

# THE SOU'WESTER

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September 16, 2009

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Iverson comes to Memphis and brings possible trouble with him.  
See Page 8

## Rhodes celebrates 10 years with President Troutt

By NeNe Bafford  
News Editor

President William E. Troutt is celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> year at Rhodes College. Since 1999, President Troutt has made significant improvements for the students, faculty, and staff on campus. Some of these changes include: the opening of the 15.5 million dollar East Village Apartments in 2001, the 35 million dollar Barret Library in 2005, and the re-opening of Burrow Hall as a Student Center for Opportunity in 2009. President Troutt has provided students with various internships through the College's partnerships with businesses in Memphis. He has also provided the opportunity for students to take advantage of the study abroad programs here at Rhodes.

In a Commercial Appeal article, President Troutt said, "I do wake up in the morning excited about coming to Rhodes. I enjoy my colleagues and my students and particularly take great joy when students come by and talk to me about their dreams and achievements and to get my advice about what direction they might take."

### President Troutt's Accomplishments at Rhodes:

Under the leadership of President Troutt, the College has been successful with the following:

Applications for admissions have more than doubled.

Diversity has also increased, with individuals of color representing 13% of both faculty and student body.

The college has risen to the top tier of national liberal arts colleges.

The faculty has adopted an outcomes-based curriculum

that gives students greater flexibility in designing their educational experience.



Photo courtesy of rhodes.edu

President William Troutt has been a Lynx Cat since 1999.

Seven new endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been established.

The college has received \$11 million in gifts from the Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust to establish Rh-

des CARES (Center for Academic Research and Education through Service) and CODA (Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts).

Students have been increasingly connected to Memphis with partnerships established to support student learning at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, FedEx, the National Civil Rights Museum, Rhodes Learning Corridor, Rhodes Hollywood Springdale Partnership and Teach for America-Memphis.

The nationally recognized Rhodes Student Associates Program has been established to give students meaningful work experiences on campus while defraying a portion of their college costs.

The college has received the largest gift in its history—\$35 million—to build the Paul Barret, Jr. Library, a magnificent building that has re-centered the campus and created a new hub where students connect to each other, to the faculty and to the world.

The college has increased its emphasis on study abroad and has garnered greater resources to fund students' international education experiences.

The East Village apartment-style residential community has been constructed to ensure that the college remains true to the ideals of its residential liberal arts campus.

A new track and field improvement project provides recreational opportunities and support for Rhodes Division III athletic programs.

Information found at <http://www.rhodescollege.info/blog/profiles/>

## Safe zones on college campus

By Anna Meyerrose  
Opinion Editor

At Rhodes College, a number of groups and organizations are constantly working toward achieving greater diversity and openness on campus. One program that promotes diversity is the Safe Zones program. Safe Zones is a national program found on most college campus and even at select high schools.

The Safe Zones program (formerly known as F.O.S.T.E.R. at Rhodes) is intended to provide a secure and comfortable environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning/queer (LGBTIQ) students can talk openly about their sexuality without fear of being attacked or judged. Various students, faculty, and staff at Rhodes choose to become safe zones certified by completing one of the five to seven training sessions held each year. Many of these safe zone advocates are heterosexual, and they can be identified by the "Safe Zone" stickers placed on their dorm room or office doors.

Aside from encouraging conversations about these topics, the Safe Zones program also works toward eliminating jokes and commonplace (and inaccurate) stereotypes about the LGBTIQ community, thereby creating a more positive environment for everyone. Furthermore, this program aims to educate heterosexual students about various sexuality issues and also to fight ways of thinking that include, but are not limited to, homophobia, heterosexism, and transphobia.

Along with the role of informant, each advocate is also encouraged to speak up if they hear any discriminating or derogatory language around campus. Such language could range from offhand comments such as "that's so gay" to more direct and mean-spirited insults directed at specific students.

Despite all the efforts of the Safe Zones program, it seems that Rhodes still has some work to do toward fostering a more open and diverse community.

Ashley Bianchi, Associate Director of Financial Aid, participates in the Safe Zones program here at Rhodes, after already having done so at three previous institutions.

"I have not used a lot of my training here, whereas, at past institutions, I encountered and talked to students who were having problems with their families accepting their sexuality," says Bianchi. "This campus does not seem quite as open as others I've been at. I don't see it as a problem by any means, it's just not as open".

Similarly, Walt Tennyson, Rhodes Chaplain, who has been involved with this program at Rhodes for close to two years, says "no student has ever said they wanted to talk to me about sexual orientation" despite the fact that the Safe Zone sticker is visible on his door.

Zones, continued on Page 4

## Calendar of Events: September 17-22

<b>September 17</b> Making CENTS of Study Abroad Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm Location: Orgill	Location: McCoy Theatre
<b>September 18</b> Meet and Greet with a 2nd year Osteopathic Medical student and our alumnus, Adam Robinson '07 Time: 3:00pm to 4:00pm Location: FJ 140	<b>September 20</b> Qin Na Workshop Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm Location: BCLC Activity Room
<b>September 19</b> The Big Diehl: Road Trip to Atlanta Time: 12:00am to 12:00am Location: Off Campus	<b>September 21</b> Formin' ideas about the genetic and epigenetic regulation of seed development Time: 4:00pm to 5:15pm Location: FJ Biology Library
<b>September 22</b> African Music and Dance Performance: The Kusun Ensemble of Ghana Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm Location: McCallum Ballroom	<b>September 22</b> Talk by Katie Jacobs-Stanton '91, Nation's First Director of Citizen Participation Time: 4:15pm to 5:30pm Location: Blount/Buckman Lobby
McCoy Theatre: Neo-Futurist Performance Created by Rhodes Students Time: 7:30pm to 10:00pm	

## Silent art auction call for submissions

Want your art to have a tangible social impact? Better yet, do you want to make some money for your art? GlobeMed at Rhodes is having a call for submissions for its inaugural Silent Art Auction. Submissions are due by 5p.m. on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Auction will take place during Parents' Weekend, and all proceeds will go towards alleviating global health inequity in rural Nicaragua.

For more information on the submission process, please contact Carolyn Lamere (lamca@rhodes.edu) or Sarah Endres (endsk@rhodes.edu).

