

Check out the new fall shows that look likely to be back next season.

## Planned parenthood gets a voice

By Jasmine Gilstrap

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America provides reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide.

One student organization helps to attract attention on the services offered at the Planned Parenthood centers.

VOX, the Latin word for voice, sheds a light on the different benefits associated with Planned Parenthood on college campuses. The Rhodes chapter, now in its second year, plans multiple events throughout the year to raise awareness about sexual health issues in connection with the Pro-Choice movement.

"VOX is an organization that exists to educate the campus community about sexual health and provides a forum for students of various interests and talents to engage in pro-choice activism and service around sexual health," said Ciara Conway, class of 2010 and VOX President. "My goal for VOX this year is to educate the campus about sexual health from a holistic perspective through partnerships with other organizations."

One of the organization's first events of the year was a Call-in day in connection with Youth Initiative Program, a Planned Parenthood program designed to build a nationwide network of young activists by educating teens and college students about Planned Parenthood. The organization gave students postcards to send to Congressmen encouraging them to support the Re-

sponsible Education About Life Act, the REAL Act. In addition to raising awareness about the lack of comprehensive sex education in public schools, VOX addresses the topic of sex education in connection to college life. VOX co-sponsored a forum with Rhodes Gay-Straight Alliance titled K(no)w Sex on Wednesday.

"The purpose of K(no)w Sex is to provide a forum for students to talk about comprehensive sexual education from a rights perspective. Specifically, we hope to discuss the question: Is access to sexual education a right? This event is intended to be a follow-up event to our campaign 'What Do You Wish You Learned in Sex Ed?'" said Conway. "We are hoping that students will learn about the present implications of a lack of sexual education in schools and will be exposed to what is actually taught in a comprehensive sexual education class. We hope that students leave with, at the very least, accurate information to make a judgment about their personal beliefs about comprehensive sexual education."

With the purpose of educating and mobilizing college students and young adults in support of health care access and reproductive rights, Rhodes' VOX joins the other chapters in the quest of protecting these rights. While the semester may be coming to a close, VOX plans on continuing to support the rights next semester by maintaining ties to Planned Parenthood and delivering the message about sexual health to Rhodes. To receive more information on VOX or to join the organization, email Conway at [concn@rhodes.edu](mailto:concn@rhodes.edu).



## Women in math unite

By Alex Yu  
Staff Writer

On January 29, 2010, women all across the nation will unite in Lincoln, Nebraska for a common cause. Mathematics. The event is called the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics and takes place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is open to outstanding undergraduate women mathematicians at all stages of their careers. While there, students can meet other women who share interest in mathematical sciences as well as present their own research.

The story of how the conference began is a noble one indeed. In the spring of 1988, Jim Lewis was appointed the chair of the University of Nebraska's Department of Mathematics. He noticed there were few women at the school, and at the time, there was only one female professor in the department. He also discovered that women in the department were not earning Ph.D. degrees. Feeling that the current state of things was not good, he decided to do something about it. He was determined to change the climate for women faculty and students. Lewis and the department began recruiting women faculty and graduate students. Their success shifted the mathematics department's demographics drastically, putting the number of women earning Ph.D. degrees ahead of the national average. Lewis continued to better the pro-

*Women, continued on Page 4*

## ODK Angel Tree Brings Christmas to area kids

By Patrick Harris  
Staff Writer

With the Christmas approaching, the Rhodes circle of Omicron Delta Kappa is doing its part to ensure needy families in the Memphis area can provide their children with a happy holiday. ODK is already conducting this year's Angel Tree project in conjunction with the Salvation Army to provide gifts to disadvantaged children and elderly, and will continue to accept donations until November 30. The Angel Tree is located in the lobby of the Burrow Refectory, where students can select an angel off the tree with the name of a child or retiree and a list of suggested gifts, each weekday from 11 to 1 (angels will be adopted out until November 23). Unwrapped gifts are delivered to the sack located in Hyde Hall of the Refectory.

