



Elle Woods makes an appearance at the Orpheum.

See Page 6

Press Release

Scholar to discuss new books at Rhodes

For Immediate Release

(Memphis, Tenn.)--Adam Bradley, scholar of hip-hop studies and African American literature, will present two lectures at Rhodes College in early April.

On April 1, he will discuss and sign copies of his *Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop* (Basic Civitas, February 2009). Free and open to the public, the lecture begins at 7 p.m. in Blount Auditorium of Buckman Hall.

According to Bradley, "Hip hop extends a tradition of lyricism that spans continents and stretches back thousands of years. Artists like Lil Wayne and Nas do what so much of today's literary poets do not, namely satisfy our innate desire for rhythm and rhyme."

The book features lyrics and techniques of Run-DMC, Rakim, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, De La Soul, Langston Hughes, The Notorious B. I. G., Robert Frost, Tupac, W.B. Yeats, Kanye West, Derek Walcott, and Lil Wayne, among others.

On April 2, Bradley will discuss *Three Days Before the Shooting*, which is a 1,200 page collection of the manuscripts relating to Ralph Ellison's never-finished second novel. *Three Days* extends the small portion of the second novel published in 1999 as *Juneteenth*. Bradley is co-editor of the volume, part of Random House's Modern Library series. Free and open to the public, the lecture begins at 7 p.m. in Tuthill Performance Hall.

Ralph Ellison spent more than forty years composing his second novel but didn't finish it before his death in 1994. He left behind thousands of pages of notes, typescript drafts, and computer print-outs that together comprise an expansive vision of his novel. Since the age of nineteen, Bradley has been working with Ellison's manuscripts in one

capacity or another, first as a research assistant to Ellison's literary executor, John Callahan, and now as co-editor with Callahan on this unprecedented posthumous publication. With the publication of *Three Days Before the Shooting*, readers and scholars alike will have the opportunity to see what Ellison kept to himself for more than half his life.

Bradley earned a Ph.D. in English from Harvard University, studying with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Cornel West. He currently is an associate professor of Literature at Claremont McKenna College. Bradley's commentary has appeared in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* as well as on NPR and C-SPAN. Further information about Dr. Bradley can be found on his website: <http://adamfbradley.com/>

His presentations at Rhodes are sponsored by the Department of English, the African American Studies Program, the Mike Curb Institute for Music, and the Black Student Association. Those with specific inquiries can contact Dr. Scott Newstok at 901-843-3135.



photo courtesy of adamfbradley.com

Dr. Adam Bradley

Cocktails for a Cure

By Matthew Childs
Staff Writer

Rhodes students Katie Amundson, Andyshea Saberioon, Karolina Grabowicz, and Allie Henson are ambitiously striving to promote the "Cocktails for a Cure" event taking place on Saturday, April 4th, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Madison Hotel in downtown Memphis. The event is a Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) benefit campaign, much like the Darius Goes West campaign.

Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic and hereditary muscle disease that weakens the muscles that move the body. DMD is a severe recessive, X-linked form of muscular dystrophy that rapidly creates muscular degeneration resulting in an inability to walk and later, death. With no cure, the disease is 100% fatal in people from 19 to 22 years old.

All four students joined the movement

Cocktails, continued on Page 4

Green Rhodes breaks ground on community garden

By Brennan Lowery
Co-Chairman Green Rhodes



Recently a group of students began working together to create a community garden on Rhodes campus. They set up on a plot of land adjacent to East Village Apartments a few weeks ago, and have since constructed the beginnings of what aspires to be a fully organic vegetable garden to serve the community of Rhodes College. The vision for this garden is to serve as a gathering spot and community space for the students of Rhodes in order for people to enjoy the outdoors, have access to healthy and fresh organic food, and learn about the fun and rewarding activity of gardening. Several organizations, including the Kinney Environmental Programs, the Environmental Studies Department, the Bonner Foundation, Green Rhodes, and the Physical Plant have contributed heavily to the realization of this dream. Now, as the garden begins humbly but purposefully, its planners invite all students to be a part of its growth and incorporation into the fabric of the Rhodes

Garden, continued on Page 4

Rhodes welcomes artists for annual music fest



Friday Night Lineup

8pm: The Miner 49ers
9pm : Jay Reatard
10:30 pm: Three 6 Mafia
midnight: Mix Master Mike

Saturday Night Lineup

8 pm: Ed Freedom
9 pm: Ingram Hill
10:30 pm: Cold War Kids

Muslim TV executive deepens Islamic rift

By: Rami Abdouch
Staff Writer

Roughly three weeks ago, a story surfaced regarding the owner of a Muslim TV station called Bridges TV, the first English-language broadcasting channel targeting American Muslims. Addressing issues crucial to American Muslims, the station owner, Muzzammil Hassan, noted that a likely by-product of this would be the clarifications of misconceptions about Muslims that have pervaded since September 11. Unfortunately, his mission was set back tremendously when he was accused of beheading his own wife. Former chief counsel of the FBI, Paul Moskal, sums it up as such: "His personal life kind of betrayed what he tried to portray publicly."

This man, who claimed to be championing the cause of a disillusioned Muslim populace, succumbed to a treacherous, despicable act. Unfortunately, many Muslims who respond to acts like this do not know how to properly account for them. Though the act is clearly not representative of Muslims, often they will be apologetic about the religion, opting to change matters which are generally agreed upon. Apologetics is formal apology for, or defense of, a person, doctrine, course of action. Granted, no one in their right mind would defend this person's actions; however, they will rush to apologize for him in the name of Islam, despite no need to so. Rather, the proper method for addressing such issues is to denounce such actions categorically, and to explain the religiously valid alternative. Even if they are not explicitly apologetic, many Muslims are hard-pressed to address the matter as clearly and concisely as possible, and to point to a specific tenet of the religion that stands in clear opposition to the action of the individual. In this instance, Hassan committed the act, presumably, because his wife, Aasiya Hassan, recently filed for divorce and had a protection order against her husband. To be clear: women in Islam have the right to divorce their husband given certain conditions. Had her husband been treating her unfairly, not fulfilling his obligation in taking care of her financial needs, or otherwise been unjust to her, she has the option and right to initiate the divorce herself.