## Ellen DeGeneres to join *Idol* cast

By: Ryan Costello  
Staff Writer

The hit television show *American Idol* will have a new judge sitting in the third chair on the judging panel this season. Paula Abdul reported last month that an agreement between her and producers could not be reached and that she would consequently be leaving the show. On September 9, *American Idol* announced her replacement, the twelve-time Emmy winning television host, Ellen DeGeneres. The outgoing and quirky DeGeneres will act as judge on a television show that is searching for musical talent; however, DeGeneres has little to no hands-on experience with the music industry; as a result, mixed reactions from fans have resulted from this bizarre hire. Many fans do not support her lifestyle and have threatened to stop watching the family-oriented show. Ellen, who came out as a lesbian in 1997, will have to overcome these obstacles when she begins her new job in early 2010.

The hire of DeGeneres as an *American Idol* judge was a rash decision. It seems that a large part of the reason the producers chose Ellen has to do with the fact that, last season, a gay contestant last season failed to be named the next American Idol, even though he was heralded as the front-runner all season. This choice of judge seems to be a desperate attempt by *Idol* to show it does not discriminate against the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) community.



photo courtesy of google.com

DeGeneres to take stage in place of Paul Abdul January 2010.

In addition to this, Ellen lacks the experience to properly serve as a judge on *American Idol*. The show is supposed to be a singing competition; how can a person with no musical experience judge a show that prides itself on finding musical talent? Ellen was simply added to the cast to influence ratings. The producers of *Idol* are hoping to draw her fans from her daily talk show to their own.

On top of all this, it is unlikely that Ellen will be able to give negative critiques on the show. By giving negative criticism, she would risk losing some of her viewership for her talk show, the *Ellen DeGeneres Show*. By making fans of a particular contestant mad, she will possibly lose some of her own support. What is more, it is doubtful that the interactions between her and Simon, which many fans are excited about, will be at all interesting. Ellen will dance and say she loved the contestant. Simon will say the contestant was terrible and that Ellen has no business judging a singing competition. In addition, Ellen will take the spotlight away from the contestants, even though the contestants are what the premise of the show is all about.

Will Ellen offer musical insight or will she just dance and crack jokes? I guess we will just have to wait and find out in 2010.

## Representative and artist forget free speech is a responsibility

By Matt Cavedon  
UWIRE

Between Kanye West and Rep. Joe Wilson, Americans are finally starting to get it: free speech is a right to act responsibly, not a license for stupidity.

Last week, America saw its president called a liar in the middle of one of the most important speeches that he has made yet, on the floor of Congress no less. That his accuser is a duly elected member of the House of Representatives made it almost embarrassing. Granted, it could always be worse: at least our politicians are still yelling and not throwing punches, but that's hardly a sign that we have a civilized democracy.

The immaturity of one congressman was matched by the arrogance of one hip-hop superstar at the Video Music Awards only four days later, when Kanye West seized Taylor Swift's microphone to tell the world that Beyoncé Knowles deserved Swift's award, setting off the biggest Facebook status storm since Michael Jackson died.

People across this country didn't necessarily shake their heads at Wilson and West because they disagreed with what each man said, or because we don't like dissent from authorities, whether that authority is the President or MTV. There are a lot of critics of Obamacare, and perhaps even more Beyoncé fans who would have agreed with West under different circumstances. And, let's face it: Americans have a proud tradition of disagreeing with powerful politicians and establishment cultural critics.

No, the real reason Americans were dismayed at the jabberers this week is that we know, on some level, that free speech deserves better than insults, mockery and stealing other people's moments of honor.

Unlike what some postmodernists mean when they talk about their love of "art for art's sake," people don't love "free speech for free speech's sake." We love our freedom because we all want to be able to meet our responsibilities as citizens of a democratic republic. The reason that we so jealously defend the right to free speech is not because we believe that people like Wilson, West and the KKK should be able to shoot their mouths off whenever they want. We are just uncomfortable with the thought of being punished for freely expressing our beliefs in a civil manner, and we are uncomfortable about leaving the national political dialogue to a handful of politicians, pundits and special interests.

We want freedom because we want to be able to live up to our duties. As Lord Acton, the nineteenth century historian of freedom, put it: "Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right to do what we ought." We all know that we oughtn't interrupt each other and resort to name-calling. We all know that Wilson and West were not men enjoying their liberty; they were fools taking advantage of our cultural willingness to accept whatever comes out of people's mouths.

Ultimately, nothing tangible will come of Wilson's and West's childish outbreaks.

If, however, these unfortunate incidents get Americans to think twice about why we have freedom, and about the differences between liberty and indulgence, then this can serve as a lesson about the purpose of rights.

We all know that there was something wrong about the two biggest news-grabbing gaffes over the last few days. Now, let's take it to the next step and get back our ability to discriminate between what is morally justifiable as free speech and what is just dumb blather, what is freedom well-used and what is superfluous.

## THE SOU'WESTER

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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.

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ASSOCIATED  
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PRESS

# Is the Swine Flu a pandemic or simply paranoia?

By John Ayers  
Staff Writer

Certainly many of you have heard of the recent predictions that forty percent of Rhodes students will catch the H1N1/09 flu strain (more commonly known as the "swine flu"). The problem with swine flu is, for those who know their history, that the year 1918 saw a flu virus termed "swine flu" kill anywhere from twenty million to as high as one hundred million people. However, the comparisons are minimal and the fear hyped up by a media fixed on ratings, not reality, is largely unfounded. Although the two viruses are of the same subtype, it does not mean that they will mirror each other. In fact, every year, there are multiple strains of the flu virus out infecting people. The vaccine administered each year is only based on the one believed to be the most severe or widespread. But we have been "battling" swine flu for about a year now and we have seen that it, in fact, has a lower mortality rate than the current predominant, less virulent, flu. This means that while the current virus may have the ability to infect many people, it does not pack as

much of a punch as the regular flu. This writer was himself diagnosed with H1N1/09 while in Great Britain in early August and, from a personal perspective, it was not on the level of the regular flu, lasting for a shorter period of time and being less powerful than the regular flu. While my case may be unique, the numbers do not lie and it has been reported that everyone is quite safe if they contract the virus, as long as proper medical attention is sought.

Another reason that argues for less panic about the swine flu is that there is good news from the southern hemisphere, which is currently experiencing the tail end of the flu season: the virus did not become any more deadly. Often in the past, in major influenza outbreaks, there has been an upsurge in the death rate due to the disease in the southern hemisphere before it has moved on to the northern one. This is because it is during this time that the flu will trade genetic material with another flu and suddenly become more infective and virulent. As this has not happened and the autumn flu season is upon us, it seems unlikely that the virus will suddenly become incredibly

more virulent and infective as it makes its way into the northern hemisphere.