Jackie Hancock, ODK Vice President and coordinator of the program, said donors need not worry about obtaining the entire list of suggested gifts on their 'angel'. "Just spend as much as you want. You can adopt an angel individually or with friends or even with an entire hall." After the gifts are collected, the Salvation Army will deliver them to the needy families they have previously identified in the Memphis area. In the case of the children's gifts, the donations will be delivered to the parents first; "You're basically helping parents give Christmas to their children."

## Check mate: How chess improves math scores

Rhodes Website  
Information compiled  
by Brianna McCullough

For over a decade, scientists and educators have studied the intellectual benefits of playing chess. Research has shown that chess improves the player's problem-solving abilities, self-discipline, and deductive reasoning—all of which are skills utilized in math. This connection between chess and improving math skills has prompted schools across the nation to establish after-school chess programs in order to boost students' math scores.

[Dr. Eric Gottlieb](#), associate professor of mathematics and computer science at Rhodes, says, "The ability to think several steps ahead and to work through multi-step processes is important in both chess and math. Therefore, you'd expect that playing chess would improve your ability to do those things and your mathematical abilities as well."

Gottlieb goes on to explain how both chess and math involve objective reasoning: "The best chess players know strong positions to play toward. So they don't start from the present situation; they try to move toward a position that they know is winning. Similarly in mathematics, you'll often have an objective that you're reasoning toward, which is to prove a theorem."

In the past few years, computer scientists have made major breakthroughs in creating chess-playing computer programs. In fact, computer scientists have now developed machines

*Chess, continued on Page 4*

# Looking back at Ft. Hood

By **Rami Abdoch**  
Staff Writer

Nearly two weeks ago the nation was shaken by the news of the massacre at Ft. Hood by one Major Nidal Malik Hasan. He is said to have killed thirteen people and wounded thirty on that fateful afternoon. The alleged shooter is alive, but said to be paralyzed from the waist down due to injuries sustained in the process of the senseless attack.

The aftermath of this attack has been one of mixed emotions along with a measure of uncertainty. Questions were raised concerning the shooter's background, his religion, and potential ties to extremism. It was said that the mosque he attended when he lived in Virginia was also attended by two of the suspected 9/11 hijackers. Be that as it may, that fact in and of itself does not necessitate that he was influenced by them. There was also an email correspondence between Hasan and the Imam of that mosque, who is said to be "anti-American", whatever that means. Assuming all of these details are true, there is no concrete evidence to link Hasan to extremism. At the same time, I am not denying that there are extremist influences that have attempted to make their way into Muslim communities and they have, unfortunately, succeeded to a degree.\*

The details of the story, at this point, more strongly support the notion that he was a mentally unstable person who snapped under the pressure of having to go to overseas to a war he deemed unjustified. He is not the first at Ft. Hood to protest the war. Spc. Victor Agosto, who was court-martialed in August after he refused to go to Afghanistan, and Sgt. Travis Bishop, who filed for conscientious objector status after serving in Iraq for fourteen months, had similar grievances against the war. Hasan even took a legal route, which admittedly eventually failed, to be discharged early prior to his notice to be deployed. The warning signs were clear. Firstly, he had indicated that he wished to be absolved

of his military duties due to religious conflicts. Secondly, he was a psychiatrist that dealt with returning soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, presumably adding further to his own discontent and personal instability. Also, Hasan had joined the military well before 9/11, so it is not as if his impetus for joining was to somehow infiltrate and promote extremist misinterpretations of the religion by killing Americans. This is a grand claim, and as such requires a large body of evidence to support it, which can hardly be said to be met in the form of "guilt by association" with respect to the two suspect hijackers and the Imam noted earlier.

Despite the severe lack of evidence for his extremist ties, it needs to be made clear and again stated that Muslims categorically denounce the actions of this person. There is a distinction to be made between the doctrine of the religion, and the practice of select individuals who claim to be of it. His actions are not in any sense justified according to Islamic law. In fact, the family of one victim, a civilian named Michael Cahil, expressed their concerns over the anti-Muslim sentiment being built around the actions of the individual who perpetrated these killings. They noted that the actions of one cannot be used to generalize a certain group, pointing out that extremism is present in every religion and other collectives. It is rather remarkable that they did not judge via pure emotion, especially considering the severity of their loss. They did not commit the fallacy of hasty generalization that some popular media personalities did, particularly those on the Fox News Network. These personalities have had a field day (or week, even) with this event, trying to take any potential connection to extremism this individual may have had and categorize Islam as a result of that, speaking of the alleged threat of "radical Islam" to the West.

