



Go eat on Beale Street with our guide to dining at the home of the Blues

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February 18, 2009

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Sex and Soul with Donna Freitas

Interview conducted by NeNe Bafford
News Editor

NeNe Bafford: What motivated you to conduct the interviews and eventually write your book?

Donna Freitas: I guess my interest in conducting the study, began when I was teaching at a small, catholic, liberal arts college. I am no longer teaching there now, but I taught all of these courses that were a cross list between Religious Studies and Gender Studies and I began to realize how much of an interest there was in trying to understand the relationship between spirituality and sex. People did not understand if there was a relationship and that came up in a lot of my classes. In my own research, I had been writing about theology and dating because I noticed there wasn't much out there, especially in the catholic tradition. So I decided to offer a course called "Dating" and it was one of those things that students just signed up for and it was filled in twenty minutes. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. It was during that class, where I had an extraordinary group of students, who confessed that they were all participating in hook-up culture, pretending to participate, or supporting it in some way, but when they were really honest with each other, they hated it. When they all figured out that they all felt the same way, they decided they wanted to change the world and actually wrote a newspaper that was literally a call to the campus to talk about hook-up culture. I was blown away by them and started to wonder if other students on other campuses felt equally helpless in the face of hook-up culture.

NB: Where did you go to conduct your study and how many students participated?

DF: The schools that participated are all anonymous and that's for a couple of reasons; one because even though the study was about religiosity and spirituality on campus, the sex part could be personal. It was important for me to protect students' privacy, that's why there are no real names in the book. I went

Freitas, continued on Page 5



NeNe Bafford/The Sou'wester

Professor Donna Freitas, author of *Sex and the Soul: Juggling Sexuality, Spirituality, Romance, and Religion on America's College Campuses*

Memphis Connections

Behind, but not left behind

By Matthew Childs

Attempting to restore academic ambition, The Grizzlies Academy works closely the young adults of Memphis. The public high school, encompassing grades 9-12, opened in 2003 with a \$1.5 million commitment from the Memphis Grizzlies. The Academy strives to inspire its less privileged student body, and Desmond Hendricks (2009) demonstrates this mission.

Hendricks, a senior history major from Chattanooga, Tennessee, is in his third year of volunteering at the Academy.

"I have the privilege of giving back to a community," said Hendricks.

Two of his past teammates who previously volunteered at the academy had introduced Desmond to the program. Hendricks participates by visiting to the academy twice a week and interacts with the students as a positive role model possible. He helps with tutoring, meals, and any type of physical exercise.

The at-risk individuals range from 15 to 17 in age, and generally score below their expected grade

level. The inaugural class of 16 students graduated in 2006. Currently, there are about 74 students and 10 teachers. The school teaches the usual academic subjects such as math, science, English, and social studies.

As of 2007, there were nearly 1,200 students, in Memphis, that were two or more years behind their current grade level. The current students were the fortunate few that gained admission into the academy. The students accepted into the academy must be willing to do extra work outside of regular school hours and attend school for a month during the summer. The school specializes in getting at-risk youth students back up to speed and to graduate those students within the three years of schooling.

"I have been given many opportunities, and I want these kids to have the same type of opportunities they deserve," said Hendricks. "Some of these kids rely on the academy for decent meals, since they go home to nothing. Going home is more of a problem for a lot of these kids than getting their work done for school."

New minor part of green movement

By Anna Meyerrose
Executive Assistant

Spring of 2009 marked the official installation of an Environmental Studies as an interdisciplinary minor at Rhodes. This new program is in addition to the already offered Environmental Science minor, and the two together now constitute the Environmental Program as a whole.

The original vision for this program became a reality in 2008 when Rhodes received a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to be used to fund an Environmental Studies program. Included in this grant was funding for three postdoctoral positions for three years. These three positions were filled by Professor Tait Keller (History), Professor Robert Lusteck (Anthropology), and Professor Jennifer Sciubba (International Studies), with Professor Jeffrey Jackson currently serving as Associate Director of the Environmental Program.

"We hope to get permanent funding for those three positions," said Jackson.

The Environmental Studies major focuses more on the social sciences and the humanities, rather than the natural sciences. As of now, seven to eight new courses have been added to the curriculum; however, the professors hope that, with time, the program will be able to expand even more.

"Reaching out to other departments is really important for this program," said Sciubba. "We hope to bring even more courses into the program."

The faculty involved with this program hopes to make students more aware of the many different ways in which environmental issues are prevalent in today's society.

"It is very important to emphasize that it is about globalization, population, technology, and

Minor, continued on Page 4

Consolidation of Diversity and Social codes in the works

By Daniel Jacobs
Editor-in-Chief

A committee working to consolidate and reform the Social Regulations Code and the Diversity Code held their first student forum on Sunday.

The Campus Commitment Drafting Committee is holding the forums to gain student input on a new Campus Commitment code which will replace the Social Regulations Code and the Diversity Code. The second forum is on Wednesday, February 18, at 6 p.m. in Barrett 051.

"There are problems with both codes that we would like to get out, but we would also like to streamline them into one rule that governs community interactions and community values," said Thorne Maginnis, the Honor Council President and a member of the Campus Commitment Drafting Committee. "It's not like we have specific changes we want to make. We want to reassess everything that's in there."

The initiative to redefine the Diversity and Social Regulations Code came out of a lecture and a series of discussions last spring about free speech on campus.

"There was a lot of talk about our responsibility as community members in making everyone feel welcome and respected while also following our academic obligation to free discourse in the academic setting," said RSG president Jill Carr, who is also a member of the drafting committee.

The drafting committee plans to write a resolution and hold a referendum vote on the proposed changes at the end of the semester. If the student body approves the changes, the new Campus Commitment will go into effect next semester.

"We are trying to make it very organic and real," said Carr. "The stuff we have right now is very 'Kumbaya.' It's what the college handed down to us. But this is a chance for us to rearticulate and reclaim our community, and in a more tangible sense than just what we are putting on paper."