Another point that the media has failed to acknowledge is the simple fact that *all* flu strains are capable of mutating into a more deadly form. Every major flu crisis in history is linked to the same subtypes as the seasonal ones for which we get our flu shots. The fact that this one is slightly less predictable means just that. Panic and fear have thrown aside numbers, statistics, and scientific and historical data. Yes, there should be an appropriate amount of worry that a more unpredictable virus is out there and has the *possibility* of become more deadly to humans, but we should not forget that it is only a possibility, and one that seems to be very unlikely at that. Remember, it's currently, for all intents and purposes, the normal flu. Just be smart; do not lick your hands after being in public places! Do not sneeze into your hand, do not go to class when violently ill. You know, common sense? Besides, the hand sanitizers that the college is throwing at us only kills bacteria, not viruses like the flu, so you might as well stop covering your hands in Purrell.

# Obama under scrutiny once again Health care perspective

By Patrick Harris

For better or for worse, the political life of Barack Obama has come to be judged largely based upon his speeches. This trend is visible beginning with the convention speech in 2004, which immediately made him a viable candidate for president, and also the much-ballyhooed address to the world's Muslims (all 1.3 billion of them) in Cairo this year. Even more recently was his pep-talk given to American school children, over which some confusion seems to exist as to whether the purpose was to encourage students to stay in school or to indoctrinate them as part of an evil socialist plot. As with much of Obama's verbal issue, the conventional wisdom in the media was that the president's primetime address on health care on September 9 would be an earth-shattering occasion ("make-or-break" was the term most often used) that would prove decisive for the progress of Democratic efforts at health reform. Not for the first time, reality proved duller than the fond wishes of the president's progressive backers.

Obama's performance was as rhetorically supple as usual, according to the standards of what passes for rhetoric in modern Washington; JFK material it was not. The gist of the speech, after all, was that Americans should indeed ask themselves what their country can do for them. Though the issue is certainly relevant to the life of the average citizen, it is difficult even for an orator of Obama's stature to channel the same kind of grandeur into a speech on health policy as one would expect from matters of war and peace or, to wit, the economic crisis, subject of some of the president's previous primetime appearances. The President did a fine job expounding on the need for universal coverage; his invocation of the late Senator Ted Kennedy was distasteful but fully expected, given that Democrats have been employing Mr. Kennedy as a talking point since before his body was in the ground (which is not to say he would not have wanted it that way). Less clear and convincing were the President's views on controlling the inexorably rising costs of care, but this too was typical.

The evening's only truly surprising development was the outburst from Republican Congressman Joe Wilson, whose pithy interjection "You lie!" served as a rebuttal to the President's (mostly true) assertion that health reform would not extend coverage to illegal immigrants. This breach in decorum effectively shot down

the hypothesis that the party of Mark "Appalachian Trail" Sanford and Larry "Wide Stance" Craig was incapable of losing any more dignity. The interlude provided what was quite possibly the only direct political consequence of the speech: a flood of campaign donations to Mr. Wilson's opponent in the upcoming congressional elections. In fairness to the congressman, the President had just essentially expressed the same thought towards former Alaska Governor, Sarah Palin -- something the left wing has been begging him to do for weeks in regard to claims of "death panels". Only inside the Beltway is it considered a bold move for the President to deny that the federal government is planning to slay its senior citizens.

The importance of the president's address was so inflated in part because the media have likewise exaggerated the significance of the difficulties health reform has encountered in the past month, from livid town-hall attendees to vacillating Blue Dog Democrats. While public opinion has drifted away from the President somewhat and the vicissitudes of the legislative process have undermined confidence in the prospects for a health bill among the Democratic base and much of the media (but I re-

The importance of the president's address was so inflated in part because the media have likewise exaggerated the significance of the difficulties health reform has encountered in the past month, from livid town-hall attendees to vacillating Blue Dog Democrats.

peat myself), the fact remains that some sort of health care reform is quite likely to pass before the year is out. Given that Democrats hold substantial majorities in both houses of Congress, failure on what has become the top item of the President's agenda would cause the entire party to be justly tarred as fractious and incompetent. The Democrats' sense of self-preservation should ensure that this is not the case; but, then again, history has taught that when it comes to the Democratic Party, any disaster whatsoever is possible.

At most, Obama's address served to modestly stiffen the resolve of moderate Democrats and provide a bit more inducement to cooperation for moderate Republicans. A form of health reform will likely be enacted, and most of those who do not already have coverage will now receive it. Some common abuses by health insurers will be curtailed. Meanwhile, the cost of medical care will continue to rise. The long-term fiscal outlook for the nation will continue to grow bleaker. Alas, this fact will receive relatively sparse attention from the national news media, until such time as President Obama makes another speech about it.

## Health care perspective

By Dev Varma

Access to basic healthcare is a privilege that we in the United States treat as a right, as an obligatory service that the government and private companies should affordably provide; and yet, most rural villagers in Nicaragua struggle to simply get access to basic medications, such as Tylenol. Clearly, there is a grave inequity between these two scenarios. Citizens who live in lands of plenty squabble and protest over how they can make getting healthcare even easier while those living in the prison of poverty are forced to silently wait for nothing to happen. Simply because of their poverty, rural Nicaraguans are powerless to fight the injustices waged against them.

GlobeMed is a nationwide group of students looking to break the vicious cycles that cause the grave tragedy known as global health inequity. Our mission is to empower both students and impoverished communities to build a strong and lasting movement for improving the access to health care for those who need it most. We frame our mission not in biomedical terms, but rather in human terms; to us, the equitable access to basic healthcare is a fundamental human right. This belief empowers, inspires, and guides us in all of our projects, events, and programs both on campus and abroad.

The Rhodes chapter of GlobeMed, established last year, is actively engaging in a partnership with AMOS (A Military Mission of Sharing), a community health organization in Nicaragua. All of our events—from coffee sales to educational programs—are geared towards both understanding and alleviating the inequities that afflict the impoverished and powerless inhabitants of rural Nicaragua.

We invite you to join us for our first staple fundraising event, a silent art auction, during Parents' Weekend. This event will showcase both the art of Rhodes' students and the incredible photography of a Nicaraguan health worker's six year-old daughter.

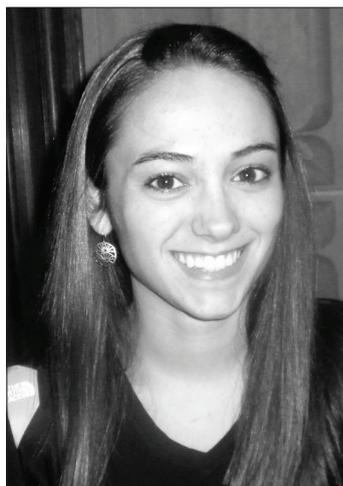
If you are interested in getting involved in our movement for a healthier, more just, global society, please email us at [Rhodes@globemed.org](mailto:Rhodes@globemed.org).

