upgrade by Standard and Poors as an indicator of the progress the institution has made over the years.

"There is no question that the downturn in the economy will have adverse effects on all colleges and universities and Rhodes is not immune to these effects," said J. Allen Boone, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs. "That said, Rhodes is relatively well positioned to weather the consequences of this tough economic environment."

Campus construction, specifically the renovations being done on the Burrow library will continue as planned.

"It is possible that some planned renovations could be delayed," said Boone. "Although at this juncture, we do not anticipate any cancellations of future planned renovations."

According to Troutt, the college is not currently in the midst of any new construction projects.

At Williams College President Morton Owen Schapiro wrote that the worsening economic situation has meant some renovation and facilities spending would be reduced

and nonessential openings left unfilled.

Currently Rhodes has no planned hiring freezes. Administration will continue the long practice of examining each staff vacancy to ensure that there is a business necessity for replacement.

"No layoffs of employees or faculty have been discussed or are anticipated," said Boone.

Boston University, Cornell, and Brown have recently announced selective hiring freezes. In addition, the University of Florida was told to cut next year's spending by 10 percent. This year alone it has cut 430 faculty and staff positions and the budget cut will likely result in further layoffs.

Many colleges across the country are currently having difficulty meeting the rising financial needs of incoming and returning students. Members of the department of financial aid however have not reported any significant changes yet.

"We have not yet been affected," said Art Weeden, director of the department of financial aid.

In spite of the fact that Rhodes has not yet been strongly affected by the economic disarray, various departments are working to reassure



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester

Current construction on campus, such as the Burrow renovation, will not be affected by the recent economic downturn.

students that they can be assisted.

"We will be working hard to ensure that students feel supported during this time of financial uncertainty," said Troutt. "Students whose families have experienced strong financial changes should know the college wants to work with them to help them complete their degrees."

"Our main concern right now

is that some current students and many prospective students will assume that because economic times are difficult we won't be able to assist them," said Weeden. "That is simply not the case. As always, any student who feels they have a need should apply for assistance or make their needs or unusual circumstances known to us and allow us an opportunity to work with them."

A personal perspective on the economic crisis

By Anna Meyerrose
Executive Assistant

In the past year, a series of events, including high oil and food prices, as well as global inflation, culminated in a credit crisis that resulted in the collapse and subsequent government bailouts of several prominent investment and commercial banks in the United States. People around the world are currently feeling the negative effects of economic turmoil with an increase in unemployment rates and money loss.

My family and I first began to feel the effects of this crisis about a year ago, before the situation had truly reached its current low. For over thirty years, my mom had worked for the same bank, which had in more recent years decided to take its corporation national; my mom was placed as one of the key leaders in this expansion. However, beginning last year, the company's stock plummeted and concern began to arise about the bank's future.

As the economy further deteriorated, this bank decided to discontinue their national expansion, choosing rather to focus their resources on a more regional level. This downsizing left my mother without a job. Since this job had been my family's sole source of income, this created a less than ideal situa-

tion. Suddenly, money became a pressing issue in my household.

Students at Rhodes have inherently different views on and consequences of the current crisis. These views seem to be largely dependent on their parents' professions. Since banks have been some of the hardest hit organizations in light of the current financial situation, the effect of the crisis on families such as mine seems to be more directly felt than by some others.

The father of one student, Mason Asbury, class of 2012, promotes home health care services, working to convince doctors and hospitals to recommend the products his company makes to their patients. His mother has worked for many years as a preschool teacher at a church.

"My parents' jobs haven't really been directly affected by the economic crisis," said Mason.

Similarly, freshman Lindsey Bierle, whose father is a nephrologist with a private practice, does not feel that the economic crisis has had a dramatic effect on her father's job or her family's financial status.

The crisis, coupled with high college tuition, has also created many problems in terms of how to pay for



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester

The admissions office is waiting to see the effects of the downturn.

Admissions and the downturn

By NeNe Bafford
Staff Writer

2008 has turned out to be an economic crisis for many in the United States. This year, there has been a downturn in the economy. For example, high oil prices have made regular gas prices in Memphis alone, hit almost four dollars a gallon and food prices have also increased. Along with

these increased prices, the downturn in the economy has also led to increased unemployment and a credit crisis.

Is it possible that this economic crisis can affect students here at Rhodes?

"Right now it is too early to tell if the economy will effect Rhodes because we are not done

Out of control banks a bad omen for Americans

By **Rami Abdoch**
Staff Writer

The United States, as well as several major nations worldwide, are currently in the throes of an economic recession. The past two months have been devoted by the global community to addressing the sources of this crisis. People have pointed fingers at the credit crunch [reduction in the availability of loans], the subprime mortgage crisis [decreased ability of business to fulfill financial obligations triggered by credit markets and banking systems], and the housing market correction [general downswing in the affordability of real estate] as the main phenomena feeding this crisis. These three situations in particular decrease the confidence of the average consumer in the economy and undermine the purchasing power of the populations suffering from these collapses.

The issue in asserting the problem's isolation in the fault of these phenomena is that it distances blaming those who have great influence on the market such as the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve. They deserve, at least in part, a degree of blame for the current condition of the market. These phenomena merely reflect the ways in which the economy has gradually decreased since 2006. However, I find that few if any criticisms of the economic crisis deal with these macro-level institutions. People such as Ben Bernanke [chairman of the Federal Reserve] and Henry Paulson [secretary of the Treasury] have proposed that an almost \$1 trillion dollar influx into the economy is necessary to prevent a catastrophic breakdown – though they did not mention explicitly the scale of this potential breakdown, it is clear the implication was that a Great Depression-like occurrence would be imminent unless action was taken. This money has been and is being used to buy up hundreds of bad mortgages that would otherwise fail. Though it is likely that this stimulus will help in the short-term, the problem is a structural one that lies at the heart of our economy: the creation

of money by debt.

You may be scratching your head at that last phrase: money as debt? What does that mean? Well, it refers to the practice of the Federal Reserve creating money out of nothing, essentially. They only have to pay for the ink and paper of which the currency is made, roughly costing two cents per note. What most people don't realize is that the Federal Reserve is a private corporation: you won't find it in the government section of the Yellow Pages. Rather, it is next to FedEx in the business section. When Federal Reserve notes are printed they are loaned to the U.S. Treasury, or the people [as taxpayers]. Notes are printed by the Fed and loaned to the U.S. government at face value plus 8.5% interest compounded. The interest is collected each year by the IRS (Repo Man), which is also a private corporation controlled by the Federal Reserve.

With a federal deficit of roughly 10 trillion, 6 billion dollars so far, the interest is in the neighborhood of \$900 Billion dollars, which is drained from the economy each year in the form of income taxes. Former President Andrew Jackson once said in reference to central bankers, "You are a den of vipers. I intend to rout you out...if the people only understood the rank injustice of our money and banking system, there would be a revolution before morning." This is a telling phrase from someone who worked tirelessly to fight a central bank from being firmly established in the United States. Paul Warburg, an agent for the Rothschilds, as well as several members of Skull & Bones, were instrumental in setting up the Federal Reserve Central Banking system in America in 1913. It is called federal only to fool those who are naïve enough to judge something, or rather, anything, at face value.