I doubt that this person even knew the judgments pertaining to divorce in this context. Had he bothered to learn the religious rule, seek assistance from others to help save the marriage, etc., this all could have been averted. This disaster and others indicate the precious value of knowledge before action. In Islam, a premium is placed on knowledge, both religious and worldly. For instance, there is a body of knowledge dubbed the personal obligatory knowledge that all accountable persons must know; this knowledge concerns the Muslim creed, prayer, zakat, dealings (how to buy and sell), etc. In addition, it is incumbent upon some members of the community to learn physics, chemistry, medicine, biology, and other sciences to meet the needs of the Muslim community as a whole. This approach of knowledge before action is the basis of the application of Islamic jurisprudence that helps to foster a healthy society. Individuals like Hassan that do not learn the basics of the religion and cannot be seen as representative of the entire Islamic faith.

This brutal attack is reminiscent of the "honor killing" phenomenon that has cropped up recently in both Muslim and non-Muslim communities. These killings are done in order to prevent what is deemed a supposedly worse harm done by the one who is killed. For example, if a father knows that his son goes out every night and gambles, he may request that his son be killed to prevent shame being brought on his family. It is unlawful, in the Islamic religion, for a person to engage in an act when he knows the outcome of this act will produce more harm than good. In the aforementioned example, this is clear: committing murder is obviously more harmful than gambling.

I want to stress how unfortunate this incident was and how Islam, in reality, is a religion of moderation that promotes knowledge. Those people whose hearts humbled to the call of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, were a people of middle ground, fairness, and justice. Others, whose hearts did not humble with peace of mind, had ulterior motives and emerged to spread envious gossip by attempting to split the line. They constitute the fringe sects of destruction and incompatible ideologies that conceal themselves with the cloak of Islam to spread their discord, disrupting the harmony of Islam.

Some comments on the recession and stimulus

By Mike Hammock
Economics Professor

Why did the housing bubble happen? Some blame the Community Reinvestment Act, although I am skeptical. I think it has too small of an impact, and happened too far back in time. Some blame changes in regulation, or deregulation, although that is also not clear. The sad truth is that we do not really know why bubbles happen at some times, and not at others. Perhaps bubbles are, by nature, simply unpredictable and inexplicable. In addition to the housing bubble collapse, there is a related credit crunch. As a result of some strange financial dealings, many companies bought and sold financial instruments—such as credit default swaps—that turned out not to be a good idea.

The lack of understanding and broad complexity of the financial crisis leads me to a general complaint about macroeconomics: We lack experiments. We have years of data, but we only observe the world as it existed. We cannot run back the clock, try something else, and see what would have happened. In microeconomics we often have a wealth of tiny natural experiments, as different counties or states do different things. Not so at the federal level. To put it another way, we're trying to do statistical work on depressions with only one observation: The Great Depression. It is very difficult to conclude much from this. Perhaps in a few years we will have another depression to look back upon (let us hope not), giving us a total of two data points.

As a result there are many economists providing many different explanations for how we got here, and how to get out of this mess. There is a lack of consensus on basic macroeconomic variables. Which ones are endogenous? Which are exogenous? What direction does causation flow? Read the various reputable economics bloggers—Paul Krugman, Brad DeLong, James

Hamilton, Arnold Kling, Greg Mankiw—and you will come away bewildered. There are few aspects of macroeconomics on which economists agree.

Many economists turn to Fiscal Policy for solving the financial crisis. Fiscal Policy consists of changing government spending and taxes to stimulate or slow down the economy. The goal is to spend money in ways that put currently unemployed resources—workers—back to work. It may be necessary to borrow money to fund this sort of stimulus (tax receipts are down in recessions, and government spending goes up), but it might be worth it to get out of the recession. After all, once the economy speeds up again, the borrowing can be paid back with higher taxes.

Now two problems appear. First, in the real world, governments spend money according to who has political influence, and not necessarily according to what will stimulate the economy. So there has been a great deal of effort by lobbyists to use the stimulus bill to favor their employers. Politicians want to send money back to their home states to get votes to help them get reelected. Spending on many of the resulting projects—such as green energy—will probably not put to work those workers who are currently unemployed. That is, an unemployed Wall Street guy is not going to become an environmental or electrical engineer building a new clean power plant (not fast enough to stimulate the economy, anyway). Other areas of spending, such as road construction and bridge repair, may indeed re-employ currently unemployed construction workers. A portion of the money won't provide a stimulus now because it won't take effect until next year. Even the money spent now will not have an immediate effect because these things take time. It is prudent to be skeptical regarding the effectiveness of the stimulus program.

The second problem is that resources devot-

ed to uses dictated by this government spending are not available for alternative uses. That is, there is no free lunch. If we spend \$2 billion on building a green power plant today, some of that \$2 billion represents resources that will not be available in the future. It depends, again, on which of those resources are currently idle and which are not. In this sense, dollars are really irrelevant; what matters are *resources*. Government spending either moves money around from one person to another (like social security) or consumes real resources (like building a dam). It may be worth it to build this power plant, or it might not, but if it is not going to put to work currently out-of-work workers, then the criteria we should use for deciding whether or not to expend resources on it is cost-benefit analysis, and it's not stimulus.

Bob Higgs has argued that the Great Depression's duration was caused by "regime uncertainty"—businesses were unsure about how much Roosevelt would change the rules of the game. This made long-term investments risky. The same may be true today. Businesses may be holding off on investment spending because they are unsure of what the government will be doing. Will the stimulus package help them or their competitors? Will regulation in their industry increase or decrease? Will health care reform reduce their costs or raise them? This can lengthen the adjustment process, as firms wait to find out how this uncertainty is resolved. For this reason it might be best for Congress and the administration to hurry up and do something, however bad, or perhaps do nothing, and then stick with it in a predictable way.

Maybe that would do a lot, or maybe not. I don't know! I'm not a macroeconomist, and my opinion on this may not be very valuable. On the other hand, I'm not convinced that the real macroeconomists know any better.