## Student Voice

What is your favorite meal at the Rat?



"Peanut butter and jelly."  
- Claire Weinstein, 2112



"Stir fry."  
- Maria Raffanti, 2013



"Chicken Parm"  
- Alex Herron, 2112



"Anywhere not on campus. Dude! Don't put me in the paper!"  
- Alex Price, 2010



"Mexican Lasagna"  
- Ai Doan, 2011

## Diversity talk grapples with 9/11

By Patrick Harris

September 11<sup>th</sup> marked the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, a time of remembrance for people across the United States. At Rhodes, meanwhile, the solemn event served as the occasion for students to consider the effects the attacks have had on mutual understanding, both on campus and elsewhere.

Friday saw the kickoff for the Diversity Dialogue Series, a sequence of discussion seminars on such sensitive issues as race, religion, and sexuality. The series is sponsored by Associate Dean of Students Dwaun Warmack. Warmack initiated the Diversity Dialogue Series four years ago, though this is the first year that the program will stretch over the entire academic year. Warmack described the program's goal as creating a "safe place to have an open discussion about diversity." Warmack cited Campus Climate Survey data that suggested some populations of students "felt marginalized on campus", though he stressed the creation of the program "is not because there is an issue" for Rhodes in regard to diversity.

The first session, entitled "Race, Religion and Politics in Higher Education: Impacts of September 11<sup>th</sup>", focused on religious and ethnic tensions and misunderstandings in post-9/11 America. The Dialogue, attended by a mixed audience of students and professors, was directed by Dr. John Kaltner of Rhodes' Religious Studies Department and Reverend Earle Fisher, a local minister as well as a Professor of Religious Studies at LeMoyné-Owen College.

The session commenced with a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks before delving into issues of religion and politics, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue. Both the dialogue's facilitators expressed concern at the level of Islamophobia in the United States as a consequence of terrorist acts, combined with a widespread ignorance of the actual tenets of Islam; the majority of Americans in one poll thought that Hinduism and Buddhism were more doctrinally similar to Christianity than Islam was, for example, and only 40% could identify the significance of Allah or the Koran to Muslims.

Reverend Fischer criticized polemics written against Islam, arguing that productive interfaith discussion required giving the idea of a "monopoly on truth". Both men expressed a goal of attaining a "more holistic perspective" through dialogue. In the course of the discussion some attendees argued that this approach failed to address contradictory truth claims between faiths, while others expressed skepticism towards religion in general.

The series will continue on October 9 and November 13 with sessions covering race and sexual orientation, respectively entitled "The N-Word: Let's Talk About It!" and "Is Your Home A Safe Zone? Coming Out During the Holidays". Relatively strong attendance for the first session seemed to please Warmack; he expressed desire for "an environment where we can talk about these things."

## Research study focuses on binge drinking's affects on smoking

Zach Quinones  
UWire

The Texas Tech University Department of Psychology is researching the effects of binge drinking to identify reasons why college students relapse back into smoking and whether it impacts a person's urge to smoke.

The originator of the study is Joseph VanderVeen, a Ph.D. student in clinical psychology.

The motivation behind the study stemmed from VanderVeen's master's degree project, which focused on impulsivity influencing relapse.

Researchers are looking for participants to take part in the study.

Associate professor and Director of Clinical Training Lee Cohen considered the study appropriately timed and necessary.

The research involves an area that's been understudied, he said, because most impulsivity studies focus primarily on alcohol and not necessarily with smoking.

Tully Brown, a senior history major from Rule, Texas, also considered the study valuable.

"People always say, 'I only smoke when I drink,'" he

said. "So it sounds like a good study."

In order to qualify, participants must meet certain requirements: He or she must be a daily smoker who smokes more than 12 cigarettes every day, has had five or more drinks in less than two hours, three or more in the last month or has not done this in the last year. And he or she must be between the ages of 18 and 25.

Selected participants will be asked to come to an initial screening session and asked questions about personality, substance use history—including current use—and mood. Following the questions, there will be two one-hour experimental sessions to measure emotional responses to photographic pictures.

Participants will receive up to \$100 after completing the study.

"The goal is to come up with a smoking prevention program to help smokers quit or not further their behavior," VanderVeen said.

He said this is the time when college students between the ages of 18 and 24, who have the highest prevalence rates, either pick up smoking or become binge drinkers.

Zones, continued from Page 1

While the Safe Zones have yet to be widely used at Rhodes, advocates express hopes that Rhodes will eventually be able to be more open about and comfortable with diversity issues such as these.

"When we work with incoming students at Open Rhodes on diversity issues and later survey them on various opinions, we

find that most Rhodes students are supportive of hot-button issues like gay marriage," says Tenynson. "When I talk directly to GLBTQ students what I hear most is a desire to talk openly about their lives. Oddly enough, I hear the same desire expressed by many "straight" people. What that tells me is that most of us need to develop the confidence in having these often awkward conversations that Safe Zones en-

courages".

While the Safes Zones program is an apparent and tangible positive step in the right direction, Rhodes College seems to unfortunately slightly behind the times when it comes to issues of sexual diversity. Hopefully, with time, this program and others like it will play a more prominent role at Rhodes.

# Health care reform

By Alex Yu

President Obama's health care reform plan has been a hot topic in the media for the past several months and more recently since his joint address to Congress on September 9, 2009. There is a lot of controversy surrounding the reform but many are in the dark as to what it entails. The plan is divided into three sections: one that applies for those who have health insurance already, another which applies for those who do not have health insurance, and one that applies for all Americans.

For those who already have health insurance, the plan ends discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions. It will be illegal for insurance companies to deny coverage to those with health issues or risks. The plan will also limit premium discrimination based on gender and age, ending the insurers' practice of charging different premiums or denying coverage based on gender, and will limit premium variation based on age. It will also be prohibited for insurance companies to drop coverage to those who are ill and are in need of it. Insurance companies will no longer be able to impose annual or lifetime caps on benefit payments and the plan will cap out-of-pocket expenses, which will prevent the financial ruin of those who become ill. Extra charges for flu shots, mammograms, and diabetes test will also be eliminated. The plan extends new protections for Medicare beneficiaries, and also eliminates the gap in coverage for prescription drugs.