Showdown at the Dirty-Dova

By Rami Abdoch
Staff Writer

The thriving suburb of Cordova, Tennessee, and the surrounding cities of Germantown, Collierville, and Bartlett, all received a shock on Friday, February 6th. What appeared to be a normal night at the bustling shopping center of Trinity Commons turned out to be the last moments of Robert Louis "Dutch" Schwerin's life. He and another man identified as Harry Coleman were apparently arguing around 9:00 p.m. over a parking space and how close their vehicles were parked. The argument got heated and before long, Coleman took a pistol out of his car and shot Schwerin who died shortly thereafter, Schwein left three children behind, all of whom were in the car and witnessed this senseless act of violence.

Beyond the mere gut-level reaction of "how could somebody commit murder over something as trivial as a parking space?" one wonders whether this particular occurrence, though fairly isolated and easily attributable to a quick temper and rash decision making, is the beginning of a trend towards an increase in suburban crime.

The greater Memphis area, including Cordova, Germantown, Collierville, and Bartlett, has seen an increase in crime and is reflective of how the structural deficiencies of Memphis affect the surrounding area negatively and will continue to do so. Another phenomenon that adds to this is the constant zoning and rezoning of Memphis City Schools. Shelby County has much less influence on the city of Memphis than does the Memphis City Government itself, which is problematic given the (increased) problems evident in the latter in terms of corruption and poor planning. The question of crime in general is one that has been at the forefront of the minds of locals and one that is, at least ostensibly, a concern of the city government. Though this event is relatively removed from

the centralized crime located in the inner city in places such as Orange Mound and Frasier, one has to wonder whether this high level of crime is mere coincidence or evidence of ominous urban trend.

Black areas of Memphis are without exception more dangerous than non-black areas. Crime rates have a direct correlation to racial makeup. In general, this is true in most large U.S. cities. The population of Memphis (city) is about 65% black. The metropolitan area approaches being

"One has to wonder whether this high level of crime is mere coincidence or evidence of ominous urban trend."

50% black. As the ratio of black to non-black increases, expect the Memphis crime rates to increase because there will be relatively fewer "safe" areas to offset the "unsafe" areas.

Black areas are afflicted with more crime due to economic conditions and cultural differences, NOT because black people are born with some type of biological drive to commit crime as some will falsely claim. This is a clear cut exaggeration, and such an opinion deserves no attention. However, the fact remains that dominant ghetto culture that spans all races, yet is clearly most apparent among blacks, is present in the city of Memphis. It glamorizes violence, promiscuous sex, teenage motherhood, instant gratification, corruption, rebelliousness, and disrespect for authority while demonizing hard work, education, duty to family and concern for community welfare. A few lonely voices such

as Bill Cosby try to combat this culture and hundreds of thousands of blacks - some here in Memphis - work to escape this culture only to be ridiculed for "being white." As long as "being black" means lots of guns, dope, and babies, Memphis does not face a very bright future.

In addition, the city school system has been failing for years upon years, yet the funding in the past decade, for the most part, has decreased every year.

Crime is rampant here due to the horrible school system. Teachers and other faculty spend more time babysitting and disciplining students than teaching them. They don't have a clear focus in their mind to learn the value of knowledge and how that is the path to success. I don't want to place all of the blame on the city though. Many of these problems are either casually ignored at home if not subtly promoted. Parents and community leaders usually only think in the short term when it comes to improving Memphis' socioeconomic condition as a whole. Questions emerge such as, how to address poverty, and what's the most effective strategy for dealing with this or that gang? The problem with this is they are just that: short term fixes at best - we assume they are effective.

If the city cannot take the time to educate the children and retool the city school system from the ground up, Memphis will never get better. Kids grow up to be poor, to be criminals, and those few kids who go to upper-level schools leave Memphis after 12th grade. This is what it boils down to; the crime has just got to go. Sound education and a clear sense of morality from community leaders, family, friends, and the city at large, must be implemented as the means to pave the groundwork for long term socioeconomic stability in Memphis. For sure, this is not going to be an overnight thing. It will take time, effort, and a great deal of patience, but it cannot start unless someone takes the first step.

Guantanamo Bay a worthy cause

By John Ayers
Staff Writer

One of President Obama's first executive orders has been the closing of Guantanamo Bay. What the Bush Administration had vowed to do for two years is now going to be completed within the year.

The main issue revolves around what will happen to the prisoners housed there. Unfortunately, the Obama administration has moved forward with the plans to close it, yet lacks an answer to that question. While we don't have to worry about a terrorist breakout from a Federal prison like some people have outrageously suggested, one must wonder if these people can be sent to a Federal prison at all. How will they assimilate within the prison population? They should be segregated from the rest of the prison population in order to stem the risk of violence both to and from these unlawful combatants. The alternative to setting them loose, will be building a new, special prison that would remove these unwanted possibilities. In this case, we would be back where we started.

The second difficult issue concerns the prosecution proceedings. For starters, many of the government documents and evidence will have to be classified, edited, or completely withheld in order to protect the sources and continue the flow of information in the war on terror. Can we really put CIA operatives in danger by allowing the prisoners to call them, forcing them to testify, or bring up their names, real or assumed, in a trial? Must due process against foreign enemies be so strictly followed as to risk American lives and our international flow of intelligence? I, for one, do not think so. So long as these people remain incapacitated from threatening the United States, their punishments would be adequate. Failing to prosecute these people and allowing them to roam free would be a very bad idea. I doubt that prison rehabilitates religious fanatics who may have plotted for the destruction of our country.



Courtesy Associated Press

Routine transfer of Guantanamo detainees via stretcher

Despite obvious flaws in the use of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as a detention facility, you have to admit that it has been successful in preventing further terrorist attacks in the United States. Much like the Nuremberg trials punishing war crimes after World War II, which was not based on any one country's legal codes but a general understanding of justice, Guantanamo Bay allowed for justice that did not endanger the security of the United States and, indeed, the world. Yes, these people should be tried and punished for any crimes that they may have committed, but we cannot risk our security nor our freedoms in order to protect their civil liberties.

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.