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief

Ralph MacDonald

Managing Editor

Avery Pribila

News Editor

NeNe Bafford

Opinion Editor

Paul Yacoubian

A&E Editor

Cristina Iskander

Sports Editor

Onalee Carson

Layout Editor

Lee Bryant

Assistant Layout Editor

Monica Gehrig

Copy Editor

Lilly Rice

Photography Editor

Noelle Smith

Business Manager

Jamie Young

Executive Assistant

Anna Meyerrose

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

Obligatory community service under Obama

By Will Smith
Staff Writer

When I first began writing this, I intended to focus on the Serve America Act, a bill currently before Congress that, if passed, would increase the size of the Americorps program. However, a much more pressing issue has been brought to my attention. One of the big items on Obama's agenda supports community service. Furthermore, in addition to the Serve America Act, there is another bill before Congress that addresses community service. House Resolution 1444 would create the Congressional Commission on Civil Service, which would evaluate how civic service can improve the "social fabric" of the country and in what ways government can foster civic service. Sounds fine so far, right? Read the following very carefully: the bill charges the Commission with determining "whether there is an appropriate role for Federal, State, and local governments in overcoming the issues that deter volunteerism and national service and, if appropriate, how to expand the relationships and partnerships between different levels of government in promoting volunteerism and national service," and "Whether a workable, fair, and reasonable mandatory service requirement for all able young people could be developed, and how such a requirement could be implemented in a manner that would strengthen the social fabric of the Nation and overcome civic challenges by bringing together people from diverse economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds."

The bill originally appeared in the form of the GIVE ACT.

This bill included a list of prohibited activities for participants in the service program, such as: "attempting to influence legislation, engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office," "participating in or endorsing events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties...platforms...candidates...proposed legislation or elected officials," "engaging in religious instruction...constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship...or engaging in any form". Thankfully, this language was removed from the bill; but, while the original GIVE ACT seems to be defunct, it has been replaced by HR 1444.

Community service is a pet project in the Obama administration. Obama supports it, Michelle has made it her focus, but the biggest supporter is Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. Emanuel co-authored a book (published in 2006) called *The Plan: Big Ideas for America*. Quick note: anytime a politician says anything about "The Plan" or "big ideas," a red flag should come up. In this book, Emanuel argues for the creation of a three-year mandatory service program for all Americans between eighteen and twenty five. He fleshed out his ideas in a 2006 interview with Ben Smith, a reporter for the New York Daily News. Emanuel proclaims: "There can be nothing wrong with Americans having a joint similar experience of...civil defense training or civil service...which will give people a sense of what it means to be an American." He goes on to say, "God forbid there (will be some kind of disaster...it would be good) to

have a body of citizens who are ready and capable and trained. That's all you have to think about. We're all here for you, ok? It's a circle of love".

This whole thing is a wolf in really thin sheepskin. A mandatory service program—essentially, a civilian draft (indeed, Emanuel hinted in the interview that the programs would have a militaristic aesthetic/ethos)—amounts to slavery. Slavery happens when one person or an organization forcibly assumes complete control over the life of another person. For those three years, the participants would not own themselves, but they would be owned by the government, being told what to do, where to go, how to live, and what they can and cannot do. It would be especially bad if those prohibitions—excuse me, violations of our rights—were to work their way back into the legislation. Fostering community service and having people trained to respond to disasters is very important, but, a) do we really want to force that on people, and, b) when a politician tells me "that's all you have to think about. We're here for you, ok? It's a circle of love," I become worried. What he's essentially saying is "don't ask questions—let us take care of it—we know what's best for you." The Obama administration, but especially Emanuel, are, at best, a bunch of overzealous do-gooders who believe they have a mandate to lead the country to a better world, and at worst, schemers who seek to force their plans onto the people so they can control them.

Sources: newsbusters.org, Thomas.loc.gov, nowpublic.com

Copyright and modern technology conflict

By Dean Galaro
Staff Writer

Most people are probably unaware of the legal debacle that has been surrounding the website, "The Pirate Bay," which is the largest BitTorrent tracking website in the world. In 2006, the servers in Stockholm, Sweden that support this site were raided by police and seized for a few days. These seizures were performed under the guise of claims by the MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) and other organizations that Gottfrid Svartholm and Fredrik Neij, the men who run the site, had illegally been promoting copyright breaking by millions of people around the world. Recently, the men have been charged in court but have yet to be convicted. This whole incident has become one of the most important recent events in terms of modern copyright and intellectual property laws, bringing to the front an important dialogue about how to handle such laws in this age of computing. While there is so far no clear answer as to what should be done about copyrights, it has become clear that copyright laws are antiquated in their current form and serious revision is necessary to address the more modern ways in which people communicate.

The whole concept of copyright is very simple: it is the legal right to make copies of something. That "something" has changed drastically over the years since the inception of copyright laws in the 1700s. These laws originated in order to help compensate authors who might otherwise lose revenue from rogue printing presses making copies of their works and selling it without their permission. Since then, the right to make copies has spread not only to text, but also to sound, ideas, and structure. Current intellectual property laws make the distinction between *content* and *form*. For example, an author takes words, which are content in the universe of writing, and gives them a specific form by placing them in a specific order to express a specific idea. That form—that idea—is what is protected by copyright.

But can you really own an idea? Just because

you took content and gave it a specific form, does that entitle you to the rights to own that "property"? Should someone be allowed to be the sole proprietor of an idea (like a patent) simply because they came up with it first? This kind of question should be addressed constantly as companies file patents all the time for sometimes harebrain ideas that may or may not end up ever being produced. To cover themselves if they ever do run with this idea, they file a patent as soon as the light bulb in their head goes off. Palm and Apple have had several disputes over old patents that both companies filed over the years concerning the workings of their phone operating systems, each hoping that they can prove that they came up with the ideas first, therefore making themselves the only ones permitted to implement such ideas in their phones.

A serious problem with this kind of system is that it is all based on making money and protecting the ability of someone to make money. There is no concern for the quality of something, but rather the simple ability to sell it. How do people expect something to improve if there is only one entity that can produce it? Granted, it is in someone's economic interest to make something the best that it can be so that it will sell and earn them more money; but, at the same time, the editing and reconfiguring is stuck in such a narrow scope whereas it could otherwise be opened up to the world. Software is a prime example of the power of what is now called "open source," wherein code is written by someone and subsequently shared with everyone across the internet in hopes that the community will test it, change it, and come back with a better product with input from all corners of the market. Compared to some pricey software from big companies, open source software can be utilized just as well for free. How many people use Mozilla Firefox as their web browser? It is one of the best browsers available because it is open to improvement from anyone willing to sit down and tinker with it. It's great and it's free. While Apple makes great computers and software, why is it so

expensive? Because Steve Jobs and company are the only ones who can produce it and implement it. Why can't we apply this workable concept of open sourcing to things other than software?

Much more connected to many peoples' lives is the issue of how the right to make copies applies to music. The issue has been in the front of music executives' minds since the availability of technologies that could easily make copies of physically stored music like cassette tapes. Since then, the technology has only grown. In recent years, these issues have become very gray and pestilent to the music industry because music has become almost completely digitalized. Many youths that have grown up in the age of iTunes have never owned a CD; this is in stark comparison to their parent's extensive record collections. Sound is now manipulated in a completely digital process stemming all the way from recording to editing to distribution.