If you do not have insurance, the plan seeks to create high quality and affordable choices for all Americans. Under the new plan, a new insurance marketplace will be created, called the Exchange, which will allow those without insurance, as well as small businesses, to compare and buy insurance at competitive prices. Beginning in 2013, Americans will be able to access affordable insurance on the job with the Exchange, and small businesses will be able to shop for insurance and easily compare options based on price, benefits, and quality. Tax credits will be provided to help people buy insurance, and will limit how much of their income can be spent on premiums. Small businesses will also be provided with tax credits and affordable options for covering employees. A public health insurance option will be offered to provide the uninsured and gives a real choice to those who cannot find coverage within their means. A new low cost coverage though a national "high risk" pool is being offered immediately to protect people with preexisting conditions from bankruptcy until the Exchange is created.

The section that is for all Americans will rein in the cost of health care for families, businesses, and the government. The plan will not add any money to the current or future deficit, and it is paid for in a fiscally responsible way. The plan will require additional cuts if the savings promised at the time of enactment do not materialize in order to make sure the plan does not add to the deficit. A number of delivery system reforms will be implemented which will begin to rein in health care costs, aligning incentives for hospitals, physicians, and others to improve quality. The plan will create an independent commission of doctors and medical experts to identify the waste, fraud, and the abuse in our health care system. It will order immediate malpractice reform, which will help doctors focus on patients rather than practicing defensive medicine. Lastly, large employers will be required to cover their employees and individuals who can afford it to buy insurance to insure that everyone shares in the responsibility of reform.

So what are students saying about the Obama's health plan?

Freshman Adiha Khan says, "I think health care reform is incredibly important because my sister and brother are both dentists, and they get cases where the patients can't afford to pay for their treatment. So, if Obama is going for a national based plan, then everyone has the opportunity to access medical services. Everyone's health will have equal value in this country."

Freshman Allison Yu comments, "In a past news conference, Obama had an analogy noting that if FedEx and UPS are able to compete with USPS, why would it be any different for private insurance companies to compete with the public option. I completely agree with that analogy."

Junior Stephen Spainhour says, "I am concerned about the distortions being offered by the opponents of the plan, specifically the talk about death panels and the like. I like very much that it promises to be a cost-neutral proposition because it would be paid for out of current revenue, provided by beneficiaries, and of course that would decrease the deficit and the ridiculous growth of health care costs."

For more information about the proposed health care plan, please visit [http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health\\_care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care).

## INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

The Sou'wester is seeking photography editors

Contact Editor-In-Chief, Ralph MacDonald, at [macrf@rhodes.edu](mailto:macrf@rhodes.edu) for more information.

# Chaos by consolidation

By Jasmine Gilstrap

A resolution, years in the making, will end within the next month. October 6 marks the day that the Memphis City Council must make their decision either in favor of or against the consolidation between Shelby County and the city of Memphis or run the risk of a new comer making the decision for the county.

The consolidation between Shelby County and the city of Memphis, originally introduced by former Mayor Herenton, resurfaced shortly after the resignation of the mayor and has been up for discussion since. After less than a month of deliberations, the Shelby County commission voted in favor of a metro charter commission, the group of individuals who will write a charter proposal to consolidate the Memphis city and Shelby County governments. However, the Memphis City Council has yet to approve the formation of the commission.

If the Memphis City Council approves the formation of the commission, the Memphis and Shelby County mayors would appoint the charter commissioners. The 15 member body would then have the task of creating a proposal that would go before voters in a referendum in Memphis and another in the parts of Shelby County outside Memphis.

The first steps towards the unification of Shelby County and the city of Memphis began Wednesday, August 26 when members of the Shelby County Commission proposed a resolution which encouraged the merging. The resolution focused on the belief that consolidation could level the playing field between Memphis and other metro governments.

The resolution reads, "Memphis and Shelby County (are) being outpaced by peer cities like Nashville, Indianapolis, Jacksonville and Louisville, whose merged governments can act more entrepreneurially and make decisions more quickly, but most importantly, act with one vision that promotes unity for the future. Memphis and Shelby County have two large governments doing the job of one, and doing nothing is not an option in the face of the historic challenges confronting our community."

The topic of schools, smaller district, and other city related projects have been up for discussion throughout the process of deciding on the establishment of a metro charter commission. Though the previous subjects played a key part in the discussions, the issue of timing is the reason for hesitance from the city council, due mostly to the mayoral election in October. While members wish to wait before creating the body responsible for the charter, if the commission is not approved by October 6, the newly elected mayor would make the appointments which could affect the formation of the merge between the city and the county.

Despite the desire to postpone the commission, the city council is scheduled to talk over the resolution for the last time on October 6 during its executive session. The item is on the agenda for the full council to vote on later that same day. Regardless of the outcome, the decision made will affect the lives of the thousands of citizens living in the city and the county.

# Greek hazing too much

By James McMahon

UWire

The issue of hazing gained national attention last week when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln suspended the Sigma Chi fraternity after eight of its members were cited for hazing-related activities and providing alcohol to minors.

The charges against the eight students—some of whom are believed to be fraternity officers—include physical and verbal abuse and forced alcohol consumption. According to the UWIRE affiliate the Daily Nebraskan, Sigma Chi pledges were, "in some cases, forced to take shots of vodka and Tabasco sauce until they vomited, and were penetrated anally by a stripper with a vibrator."

The citations stemmed from an earlier report of hazing March 18, according to the Nebraskan. Police say an individual came forward with information regarding certain Sigma Chi events, though they wouldn't say whether the person was affiliated with the fraternity.

Once the allegations arose, UNL suspended Sigma Chi April 21 and UNL police obtained a search warrant for the house and found, among other items, several types of beer and alcohol, fireworks, a large-blade machete, and a copy of "The Norman Shield"—Sigma Chi's national reference manual.

The issue of hazing has recently come up at other schools as well, and some university administrations and Greek councils have decided to team up to combat the problem and improve other aspects of Greek life. In Texas, lawmakers are attempting to crack down on the practice—proposed legislation would expand the definition of hazing and make it harder for certain individuals to gain immunity when coming forward with hazing charges.

Most fraternities also have their own regulations to prevent hazing. For example, according to Sigma Chi's governing laws pledge programs should follow guidelines provided in "The Norman Shield" and should require "no hazing, physical or mental harassment, or requirements which are inconsistent with the pledge's scholastic responsibilities."

The laws provide extensive definitions and examples of hazing, but perhaps summarize it best when they read, "If an activity became known and/or publicized, could it really be explained or justified to, and understood or appreciated by parents, university officials, or rushees? If not, it should not be done."