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

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ASSOCIATED
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Gossip with Paul: octuplets and teen pregnancy

By Paul Yacoubian
Opinion Editor

While I do not usually pay attention to gossip related media controversies, I have been intrigued by two recent stories. The first story relates to Los Angeles' own Nadya Suleman giving birth to eight babies. A thirty-three year old single mother, Suleman conceived the babies through the process of in vitro fertilization. Considering that this new load of children will add to her already six children, providing care will be the utmost concern of Suleman. Naturally, the twist is that Suleman is unemployed and receives food stamps, in addition to disability benefits.

Swarming controversy overtook not only Suleman, who has had to resort to care from her mother, but also the public relations firm that took her case for free. After receiving over one hundred threatening emails and phone messages, the Killeen Furtney Group ended its advo-

personalities have questioned the motives of the doctor who performed the in vitro work, in addition to Suleman and her mother.

Taxpayers have become outraged that their tax dollars will now be diverted to the children of a woman who should not have conceived via in vitro. Due to three of her first six children developing disabilities as a result of the in vitro, she receives \$2,379 per month from Social Security. For those first six children she also receives \$490 per month in food stamps. She spent money received from a disability claim in the amount of \$169,000 in order to pay for her in vitro fertilization treatments estimated to have cost around \$100,000. Health and Human Services estimates that the costs of the birth of the octuplets will be around \$1.3 million, towards the taxpayer as she had no insurance to cover those costs.

While valid arguments stress the necessity of personal responsibility aspect of Suleman's

ably, she cannot be considered a mother fit to raise fourteen children alone, so my guess is the state would take away at least some of those children and place them in foster care where loving families can raise them with adequate means of providing for their well-being.

This case brings up an important question of the extent to which public funds should assist bad decision making. Should Suleman receive a bailout from taxpayers to the tune of \$4 million, the estimated total expenses from raising all of these children? I think that rewarding her type of behavior would serve to the detriment of the public. Raising awareness of the hazards of in vitro fertilization will be good. In vitro fertilization should not be an opportunity for a woman to live out her strange fantasies, nor should it be an opportunity to live off of taxpayer funds. At the very least, there should be income requirements for in vitro treatments, including long-term economic sustainability.

The second story involves another outlandish instance of child-rearing. This time, in the United Kingdom, Chantelle Steadman, a fifteen year old, conceived a child and successfully had a baby. While this may be nothing out of the ordinary, the circumstances of the father are just that. Alfie Patten, a boy who was twelve at the time of conception, has stepped forth claiming to be the father. Admittedly Miss Steadman's boyfriend at the time, Alfie Patten had no idea what he was getting into.

As the story broke from the magazine "The Sun," a video surfaced showing Patten, whose voice has not yet broken, explaining how he can provide for the baby from the money his dad gives him every week, in the amount of £10.

As if the story's premise was not shocking enough, another bombshell has been dropped in the British media. As many as eight boys under the age of eighteen have come forward confessing to have been sexually active with Steadman around the time of conception. In order to protect themselves against any more public outcry, Steadman and Patten have completed a DNA test that will reveal who the real father actually is. By my estimates, over the counter DNA kits will soon have a huge market in the UK and the US.

This story, in addition to reports of UK holding the highest rates of teen pregnancy in Europe, demonstrates the failure of the country's social policies and/or cultural identity. Teen pregnancy is an issue that should not be excused and has not been excused by Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Clearly, unable to provide for this baby, an important question arises in the realm of human anatomy and biology. Could these people singlehandedly influence an evolu-



Courtesy The Sun

A growing boy, Alfie Patten age 13, poses with his newborn baby, Maisie.



Courtesy TMZ

Nadya Suleman proudly showing her enormous octuplet baby bulge. Notice the appearance of suspected plastic surgery to look like Angelina Jolie.

cacy of Suleman. Undoubtedly, the controversy has swelled as a result of Suleman's inability to care for her children independently. Television

decisions, I believe that it is highly likely that she suffers from some confusing mental disorder, worthy of an episode of House M.D. Inevi-

tionary regressive human reproduction cycle? Substantial actions must be taken towards reforming expensive sex education programs that are not working effectively or by advocating earlier parental responsibilities to inform children about sex. Another alternative, and in my opinion more important point, is for parents to keep a close eye on the actions of their adolescent teenagers. I am not advocating restricting freedoms from children, but I do suggest education on contraceptives and the provision of readily accessible condoms to all.

Letter from the RSG President

Keeping students involved in defining the Rhodes community

Community is a huge part of the identity of Rhodes College - the keystone in our Roman arch, the thesis of our treatise, and the proof of our theorem. If we can't count on its solidarity, then our entire structure crumbles.

I hate to be the one to say it, but it looks like we're sitting in the Parthenon right about now.

So where did it go, this community of ours? Surely it existed at some point. I seem to remember it being in the Admissions brochure ... right next to "students make jokes about the Classical era." But seriously, ask the average Rhodent "why Rhodes?" and you will probably hear "community" somewhere in the answer.

In the past year, we've seen some pretty divisive things at this campus, and our community, as an ideal, has experienced a sort of fall from grace. What was once something of great pride for us is now most often invoked in expressions of incredulity over the actions of others. Many talk about community as if it's a giant conspiracy perpetrated by the administration to make us all want to sit in a circle and sing "kum ba yah."

Community is something that I think Rhodes still possesses, but fragmentation has taken the place of unity. It's really more of a conglomeration of many communities that overlap and mutate. I think that we can take advantage of this to rebuild our campus community, though, and I think that this is the time to do it.

Articulating and penning our values is a process that will help Rhodes students recognize that, in the end, we are all looking for the same things from each other as members of this community. Introducing this document to future incoming classes as a Community Day code is an assurance that we continue to bring in responsible and responsive members to our community.

The Rhodes Student Government has assembled a student committee to draft such a document, The Rhodes Campus Commitment. Bringing in students from a variety of organizations and involvements on campus, RSG has tasked this committee with not only the thoughtful articulation of the statement, but also the much more difficult job of ascertaining

students' views on the nature of community at Rhodes as it is and as it should be.