This willingness to link Islam with extremism purported to be from the religion is a result of the sociopolitical tension in our post 9/11 world.

What is the fruitfulness of painting Islam with such a broad brush, especially considering the tremendous lack of evidence for doing so? There is no benefit in this. The question of extremism is a nuanced one that deserves attention and critical analysis\*. What about the story of the Muslim woman in Delaware who talked with a gunman for four hours and convinced him to release his hostages about a month ago? What about the convenient storeowner who showed mercy to a robber, even giving him bread, milk, and money despite being threatened? These are just two examples of American Muslims doing acts that might be considered heroic. What is not reported can be and usually is just as important as what is reported. Context is everything. That said, it should be noted that in October of 1991, a shooting occurred just outside Ft. Hood in the small town of Killeen. 35-year old George Hennard drove his car into Luby's restaurant and proceeded to assault those inside the restaurant, ultimately killing twenty-four and wounding more than twenty. No mention was made of his religion, his background, or the like. Again, I cannot stress enough the important of context in analyzing this or any other story.

I propose that instead of getting caught up in this rhetoric about extremism and the supposed role of religion in these attacks, it is more important in the coming weeks, as more details come to light, to recognize what considerations led Hasan to commit these atrocious acts. What could have prevented it? What is his medical history? How easy, or difficult, is it to discharge from the military? What are the procedures for doing so, and do they need to be changed? These are the questions that I believe we should focus on.

\*For a more detailed exposition on the Islamic position against extremism, please refer to the treatise entitled "Muslims against Extremism" that can be found under my notes on Facebook or email me at [abdra@rhodes.edu](mailto:abdra@rhodes.edu) to request a copy of it.

# Obama handing rights to undeserving

By **John Ayers**  
Staff Writer

An interesting, but not unexpected, turn of events in the Obama administration's changing legal approach to terrorism has recently taken place. However, it is much less of an issue than closing Guantanamo Bay or ending torture, which is why the decision and its timing are so puzzling. President Obama has decided to have Kalik Sheikh Mohammed and four other captured terrorists tried in federal court in New York City for their crimes. For those who may not care, Kalik confessed to planning the September 11th attacks, has been involved in over thirty other terrorist plots, killing in sum thousands of international and American civilians and soldiers all around the world. Furthermore, Mohammed also confessed to being the one to personally behead American journalist Daniel Pearl. And President Obama wants to put this man on trial just like any other common criminal? Our president wants to give this man and his associates' lawyers and the same rights as United States citizens? What have this country come to?

Under any sane president, the United States government would have a terrorist like Mohammed tried by a military tribunal, or perhaps even by a special panel. His confession alone should be more than enough, but no: we need to give him a platform for him to spout his anti-American and pro-9/11 speeches. That platform is blocks away from his most infamous strike, the World Trade Center. I am sure that he will not use that as an opportunity, that he will be perfectly well behaved, right Mr. Obama? Furthermore, what about the million to one shot that he is actually acquitted? No chance you say? Perhaps not. It is known that Kalik was tortured to procure much of the information we have from him. And, as United States federal courts

do not allow testimony and evidence procured by torture, this could create a legal nightmare. Can anything he has confessed to or admitted since being captured be allowed into evidence? If so, then we would be jeopardizing our own institutions; otherwise, we would risk allowing a terrorist mastermind to walk free. If much of the evidence is allowed, then what of current CIA projects based on his information? Will we force operatives to testify in open court? Will we be forced to reveal operations and insiders who have helped us? None of this can be worth the image boost Obama will receive from his leftist friends and perhaps also the individuals who awarded him the Nobel Peace Prize.