This brings up major questions when we realize that we live in a completely digitalized world. Everyone has a computer, and most of those computers are connected to the internet. This means that everyone who has a computer with internet access is connected to everyone else on the internet. Technologically speaking, everything we do on computers is about communication: the transfer of bits of information in the form of 0s and 1s means that everything we do with computers involves copying and producing. What happens when the 0s and 1s that make up the music we listen to starts getting copied and moved? The music industry gets mad and people start going to court because of it. These individuals are being charged fines to compensate for their wrongdoings.

But are we trying to draw lines around movement that we simply cannot contain? Is there any way to stop the copying of music? Simple answer: no. If people want something, they will get it no matter how that ends up manifesting itself. Even before the widespread use of computers, people made copies, thus causing record executives to worry that their industry was on the verge of a col-

lapse due to people stealing music. Did that happen? No, yet that fearful attitude has lingered even since. Furthermore, the internet did not kill the music industry, evidenced by the fact that people are still willing to pay money for music. This is not just because of scary laws that might put people in jail. There is no way to stop albums from "leaking" onto the internet before their release. Radiohead released their last album, *In Rainbows*, on the internet for free with a simple request for donations from fans if they chose to do so. According to the band, most individuals paid around retail price for this album, which was downloaded close to one million times.

What was the original purpose of copyrights? To make sure other people were not making money off of someone else's work. But is that what people are doing when they upload a torrent of a CD and enable others to download it? No. People do not share music with each other to make money, but rather to communicate and spread what they love around the world in a simple and straightforward manner. The only money being protected is the money that goes back to the musicians and the companies that control them, and by all accounts the musicians are hardly getting the lion's share of these revenues. It's an outdated business model that just simply does not cut it anymore.

There are many holes in the current conception of copying. The monetary implications of these holes should be getting more attention than they do. No one wants to mess with the system because it is making a lot of people very rich and keeping up a clear wall between producers and consumers in an interconnected and digital world that seems to be pulling away from those distinctions. There is no clear answer, but that does not mean we should stop asking questions. What is clear is that the system needs to be adjusted to better fit an age of digital communication and transfer ability that do not so readily accommodate the walls we have been putting up around our ideas for centuries.

Cocktails, continued from Page 1

for different reasons. Class of 2009 senior Katie Amundson is passionate about spreading awareness about DMD.

"I wanted to do more when I found out about DMD even though I knew nothing about the disease prior to the campaign," she said. Katie stressed that she and the other students had the will, drive, and resources to do something more for the benefit campaign.

"One of our main goals in to spread awareness to the students and the Memphis community," Katie explained. She believes that increased awareness will lead to more contributors. The proceeds from the event will be split between the Darius Goes West Organization and the Mid-south chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

For more information, one can refer to www.MDA.org which can provide links to Darius Goes West and more information about the disease. More information will also be broadcasted on the news, this Friday, April 3rd, on CBS at 9:00 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. on ABC; also, on Saturday, April 4th, on NBC at 9:00 a.m.



The Rooftop Party

Season is Open

Hot Bands, Cool Drinks, Smooth Talk

April 9. Shinedown meet & greet
. Free Sol . Lord T & Eloise

April 16. Mark Anderson's Party
Train

April 23. Kevin & Bethany Paige

April 30. The Ugli Stick

Back and better than ever

Thursdays, 6pm - 10pm

\$5 Cover charge

Ladies free till 8:00 pm

Must be 21

2009 sponsors are:



The Peabody
MEMPHIS

149 Union Avenue . Memphis, TN 38103 . www.peabodymemphis.com

CAMPUS SAFETY

March 22-28

03/22

6:49 am: Guest of a Rhodes student found sleeping in a running vehicle outside of Voorhies; subject was awoken and departed campus.

11:27 pm: Power surge campus wide, causing multiple alarm problems; Simplex Alarms notified; Campus Safety in the process of resetting the alarms.

03/2

1:55 am: FOB reader in East Village A malfunctioning due to overnight power glitch; maintenance made aware.

12:33 pm: Report of an accident in the Mallory parking lot; all information gathered by Campus Safety and report filed.

03/24

2:50 pm: Staff member reporting her 2010 vehicle tag renewal sticker is missing

03/25

12:15 pm: Commercial Appeal on campus to conduct an interview.

2:15 pm: MPD responding to an emergency alarm in the Barret Library; alarm was determined to be a false alarm.

9:15 pm: Student reported to Campus Safety that he had struck a tree in the freshman parking lot with his car. Information gathered and a report made.

03/26

1:30 pm: Report of an accident in the Harris Lodge parking lot; report has been taken and all parties have been notified.

6:15 pm: Complaint of loud vulgar music coming from a 1st floor room in Townsend; officers responded, entered the vacant room and turned the music off.

03/27

3:33 am: Zoo security observed a white male, wearing grey shorts and a grey shirt, fleeing their property in the direction of Rhodes College; mobile patrol around campus did not locate any one matching this description.

3:45 am: Noise complaint Voorhies Hall; Campus Safety responded and residents complied with request

03/28

Nothing unusual to report.

Garden, continued from Page 1

community.

As part of the month of celebrations surrounding Earth Day, the community garden will be formally unveiled to the campus community in an upcoming celebratory event. This organic outdoor gathering will celebrate the new garden, as well as bring together the students who have worked on it, Rhodes administrators

who helped to make the garden possible, and volunteers from the non-profit gardening organization Grow Memphis, in a setting where all students can mingle and learn about how to get involved. The event will occur later in the month in conjunction with the week of activities that commemorate Earth Day. All members of the Rhodes community are welcome, and any questions may be sent to any member of Green Rhodes.



photo courtesy of Green Rhodes

Green Rhodes is working to make the campus more environmentally friendly by instituting projects such as the all organic vegetable garden adjacent to the East Village Apartments.