Given that the Treasury has to borrow money from the Federal Reserve to enact this bailout, how will they ever pay back the money they owe? They have to borrow it, but that creates more interest. Clearly, in this situation, there is no way

out, and that the nature of this grand financial hoax. There is a clause written into the agreement that provides us with the option to buy back the right to issue our own currency. The only way to get out of this mess is to make use of that clause and print our own money. The measure of a nation's wealth is the sum total of its goods, services, natural resources, and private wealth. In early America, private wealth consisted mostly of gold or silver. This is a great monetary standard because it has inherent value. Our economic ground is based on trust, and thus can never provide an adequate foundation to a healthy economic market. We must return to such a standard if this economy is ever to flourish again.

Though it is not entirely the fault of central banking for this crisis (foreign policy spending, risky business ventures, and gas prices among other things are significant factors), this is the organizing body that has allowed the likely international implosion we are about to face. These banks are not in place for the sake of economic stability, although this was the supposed justification for their creation in the first place. Rather, they are there to siphon money from the American people and establish global economic and, by extension, social control. They have pulled the wool over our eyes.

I fear that this bailout is merely intended to delay what is an inevitable crisis prompted by these bankers, and cripple the global economy. Former President Thomas Jefferson once said, "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issuance of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered." You have been forewarned; as they say, forewarned is forearmed.

Obama to meet world's cautious optimism

By **John Ayers**
Staff Writer

President-elect Barack Obama may have a lot on his plate, but trying to win over world opinion will not be one of them. Internationally, people adore Barack Obama. Obama has promised to undermine President Bush's covenant of unilateral approach to world affairs since 2002. The rejuvenation of the United States' perception abroad has been the cornerstone of Obama's message. International leaders see Obama as a man with whom they can work and one who will not ignore their input. Obama has promised to work with the international community, specifically the United Nations, in an effort to try to solve world problems. The change of administrations and international policies will expand the authority of the United States Government by restoring goodwill to the world.

The people of these states see the same. For eight years, they have viewed the United States as arrogant and uncaring. Now they must view it in a different light. The man that the people of the world overwhelmingly wanted to be President of the United States was elected, and they will be more forgiving of him, as well as the United States, than they were under Bush. But Obama brings more than hope to the international community; he also brings a revitalization of the American ideal. All people in the United States can accomplish anything, regardless of race or lineage, as long as they work hard and commit themselves to their dream. It is what has elevated the United States above the world for so long. Those from developing countries now see that even the highest job in the United States government is available to the son of a Kenyan goat herder. This serves as an inspiration to those who either wish to emulate the American ideal, or immigrate to the United States.

But Obama brings another change in world opinion of the United States. To put it simply, it will be much more difficult for Hugo Chavez or Iran's President Ahmadinejad to criticize the United States as the evil empire or anti-Islamic when it has the son of a Muslim at its head. Middle Easterners will definitely be less likely to believe that his decisions are based out of hatred of Islam as they did of Bush (however unfairly). Obama has promised to talk directly with Iran, which means that it is now on the Iranians to answer this call or be further isolated in the international community.

However, Obama shouldn't, and hopefully won't, let the opinions of Prime Ministers, dictators, and the people of France affect his judgment of what is best for the United States. He is the President of the United States, not the world. There are enemies of the United States and just because they have less room for criticizing the United States, doesn't mean they aren't still opposed to its actions. Despite all the joy, national and international, following his election, a more somber note must be recognized. Four hours after Obama's election President Medvedev of Russia stated that he would move short range nuclear weapons into Kaliningrad. This is done in order to counter the United States putting up the anti-ballistic shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. This coupled with the recent rise in tensions between the United States and Russia means that Obama cannot fret about what international thoughts, but, rather, what best protects the United States and Europe from possible threats. Meanwhile, China continues its rise to power and either poses a threat or could possibly become a responsible member of the international community. It will take more than Obama's charisma and popularity to insure that America is safe from these many threats. He should use his popularity to help reunite allies and add new ones, but he must be willing to lose worldwide popularity and take a hard line with others.

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief
Daniel Jacobs
Managing Editor
Avery Pribila
News Editor
William Bruce
Opinion Editor
Paul Yacoubian
Entertainment Editor
Ralph MacDonald
Sports Editor
Onalee Carson
Layout Editor
Lee Bryant
Copy Editor
Suzi Van Sickle
Assistant Copy Editor
Lilly Rice
Photography Editor
Noelle Smith
Business Manager
Jamie Young
Executive Assistants
Anna Meyerrose
Jerica Sandifer

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*

Phone: (901) 843-3402
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com
Address: Rhodes Box 3010
The Sou'wester
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690


ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

Why you should care about the economic meltdown

By Dean Galaro
Staff Writer

Suffice to say you are at a top collegiate institution, which brings along with it some baggage that some people would rather ignore. What I mean is that people separate knowledge and higher thought from regular social life. They neatly box it up inside the academic world where it is left to be used on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for an hour at a time. When is the Maginot line crossed between the academic and the social life? College is not just a place to learn, but a place to live a life of learning, where higher thought becomes a part of everything one does. For some, there is more to college than a B.A. and a high paying job.

This kind of quarantining of reflection has effects in every part of our lives and, thus, affects the way we look at the market's recent downturn and continual slide into recession. There are people here who are very knowledgeable about the way the economy works and the kinds of systems which have led us into this economic hole; while there are some who know next to nothing about the economic crisis other than there is one occurring. Also, the phrase "credit crunch" doesn't sound like it goes well with "holiday shopping spree." Because we all have a hand in the cookie jar of the economy, and because we are at an institution of higher learning, everyone should make themselves knowledgeable about the economy and the current crisis to some degree. Here are a few reasons why:

While some fall prey to the temptation of being cuckolded by their parents until they're 35, most people leave the nest much earlier. As soon as we are shipped out into the world, we will be faced with taxes, credit reports, budgets, payrolls, investments, mortgages, and all the other wonderful ways we are connected economically. If one is not savvy to the ways in which the economy works and affects them, then how can they survive in it? Especially in these trying times of economic uncertainty, I see a great need for people to be more educated in the way the economy works so people can better themselves and the country as a whole.

The economy also has a grave effect on many of us now—through our parents—that is sometimes unperceivable in the manicured and gated vacuum of Rhodes. If someone is financially connected to their parents, enabling them to go to college at a place like Rhodes, then the way the economy affects their parents will inevitably affect them. What if your parents can suddenly not afford to send you here? What if traveling home for a break becomes a real money crunch? When someone is financially dependent upon their parents (or anyone for that matter), what hurts their parents will end up hurting them, and there is no better way to combat future monetary ailments than education.

What might be the most obvious of all is that the market is not constrained in a little bubble, but affects every part of society and can be studied and understood from a myriad of angles. There is a reason that a quality liberal arts education is highly regarded, because it emphasizes the interconnectivity of all educational aspects, leading to students with much broader understandings of the workings of the world. As the economy struggles, so does politics, medicine, and society.