One of the most difficult things about getting students to come out to something like a "Community Values Forum" is that it sounds pretty fuzzy - in the warm, fuzzy, group hug kind of way. I'm giving you a "no kum ba yah" guarantee, and if you know me personally, then you already know that there will be no hugging. We want to generate discussions about real implications of community. Here's the information; we would love to hear your input.

Today, Wednesday, February 18th
6:00-7:00PM
Barret 051

Best,
Jill Carr
RSG President

Student Voice

How often do you go downtown? Do you like it?



"I like the laid back atmosphere in general of downtown. I like the music on Beale and also going to the Flying Saucer—pint night on Monday night!"
—Alex Chansuthus ('10)

"I don't go downtown regularly. I mostly just go for Grizzlies and Redbirds games. But, once I turn 21, I'll be down there every Friday night."
—Josh Anderson ('11)



"I don't really go down there that often, mostly because I don't have a car. When I do go, I like to walk around the Peabody Place area and I also like the restaurants and the music on Beale."
—Allie Garris ('10)



"I probably go more since I turned 21. I think it is a good opportunity to go to school in a city—that is one of the reasons why I choose a school in an urban setting."
—Alison White ('10)



"I go maybe one weekend per month. Usually when I do go, I go walk down by the river. I like it because it is really relaxing; not all of it is really loud. Sometimes it's nice to just go and watch the sunset or something like that."
—Keturah Dunlap ('10)

CAMPUS SAFETY

February 8-14, 2009

02/08

3:23 pm: Trouble alarm in the BCLC; officer responded; no noticeable problems; system reset.

10:54 pm: Trouble alarm in East Village A; campus safety and maintenance responded; problem resolved.

02/09

11:26 am: Trouble alarm in Glassell Hall; system detected a low battery; maintenance notified for repairs.

6:24 pm: Campus safety turned over several unattended items to the library circulation desk, including five laptops, one cell phone and one camera.

02/10

11:16 am: Delivery truck struck a light pole on University, attempting to enter the Rat service gate; no visible damage was apparent; situation was resolved.

2:12 pm: Report of a suspicious person knocking on doors on Snowden; campus safety investigated and determined suspect to be a resident of the community.

02/11

10:27 am: A tree limb has fallen on a student's vehicle on Phillips Lane, busting the back windshield; owner has been notified; photos and a report have been taken.

6:36 pm: Campus safety received a call from a student resident on Snowden reporting a suspicious person going door to door knocking on doors and windows. Campus safety responded, subject had already left the area.

02/12

8:00 am: Library administrator reported to campus safety that two people had spent the night inside of the library. The intruders were observed several times after hours by surveillance cameras. Both individuals were escorted out of the library by a member of the housekeeping staff.

2:48 pm: Campus safety assisted a student on University who had run out of gas.

02/13

4:15 pm: Campus safety responded to a verbal altercation over a parking space in the Glassell parking lot; issue resolved.

02/14

7:50 am: Nine vehicles vandalized in the East Village parking lot.

8:05 am: MPD on campus to assist campus safety with the investigation concerning the vandalized vehicles; reports filed.

11:00 am: Student reported to campus safety that her bicycle had been stolen; report filed.

Minor, continued from Page 1

disease, along with other natural resources and environmental issues commonly associated with environmental studies," Sciubba said.

Along with making students more aware of the various applications of environmental studies, the Mellon professors are also working on off campus components to offer to students, such as internships or other environmental experiences.

"We are also trying to develop off campus experiences for students—some kind of environmental experience. Internships are still in the planning process," said Jackson.

"Interaction between humans and their environment is an important aspect of this program," Sciubba said.

The installation of this program was driven by several different factors. Shifts in politics and ways that humans are beginning to view the environment have led to increased environmental groups and involvement on campus.

"Green Rhodes and other environmental groups on campus are being more active on campus," said Lusteck.

The expectation is that this increase in activity is indicative of a great deal of enthusiasm for this program, and that many students will participate.

"The time seems to be right for this—our sense is that this will be a very successful program," said Jackson.

"We are really excited. There seems to be a lot of energy from the students. The nice thing is that this

program offers a lot of different aspects; it can cater to different interests within environmental issues," said Keller.

When discussing a minor, there is often the question of whether or not the minor will ever develop into a major as well. The professors associated with this program are hopeful that this will eventually become a possibility; however, plans for it are not currently being made.

"I really hope it will become a major," said Sciubba. "I would like to stay past the three years. We will see how the minor goes, but I would not discount that it might develop into a major."

However, for now, there appears to be a significant amount of enthusiasm from both faculty and students for this minor. Even without the option of a major, the professors still feel that the program will provide students with numerous benefits.

"I think it is a good minor for students interested in doing something with the environment in the future," said Lusteck. "At the present, the economy is moving toward green solutions. It is what industry is going to come down to; it will be a good place to get jobs."

Furthermore, Professor Keller feels that this program will also benefit Rhodes College in that it will "set Rhodes apart from other urban, liberal arts colleges."

The courses comprising this program will officially make an appearance in the Fall 2009 Catalogue, but some classes are already being taught this Spring.

Freitas, continued from Page 1

to geographically diverse areas and I went to four college types, which were catholic, evangelical, private secular, and public universities. I got about 2,600 students from all the different colleges, that's actually a lot. I remember when I first started my goal was to get 400 students to reply. I had no idea how much people wanted to talk about sex. I had 26 people that took an hour and fifteen-minute survey, I interviewed 114 students, and I had 108 students to do journals for two weeks, so I had a lot of data.

NB: What can readers expect to find in your book?

DF: 95% of the book is stories, but I tell stories of many different students and I look at hook-up culture and purity culture on campuses and do that all through telling students' stories.

NB: What exactly is hook-up culture?

DF: Hook-up culture is basically anything from kissing to intercourse and generally what defines it is that it happened. Two people that may not have any knowledge of each other, they may, but they also may not. It is often related to alcohol. I have joked about how hooking-up seems to be like friending people on Facebook because when you friend someone you don't have to say anything. And

hooking-up is kind of like that because when you are at a party and you have lots of alcohol and people just pair off with someone. There is a decided lack of sober conversation generally associated with hooking-up.