The insult that this whole ordeal poses to the families of those who lost loved ones in the September 11 terrorist attacks should not be overlooked. Over eight years have passed since that day, and, once this trial occurs, these memories will be brought back to light, but not in the needed sympathetic manner. Rather, the new networks will flood the airwaves with transcripts and possibly film of Kalik's rants and with images of him taking pride in his "work". For those who will claim that justice is being done here, reevaluate whether or not justice was done at the Nuremburg trials, whether Osama bin Laden and other international terrorists deserve the same Constitutional rights as a United States citizen, and whether you would enjoy being reminded of the death of a loved one by the ravings of the one who planned their deaths. Mr. Mohammed does not deserve these rights, he does not deserve this platform, and we deserve justice. But hey, if he somehow makes a big enough headache or, banish the thought, walks, then Obama will be a one-term president. So some good could come from this.

## THE SOU'WESTER

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## How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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

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

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

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PRESS

# Technology is becoming convincing aliabi

By Rekha Blackerby

Criminals might want to start considering Facebook as an alibi. Rodney Bradford, age nineteen, did and was released after twelve days spent in jail on a robbery charge. His alibi? He was at his father's house, updating his Facebook status at the time of the robbery. One minute after he posted his status in Harlem, New York, two men were robbed at gunpoint in Brooklyn. Facebook confirmed the time and location of the status update, thereby providing Bradford with his alibi.

Bradford was labeled as a suspect for the mugging due to the fact that he had been indicted once before in a 2008 robbery. For this most current robbery, he turned himself in to the New York Police Department after having discovered that the police were looking for him for a lineup, positive of his innocence. However, unfortunately for Bradford, one of the victims of the mugging identified him as the perpetrator and Bradford was sent to Rikers Island. Bradford's father and defense attorney worked to prove his innocence and came up with the Facebook status update as a piece of evidence.

The status won over the Defense Attorney and convinced him to drop the charges because his update was seen as an inside joke that only Bradford would have truly understood. His status states, "On the phone with this fat chick...where my IHOP." The "fat chick" playfully refers to his pregnant girlfriend and IHOP, the pancake restaurant. Apparently, Bradford and his family had gone to IHOP for dinner the night before and she was annoyed they went without her. The case was made that such a joke proves that Bradford was the one who wrote it.

In response to CNN's questions as to whether or not Bradford could have been the one to actually write the status, Bradford's attorney says there is no doubt. His statement to CNN

quotes him as saying, "This is a 19-year-old kid. He's not a criminal genius setting up an elaborate alibi for himself". Furthermore, if someone else had written the update for him, it would have been clearer and not an inside joke.

It is not Bradford's innocence that is now in question, but rather the method by which he was released. The courts of New York decide ruled that he is in fact guilt-free; what is questionable is the use of Facebook as a source of evidence. It is not unheard of to catch criminals by monitoring their social networking accounts, but can it be accepted as legitimate? It depends. If a criminal boasts to a friend over a networking site, such as Facebook, of his recent criminal activity, then perhaps it could be used in court. In Rodney Bradford's case, it is too implausible. There are just too many contradictory possibilities facing his alibi.

Whether the evidence is plausible enough to dismiss the charges is of course up to the District Attorney, but the theory appears to be full of holes. Determining innocence through a technological time stamp is a long shot at best. How can anyone, especially the DA, be absolutely positive that Bradford was the one to write that update? An inside joke does not give the evidence enough strength to withstand prosecution. Is it not possible that Bradford could have had accomplices or someone standing by to write the update for him? Or there is yet another possibility to consider—that Bradford wrote the update himself, left the page up, and had someone else push "Share" for him once he was in Brooklyn. But Bradford's attorney insists that the manner in which the status teasingly mentions Bradford's girlfriend and the reference to IHOP means that only Rodney Bradford could have been the one to log into his Facebook account and post such an update. It is possible, but leaves too many doubts.