This is my plea to everyone, including myself (lest you think I write this from atop a soap box

or up high in my ivory tower). This is a plea to students of higher education, that we can be mindful of disciplines that are affecting us right now in ways we can't see or feel. This is a plea to individuals: prepare yourself for whatever life is going to be like in the near future, and don't get caught off guard, becoming part of the lackadaisical en masse around us. While listening to Alan Greenspan talk may not be the most riveting thing in the world, and while it may be tiring to listen to how much the DOW fell again today, there are good reasons to listen up. Take Econ 101, or go read an article in *The Economist*, or maybe just go on Google News and browse for half an hour. At least try and make yourself knowledgeable and form an opinion as to what is going on in the world. Rhodes is such an educational oasis; let's not let our years here go to waste.

Be wary of unions & Obama

By Nick Carlson
Staff Writer

I received quite a shock this previous Tuesday. As I was pondering the meaning of the election results, I heard through my open window a sound of the same caliber as an air raid siren. I was initially quite alarmed and thought that someone was being grievously injured or some such unseemly affair. Fortunately my fears were extinguished after I realized that the sounds were people celebrating Barack Obama's election. With the subsidence of my initial dire fears, I was left with no option but to return to pondering the meaning of this election for the future of this country.

I would like to start by congratulating President Obama on his stunning victory; his election marks a wonderful and overdue step forward in American society. I must confess that I didn't vote for Obama and am a member of the college Republicans. Nonetheless I very much want to see our new President succeed in inspiring and strengthening our country.

To that end, I would like to offer some advice to President-Elect Obama:

One of the wonderful parts of the American system of democracy is the fact that we have free and secret elections. If a person wants to vote, then nothing is to prevent him or she from requesting an absentee ballot, voting early or on the day of the election and most importantly in all cases the ballot is secret. A voter can never be confronted by an angry boss, wife or friends about his choice of candidates unless he wishes to tell them about his choices. This is something that I am sure that President-Elect Obama appreciates, since his ancestors faced horrific challenges in their quest for free and secret ballots. In the South during the period of segregation, African-Americans were either prevented from voting at all or their ballots were dictated to them by their bosses or landlords.

If an African-American was of a mind not to vote a particular way, threats and violence could follow. The reason for this besides the obvious racism and oppression is that the ballots weren't secret. Ballots were commonly counted by the mayor's brother in many local elections. When the ballots were tallied, African-American votes were either destroyed or put into the hands of those who would wish harm upon them. The solution to this problem was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which allowed for free and secret ballots, making it more difficult to intimidate voters.

This would seem to be an obvious development and one that was universally beneficial. The question I put for President Obama is, "Why do you not stand up to those in your

party who seek to apply the same bloodstained process to union representation elections?" The legislative proposal to enact this is almost certainly the most ill-named legislation in the history of Washington. It is entitled "The Employee Free Choice Act." Here's how the legislation works: currently in union representation elections once 30% of workers sign a petition stating that they want a union, the company must hold a company-wide secret ballot election to determine if a clear majority of works want a union.

The Employee Free Choice Act would change this by giving the union representational control over the workers immediately without the election taking place. Now this may seem to be just a simple move towards efficiency, after all those secret elections must take some time and money. However this legislation is extremely dangerous because it removes the ability of workers to remain anonymous about their pro/anti-union views. This leaves those workers that may not want a union vulnerable to intimidation by union organizers. After all, a prospective union has only to place a list of workers who declined to join the union in the break room to expose those recalcitrant workers to abuse and trouble from the pro-union workers.

While this may seem farfetched, it has actually occurred in numerous unionizing drives. Currently, a worker can sign the petition to avoid trouble from union organizers and then vote against the union in the secret elections. This also can work in the reverse where a worker may hide their pro-union sentiments from their boss and then vote in favor of the union on the secret ballot. The real driving force behind this legislation is not the protection of the workers right to organize but it is a blatant attempt for Unions to increase their numbers through worker intimidation. Unions desire this outcome because their numbers have been shrinking dramatically in the last few decades and Unions see this as a way to regain their past influence and power. However, power through intimidation is never legitimate.

Removing the secret ballot erodes the right of workers to express their points of view without fear of intimidation or coercion. This legislation will be coming up for a vote during the early part of 2009 and President-Elect Obama could and should dissuade his party from supporting it. The bill has currently passed Congress and needs the approval of the Senate in order to pass. I ask you, President Obama to stand against those in your party who would wish to apply segregationist type voting restrictions to union elections.

Check out
The Sou'wester online!

Visit the new Sou'wester
website at

www.thesouwester.org

Take advantage of polls,
write a letter to the
editor, and comment on
articles

Student Voice

How has the economic downturn affected you?



"I'm a senior so it kind of sucks to enter the job market at a time like this. But, in my current day to day life, no, I haven't really been effected by the crisis."

-Peyton Bell ('09)

"The only thing that really effected me was the rise in gas prices and possibly if food prices start to go up; otherwise, no. However, I probably will start to feel it when I try to get a job."

-Joseph Crone ('09)



"I haven't felt the effects yet, but I'm also not out in the real world yet."

-Donny Dillard ('09)



"I haven't really been feeling the effects right now, especially since I haven't been home and around my family to see how they are dealing with it."

-Haley Pope ('12)



"This crisis also made it so that my going to Rhodes is something my parents are saving for, whereas, before, money for tuition wouldn't have been as much of a concern."

-Morgan Slevin ('12)



Admissions, continued from Page 1

with the semester and we haven't heard from large numbers of students that the economy is affecting them," said Dave Wottle, Director of Admissions.

"The best thing students can do if they have trouble with finances is to come and let us know and we can try to help them, although we can not guarantee it," Wottle said.

Earlier this week, President Troutt informed Resident Assistants that he was concerned about the student body and has decided to send out an email to all students.

"He doesn't want students to feel like they can't stay a Rhodes," said Resident Assistant Shadana

Bracy.

Some students are anxious to see if the economy will affect the tuition because the change might have some say in whether or not they stay here at Rhodes.

"The economy could affect me being at Rhodes because I would have to apply for more scholarships, financial aid, etc. And I am sure other students will do the same, so there could be a chance that I may not be able to come back," said sophomore Sheena McKinney.

Many students are anticipating how the economy will affect the tuition, but there are no certain numbers for the tuition cost of next year, as of now.

Allen Bone, Vice President for the Finance and Business at Rhodes has discussed the plan-

ning for next year.

With tuition in thought, Boone said, "the budget for next year will reflect a significant increase in financial aid expenditures to support students."

"We are currently planning the budget for the next fiscal year and are especially sensitive to how the current economy will affect operations and especially students," Boone said.

Regardless of the economy, students still do not think that tuition should increase.

"Rhodes is a good school, but it shouldn't be left for students to decide between getting a good education or transferring because the tuition increases every year," said Bracy.

Graduating seniors may have trouble securing employment

UWIRE

By Andrea Flier
Iowa State Daily

In the midst of the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression, graduating seniors may run into problems securing a job.