# Fall movie lineup promises Oscar hopefuls and lighter fare

By Janie Logan

Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor

*The Informant!* (9/18)- Matt Damon stars in this dark comedy/thriller about a bipolar executive who blows the whistle on a corporate fraud case.



**The Informant**

*Surrogates* (9/25)- A futuristic thriller starring Bruce Willis as a cop who must venture into the real world for the first time in years when people's "surrogate" bodies start leading to the deaths of their hosts.

*Fame* (9/25)- A remake of the 1980 musical about a New York City high school for students talented in the performing arts. The movie features some familiar faces for fans of *So You Think You Can Dance*, including Debbie Allen (who was also in the original version of *Fame*) and Season 4's Kherington Payne. Also starring are Kelsey



**Fame**

Grammer, Bebe Neuwirth, and Megan Mullally.

*Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*- Fans of *The Office* might be interested in seeing this film, written and directed by John Krasinski, one half of America's most loved television couple, Jim-and-Pam, a.k.a. Jam. In *Brief Interviews*, a graduate student begins interviewing selected men for a documentary in order to cope with her breakup. Some of the actors featured include Timothy Hutton, Will Arnett, Bobby Cannavale, Will Forte, Dominic Cooper, and Krasinski himself.

*A Serious Man* (10/2)- The latest offering from Ethan & Joel Coen, fresh off their Academy-Award winning work in *No Country for Old Men*, is a dark comedy set in the 1960s. The movie focuses on a man named Larry Gopnik (played by the virtually unknown Michael Stuhlbarg) whose life is falling apart.

*Whip It* (10/2)- Drew Barrymore's directorial debut about a group of girls in a Texas roller derby league. The cast includes Barrymore (Derby name, Smashley Simpson), Ellen Page, Kristen Wiig (Malice in Wonderland), Eve (Rosa Sparks), Marcia Gay Harden, and Jimmy Fallon.

*The Invention of Lying* (10/2)- A comedy written and directed by Ricky Gervais, telling the story of a world in which people have always been completely truthful. When

one man realizes that he has the ability to lie, he uses it for personal gain. The movie stars Gervais, Jennifer Garner,



**The Invention of Lying**

Tina Fey, Rob Lowe, and Jason Bateman.

*Couples Retreat* (10/9)- A comedy about four couples who attend an island resort where marriage therapy is part of the "all-inclusive" package, starring Jason Bateman, Malin Akerman, Kristen Bell, Vince Vaughn, Jon Favreau, Ken Jeong, and Kristen Davis.

*Where the Wild Things Are* (10/16)- From visionary director Spike Jonze, this adaptation of the children's book by Maurice Sendak stars young newcomer Max Records (as Max, of course). This movie was shot in live-action rather than CGI, so the faraway lands and "wild things" will be realistic and spectacular.



**Where the Wild Things Are**

*The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* (10/30)- The follow-up to the 1999 cult indie hit about two Irish brothers who exact God's vengeance on sinners. The brothers return to Boston to bring justice to the killers of their former priest. Sean Patrick Flanery and Norman Reedus reprise their roles as Connor and Murphy MacManus. Billy Connolly, Julie Benz, and Judd Nelson also star.



**Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day**

*Disney's A Christmas Carol* (11/6)- Jim Carrey voices Scrooge in this animated version of Charles Dickens' oft-retold story. Shot in 3D motion capture, this film was

written and directed by Robert Zemeckis, who used the same format for 2004's *The Polar Express*.

*2012* (11/13)- From the writer/director/producer behind *Independence Day*, *2012* shows a global catastrophe and the heroic survivors. The cast includes John Cusack, Woody Harrelson, Oliver Platt, and Danny Glover.

*Twilight Saga: New Moon* (11/20)- The next installment in the craze-inducing vampire series, based on the books by Stephenie Meyer, develops more of the relationship between Bella (Kristen Stewart) and her werewolf best friend Jacob (Taylor Lautner). Tween obsession Robert Pattinson who plays Edward Cullen is absent for much of the action, but his presence is still integrated in the movie through Bella's imagination. Also introduced are the Volturi, ruling vampires with vast powers, with Michael Sheen as Aro, Dakota Fanning as Jane, Cameron Bright as Alec, Christopher Heyerdahl as Marcus, and Jamie Campbell Bower as Caius.



**Twilight Saga: New Moon**

*The Blind Side* (11/20)- The heart-warming story about former Ole Miss football player Michael Oher, who was a first-round draft pick in 2009 to the Baltimore Ravens. Poor and badly-educated before he was taken in by a Memphis family, Sean and Leigh Anne Touhy (played by Tim McGraw and Sandra Bullock), he was able to improve his grades enough to play football for his high school team. The film is based on the memoir published in 2007 by Michael Lewis. The role of Oher in the movie is played by newcomer Quinton Aaron.

*Nine* (11/25)- A musical drama about a film director and his relationships with the women of his life. Starring some of the best actors in the world--Daniel Day-Lewis, Judi Dench, Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, Kate Hudson, and Sophia Loren. Directed by *Chicago*'s Rob Marshall, this movie is sure to be a dazzling spectacle with plenty of Oscar buzz to go with it.



**The Road**

*The Road* (11/25)- The long-anticipated adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's dark post-Apocalyptic novel. It tells the deeply moving story of a father (played by Viggo Mortensen) and son struggling to live in a grim world.

# Yu sings on the strings for Rhodes community

By Jake Groves

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Rhodes faculty member and violinist, Wen Yih Yu (aka Andy You), kicked off this year's Faculty Concert Series with his two-hour tour de force entitled "Singing on the Strings."

Yu, backed by Julie Schap's piano accompaniment, began the show with Dvorak's Sonatina Opus 100. This piece, intended for violin, set the mood for the night with the shrill beauty and fierce power offered in the four movements. After bowing his way through this with grace, he played two other violin pieces written by late nineteenth century English composer Edward Elgar. "Salut d'Amour" was rather languorous and felt deflated after

Dvorak's titillating Sonatina, but he quickly recovered with Elgar's La Capricieuse. This sui generis piece with its punctual, staccato theme had the entire audience enraptured and continued to build on the excitement created by his opening piece

After playing a few Tchaikowsky violin pieces—which both demonstrated Yu's wide range of abilities—and a fifteen minute interlude, the show began to approach its climax, which took the form of two de Falla pieces.