One of the attorney's other arguments was that Bradford, as

a nineteen-year-old kid, could not have thought of such an elaborate scheme to use as an alibi. How insulting to the intelligence of nineteen-year-old kids everywhere. Of course not all criminals are masterminds but imagine the basic checklist for any criminal; it would probably go something like this: 1. Find a target, 2. Plan assault, 3. Have a get-away plan, 4. Have an airtight alibi for when the police start questioning. And that alibi needs to be airtight if the criminal intends to actually succeed. Flaws and unexpected events most likely cause deviations from the original checklist, but the basic idea is nevertheless the same. Unless there are serious causes to doubt Bradford's intelligence, such as disabilities, there is no reason to suspect that he is incapable of creating an alibi, elaborate or not. If he is legally an adult, then he should have the mental comprehension of one.

Living in the age of technology has both pros and cons. Networking sites provide instant notifications about anyone, anywhere. How these instant notifications are used determines whether they are beneficial or harmful. Will Facebook, Myspace, or Twitter be used more often as evidence in either prosecuting or defending criminals? Only time will tell, but it seems to be a growing trend. The biggest problem facing this is determining who is the one actually updating or posting. The anonymity of technology provides ample cover for a criminal. Everyone has experienced or has heard of cases where they were talking to someone they thought they knew, but it was actually someone different. The recent Myspace hoax that caused a thirteen-year-old girl to commit suicide was prompted by a friend's mother using her daughter's account to relentlessly taunt the girl. As technology is still relatively new, the legal system will need to proceed with caution as precedents are being set with each new case.

# Memphis too quick to abandon and destroy

By Anna Meyerrose  
Opinion Editor

It is all too easy to find evidence of pure abandonment and various structures falling into disuse all throughout the Memphis City area. With the construction of the FedEx Forum, the Pyramid, a not so insignificant symbol often associated with the city of Memphis, became by and large empty while debates raged, with little to no avail, as to what the fate of this unique building should be. Possibilities such as a casino, an aquarium, a shopping center, an indoor theme park, and, most popularly, a Bass Pro Shop, have all been bandied about, but none of these have produced any sort of conclusive or definitive decisions.

Similarly, another iconic feature of the bluff-city faces the probability of imminent destruction. On October 29, 2005, Libertyland, located on the Mid-South Fairgrounds, closed its doors for good, following years of discussion and debate. In the ridiculously lengthy four years since, Libertyland as a whole has been left to its own devices, rapidly falling into disrepair. One advocacy group, "Save Libertyland", has been fighting ever since to have the park reopened and restored, but has had limited success in convincing the various city councils of the importance of its cause.

After four years of inaction, preliminary steps were taken this past Tuesday morning, November 17, which signaled that Libertyland, in all likelihood, will soon cease to exist altogether. On Tuesday, demolition crews took out a huge chunk of the Zippin Pippin rollercoaster, the trademark ride associated with Libertyland. The purpose of this destruction was to find out whether or not the rollercoaster is in any way salvageable.

Unfortunately, this wooden roller coaster, one of the few of its kind to have been in regular operation in the recent past, is severely rotted and unlikely to survive. This was only the first step in the demolition process of all of Libertyland soon to begin in earnest.



Photo courtesy of Mike Brown/Commercial Appeal

**On the morning of November 17, part of the Zippin Pippin, the historic wooden rollercoaster of Libertyland, was destroyed to find out whether or not any of its wood is at all salvageable.**

Had the question of what to do with the Mid-South Fairgrounds been appropriately addressed back in 2005, when Libertyland first shut down, perhaps the total destruction of the Zippin Pippin, a rollercoaster with both

historical and sentimental significance, as well as the loss of many other memorable and beloved rides, could have been avoided. Unfortunately, the inaction too often characteristic of the Memphis City Council won out over practicality yet again.

One of the factors that promoted this lack of initiative can be seen in the inadequacy of even basic information, such as who owns the property rights to various parts of what once was Libertyland. One Robert Lipscomb, city director of Housing and Community Development, when asked who actually owns the Zippin Pippin, answered simply "I have no idea".