There are three big things that are going to happen. First, there is going to be a slow down in hiring. Second, there are going to be layoffs. Finally, this will lead to an excess supply of workers, said David Swenson, Iowa State University associate scientist in economics-agriculture and life sciences.

"It's going to push down starting salaries, and it's going to take a longer time to get a job. Although the expectation is, and all of the research says that the more education you have the more likely you are to weather this kind of downturn," Swenson said.

Job scarcity will also put pressure on young people to be more flexible in where they want to work, he said.

"The question now is not only are you skilled to work and willing to work, but are you in a place that is demanding work?" Swenson said.

The last time the market was low was in 2001, after Sept. 11, said Peter Orazem, university professor in economics-liberal arts and sciences.

"The 2002 graduates, there were people who got job offers and stopped looking, then the firm reneged on that job offer. That was particularly true for people who were in the tech fields," Orazem said.

At the time, people in computer science and engineering suddenly had the market turn on them, but other areas of the economy weren't seriously affected, Orazem said. This time, those in finance will have the market turn on them, he said.

"The real question right now is, are the weaknesses in housing, construction and finance going to be spilling over into everything else?" Orazem said. "As things weaken the job market is going to get thinner."

Orazem said students are going to be the ones that are expendable to firms or companies because they aren't a part of it yet.

"The firm is going to be more interested in hanging onto the people that are there then bringing new people in," he said.

The employment picture has fallen every year of

the month this year, but isn't terrible so far, Orazem said. He said there hasn't been more than a million jobs lost in an economy that has 146 million jobs.

"That so far isn't a terrible job market, it's not a good job market. You want to be in a job market that is actually growing, but it hasn't gone that south so far," Orazem said.

With the exception of construction and finance, he said the people that will be hit the hardest are people with a high school diploma or less.

Orazem mentioned the job fair and how, despite the economic crisis, there were still, from what he heard, a lot of firms there.

"Lots of firms may come here at this time thinking that the market is going to be okay next spring, but still defer on making final decisions until they see how the market is turning around," he said. "I mean, these last two weeks have been bloody. There are a lot of nervous people in all areas of the economy right now."

This is the first time that not only the U.S. economy is affected, but banks in Germany, France and England are "nervous," and the Asian stock market is "tanking" as well, he said.

"Some of the people who already have job offers might not want to bank on that, or make sure you are still talking to the firm to make sure they still want to live up to that offer," Orazem said.

However, people who have the kind of operating and management skills, such as plumbers, electricians and people in management information systems are in pretty good shape, Swenson said. He also mentioned teachers and those in healthcare shouldn't have trouble getting a job.

"Right now I would be worried if I was a young business graduate, especially if I was in finance," Swenson said.

Recent recessions haven't lasted long — about nine months — but the worry is that this time it will last a lot longer, Swenson said.

"If we use the past as a guide, we can expect it to last from nine to 15 months, but just because it ends doesn't mean that the economy is OK," Swenson said. "We think in terms of three to nine months [after a recession ends] for the economy to stabilize and start growing."

Personal, continued from Page 1

school. My mom lost her job right around the time when I was trying to choose where to attend college; it is needless to say that this situation added an infinite amount of stress to my decision process. Now, money was more than just a small consideration for me, and a large part of my school choice came to rest on which schools had offered the best scholarships. This reliance on financial aid appears to be another aspect that had different implications depending on the student.

"We weren't really rich to start with, but, in the past few years, it seems like we've had less money" said Mason. "I'm paying less than \$10,000 to go here; if I had to pay more, I wouldn't be here".

Lindsey, on the other hand, was influenced in a slightly different way by the availability of scholarships and financial aid. While admitting that her parents could have afforded Rhodes without any help, Lindsey felt obligated to contribute at least in this way to her education, adding that she would have otherwise felt guilty.

"I never thought we were rich, but I've never worried about money," said Lindsey. "My parents always made sure that I understood money, and made me earn my own".

Although this crisis has added an unwelcomed amount of stress to my life, I have also arrived at a sort of resignation, realizing that there is only so much that can currently be done; at the same time, I have become much more aware of money in the past months.

Lindsay considers her experience with the crisis to be a learning experience.

"For me, I'm more aware now of how I spend money. I've begun watching myself more and becoming more economically aware," said Lindsey. "I think it is good for this to happen to me now because it is preparing me for the future."

The current problems facing the world economy have had varying levels of effects on different Rhodes students. Only with time will one be able to see if these negative effects increase, or if they dissipate as the economy works to stabilize itself. The particular effects that the current economic situation had on my personal life came quite unexpectedly and altered some things that I had up until this point taken for granted. However, I do agree with Lindsey in that this is a very good time to learn lessons such as those about money; in a way, I am glad that this has happened to me earlier, rather than later, in life.

A profile of John Blaisdell

By Anna Meyerrose
Executive Assistant

John Blaisdell, head of Campus Security, is an experienced law enforcement officer who for the past few years has dedicated his abilities to the safety and protection of Rhodes College students. Before coming to Rhodes, Blaisdell spent twenty-one years in law enforcement in Tempe, Arizona. Ten of these years were spent in undercover work and organized crime unit.

When asked about the most heroic or exciting thing that he has done during his years in law enforcement, Blaisdell was quite humble in explaining some of his work in an organized crime unit and in narcotics.

"Is it heroic? I don't think so," said Blaisdell.

Nevertheless, Blaisdell described a story of a triple homicide case involving one caregiver and three individual cases of infant SIDS deaths. Blaisdell was one of the key players in connecting the one caregiver to these deaths.

"It's tough to catch that stuff," said Blaisdell. "I'm proud of that investigation."

Another notable experience that John Blaisdell had during his career was working security at one of the biggest annual sporting events, the super bowl. He describes it as nothing like what is seen on TV, explaining that the game itself is such a small part of the experience. During this assignment, Blaisdell, while trying to control all that was going on outside of the stadium, had to deal with 2 heart attacks, parties everywhere, and many other things.

"You're very busy" he said. "You never have enough resources for an event that big."

Blaisdell also spent four years as the Harvard University chief of security, concentrating on security in the fine arts museum. Blaisdell explained that it's difficult to compare his position at Rhodes College to his position at Harvard.

"You can't equate one to the next," Blaisdell said. "The students are different and expectations are different."

Discussing Rhodes and campus safety, Blaisdell emphasized the fact that the campus and the area around it is almost completely safe. Blaisdell was quick to identify the most irritating aspect of his job.

"Parking, parking frustrates me to no end," said Blaisdell.

Blaisdell described a hamster rescue that took place earlier in the week. He went on to explain that the grey and white hamster, now affectionately called "Rat," is being cared for at the Blaisdell household. However, Mr. Blaisdell added that if anyone is looking for his or her pet he is not trying to steal it and he will gladly return it to its rightful owner.

"Its not that exciting, but its interesting," said Blaisdell

John Blaisdell described his job at Rhodes, which entails much more than parking violations and hamster rescues, as a people business.