NB: While reading the book, I noticed a lot of things were extremely personal. How did you get students to open up about their sexual and spiritual life?

DF: I had no idea going into the study that I was hitting such a nerve. I didn't know how much people cared about this topic. I didn't really do anything. They knew there would be questions about sexuality and spirituality and people just came in ready to talk. It wasn't that difficult.

NB: Was there anything that you were looking to find out about from these students?

DF: I kept seeing students wanting to look towards spirituality, not necessarily religion, as a way to find meaning after being exhausted by hook-up culture and I wondered if that was the case elsewhere. I found out that at your average evangelical university, hook-up culture doesn't exist, that is where purity culture exists. I found hook-up culture everywhere and one of the most interesting findings is that both men and women really dislike hook-up culture.

Dismantling Race: A Legacy of Leadership Black History Month Calendar of Events

2/18

Professor Annie Valk
Clough 7:00 p.m.
"From the Ground Up: African American Women and the Shaping of Modern Feminism"

2/21

Peace Jam
Deadline to apply is February 6th.

2/23

Guest Speaker Reginald C. Brown
McCoy Theater 7:00 PM
Sponsored by Brothers with a Purpose (BWP)
**Discussion with performer immediately following the show

2/19

Diversity Luncheon
12-1:30 (Hyde Hall)
Sponsored by Career Services

Career and Internship Expo
McCallum Ballroom
Sponsored By Career Services

Soul Food Night

Trezvant Conservatory 6:00 p.m.
"Morning of Hope" by Jazmin Miller

2/26 Shout It Out
Lynx Lair at 7:30

Boston University International Programs



summer abroad

Internship Programs

Dublin Internship Program
London Internship Program
Los Angeles Internship Program
Madrid Internship Program
Paris Internship Program
Sydney Internship Program
Washington, DC Internship Program

Language and Liberal Arts Programs

Argentina Cultural Studies: Writing in the Americas
Dakar Senegalese Studies Program
Grenoble Language & Liberal Arts Program
International Conflict Resolution Program in Geneva & London
Lima & Ayacucho: Understanding Contemporary Peru
London Graduate Mass Communication Program
London Liberal Arts Program
Madrid Language & Liberal Arts Program
Mediterranean Archaeological Field School
Padova Language & Liberal Arts Program
Shanghai Intensive Chinese Language Program
Sydney Entertainment Promotion & Film Studies Program
Travel Writing in Australia
Tuscany Landscape Painting Program

Program Features

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Application Deadline: March 1, 2009

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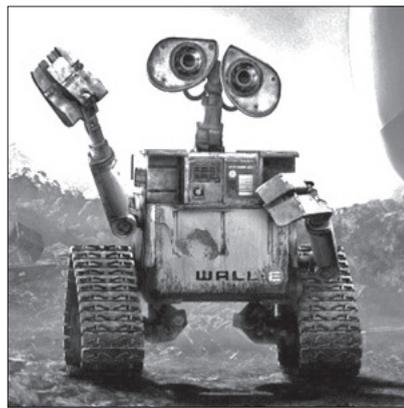
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The biggest night in movies



WALL-E



The Dark Knight



Slumdog Millionaire



The Reader



Milk



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

By Cristina Iskander and Janie Logan
Staff Writers

"And the Oscar goes to..." The significance of those words never diminishes for those filmmakers nominated for their work in acting, directing, producing, and much more. The 81st Annual Academy Awards are airing on Sunday, February 22nd, on ABC.

This year, the Oscars are going to be all about revitalizing the ceremony. Instead of having a lifeless stage, expect to see some bright colors and flashing lights. And instead of the average comedic host (Billy Crystal excluded) who just tries to get a few laughs from their jokes, knowing that we will get sick of them by the end of the 4 hours, the host is going to be Hugh Jackman. He won't do a monologue and deliver punchlines. What he will certainly do is entertain—complete with singing and dancing. He served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Tony Awards 3 years in a row, earning an Emmy one of those years for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program. Jackman makes sure that everyone has a good time, whether they are in the audience or watching at home on their televisions. He is definitely reason enough to tune into the Oscars this weekend.

These are our predictions for some of the major categories:

BEST PICTURE: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Milk*, *The Reader*, and *Slumdog Millionaire*

What was once the underdog, *Slumdog Millionaire*, is now the front-runner to win the top honors. It deserves to win because it presents American ideals with which we are all familiar—the power of love, destiny, and making your own luck in life—in a unique setting that will be completely foreign to most people as it is set in India. There could be a possible upset from *Milk*, the film about the gay rights movement in San Francisco led by politician Harvey Milk.

BEST ACTOR: Richard Jenkins (*The Visitor*), Frank Langella (*Frost/Nixon*), Sean Penn (*Milk*), Brad Pitt (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), and Mickey Rourke (*The Wrestler*)

The winner here is probably going to be Sean Penn, although we have seen him nominated for better roles in his career. Mickey Rourke's performance was outstanding and poignant, and a true comeback story for this once burned out actor, but the political climate in post-Proposition 8 California is likely to

garner support for Penn.

BEST ACTRESS: Anne Hathaway (*Rachel Getting Married*), Angelina Jolie (*The Changeling*), Melissa Leo (*Frozen River*), Meryl Streep (*Doubt*), and Kate Winslet (*The Reader*)

Ingenu Anne Hathaway was an early favorite, but Meryl Streep and Kate Winslet have since risen to the top of the heap. Between Streep and Winslet, the statue will likely go to the latter to honor her entire body of work (and 5 nominations without wins, including her roles in *Little Children*, *Eternal Sunshine for the Spotless Mind*, and *Sense and Sensibility*). We would have preferred that her recognition come for *Revolutionary Road* over *The Reader*, but we'll just be happy to see her win.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Josh Brolin (*Milk*), Robert Downey Jr. (*Tropic Thunder*), Philip Seymour Hoffman (*Doubt*), Heath Ledger (*The Dark Knight*), and Michael Shannon (*Revolutionary Road*)