Yu's next two songs were by Spanish composer Manuel de Falla and were definitely the highlight of the show. The first, "Spanish Dance," came from de Falla's opera *La vida breve* (*The short life*)

and was arranged for violin later. His adroit skill was again evinced here, as he successfully mimicked the timbre and feel of a soprano's piercing vibrato that normally would accompany this piece. He followed this with de Falla's *Suite of Spanish Folksongs*, a panoply of operatic arias arranged for violin that dazzled the audience with its array of emotions and beauty.

From this point on, the show consisted of more vocal pieces transcribed for the violin. The de Falla works were the best, though, with Gershwin's "Tempo di Blu" from *Porgy and Bess* deserving an honorable mention.

After he finished playing, the audience expressed their pleasure through a prolonged standing ovation, and succeeded in ex-

tracting one more performance out of him. Once more he succinctly ran the gamut of violin skills for a grateful audience and encapsulated what was a truly amazing show.

Yu set the bar high for future Faculty Concerts, which will continue with pianist Brian Ray's performance on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## And Exactly gallery opening

By Lizz Glaus  
Staff Writer

Mississippi-born artist Greely Myatt has certainly left his stamp on the Memphis community this month. His brilliant and often simplistic work is currently showing in ten different gallery spaces in Memphis, where Greely currently lives and works, including the Clough-Hanson gallery on the Rhodes campus.

Greely's body of work is massive, and yet after the artist's lecture Thursday night at the Memphis Brooks Museum in Overton Park, it seems as if each piece has its own highly personalized story. Many sculptures and installations have been created from found or collected objects—Greely admitted to being somewhat of a pack rat—while others were carved or built out of wood or wires.

When you visit the Clough-Hanson gallery on campus to see Greely's work, you will see his mirrored "rugs" (made from painted broom-sticks), his plaster ice-cream scoops, a fountain, several light-bulbs, and a lot of cartoon speech bubbles. He explained that these images are common throughout the body of his work but they certainly do not limit him. Other works include a case of Coca-Cola bottles in reminiscent of and honoring Andy Warhol and several other unique creations from what Greely called "stolen" ideas from other artists as well as from his experiences growing up and living in the rural south.

I recommend making your way over to either Clough or one of the other nine Greely Myatt exhibitions this month in Memphis to see how this Professor of Art at the University of Memphis connects art historical references to his enormous body of contemporary sculptures and installations. The other venues include the Brooks Museum, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, the Metal Museum, Power House Memphis, the Memphis College of Art, the P & H Center for the Arts, and the David Lusk Gallery.

## Sudoku

Use numbers 1 through 9 to complete the grid below. Make sure that each 3x3 box, row and column has the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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7		1						
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## THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

### New Movie Releases (9/18):

*Jennifer's Body*  
*The Informant*  
*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*  
*Love Happens*

*61<sup>st</sup> Primetime Emmy Awards*- Sunday, 7 pm, CBS. Honoring the best in television.

*House*- Monday, 7 pm, FOX. Season 6 premiere. Lin-Manuel Miranda guest stars.

### Television Highlights (9/16-9/22):

*America's Next Top Model*- Wednesday, 7 pm, The CW. Lauren Conrad, guest judge.

*The Good Wife*- Tuesday, 9 pm, CBS. Series premiere. Courtroom drama starring Julianna Margulies and Chris Noth.

*Bones*- Thursday, 7 pm, FOX. Season 5 premiere. Cyndi Lauper guest stars.

*Fringe*- Thursday, 8 pm, FOX. Season 2 premiere.

*The Office*- Thursday, 8 pm, NBC. Season 6 premiere, "Gossip."

*Community*- Thursday, 8:30 pm, NBC. Series premiere. New comedy starring Joel McHale and Chevy Chase.

### Cooper- Young Festival

**Music Lineup (9/19):**  
U of M Jazz Band, 12:15 pm, Main Stage  
Ryan Peel, 1:30 pm, East Stage  
Good Luck Darkstar, 2:30 pm, East Stage  
Two Mule Plow, 3:15 pm, Congo Stage  
Queens of Zion, 4:15 pm, Congo Stage  
The Iguanas, 5:15 pm, Main Stage

LET'S TALK  
**RELATIONSHIPS**

WHO SHOULD I DATE?  
HOW WILL I KNOW IF HE OR SHE IS THE ONE TO MARRY?  
DO HEALTHY COUPLES FIGHT?  
HOW DO YOU KEEP MARRIAGE FRESH & EXCITING?  
HOW DO I STAY COMMITTED TO THE END?

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photo courtesy of google images

Serena Williams delivers her match-ending tirade, ultimately forfeiting to the recently unretired Kim Clijsters. Williams was upset about a foot-fault call made by the back judge.

## Williams lashes out

By Andrew Mullins-Williams  
Sports Editor

The US Open ended Monday with the crowning of Juan Martin del Potro and Kim Clijsters as champions. Nonetheless, this Open will forever be marked as the tournament in which Serena Williams blew up.

The incident occurred during the semi-finals of the women's singles tournament. Serena was trailing 5-6 in the second set and was about to serve at 15-30 when she was called for a foot fault by the lineswoman—located on the side of the court. Serena then approached the woman and started pointing and yelling.

"I swear to God, I'm F\*\*\*\*\* takin' this ball and shovin' it down your f\*\*\*\*\* throat... I swear to God."

Immediately after, the chair umpire called a meeting with the line judge to sort out exactly what happened. After a brief reunion, it was determined that Serena would be given a point penalty for conduct misbehavior.

The point cost her the game and the match.

While outbursts in sports are no new thing, the reaction to Serena Williams has been intense. The Kansas City Star said,

"Tennis fans are going to remember for a long time the ugly sportsmanship of Serena Williams on Saturday night. The incredibly boorish behavior by Williams took away from a superb performance by Clijsters, who outplayed Williams much of the match."

This sentiment has been reflected across many media circuits as well as the general opinion of the public. However, many people are making Serena Williams look like the devil himself through her childish act.

In no way, shape, or form, am I trying to applaud or acquit Serena's actions. She clearly made a mistake and her frustration took the form of a verbal assault. Even so, she is not entirely to blame. Video replay shows that perhaps Serena's actions were semi-warranted, and there was no foot fault at all. In fact, if the controversial call was not made in the first place, the incident would have been avoided all together.

Did she say something terrible that should not have been said—yes.

Does she deserve a suspension from a tournament or match—perhaps.

Are Serena's actions as bad as people make them to be—absolutely not.

The Los Angeles Times wrote,

"Serena Williams should be fined heavily and suspended for a while from the pro tennis tour. Let's see what kind of guts tennis, a sport normally soft on discipline, has this time. If she were a football player, she'd be out for the season."