Blaisdell stressed the importance of students looking out for the one another, Blaisdell encourages students to enjoy your four years here and have the complete college experience, whatever that means to you as an individual.

"We're all kind of in this together," said Blaisdell.

CAMPUS SAFETY

November 2 – November 8

11/2

5:07 pm: Student found a cell phone in the grass near the fraternity houses; turned in to Campus Safety. Owner notified; phone returned.

8:45 pm: Trouble alarm Glassell Hall. Maintenance notified; problem resolved.

11/3

3:47 pm: Campus Safety responded to an alarm Barret Library; student exited the emergency door setting off alarm; alarm system reset.

11/4

8:23 am: MPD called with information concerning a student's truck stolen over the weekend. Vehicle has been recovered; student notified.

8:40 am: Student transported to the emergency room by Campus Safety at the infirmary's request.

10:56 pm: Student called Campus Safety reporting a rodent problem in Neeley; maintenance notified.

11/5

2:55 pm: Student collapsed in the quad between the infirmary and Glassell; college nurse on the scene.

4:31 pm: Student injured while playing basketball; transported to the hospital for treatment.

11/6

9:09 am: Fire alarm Stewart Hall; MFD dispatched.

9:19 am: MFD in Stewart; False alarm, fire trucks departed campus.

5:56 pm: Former Rhodes student struck two parked cars on University; no injuries to report; MPD on scene to file an accident report.

8:34 pm: Two suspicious vehicles in the Evergreen church lot; MPD notified.

FACT: 64.7% of Rhodes students consume 4 or fewer drinks per week

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, Fall 2007 n=554

Economic Depression? Here's a movie for your woes

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

Most movies want to envelope you in a fictional womb, a self-contained cosmos hurled out of the everyday. But few movies prod you out of this default cinematic stupor with the audacity to be insufferably relevant. *Falling Down* (1992) is such a movie— a movie birthed from and sifted through a particular culture moment. And with the current economic crisis, I found this movie echoing in my mind in a sustained vibrato whine. “Watch me,” it squeals, “I am culturally relevant to today’s events.” So I indulged.

Falling Down is the story of a cosmically obsolete everyman, William Foster (in a terrifically unhinged performance by Michael Douglas), a cog in the machine of a futile bureaucracy, who is fired from his dead-end job. Smothered, alienated, and appalled by the city, he snaps and is reborn a terminally pissed off vigilante. The movie takes us into his psychotic break as he sits in gridlocked traffic, with the city noise assaulting him from all angles and building into an insufferable cacophonous howl. He steps out of his car and begins his odyssey across a warped cityscape, a reimagined *Dante’s Inferno*. He is our hero, a man so generically white-collar his every mechanical movement seems mimicked from a file-cabinet. He traipses across a rotten urban landscape, the bastard child of an idealized Americana who is ready to strike back at all the crap. He will not take it today. He is tired of being dumped on. He is tired of being marginalized. Today he stands up for his rights as an American.

He first assaults a Korean store-clerk for jipping him on a soda (but still pays for the soda, mind you, he is just protecting his rights as a con-

sumer). He then takes a baseball bat to the heads of two thugs trying to take his briefcase (“Can’t a guy just sit down and collect his thoughts?” he says). Not satisfied, he shoots an AK-47 into the ceiling of a fast-food joint because they will not serve him breakfast (“Can’t a guy just get a little breakfast?” he says). When a pissed-off yuppie screams at him for talking too long on the phone, William pulls out an uzi and squeezes a few

“His rage is the negative shadow of the American dream, a disillusionment channeled into middle class catharsis.”

rounds into the phone booth, pausing before offering the payoff line: “Phone’s broken.” When not fighting back against the system, he pauses to wax poetically about the downfall of society, how the American Dream rings hollow when a good, decent man cannot even make a living to support his family. His rage is the negative shadow of the American dream, a disillusionment channeled into middle class catharsis.

It is a perverted thrill the viewer gets out of watching William. As repulsive as some of his vigilante actions are, the viewer is secretly allied with him. We dabble in the glamorous, forbidden desire to bushwhack the cruel components of an unsympathetic economy. Cinema is a fantasy world without consequences. But the movie is very careful to curtail William’s purifying aggression. Although the first half of the movie serves up a satirical demolition of modern society, (with every enemy to our hero a caricatured, cartoonish exaggeration of some sort of societal demon); a flimsy morality is imposed at the end. Michael is rightfully killed by a veteran cop (Robert Duvall) who empathizes with his angst but affirms the rightness of staying within the bounds of the law. And so, too, the viewer crashes back down to conventional morality. We seize the precious moments to displace our own anger, but the dream is easily punctured. But that is this movie’s gift: it compresses and diverts a real palpable fury against the economy and society into a 2-hour safety valve of release. With the current economic slump in mind, and while the middle class is a rapidly disappearing antique, I wondered if this movie will be remembered as remarkably prophetic, or just be labeled a vigilante thrill-ride.

Oldies but goldies with Bond: Teering the franchise a new one

By Adam Teer
Former A&E Editor

In preparation for the release of *Quantum of Solace*, the new James Bond film, opening Friday, Nov. 15, I recently watched all 21 of the “official” Bond films in order of release. I wanted to get a feel for the series as a whole, as well as to see just how great the films really are. Prior to the marathon viewing, I had seen about 75% of the films. Most of the films I had not seen were during the Roger Moore era. But after watching all of the films, I have decided to share a little about my experience to give you some heads up about some of the best and worst films.

In tackling and critiquing one of the most iconic film characters and most lucrative and prolific film franchises, one will obviously not be able to make everyone happy. These are just my opinions, but I am an enormous film buff, and this type of movie is my absolute favorite. I will not make a comment on who were the best and worst Bonds because that would lead to me getting attacked with bricks. I will, however, point out a few things.

Firstly, the films as a whole are not as good as you remember. Sure there are some that stand out, and the majority of them are entertaining, but these movies are not great cinema. Some have plot holes bigger than what you would find in Swiss cheese, but there is something about the character and the action that draws you in. Some of the ones I hated are now not so bad, i.e. *Tomorrow Never Dies*, and some which I liked and now see as terrible, i.e. *The Man with the Golden Gun*. Also, the films all seem to run together. It is hard to pick out which scenes fall into what movie. I thought viewing them all back to back would alleviate that problem, but I was wrong. Each movie has a memorable scene, like Bond storming the volcano base in *You Only Live Twice*, or the tank chase scene through Moscow in *Goldeneye*. There are also terrible scenes that stick in your head like the underwater scuba battle in *Thunderball* or the laser shoot out in space in *Moonraker*. Each film has those hits and misses, which make it amazing and cheesy at the same time. So don’t expect a cinematic masterpiece, expect light-hearted action and sexual innuendo puns.