The cases of both the Pyramid and Libertyland/the Mid-South Fairgrounds both suggest that, if things are not changed, Memphis will continue to lose important aspects of its heritage. It would be one thing if changes such as these led to bigger and better things. However, both the pyramid and Libertyland show that this is rarely the case in Memphis. Instead, somewhat culturally significant landmarks are merely abandoned by a city government too lacking in efficacy and efficiency to really ever get much done.

If something is not changed, Memphis will continue to lose important parts of its heritage. Soon, Graceland will be abandoned, Sun Studios will be turned into a Gap, and the Pink Palace will be knocked down to make room for some sort of government building with an ambiguous purpose and function. To avoid failures such as these, it is imperative that the structure of city councils and the Memphis City government be modified in some way or another.

# Student Voice

What do you love most about winter?



“My birthday is in December. And no school is always nice.”  
- Jonathan Berube '12

“No bugs.”  
- Brent Butgereit '11



“I like the smell of fire in the air, and, most of all, I like the fact that people have to put more clothes on. For some people it should be winter all the time (Petraglia, as pictured to the right, agrees).”  
- Julie Doub '12

“Christmastime”  
- Jason Pace '12



“The snow. Playing in it, making snow angels and snowmen, and having snowball fights.”  
- Sarah Thompson '12

Women, continued from Page 1

gram by making it more supportive, creating yearly student awards. The efforts of Lewis and fellow faculty member Sylvia Wiegand earned them both the University's Outstanding Contribution to the Status of Women Award in 1996 and 2000. The department was later awarded the NSF Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, a \$10,000 reward. The department used this monetary award to help create the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics. Besides the conference, the department also reaches out to high school girls with a weeklong summer mathematics camp called ALL GIRLS/ALL MATH.

Female Rhodes students interested in mathematics are encouraged to attend. This year, the panel discus-

sions will be about Careers Using Mathematics, and Choosing a Mathematics Graduate Program. The conference covers lodging expenses and most meals. Travel expenses will be paid in part by Rhodes. The cost per person cannot be determined until the number of attendees is determined; however, most of the cost will be covered wither by Rhodes or the conference. To register, please visit [www.math.unl.edu/~ncuwm](http://www.math.unl.edu/~ncuwm). Rhodes will be paying the registration fee so there is no need to pay the \$30 fee. If you plan to attend, please contact Catherine Appleton ([appcj@rhodes.edu](mailto:appcj@rhodes.edu)) as soon as possible so that the college will be able to pay the registration fee. The registration deadline is December 4<sup>th</sup> and there are limited spaces. This will be a great opportunity for students interested in mathematics to learn about future career options as well as post-graduate programs.

## Short-lived tenure comes to end

By Ringo Snowparty  
Celebrity Poker Correspondent

It lasted shorter than an African democracy, and the MacDonald regime at The Sou'wester newspaper ended with a gentle, pathetic whimper. Herr MacDonald woke up at four-thirty this afternoon, ate a dinner of coco-puffs soaked in Diet Coke, and trudged off to the Newspaper room to mercy-kill the laborious entity that was his short-lived reign at the top of this school's print media conglomerate.

It was not always so grim for MacDonald, who entered the year coming off three fairly successful issues and had largely enjoyed his time on the paper. However, he found that the position was a series of headaches that eventually led him to forge a relationship with Heath Ledger's pharmacist.

When sober, Ralph could list his annoyances with vicious language.

“These goddamn contrarian student senators keep trying to get us to go ‘paperless.’ They chew at my budget with snagged teeth while telling me how to do my job. Do they realize how much they expose their gene pool's limitations when they open their mouths? We're a college paper at a college without a journalism program. We can do a fair job of covering local and on-campus events, but we stand no chance trying to compete in an online marketplace. We have our niche as a free, readily available publication, take that away and we will not survive. Any student senator who thinks that can change should shut his mouth and hide his mother's shame.”

A few beers deep, MacDonald explicated on his problems with the administration that probably cannot be printed in a school-sponsored paper. Suffice it to say that he holds any cry-baby administrators who tattled on him to his advisor for blunt language in utter contempt.