Calendar of Events April 1-8

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>April 1 Hip-Hop scholar Adam Bradley to discuss his new book <i>Time:</i> 7:00pm- 9:00pm <i>Location:</i> Blount/Buckman Lobby</p> <p>Peyton N. Rhodes Physics lecture for "From the Earth to the Universe" Exhibit <i>Time:</i> 7:00pm- 9:00pm <i>Location:</i> Hardie</p> <p>Beer tasting <i>Time:</i> 7:30pm- 10:00pm <i>Location:</i> Lynx Lair</p> <p>The Art of Clothing: Middle Eastern and Central Asian Women Fashion Show <i>Time:</i> 6:45pm- 10:00pm <i>Location:</i> McCallum Ballroom</p> <p>April 2 Ralph Ellison lecture <i>Time:</i> 7:00pm- 9:00pm <i>Location:</i> Tutthill</p> <p>April 3 Bollywood film series <i>Time:</i> 6:00pm- 9:30pm <i>Location:</i> Buckman 108</p> <p>Opening reception for 2009 Juried Student Exhibition <i>Time:</i> 6:00pm- 8:00pm <i>Location:</i> Orgill</p> | <p>April 4 Tennessee Science of Academy <i>Time:</i> 7:30am- 1:00pm <i>Location:</i> Frazier-Jelke C</p> <p>Annual Rites to Play Community Carnival <i>Time:</i> 12:00pm- 3:00pm <i>Location:</i> Oak Alley</p> <p>April 5 Rhodes MasterSingers Chorale Performance with Memphis Symphony Orchestra <i>Time:</i> 3:30pm- 4:30pm <i>Location:</i> Off Campus</p> <p>April 6 Symposium for Memphis and the Culture of Urban Green Spaces <i>Time:</i> all day event starting at 8:30am <i>Location:</i> McCallum Ballroom</p> <p>April 7 Symposium for Memphis and the Culture of Urban Green Spaces <i>Time:</i> 4pm-7:30pm <i>Location:</i> McCallum Ballroom</p> <p>April 8 Dr. Mark Muesse presents "Wives of the Prophet" lecture <i>Time:</i> 7pm-8pm <i>Location:</i> Orgill</p> |
|--|--|

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STUDENT SAVER DISCOUNT





Starting April 1, all college students with a valid student ID can put down the textbooks and head to FedExForum each game day to choose from three great ticket options. You don't have to be a math major to calculate these savings.

Terrace Level \$5 • Plaza Level \$15 • First Tennessee Club Level \$25

Grizzlies' Student Saver Discount is only available day of game at the FedExForum Box Office. Based on availability. Some restrictions apply. Must have valid college student ID.

CALL 888-HOOP



GRIZZLIES.COM

Legally Blonde bends and snaps its way into Memphis

By Cristina Iskander
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Between the 2001 sleeper hit comedy starring Reese Witherspoon to MTV's summer reality show *The Search for Elle Woods*, most of us have become familiar with the general plotline of *Legally Blonde*: jerk boyfriend breaks up with sorority princess in favor of someone more "serious," sorority girl embarks on quest to win back his love by strutting her stuff at Harvard Law, and with the help of quirky best friend and slightly nerdy love interest, sorority girl finds herself, a passion for law, and (omigod!) true love—the end. *Legally Blonde: The Musical* packs no surprises; it's the story we're familiar with, only with songs.

The touring production has been plagued with numerous cast replacements and injuries (sidelining the show's original Margot, Rhiannon Hansen of MTV fame, and leading lady Becky Gulsvig for six weeks prior to the Memphis engagement). While the production, a close replication of the 2007 Broadway show has its drawbacks (example: the loss of the sorority house set piece in the opening number), in the spirit of Elle I have to give them "snaps" for overcoming these obstacles and delivering a (mostly) crisp performance.

Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin's music and lyrics won't go down in the books as one of the great musical theatre scores of our time but it does accomplish what it needs to; some ditties like "Omigod, You Guys" get you dancing in your seat, "Bend and Snap" references the musical's source material, "Serious" provides useful exposition, and "So Much Better" is the girl power anthem for Generations Y and Z, but it's the second act court room number "There Right There" that is the most irreverent and clever. Director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell demands a lot of his performers in the dance department, choreographing routines revolving around jump roping and Irish line dancing. *Blonde's* biggest problems are mostly a result of its book, or script. Writer Heather Hach makes several wise changes like expanding the role of Emmett, but she eliminates too much good content—where is the female Harvard professor? What causes Vivienne's change of heart? Additionally, the best jokes are lifted from the film's screenplay; none of the biggest laughs come from any of Hach's additions. Elle, as Hach writes her, comes off as a ditz rather than a girl with the wrong priorities, and it's up to the actress playing Elle to elevate the material.

Becky Gulsvig, who previously performed in the *Legally Blonde* ensemble on Broadway and understudied original Elle Laura Bell Bundy, has been promoted to leading lady. Fortunately, she has a great voice (possessing the most accurate vocals of all three women to play Elle full time including Laura Bell Bundy and Bailey Hanks) and she's a team player. However, her ability to work well as part of an ensemble works against her and her performance feels like exactly what it is—a background player thrust into a leading role. She sings and dances well and her portrayal of Elle, while bordering on the silly side, is amusing and heartbreaking at the appropriate beats, but she rarely shines or commands attention. To paraphrase one of my theatre companions, "during group scenes, I sometimes found myself looking through her and my guess is I shouldn't be paying less attention to the protagonist and more attention to her friends."

Most of the supporting cast is strong: D.B. Bonds surprisingly finds new depth and humor in his portrayal of Emmett, surpassing Broadway predecessor Christian Borle's take. Coleen Sexton (Brooke) and Megan Lewis (Vivienne) possess the two strongest voices in the company and manage to make the most of severely underwritten roles. Courtney Wolfson (Serena),



legallyblondethemusical.com

Legally Blonde, the movie made popular by Reese Witherspoon's performance as Elle Wood, is now a touring musical.

known to theatre junkies for her appearance on the web series *The Battery's Down*, chews some major scenery and infuses her scenes with a unique energy, and Ven Daniel (Kyle the UPS guy), a big crowd pleaser, has grown leaps and bounds since his stint on Broadway in *Legally Blonde* (in the same role).

Natalie Joy Johnson (Paulette), who created the role of Enid in the Broadway company, has the tough task of following Tony nominee Orfeh, whose Broadway Paulette possessed a warm alto voice and eccentric flair. Johnson doesn't quite match Orfeh's vocal achievements in songs like "Ireland" and "Bend and Snap" but she is instantly likable and charming. Her earnest rendition of "Ireland" (which includes ridiculous lyrics like "Give my love to the leprechauns") hooks you immediately; she may not have the bigger vocal range, but this Paulette has the bigger heart.