This category is the touchy subject for people because of the untimely death of Heath Ledger, making him an unbeatable posthumous force in awards season. Although action films are not usually considered Oscar-worthy, the award would be not only for his chilling portrayal of the Joker in *The Dark Knight*, but also for his previous work and the work that he could have gone on to do. If anyone else has even the slightest chance of taking the victory in this category, it would be Josh Brolin for his solid performance in *Milk*.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Amy Adams (*Doubt*), Penelope Cruz (*Vicky Cristina Barcelona*), Viola Davis (*Doubt*), Taraji P. Henson (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), and Marisa Tomei (*The Wrestler*)

It's a toss-up between 2 talented actresses in 2 very different movies—Penelope Cruz and

Viola Davis. Cruz has a good chance because Woody Allen's comedic heroines have a way with the Academy, as evidenced by Dianne Wiest, who won for *Hannah and Her Sisters*, and Diane Keaton for *Annie Hall*. On the other hand, Davis could follow in the footsteps of actresses like Dame Judi Dench who took home the Oscar for her small part in *Shakespeare in Love*—proof that an actress can pack a powerful emotional punch into a few scenes, which is what Davis was able to do in this Tony Award-winning adaptation.

BEST DIRECTING: Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*), Stephen Daldry (*The Reader*), David Fincher (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), Ron Howard (*Frost/Nixon*), and Gus Van Sant (*Milk*)

It is not always the case that the director of the Best Picture winner wins the honor of Best Director, but this year, that will almost certainly be the case with Danny Boyle for the distinct vision with which *Slumdog* was filmed. We could also foresee David Fincher as the winner. The Academy loves artsy directors. See: Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*) and Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*)

BEST WRITING, ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*), Courtney Hunt (*Frozen River*), Mike Leigh (*Happy-Go-Lucky*), Martin McDonagh (*In Bruges*), and Andrew Stanton and Jim Reardon (*WALL-E*)

Milk. Period. No contest. The only Best Picture contender in the category is a sure bet.

BEST WRITING, ADAPTED SCREENPLAY: Simon Beaufoy (*Slumdog Millionaire*), David Hare (*The Reader*), Peter Morgan (*Frost/Nixon*), Eric Roth (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), and John Patrick Stanley (*Doubt*)

Slumdog, even though *Benjamin Button* probably should win for its beautiful adaptation of the F. Scott Fitzgerald story.

BEST ANIMATED FILM: *Bolt*, *Kung Fu Panda*, and *WALL-E*

Yeah, yeah, we know, Pixar films win everything. It's kind of boring, actually, already knowing that *WALL-E* producers have a spot cleared for the trophy on their shelves. Alongside the Oscars for *Ratatouille*, *The Incredibles*...

In the categories that fewer people care about and probably leave the room for, we expect awards to go to *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* for Visual Effects, Art Direction, and Makeup. *The Dark Knight* will take home the Oscars in Sound Editing and Mixing, Costume Design for the Baz Luhrmann epic, *Australia*. Music awards like Best Song and Best Score will probably be added to the *Slumdog* pile. *Man on Wire* as Best Documentary.



A culinary perspective on Beale Street

Dyer's Burgers of Memphis
By Pauline McKim

The hamburger has long been a mainstay of the American college student's diet. Luckily Rhodes students need not travel far to obtain the gold standard of this all so important dish. Behold Dyer's Burgers, located at 205 Beale Street. Although at first glance Dyer's may appear to be a typical run of the mill diner, do not dismiss this place solely because of its looks. Started in 1912, Dyer's is famous the world over for cooking its hamburgers in the same grease used since the day the restaurant opened. While this concept may seem strange, one should take into account that the grease is strained daily for cleanliness and the results are nothing short of miraculous. The hamburgers here are absolutely delicious and definitely live up to the hype. They are juicy and flavorful without being overly greasy, a feat that judging by the amount of bad burgers being served must be difficult to achieve. The hot dogs here are cooked the same way as the hamburgers and are equally delicious. Dyer's also specializes in amazing hand cut fries, which serve as a perfect complement to the burgers. While the atmosphere at Dyer's may be lacking and the service was slow, the amazing food definitely makes up for these weaknesses and this is a restaurant that is worth the visit.



Dyer's Burgers of Memphis located on 205 Beale Street next to Alfred's.

Blue's City Café

By Pauline McKim

Blue's City Café, located at 138 Beale Street, has been a Memphis favorite since moving to its present location in the early '90's. Known for its ribs and excellent tamales, this restaurant has been frequented by many famous people including President Bill Clinton, comedian Dave Chapelle, and a soprano star James Gandolfini. After visiting Blue's City Café myself, it is easy to see what makes this restaurant so popular. The restaurant is decorated as a type of upscale diner with Memphis and blues memorabilia lining the walls. Its interior was immortalized in the 1993 film *The Firm* starring Tom Cruise. However, the Blue's City Café is definitely not an overhyped tourist attraction. Every aspect of this restaurant is great. The waiter was extremely friendly and quite knowledgeable about the menu. He was quick to offer suggestions and his advice was very helpful. The catfish he recommended was extremely tasty as were the French fries and coleslaw served with it. However, the best thing about Blue's City Café is without a doubt the tamales. They had just the right amount of spice and were incredibly flavorful. Although I ate them as an appetizer, they could easily serve as a main course. Blue's City Café is one of those rare restaurants where all the pieces truly come together. Everything from the food, staff, and atmosphere was absolutely terrific making Blue's City Café a Memphis hotspot that cannot be missed!



Blue's City Cafe is located at 138 Beale Street.

Hollywood in Memphis

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rainmaker* (1997) is not groundbreaking cinema. This movie will not re-route your consciousness like Coppola's bloated, drug-laced war odyssey *Apocalypse Now*, nor will it skillfully play your emotions like the strings of some tragic cello, as in his Greek opera *The Godfather*. The story of a small-town novice lawyer, armed with only charming naivete, and hopelessly idealistic American values, taking on profit-bewitched corporate sharks and winning against all odds in a triumphant final courtroom scene is just a flat-out stale tale. It's a flabby, positively impotent cliché beaten to death and mercilessly dragged again and again across the celluloid landscape. But, dear reader, please filter this rebuke through the warped looking-glass of a cynical, jaded movie fascist. I am by no means a reliable narrator. And saying that, let me also say that Coppola's tale is by no means sub-par. What resurrects this movie from cliché-oblivion is its powerful bluesy score, its immaculate staging, good acting, and its unique setting: Memphis. Yes, it's made in Memphis and for that reason alone it is worth a gander from eager peepers.