Perhaps that would be true if she had hit the lineswoman. At the end of the day, there is a huge difference between verbal violence and physical violence in sports. Mike Tyson (possibly the craziest man in sports history) was only suspended for a little more than a year for taking a bite out of Holyfield's ear in June of 2007. Ron Artest was also suspended for a year for starting the worst brawl in basketball history. The argument that the LA times presented must take into account that other sports rarely come down on its best athletes very hard. A yearlong suspension seems to be warranted only in the worst cases of atrocities in the sporting world, and the only physical damage that Serena inflicted was on her racket.

What needs to happen is for everyone to take a deep breath and relax. Let us not forget that even without this penalty Serena Williams most likely would have lost the match. Instead of being tainted with controversy, the 2009 US Open should be remembered for good play, determination, and hard work.

After all, Kim Clijsters and Juan Martin del Potro completed tremendous runs to take the title and in 10 years that is what should be remembered.

# Allen Iverson overrated player on Grizzlies' team

By Gordon Chadwick

If you take one young, rebuilding team and add an aging star player who is known for selfishness, what do you get? —A still crummy team and a few more fans in the seats. Despite being a great talent, here are a few reasons why Allen Iverson really doesn't need to be in Memphis this season.

Everyone knows about Allen Iverson's problem with coming off the bench last year in Detroit. He has stated that he wants to be a starter with the Grizzlies which could produce problems since Coach Lionel Hollins was planning to start Mike Conley and OJ Mayo.

Iverson is only signed for one year and most people assume he will be in a new city come next season. This could mean that he has no reason to care about the team's long term success, only his own stats so he can secure a better contract next year.

AI is used to being the most used player on his team. He has often led the league in Usage Percentage (the % of plays that a player is used in while on the court). Therefore, if Iverson sees starter minutes, that means the players who this franchise's success ultimately depends upon will be seeing fewer opportunities.

If Iverson is coming off the bench, there will likely be problems as AI will likely get fed up with his role. If Iverson starts, then a young player, an important part of the Grizzlies future, will be neglected. Either way, Iverson is likely gone after a year and the Grizzlies will be left remembering a pointless experiment and moving ahead with the players they had in the first place.

The Grizzlies could use Allen Iverson

If you were a GM who had the chance to sign a superstar player for only 3.5 million dollars wouldn't you do it? Allen Iverson was a good pick up who will help the Grizzlies restore some excitement to their games.

Allen Iverson is one of the more entertaining players to watch in the NBA. He's a great ball handler and scorer which could put a much needed spark into apathetic Grizzlies fans. If anything, he provides something for the fans to look at while the rest of the young Grizzlies continue to develop.

Iverson is motivated this season. By refusing to accept a new role in Detroit he hurt his chances of signing with other teams this past offseason and wound up in Memphis, which he must think of as some sort of basketball purgatory.

He's going to be playing his best in order to secure one more lucrative contract with a contending team after this season.

Sure AI has stated his desire to be a starter but he has also claimed that he will accept whatever role he is given for the best interests of the team. Similar to the second point, AI is going to need to show that he will accept a bench role if asked to, or at the very least be more team oriented in order to make himself seem like a free agent possibility to a contending team next offseason.

AI wants to play for a championship and behaving in Memphis is the only way a contending team will consider him

AI may be getting older but what's not to like about a rental of one of the best players of the last 10 years. If he knows what is good for his career, he will put his old ways aside and realize that he is not the centerpiece of this team. He'll be fun to watch and will get some fans interested in the Grizzlies again.

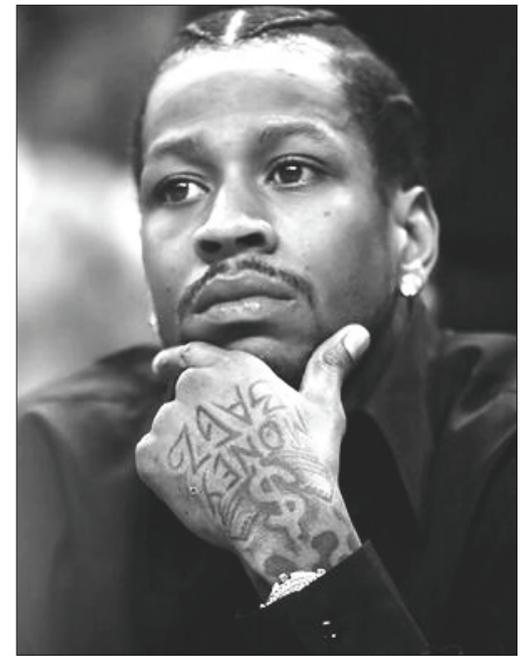


photo courtesy of www.nba.com/media

Allen Iverson brings a very productive history with him to Memphis, but that has not always been a good thing.

## The Big 10: Going nowhere fast

By Andrew Mullins-Williams  
Sport Editor

Over the past few years, the Big 10 has truly fallen from prominence as one of the league's elite conferences.

However, how much of it is truly warranted?

Sure, Ohio State has gotten blown out by USC for the past few years, but who hasn't? Sure they had some bad losses but they also had 7 Bowl eligible teams which is more than the Pac-10 can say.

So for everyone who says they are the worst conference—they're not.

For all the Big 10 lovers who say its media bias—it's not.

In reality, the Big 10 is the definition of mediocrity. Their best teams will continue to get beat by the best in other leagues, but the middle and bottom of the big 10 is often able to compete with other bottom feeders and mid-dwellers from other leagues.

People often judge a conference performance based solely on the top teams in its league. Sure the Pac 10 went 5-0 in bowl games, but they also had the Washington schools that people forget about when arguing on their behalf.

With that said, the Big 10 is not a *good* conference.

Ohio State and Penn State have shown this by not winning the games set on the biggest stages. When you have a rebuilding USC team playing in your backyard, you simply can't lose and call yourself an elite team.

Looking at the last five years, the Big 10 is 14-22 in bowl games. Their failure to win outside their conference was highlighted by a 1-6 bowl season last year. Of those bowl games four were losses by double digits and the only win was Iowa beating South Carolina 31-10 in the Outback Bowl.

If the Big 10 wants to gain respectability among the high ranks of college football they need to start winning against BCS conference teams. Ohio State losing to USC, Purdue losing to Oregon, Michigan State losing against Central Michigan, and Illinois losing to Missouri is not a good way to start shedding the underachieving perception. While Michigan's victory of Notre Dame helped and technically Syracuse is a BCS school, the wins are coming at much to slow of a pace.

The Big 10 will again have a *worthy* top 5 team, but we may be waiting a few more years.