However, despite these standout performances, there are some weaknesses. Kate Rockwell (Margot) throws away too many of her jokes, Jeff Mclean (Warner) is incredibly bland, and Ken Land (Professor Callahan) desperately needs to work on his enunciation. Had I not been familiar with "Blood in the Water," I would have struggled to translate his warbling.

Legally Blonde doesn't set out to comment on politics, urge social change, or highlight an aspect of the human condition. It's simply a fun night at the theatre. Despite the show's flaws, for two hours and a half hours it's hard not to get swept away in a pink, girly wave of euphoria. The cast is endlessly energetic, the humor a little wacky, and the message simple: being yourself never goes out of style.

Bones makes decomposing bodies entertaining

By Janie Logan
Staff Writer

Not all procedurals are created equal. I have learned this truth after years of watching cop dramas, courtroom dramas, private investigator dramas, and medical examiner dramas.

There is a reason that so many of these shows exist. People like them. We all love a good mystery, trying to see if we can figure out whodunit before all is revealed. We get a glimpse into that crime-solving, justice-serving, life-saving world that most of us are not a part of in our everyday lives.

Yet, most of these shows follow the same formula week after week. Someone is killed. Trusty law enforcement people investigate. They have a major suspect. They question major suspect and/or major suspect turns up dead. Killer is actually someone the trusty law enforcement people questioned at the beginning of the episode. Bam, justice. This pattern of storytelling continues because people continue to watch, and the shows continue for an endless number of years and spin-offs.

There is nothing wrong with the *Law & Order* shows or the *CSI* shows, but nothing sets them apart. I want a show that keeps me looking forward to the next episode and that gets me emotionally invested in the characters so that I care what happens to them. It takes a unique kind

of procedural show to accomplish this, and that show's name is *Bones*.

One of the few quality programs still offered by the FOX network, *Bones* follows a group of scientists at the Jeffersonian Institute in Washington, D.C., who solve cases in concordance with the F.B.I. The main characters are Dr. Temperance "Bones" Brennan (Emily Deschanel), a forensic anthropologist and bestselling crime novelist and Special Agent Seeley Booth (David Boreanaz).

These two people could not be more different. She is brilliant—she can study a set of bones and know what kind of person they were, what things happened to them over the course of their life, and how they were killed—but she is socially clueless and far too rational, and often offends people with her directness, or confuses them with her inability to understand human behavior. He, on the other hand, can read people with uncanny intuition, yet science is like a foreign language to him. By observing each other's strengths and working together for 4 seasons, they have learned a great deal, become better people, and their partnership has grown into something that they both value more than almost everything else in their lives.

The result of such a relationship is an equal mixture of sweetness and hilarity in every episode. The supporting characters also contribute their own quirkiness. Among those working in the lab with Dr. Brennan are Jack Hod-

gins (TJ Thyne), a conspiracy theorist with an expertise in bugs and particulates (a.k.a., dirt, fibers, chemicals); Cam Saroyan (Tamara Taylor), the administrative person trying to manage all the crazy personalities around her; Lance Sweets (John Francis Daley), the young F.B.I. psychologist working with Dr. Brennan and Agent Booth to observe their partnership and determine why it is so successful; and Angela Montenegro (Michaela Conlin), a free-spirited artist and graphic designer, who also happens to be the daughter of the lead singer/guitarist for ZZ Top.

Bones is an extraordinary procedural because the cases are secondary. They are interesting, but their function is to provide insight into the characters themselves and show how they are affected by the victims whose murders they solve and the killers whose motives they uncover.

When it comes to a show that I love as much *Bones*, and I want to convince people that they should be watching it, I like to offer up the best of the previous episodes that demonstrate the quality of the series as a whole. My recommendations would be "Aliens in a Spaceship," (Season 2, Episode 9), "The Man in the Fallout Shelter," (Season 1, Episode 9), and "Two Bodies in the Lab," (Season 2, Episode 15). They are sure to make you a convert to the procedural that other procedurals wish they could be.

Degenerates keep good company in Tunica

By **Ralph MacDonald**
Editor-in-Chief

Tunica is a home for the elderly, a refuge for the crippled, a party for the socially impaired, and a crack den for gambling addicts. To say it is a poor man's Las Vegas is a disservice to the poor man, although the comparison does manage to shed light on what makes Las Vegas a glorious Mecca and Tunica a little more than a loose confederacy of losers. Vegas is a high-rent district, it does not want your tired and your poor, and they might as well have signs on the fronts of their grand casinos that proclaim: "huddled masses not welcome." But the area surrounding the Tunica casinos has a very depressing, low-rent look to it. A quick drive south on Highway 61 at dusk is not the type of expedition that one takes for affirmation of mankind's divine purpose in the universe. Leaving from Memphis, you will see the kind of drab-colored buildings that remind one of poorly disguised prisons for dreams. The dying light on the wasting region of liquor stores, adult entertainment super-centers, and defunct-looking roller rinks inspires a heavy foot as one speeds towards the southern gambling capital that is Tunica.

There are virtually no young people in the city, the casinos consist mainly of old people spending their golden years playing slot machines in for hours upon end in a mesmerized trance, kept up far past their bedtimes by the pure oxygen being pumped into the gambling halls. They are waiting to die—although a good number of chain smokers appear to be more impatient than the rest. It is a city of death, disguised with disgusting inadequacy by the blinking lights of the casino that are never turned off.

Needless to say, Tunica is a sexless town. The local love scene is not promising for either sex. Few women are attracted to the kind of man that Tunica attracts—the average male composite is probably about fifty-eight years old, obese, has scruffy facial hair, and possesses at least one noticeable physical defect, usually a limp. If bandanas, male-blouses, or parrots ever come back into fashion, Tunica will look like a home for retired pirates.

So perhaps it is not surprising that very few women ever come

to Tunica. A town that can only offer gambling, occasional shows featuring D-list celebrities, and a night of being hit on by men well past a non-existent prime is not very alluring to a vast majority of women. Most of the younger women work as cocktail waitresses, although a good number of them are grasping to the last days of their youth and sex appeal. Anyways, one suspects that the majority of them peaked when they lost a run-off to be on their school's homecoming ballot and even most of the younger ones would be hard-pressed to find jobs as lunch crowd strippers. Perhaps I am giving a tough analysis, but he who lives by the sword must die by it, and anyone who sells with sex better be prepared to be judged by their just what kind of sex they would be selling.

Of course, all of my descriptions beg the question of why I would ever spend enough time in Tunica to catalogue its many deficiencies. The answer is simple, and really bears little extra explaining: I have found that I can turn a modest profit at the poker tables, and this has spurred my several trips to this inhuman pit. Of course, poker is the one gambling venture that forces interaction between you and your fellow gamblers, and this has introduced me to generations' worth of cripples.