Secondly, the films have wavered in quality over time. While some cheesy ones are among my personal favorites, i.e. *The Man With The Golden Gun*, I have, objectively as I could, come up with a list of the top three bond films. I looked at the performance by the actor playing Bond, the flow of the movie, the villain, and, of course, the action. The best film in the Bond franchise is *Goldfinger*, starring Sean Connery. This is the third Bond film and is pretty much rated as the best by film critics. Second is the third attempt to reboot the series with Pierce Brosnan’s first outing as Bond in *Goldeneye*. It was a perfect transition from the poorly re-

ceived second reboot of the franchise with Timothy Dalton to a new age, post-Cold War James Bond. Brosnan was an excellent pick who helped make an already amazing script into a Bond staple. The third best film is also the most recent Bond film and the fourth reboot, *Casino Royale*. Bond is no longer portrayed as a witty, slightly alcoholic, womanizing action spy, but a cold-hearted, bastard assassin, which is really more true to Ian Fleming’s conception. So *Casino Royale* is in the top three because it is excellently plotted out, except slightly draggy in the third act, but it redeems itself by making the franchise darker, grittier, and a lot more action-packed.

Thirdly, the single most underrated Bond film was the first reboot of the franchise when Sean Connery left, *On Her Majesty’s Secret Service*, starring George Lazenby. It was a big change for the films, making Bond fall in love and get married, as well as trying to make the movie a little more serious and realistic. The film gets cheesy with a bobsled chase scene, but neither Lazenby nor the films itself get the respect they deserve. They had Connery’s big shoes to fill and they did a phenomenal job which can easily be overshadowed by films like *Goldfinger*.

The most overrated of the Bond films is *The Spy Who Loved Me*. It has a plot more ludicrous than most other Bond films and had terrible chemistry between Moore and leading lady Barbara Bach. Jaws is introduced but underused. And the film ends with Bond sleeping with Bach’s character in a underwater escape pod which has a circular bed and SHAG CARPETING !!!!! It is not one of the worst, however.

Fourthly, the three worst films, in my opinion, are *Octopussy*, *Moonraker*, and *License to Kill*. *Octopussy*, besides having a blatantly sexual title, has little redeeming value. A terrible plot, terrible Bond girl, and an overly old Roger Moore add together to make one bad Bond film. Oh yes, it includes a traveling circus and Bond dresses up as a clown. *Moonraker* has a villain who is going to create a new Eden in space and Jaws falls in love. ‘Nuff said. *License to Kill* tries too hard to be bad-ass, and has Bond getting revenge on a Columbian drug kingpin after Felix, Bond’s CIA pal, gets half-eaten by a shark.

In conclusion, I tried to point out some things I liked and learned from my Bond marathon. Many people have not seen any of the films and that’s okay. I’d urge you to watch some of the ones I pointed out. If you plan on seeing *Quantum of Solace*, you HAVE TO HAVE WATCHED *CASINO ROYALE*. It won’t make sense if you don’t. Bond films are some of my favorites and hold a special place in cinematic history. So whether you are a Sean Connery purist or an “Aston-Martin is the only Bond car” enthusiast, I guarantee that at least one of the aforementioned films has something for you.



**We know what you're craving...
Big Eat, Tiny Price!**

PZONE ONLY \$5.99 2 for \$10.99 377
Choose from 3 flavors: CLASSIC, MEATY or PEPPERONI

OR

Mia
3 OR MORE MEDIUM
1-Topping Pizza Mia™ Pizzas
For Only **\$5 EACH**
EVERY DAY

Delivery/Carryout
901-362-3333
Order online @ www.pizzahut.com

Limited Time Offers. Limited delivery area. Delivery minimums and charges may apply.
© 2008 Pizza Hut, Inc. RPC62420_RHODES

Myths go up in smoke

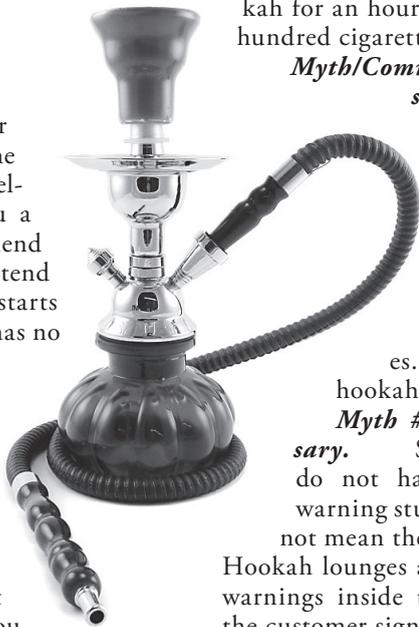
By Jerica Sandifer
Executive Assistant

It's Saturday night and you and your friends are bored. What better way to spend the night than relaxing in a hookah smoke filled haven of thirty-five other eighteen to twenty-five year olds? The word, hookah, actually refers to the glass apparatus used to smoke several different types of herbs and tobacco. However, the term has come to mean a specific type of flavored tobacco sold in lounges all over the world. In general, the effect of hookah is to mellow you out or give you a slight buzz. So, if that friend of yours who likes to pretend he's wasted after one shot starts dancing on the table, he has no excuse.

From 2000 to 2004, 200 more hookah cafes were opened in the United States, particularly around college campuses. So, it's very likely that as a college student you know what hookah is, or think you do. Unfortunately, several myths accompany students' knowledge of hookah.

Myth #1: Hookah is not addictive.

Sorry, folks. Hookah contains nicotine, the same nicotine for which cigarettes are infamous. It contains a very little amount, but smoking the tobacco through the hookah actually increases the amount



of other harmful chemicals you inhale like carbon monoxide.

Myth #2: Hookah is not harmful.

False. Hookah is linked to lung, oral, and bladder cancer. Smoking hookah can also aggravate allergies and asthma.

Myth #3: Hookah is not as bad for you as cigarettes.

That would be nice, wouldn't it? However, studies have found smoking hookah for an hour is equal to smoking one hundred cigarettes.

Myth/Common Mistake #4: "Let's share a hookah!"

Using the same mouthpiece as someone else enhances the opportunity to spread diseases like hepatitis and herpes. Lounges should provide separate plastic mouthpieces. If not, ask or find a new hookah bar.

Myth #5: No warnings necessary.

So, just because hookahs do not have a surgeon general's warning stuck on the base, that does not mean the tobacco is not harmful. Hookah lounges are now required to post warnings inside the building, and make the customer sign a waiver. Here is a hint: if you have to sign a legal document before doing anything, it probably isn't safe.

But, hookah smoking has become a social activity just like drinking at bars or hanging at Starbucks, and college students, on the whole, are most likely going to continue to do it and to invite their friends to join. But, at least you know the truth and can partake at your own risk.

Our terrifying amendment

By Mark Donnelly

I went to the Memphis Gun Show. It was an extremely bizarre experience for me, surreal almost. I don't own a gun, but I have a weird fascination with them. I didn't think that this would be a situation where I would feel uncomfortable. What could possibly be weird about a room full of guns, ammo, knives, and people who want to buy them?

I put on my blue jeans and leather belt, tucked in my shirt that read "NRA" on one side and "The Second Amendment America's Original Homeland Security" on the other, slipped my white tube socks into my tennis shoes and left my house for the convention center at the mid-south fair grounds. I pulled into the parking lot of completely domestic vehicles, seventy-five of which were trucks, and at least half of them sporting McCain-Palin stickers. The rules were fairly simple: if you brought a gun, you had to get it tied at the ticket counter and you must leave all your ammo at the front, which was made apparent as a man unloaded his revolver bullets at the entrance as I walked up.