The Rainmaker is the story of Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon). Fresh out of law school, he is rootless and dreamy, a weak, flickering blaze against the dark realities of corruption. Desperate for money, he falls into employment at a gutter-slime law firm and becomes tethered to the oddly protective ambulance-chasing imp, Deck (Danny Devito) who takes him under his wing. Learning the ropes of real world law, his innocence and virtue wither and he gradually decays into that which he most detests. However, while working on the case of a woman who is suing an insurance company because they refused to pay for her son's Leukemia treatment, he becomes swept up in the quixotic, underdog battle for her justice and his own redemption. You can sniff the tearjerker ending even as it skirts on the horizons

of the plot. Woman wins, goodness triumphs. I weep openly.

But what makes this film time-worthy? For one, the bluesy jazz score. It interplays with the onscreen drama in nasty, gnarled saxophone bursts and trumpet wails. It really lends the film a thick, smoky atmosphere. Corruption, greed, and intrigue take on an almost aural sensation as well as a visual one.

Secondly and thirdly, the cinematography and the acting are equal parts awesomeness. Courtrooms scenes in particular are excellently staged. When the judge speaks to witnesses, the film puts into place a tricky, kinetic interplay between foreground and background that heightens the drama of the dialogue. When the protagonist speaks, the film uses isolating long shots at canted angles to exaggerate and mirror the alienation and intimidation the protagonist feels as he stands alone against injustice. Symbolic imagery is subtle, but there for the discerning viewer to ogle at. And did I say the acting was awesome? I did? Well, it bears repeating: awesome acting. Danny Glover and Matt Damon are in it, so its equal parts soul and body.

Lastly, the Memphis setting really furnishes this movie with some delightful oomph, zing, and pizzazz. Maybe this is just because I live here and recognized some of the locales, which led to unnecessary thought-bubbles like "Great wheels of poverty, batman! I've driven by that sewer once! This movie is so much more exciting than it otherwise would have been!" I am sad to say, though, that Memphis is not portrayed positively. *The Rainmaker* takes the standard good lawyer-bad lawyer drama and chains it to the gutter-rot theatre of Memphis corruption. *The Rainmaker's* Memphis is a hallucination, cherry-picking only the sad corners of the city when it needs to establish or re-establish its setting. Cramping the worst of Memphis into each frame forms a wounded, cynical world-outlook. Even in its ending, *The Rainmaker* cannot shake the ghost of pessimism in the city or in human nature.

"THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SEE AND DO AROUND MEMPHIS, AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING ON CAMPUS."

FACT: 3 out of 4 Rhodes students drink once a week or less

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, Fall 2007 n=554

The comedic tragedy of Eddy Curry

By Gordon Chadwick
Staff Writer

In 2001, Eddy Curry seemed like an NBA All-Star in the making. Drafted out of high school, the Bulls paired him with fellow top 5 pick Tyson Chandler to form what seemed like an intriguing frontcourt. Bulls GM, Jerry Krause, hoped that this tandem would eventually make the team relevant again, something it had not been since Michael Jordan's departure. Though Curry showed the ability to score effectively, it became clear that he was not the right person to build a franchise around—and he was shipped off to the Isaiah Thomas' New York Knicks in 2005.

With the Knicks, Curry's story becomes more interesting. His Knicks career has been at times comical, disturbing—and even tragic.

First, there is the comical. Though Curry may have had his best season his second year with the Knicks, he has steadily eaten and lounged his way out of the starting lineup, eventually slipping out of the rotation altogether—not that he was ever known for effort or conditioning. When asked how Curry could improve his rebounding, (his rebounding statistics were extremely disappointing, especially for someone who is listed at 6'11" and 285 lbs.) ex-Bulls coach Scott Skiles responded "Jump."

But, Curry has continually become worse and worse. In his past two seasons, he reported to training camp horribly out of shape. This appears to have effectively ended his Knicks career—Coach Mike D'Antoni has limited him to only two-and-a-half minutes of playing time all season.

However, the media can find a story on even the most worthless athletes. Curry finally made news in the 2008-2009 season when he was sued by Casual Male Retail Group who claimed Curry owed them \$41,000 for clothing he purchased over two years ago. That total includes about \$22,000 in suits, \$3,700 in ties (how many ties can one man have?!) and other miscellaneous items.

Things got really weird when, earlier this year, Eddy Curry was slapped with another lawsuit—but this time it was not so funny as his Big and Tall spending spree.

Instead, Eddy was sued for sexual harassment by his former driver, a man named Dave Kuchinsky. The driver accused Curry—married with four children—of exposing himself on two occasions, making uninvited sexual advances and telling Kuchinsky to "come and touch it." Furthermore, Curry allegedly called Kuchinsky a number of racist names. In addition, Kuchinsky claimed that Curry owed him about \$90,000. Interestingly, Curry has responded with threats of his own defamation lawsuit.

Finally, we reach the tragedy. In late January, Curry's ex-girlfriend and the nine-month-old daughter they had together were both found shot to death in Chicago. As of yet, no one has been charged with the murder. Curry took a personal leave of absence to mourn the death and returned to the team in early February, bringing the story to the present.

What's next for Eddy Curry? Shockingly, the two lawsuits and murder have all happened in past three months. Gone are the days of innocent jokes about Curry's lack of effort and his massive tie collection.

Still, we don't know how this story ends; other teams have reportedly shown interest in trading for him—he is still young and talented. Whatever happens, one thing is for sure, things can't get much worse.