The most pitiable of the cripples are the actually physically disabled. Poker is more or less an equal-opportunity activity, and thus a table will frequently house at least one person with serious physical defects. Stroke victims, blind people, invalids, all have a heavy presence in Tunica, and considering the dealers' rapport with many of them, it seems that they are regular costumers. For them, casinos are a positive, almost a social service, but it does little to help the already-sad image of the city.

Contrasting with the invalids are the young socialites, who are no doubt pitiable, but only by people kinder than myself. They can usually be spotted by nerdy haircuts and pulled-up pants. To them, a poker table is more than just an opportunity to win hundreds of dollars at a time; a poker table is a prison for a captive audience. They can tell all the jokes, personal and second-hand anecdotes that nobody else would listen to before. If they are lucky, another

person desperate for attention will engage them, but at worse, the dealer is forced to interact with them. They are almost exclusively men, as women seldom find their way to the poker tables, and I have noted several of them down Michelob Ultras and Vodka drinks while they pester the rest of the table.

Finally, there are the old people who prove that our economy could be saved simply by putting slot machines in retirement homes. These are the parents of ungrateful children who have told friends all their old stories and have none new to tell; there can be nothing else in the world for a person who spends their day pulling a lever and watching the numbers line up. Perhaps they are hoping to hit a jackpot and move away from the city, which can be the only plausible explanation for winding down the clock on your remaining days stuck in a chair and watching three little numbers.

The more time one spends in the city, the more diverse the range of losers becomes. I have sat with recovering junkies, their brains permanently addled, who tell stories of their using days. I have grinded out hours with semi-professional gamblers, who generally have mustaches and talk about the times they stayed at the tables for over 72 hours, long enough to be considered legally insane. Gambling addicts yelled at me after I took big hands from them and then asked strangers at the table to borrow two-hundred dollars. Desperate young socialites have introduced themselves as Tunica Kings, and not realized that there was no difference between the two. I have watched weak pick-up attempts by weaker men at burnt-out cocktail waitresses, and I have seen more money thrown away with math and strategy-oblivious poker than an average high-school teacher makes in a year. P.T. Barnum thought he nailed it when he said that there was a "sucker born every minute," but the man has nothing on Tunica. Barnum showed off his dressed-up freaks; casinos realized the real freaks were in the audience, welcomed them into their home, and then took hundreds of dollars when Barnum only got nickels.

The Big ONO offers Hawaiian cuisine

By **Pauline McKim**
Staff Writer

Before the time of widespread modern convenience, it was common practice for people to visit several different specialty shops in their quest to obtain their groceries for the week. Nevertheless, large chain grocery stores such as Kroger, Schnucks, and the beloved neighborhood Piggly Wiggly have replaced the need to visit such shops. In addition, in today's fast paced world few people have enough time to complete their daily errands, let alone the time to spare to visit individualized food stores. However, Memphians and Rhodes students alike should consider sacrificing a small amount of their precious time and returning to traditions of old because specialty Hawaiian bakery The Big ONO is as the Hawaiians would say "Hauoli" or happiness, at least for your taste buds.

The bakery actually originated in Hawaii where best friends and creators Howard Montgomery and Willie Dean Durham opened two shops selling island themed baked goods. The name of the bakery pays homage to the distinctive Hawaiian flair unmistakably evident in the tasty products served as "ono" is Hawaiian for "taste explosion." The bakery was a great success but Durham, a Memphis native, had to move back home to care for his sick mother. Initially, Montgomery planned on joining him and bringing the island flavors to Bluff City. However, Durham unexpectedly died in 2006 before he and Montgomery could complete their plans. Not wanting to abandon the dream, Montgomery along with new co-owner Jody Lees opened the Memphis location of The Big Ono at 116 S Front St in late spring of 2008.

From their small storefront location, Montgomery and Lees make and sell a variety of unique and unexpected bakery treats not available anywhere else. All of their products are baked on site each day from a special Polynesian blend of spices and visitors cannot go wrong with any of the offerings. From the giant loaves of black pepper volcano bread to fruit flavored scones and lava rolls, everything is delicious and large enough to share amongst several hungry people. Additionally, with butter rolls costing only 88 cents and gigantic lava rolls priced at \$2.95, what's not to aloha (love)?

The Big Ono is a great specialty bakery located conveniently in downtown Memphis and is definitely worth a look. Just a small taste of its stellar bakes goods will assure a repeat trip.

Cinderella
The Orpheum APR 18-19

Just for Rhodes students, faculty and staff—purchase up to two \$35 tickets for only \$7 each when you call the Box Office at 737-7322.

BALLET MEMPHIS
SEEING IS BELIEVING

FedEx. AutoZone. LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. balletmemphis.org 901.737.7322

North Carolina clear favorite to win it all Salary dumping in the NBA

By Andrew Mullins Williams
Staff Writer

I know that Detroit isn't used to championships with the Lions in town—but come Monday, a champion will be crowned.

While technically there are four teams that have proven themselves worthy of the Final Four, it seems as if Michigan State, Villanova, and Connecticut are all playing a supporting role to North Carolina as title favorites.

It would be unfair to say that the other teams don't have a chance—crazy things happen in a “one and done” tournament format. However, if every team plays to the best of their abilities, there is no team in college basketball that can beat UNC.

I'm sure there are a lot of really angry Villanova, Michigan State, and Connecticut fans ready to pitch a fit at that statement, but it is a hard one to argue.

After personally watching North Carolina destroy Gonzaga and handle Oklahoma this weekend, it is hard to imagine any team

beating the Tar Heels. In fact, looking at their four losses this season, only one was against a team that truly outplayed them—Wake Forest. Against Boston College, they shot a miserable 55 percent from the free throw line and shot 29 percent in the second half. Against Maryland, they had only five assists and five bench points while Maryland had 41. And Florida State doesn't even count because UNC was without Ty Lawson.

Bottom line: North Carolina doesn't get beat, they beat themselves.

Like any team, the Tar Heels do have their weaknesses. The first is their defense. Everyone knows that this team can “run and gun” with anyone in the nation. However, often that means defense is sometimes an optional application.

But perhaps Carolina's biggest issue entering the tournament is the health of its players. If any of the big names go missing, such as Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson, Danny Green or Wayne Ellington, the Tar Heels become a different team and could be in trouble.