I paid my eight dollars, entered into

a raffle and started to walk around. Guns were everywhere. On almost every table. Hand guns, machine guns, rifles, shotguns. At this point, it dawned on me that if I wanted to shell out the cash, I could walk out of here with a high-powered assault rifle. Then I looked around at all the other people thinking the same thing and a chill went down my spine. It was not the hunters or gun enthusiasts that did it, but *the other* that was at this exhibition. The other I feel is best summed up in a conversation I overheard while looking at hand guns. A man was explaining to his friend that the government was tapping his phones, reading his mail, and spying on him in other secretive fashions that could not be proved. He then lifted up his shirt that read, "No law ever enacted has stopped a murderer, thief, or rapist from committing their crime like the justice of cold blue steel," exposing his secret carrying case where he kept the items "they'll never get to or see." This put a whole new spin on "from my cold, dead hands."

After that conversation I took a break from the guns to look at the antique memorabilia and I came across a whole table

Murs blazes his own path

By Ralph MacDonald
Arts and Entertainment Editor

If you are amongst those who believe that Run-DMC never meant to begat Soulja Boy, can do without gimmicky, repetitive, and petty lyrics, and generally believe in the devolution of rap, then the artist Murs, creator of the album *Murs for President*, has a campaign message for you:

"I'm the one guy who is qualified to represent us to the masses -- which are obviously tired of us because hip-hop can't sell records. It can only sell ringtones. Its become a mockery of itself. It has become club music. For us to lead back into the marketplace and to be a respected art form, I feel that I'm the most qualified person. It's time for hip-hop to have a change."

Like most rap albums, *Murs for President* has been branded with a warning for explicit content. But the way in which his album is explicit separates Murs from the majority popular rap today. As he says in his song "I'm Innocent," Murs is "anti-drug and anti-thug," and his rough lyrics come from attempting to bring attention to the problems caused by the violence and drugs in his native Los Angeles. Murs explains his lyrics as "trying to be practical, not preachy. This is fun, and here's a little something that can help you expand."

Nevertheless, sometimes Murs' lyrics do come off as preachy, especially when referencing his fellow rappers. He is a little guy in rap, independent until this latest album, and yet is determined to make an impact not only on how rap sells itself, but how it exercises the social influence inherent in its large audiences. Murs' devotion to social causes is not given the standard one or two songs usually afforded by musicians on their own CDs, rather it is evident in every single one of his album's 15 tracks. In one of the album's better singles, "Can It Be?," he admonishes rappers for glorifying "guns and dope" while pushing his own mantra of "the power of the pen, the power of a vote."

Equally interesting and unique about Murs is a set of four very heartfelt love songs towards the end of the album: "For young black males, being in love has such a negative connotation. Usually, your mother has been screwed over by some guy. The first time you get hurt by a girl, you use that as an excuse to mistreat women for the next 20, 30 years of your life. I'm trying to hold a mirror up to myself." In a very corny, but clearly principled, stand against misogynist rap lyrics he rails against hearing "too many b's and h's." This song, "Me and This Jawn," and the next three go on to express very intimate feelings that are very rare in a rap world, which emphasizes hardness.

Of course, none of the principles for which Murs stands would mean much if they were not packaged with a marketable sound. Monotone sociologists and Dr. Phil are extremely unlikely to produce chart-topping albums. *Murs for President* has a very impressive collection of beats that are almost always matched to perfection with the songs lyrics, which creates a sound that can be described as smooth, well-flowing, and high-energy. Snoop Dogg is featured on one of the tracks, which is probably more of an endorsement of Murs' work and talent than any adjectives I could use to describe his album. Murs is the little guy right now, but his talent and his principles have caught the attention of big-time rap and put it on notice.

dedicated to KKK and Nazi memorabilia. Two old white men sat behind their booth, watching as I perused the merchandise. After it was apparent to the older men that I wasn't going to buy anything, I went to look at more guns. I was looking at some Deringers, when a large man wearing overalls stood next to me. He had a long, bushy white beard, and a pony-tail he pulled through the hole in his baseball cap. He looked concerned and called the vendor over:

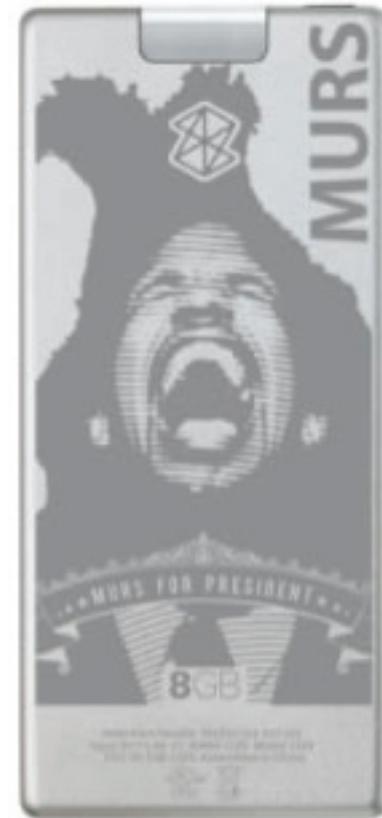
"Excuse me sir, you see those two black fellas down at the end of the table?"

"Yes."

"Well they're from California."

"Ok."

"And asked me to buy a gun and that



The Sou'wester will be giving away a free Murs Zoom through a contest that will be posted by November 14 on www.thesouwester.org. Other prizes include zoom subscriptions and a poster autographed by Murs.

they would pay me in cash."

"Oh..."

"Well, I said 'No.' But something's real fishy about the situation. Anyways, can I see that gun right there?"

The vendor paid no attention to his story and opened the case to hand the potential buyer a gun. I was too concerned about the anecdote he just told and the apparent racist and fearful sentiments behind it. I wanted to go. The stimulus of bizarre was too much, I had my fill. After the event, my opinions on guns or gun owners did not change. A matter of fact: nothing changed. If anything, I can rest assured—maybe—knowing that there are people waiting and preparing to combat for our right to own a gun.

Hope in the Grizzly city

By Peter Zanca
Staff Writer

When the Memphis Grizzlies began their regular season two weeks ago, the city of Memphis didn't have high expectations for its lone major professional franchise. With nearly every sports media outlet predicting the Grizzlies to finish at the bottom of the Western Conference this season, fans braced themselves for another long season ending with high hopes for the 2009 NBA Draft.

However, in the Grizzlies' first few games, the team has given the city a different kind of hope. Owner Michael Heisley previously described this season as the first year in a three-year plan to build a playoff team. But the players and coaches are demonstrating that they don't plan on waiting three years—they are ready to win now.

In the first few games of the season, the Grizzlies have already shown a great deal of competitive drive and have pulled out several victories over teams from last year's playoffs. Most notably, the Grizzlies beat the Orlando Magic in the home-opener on a stunning buzzer-beater—making it the first opening-night win since the franchise was born. Using the basic formula for restarting a struggling team from scratch, the Grizzlies have a resilient team in the making.