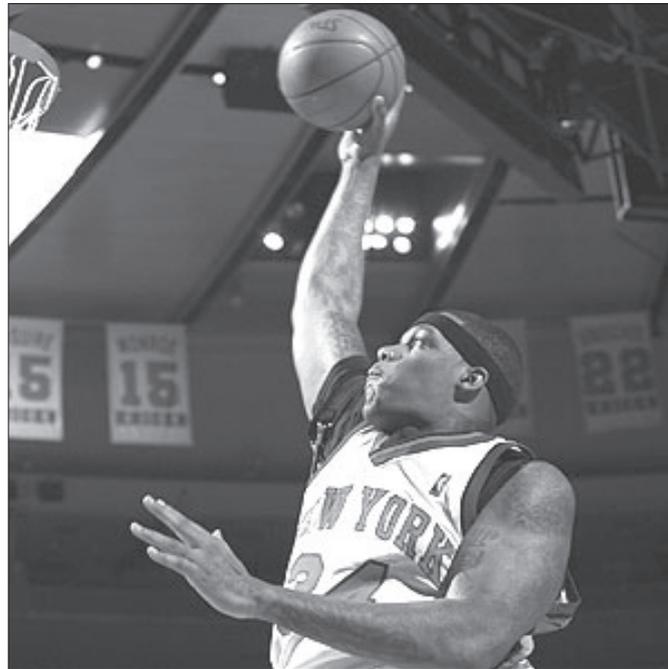


photo courtesy of Google

The talented Eddy Curry has gone through trials and tribulations on and off the court during his MBA career.

The dead period

By Ralph MacDonald
Associate Editor

Four years ago, on February 20th, the great writer Hunter S. Thompson shot himself in the head, leaving a suicide note that was titled "Football Season is Over." While other sports fans may not feel the same despair, it is easy to sympathize with a sports-writer's melancholy at this time of the year.

Football season is indeed over, and National Signing Day took with it the last real news of the sport until spring. The NBA is on break for its all-star weekend, spring training has yet to really get started, and I just do not have the heart to watch college basketball or NASCAR.

So, in lieu of actually trying to focus in on one topic, here are the litany of sports items that I felt were actually worth mentioning this week:

1. Carmelo Anthony. The "what if Detroit had picked Melo over Darko" thing has been done extensively, but recent events merit even further investigation. Anthony and Chauncy Billups have played extremely well with each other in Denver, bringing new intrigue to the "what if" question. It is hard to imagine (given Anthony's solid improvement as a team player since Billups' arrival) that Anthony would not have developed into an even better player if he had been paired with Billups from the very start of his career. Making the idea even more tantalizing is the thought of an improved Anthony going against his would-be division rival, LeBron James.

2. The MLB free-agent season. Just as I print a criticism of Angels GM Tony Reagins, he goes out and signs Bobby Abreu to a one-year, five million dollar contract—a cheap deal for a very good outfielder. Then the Nationals sign Adam Dunn (a true sabermetric hero—I was surprised that the A's did not have more interest) to a two-year, 20 million dollar deal. The economic crisis has really corrected the baseball market, and might become a blessing in disguise for a sport that has had budget problems in the past.

3. Lane Kiffin—jackass. A quick review of Kiffin's credentials: He was the co-offensive coordinator at USC, was hired as the Raiders' coach after they were turned down by the other co-coordinator (new Washington head coach Steve Sarkisian), failed to turn around the franchise, pissed off Al Davis, got fired and landed the job at Tennessee—making him a less-than-proven wunderkind.

Now, a quick review of Kiffin's actions since arriving at Tennessee (a period less than three months): took stabs at rival coaches Nick Saban and Urban Meyer (three National Championships between the two, mind you), accused Urban Meyer of cheating while recruiting a mutual target (he did not), self-reported two recruiting violations that he took part in.

What more can you say? He's a clueless smack-talker with a hot wife and a future world of hurt in the SEC.

No need to share national title with Utah

By Andrew Mullins Williams
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, one of my fellow sports writers wrote an article about the five things that the college football bowl season had taught us. I believe that there were some good arguments made, but there is one in particular I would like to challenge—the idea that Utah should be voted AP champions.

I mean—really?

I understand the actual argument presented in the article was perhaps a backlash at the flawed BCS system in place, and I agree that Utah should be given the *opportunity* to play for a title. Even so, to say that Utah deserves a split national title is outrageous.

While there is certainly a bias toward BCS conferences, it does not mean that this bias is

unwarranted. For example could Utah leave the SEC with only one loss? I doubt it.

The last split title (as mentioned in the article two weeks ago), happened in 2003 when LSU won the BCS title, but USC was voted AP champions. But, comparing that situation to what Utah did this year is preposterous.

First of all, USC was No. 1 in the nation going into the bowl season—Utah was No. 7. It was not as if USC leapfrogged over anyone unjustifiably.

On top of that, to give Utah a split title would be saying that Florida didn't deserve it. Any team that runs through the SEC with the authority that Florida did should certainly not be punished by giving away half its title.

Even the raw statistics point to the fact that Utah doesn't deserve a shared national title. For

example, the actual national champion, Florida, gave up 19 TDs on 279 yards a game. Utah gave up 24 TDs on 296 yards a game. This isn't a big difference at all until you realize that Florida scored almost 25 more touchdowns to widen the gap. That gives Florida a difference of 56 touchdowns while Utah only has a difference of 29.

Sounds like a number one team to me.

But, wait, Utah was undefeated—who cares.

Take any team that is in the top 10 and place them in the Mountain West conference and you will start seeing a lot more teams go undefeated. This is a team that barely squeaked by a run down Michigan team.

Put all those things together, along with the fact that Florida beat an Alabama team that was at full strength, and that Utah played every "big game" at home (minus their bowl victory), and you have a team that got a fair ranking at number 2.

While in no way shape or form am I saying that Utah had a bad year, because they should be applauded for what they accomplished. All I am saying is that to entertain the notion of a split title would be ridiculous given the circumstances of the year. Utah just was not good enough and Florida played amazing down the stretch.

Upcoming Sporting Events on Campus

Saturday, February 21st

Men's Basketball vs. Birmingham Southern-3:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Birmingham Southern-5:00 p.m.

Check the Athletics website for the many Rhodes competitions happening off campus this week!