Not to say UNC can't win if one of those players gets hurt. As seen in the Oklahoma game, even when Tyler Hansbrough gets into foul trouble, and is limited to eight points, the Heels are capable of making the necessary adjustments to find a way to win.

This is what makes Carolina so dangerous—when most teams have their best players go missing for 10 minutes or more they usually find themselves in a hole too deep to escape (Duke or Syracuse sound familiar?).

Even if North Carolina is favored to win it all, we must not forget that they were favored last year as well—and we all know how that turned out for them. But, this year's team is more experienced, quicker, better passers, and better shooters.

So unless you picked an upset that never happened in the South Region, or you're a Duke fan who is bitter because your team lost to a more powerful, energetic and inspired team—it is real hard not to like Carolina as the favorites to cut down the nets in Detroit.

By Gordon Chadwick
Staff Writer

Salary dumping has become a common practice in the NBA, especially recently. Owners are really feeling economic pressure, and the last few seasons are loaded with examples of this cost-cutting tactic. Marcus Camby to the LA Clippers, Pau Gasol to the LA Lakers, Steve Francis to the Memphis Grizzlies, Kurt Thomas to the Seattle SuperSonics (now the OK City Thunder), and the backfired trade of Tyson Chandler to the Thunder are just a handful.

Usually one thinks of a salary dump as a trade where one team sends away an overpriced and unproductive player for almost nothing, simply to rid themselves of the player's salary so that they can use that money on someone else or avoid paying a luxury tax. The Rockets trade of Steve Francis to the Grizzlies is a good example of this.

The Rockets sent Francis, broken down but still expensive, to the Grizzlies for a conditional second round draft pick in 2011. In addition, the Grizzlies received cash considerations and second round pick. The Rockets just wanted to get Francis off of their payroll so they could free up money and a roster spot to pursue other players.

The Francis trade is nothing strange—the Rockets weren't using him, the Grizzlies eventually waived him and kept the pick, and everyone was happy (except maybe Steve Francis). Recently though, a few teams have made deals that have left their fans confused.

Dumping salary appears to have become more important to many teams than putting the best possible team on the court.

The New Orleans Hornets attempted to trade their star center Tyson Chandler to the Oklahoma Thunder a few weeks ago. The trade was nullified when Chandler was shown to have a toe injury, but the trade is a good example of the way many general managers are thinking now.

The trade was initially confusing; the Hornets wanted to trade a young, talented center for two very average players, Chris Wilcox and Joe Smith. The real reasoning for the trade was that the Hornets were willing to weaken their team in order to avoid paying a luxury tax—despite good ticket sales lately, the Hornets still cannot resist feeling the economic pinch.

The Denver Nuggets also dumped their expensive center, Marcus Camby, for a lowly second round draft pick. Again, the Nuggets were more worried about keeping costs down than they were about putting the best team they could on the court. The examples of this heightened cost consciousness could go on for days.

Unfortunately, this trend could lead to a decreased level of competition. Top teams aren't able to hang on to all of their high priced players. But there is a silver lining—teams will have to become smarter about which players they offer large contracts to. After all, salary dumping wouldn't be necessary if it wasn't for reckless free agent signings to begin with.

WBC example of national pride

By Onalee Carson
Sports Editor

The week before break, we ran an article questioning the purpose of the World Baseball Classic and whether it is a positive or negative event for professional baseball. However, after witnessing for myself two games in Miami, I can honestly say that the WBC may not be positive for the professional players involved, but it is positive for the fans. The national pride shown in the stands far more exceeds the effort shown on the field.

The U.S. took on Puerto Rico Tuesday, March 17th, and the outstanding sportsmanship was not shown on the field—fans of both teams formed competing troops of chanting supporters.

I had heard previously that Latin American baseball fans take the sport as seriously as they do futbol—and by as seriously, I mean as fanatically. As I got closer and closer to Dolphin Stadium I realized that I wasn't just hearing the murmur of fans...I was hearing a chant...a chant with instruments. As I found my seat, I quickly located the soon-to-be Puerto Rican fan section. It could easily be distinguished by the face paint, Puerto Rican flags, and a sultry Latin beat. Yes, the Puerto Rican fans not only brought their vocal chords to cheer on their team, they also brought drums, shakers, and any other percussion instrument imaginable.

After a couple of innings fighting the urge to hop up and do the samba, I was quickly rescued by our own U.S. fan base. While not as creative, musically, the United States' fans used their creativity in other ways. Of course there were the fans with the giant U.S. flags, decked out in red, white and blue; but we had to find a way to combat the music of the Puerto Ricans. So we did as good citizens of the United States, and started invading their territory—suddenly hardcore U.S. fans started migrating to the Puerto Rican section. And because we didn't bring our own musical instruments we had to make use of the resources available; the plastic chairs make a great sound effect when the other team is at bat, by the way.

The sheer passion shown by the fans, both Puerto Rican and U.S. fans, was incredible. You couldn't help but join in the chants, cheers, and camaraderie. And the best part of all—it was all positive cheering. There was no trash talk; it was just a bunch of people with national pride, cheering on their hometown heroes. It made you remember what live sporting events are all about—most of the time it doesn't matter who wins or loses, it is more about supporting *your* team, feeling as if your single voice makes a difference



Onalee Carson/The Sou'Wester

US fans at World Baseball Classic Tuesday March 17th.



Onalee Carson/The Sou'Wester

Puerto Rican fan at the World Baseball Classic Tuesday March 17th.

in the effort of the players' on the field.

While the Puerto Rican fans easily outshone the fans of the United States (even with our impromptu performance), on the field there was a different story.

Team U.S.A. kept the fight up and finished off Team Puerto Rico with a game-winning two-run single by Mets' third basemen David Wright in the bottom of the 9th. The hit came at the end of the three-run rally in the 9th inning, bringing the final score to 6-5 and eliminating Puerto Rico from the tournament.

Team U.S.A. would go on to the semifinals and were eliminated after losing 4-9 to Japan, the eventual Classic Champions.

And for Puerto Rico—well, their fans left Dolphin Stadium in a solemn silence.

Upcoming Sporting Events on Campus

Wednesday, April 1st
Softball vs. Mississippi College-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4th
Softball vs. Millsaps-1:00 p.m.
*Men's and Women's Tennis-Rhodes Invitational

Sunday, April 5th
Softball vs. Millsaps-Noon
*Men's and Women's Tennis-Rhodes Invitational

*Times TBA