Over the summer, team management fully committed to building this team from the bottom up with young players. Veterans Mike Miller and Brian Cardinal were shipped off to Minnesota for rookie O.J. Mayo. Hakim Warrick now remains as the sole Grizzly left from the team's playoff years. Rounding out the team's youth movement are second-round steal Darrell Arthur and Spain's Marc Gasol, acquired in the trade for his brother Pau. The Grizzlies now stand as the third youngest team in the league.

However, the front office's most brilliant acquisition doesn't even wear a uniform. Assistant coach Kevin O'Neill was hired essentially as the team's defensive coordinator. In the opening games of the season, O'Neill's handiwork has been beautifully displayed. Through their first four games,

the Grizzlies kept each of their opponents to fewer than 97 points. Last year's team managed that feat only twelve times over the entire season. The players' observable commitment to toughness and intensity on the defensive end has kept the Grizzlies in each of their games and has provided them with opportunities to win each one.

The best part of this new mindset, of course, is that it is exciting to watch. There is a shared passion and competitive drive in these players that has not been seen in a Grizzly team since the 50-win season in 2003-2004.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the team is their youth across the board. Most teams tend to keep one veteran star around as the model for their youngsters, but the Grizzlies are taking a riskier path. While veterans Greg Buckner, Marko Jaric, and Antoine Walker warm the bench as leftovers from the Mayo trade, the organization has chosen third-year star Rudy Gay to be the team's leader.

With undeniable potential to become an all-star, Gay has become the leading man in a starting lineup that features three rookies, something almost unheard of in the NBA. To put that into perspective, the average age of the Grizzlies' starting lineup (21.4) is about the same as the average age of the Rhodes starting lineup (21.2). With this youth and inexperience all across the roster, the Grizzlies have done unexpectedly well and placed themselves high on the learning curve.

Of course, when push comes to shove, what really matters is whether the team will win consistently or not. While having a record that hovers around 0.500 is nothing to celebrate for most teams, the Grizzlies' early wins have brought back hope for the franchise in this city. After two 22-win seasons any step forward is a big step. These first few wins may turn out to be just a bleep on the radar screen of yet another season of heavy losing. But at least for now, watching these young players scrap, defend, and compete is a lot of fun. Hopefully, these early wins are an accurate glimpse of the not-too-distant future.

Saying the unthinkable

By Ralph MacDonald
A&E Editor

With O.J. Mayo lighting it up from behind the arc, and Marc Gasol and Darrell Arthur providing an inside presence, the Memphis Grizzlies are looking like more than Rudy Gay and company. Dare we say the future is bright? The young, inexpensive, and clearly immense talent of this team might just attract a buyer and save the franchise.

USC, Penn State, and OSU could not survive their cream-puff schedules, and so we are left with whatever one-loss Big Twelve South team versus the winner of the SEC. Maybe we will get a decent title game. Preseason bias might end up saving a very overrated Ohio State, who is no more deserving of a BCS bowl bid than either Utah or Boise State—although one of these teams will probably be passed over in favor of the bed-wetting Buckeyes.

On the subject of college football, Alabama's rise to the No. 1 ranking is even more amazing considering that not one of 70 SEC writers picked Alabama to win the SEC West during this summer's SEC press days in Birmingham.

Lastly, let us take a minute to examine the life and career arch of Isaiah Thomas. One of the top

point guards of all-time for the Detroit Pistons, Isaiah became a successful coach for the Indiana Pacers, before being given nearly complete power over the New York Knicks to revive the once-proud franchise. But Isaiah's moves as a general manager were deemed a failure, and Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown watched as the team actually regressed under Isaiah's reign. Thomas was then tabbed to replace Brown, awarded with an undue contract extension, and spent the rest of his tenure watching the team underachieve and quit on him. On the way to the unemployment line, he managed to collect a very costly sexual harassment, suit and drew the ire of virtually every Knicks fan. While New York might have tainted his legacy, Thomas might have ruined his reputation even more in his semi-retirement. Recently an ambulance came to his suburban home and picked up a then-unidentified person. When questioned by the media, Thomas claimed it was his daughter and said that she had overdosed on sleeping pills. Upon hearing Thomas' statement, ambulance operators were horrified and they said they knew the difference between a 47-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl and that they could not think of any excuse for a father to throw his daughter under the bus like that.

Reality beckons die-hard sports fans to accept economic crisis

By Onalee Carson
Sports Editor

On a recent internship interview, I was told that sports journalism doesn't really have a place in local news; that really only sports fanatics care about sports and not everyone is a sports fanatic. But as I witnessed my dreams of becoming a sports journalist being discouraged by my interviewer, I thought—sports aren't just a fantasy world for jocks and those who worship them, sports have real-life connections to the hard daily news swirling around us.

Sports meet the current economic crisis—now tell me that isn't something that affects almost every individual in this nation. "Sports aren't recession-proof anymore," claims *SI.com* writer Pablo S. Torre in his recent article "The changing face of the sports fan." Rising transportation costs and soaring ticket prices should be major concerns for many fans, but other factors such as food prices, the extra cost for pay-per-view sporting events, and fantasy sports leagues are also looking to take a bite out of many wallets.

And it isn't just professional sports that are feeling the crunch—in fact, they are feeling the least amount of pressure. While the loyalty of college sports fans has not waned, the schools are the ones feeling the brunt of the crisis, dealing with the rising transportation costs and the expenses of constructing new facilities. High school programs are experiencing the largest hit, struggling to find the funds to purchase team equipment. So what does this mean for the sports fan?

Do we, the sports fans, even acknowledge the possibility of a less sports-focused future? According to a recent ESPN SportsNation Poll, 46.7 percent of the 11,569 people polled said that they were somewhat worried about the overall state of the economy, compared to very worried, not very worried, or not worried at all. However, it doesn't seem that sports fans are quite ready to give up their love of the game. When asked if higher gas prices have decreased the number of games a fan attends, 73.6 percent said no. Additionally, 38.9 percent were still willing to drive more than 100 miles road-trip distance for a game. It doesn't seem that the realities of the economic downturn have started to affect the die-hard fan—fair-weather fan, yes; die-hard fan, no.

Maybe my interviewer was right...do sports fans live in a fantasy world? Usually, I scoff at the fair-weather fan, but in this instance they may be the ones to listen to. Without the leisure of high school, collegiate, or professional sports—die-hard fans don't exist.

Even nature says
it's time to change colors.



Midtown

2111 Madison Avenue
Overton Square
901-276-1405
Monday thru Friday: 9am -8pm
Saturdays till 6pm

Highlighting

\$72.00

Starting At
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Designer Cut & Style

\$23.99

Precision Cut
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Fantastic Color

\$52.00

Certified CHI Colorists
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Fantastic Sams[®]
HAIR SALONS

Most salons independently owned and operated. (SM)2008 Fantastic Sams Franchise Corporation www.FantasticSams.com