The last paper of MacDonald's reign goes to print in a few hours and boss-man is on the couch in a heroine-induced stupor, so I think it is safe to say that an era has ended, although it is difficult to imagine what in the world the era meant...probably nothing. Ralph leaves us with conflicted memories of our times in this office: there was frustration over putting out an inferior product, but also much hilarity when Ralph would drop acid and spend the entire evening politely courting a bulletin board.

When asked for any kind of final wisdom, MacDonald offered that he used to f\*\*\* guys like me in prison.

Anna Meyerrose takes over as the new Editor in Chief next semester, and we are all very confident that she will put out a better paper than her predecessor. She will, however, have to do so sans one bulletin board.

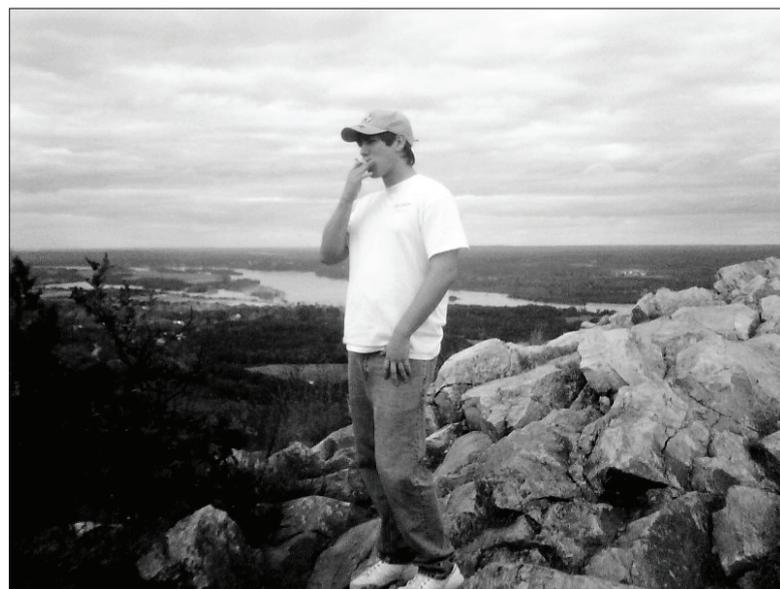


Photo courtesy of Trey Lowery

**Former Editor in Chief Ralph MacDonald smokes a cigarette from the top of Pinnacle Mountain, the highest point in Arkansas. The climb and subsequent visit to the Arkansas State Fair were two of the many stories that the notoriously lazy writer failed to deliver on.**

Chess, continued from Page 1

that can defeat some of the best chess players.

Gottlieb, who is fascinated by computer science, says, “On the one hand, playing chess improves cognitive abilities that are needed for mathematics and computer science. On the other hand, the act of developing powerful chess-playing programs has posed challenges that have helped computer science to grow as a discipline. Chess play at the highest levels has also been informed by the way expert computer programs play chess.”

Gottlieb, a trained enumerative and algebraic combinatorialist, teaches math and computer science and is interested in combinatorial game theory.

# CAMPUS SAFETY

November 8-14

- 11/08  
Nothing unusual to report.
- 11/09  
3:07 am: Fire alarm, physical plant; MFD responded.
- 11/10  
1:10 am: Call from King Hall requesting an officer to escort a person off the premises; subject departed King Hall without incident.
- 11/11  
12:50 am: Noise complaint; RA notified.
- 11/12  
9:00 am: Tour group from Tunica middle school on campus and directed to Burrow Hall.
- 11/13  
2:05 am: Alcohol violation X2 reported, Stewart courtyard.  
11:42 pm: Alarm, Clough art gallery; gallery checked okay; alarm reset.
- 11/14  
12:38 am: Noise complaint, Robinson Hall; students asked to turn noise down; all complied.  
7:03 am: Fire alarm, FJ; MFD responded.  
12:00 pm: Admissions reported a suspicious individual going around with the open house tour groups; subject was confronted, confirmed to be a transfer student.  
3:25 pm: Suspicious person reported around the fraternity houses; subject questioned and refused to leave the property; MPD notified; subject removed.  
6:21 pm: Fire alarm, Robb/Ellett; cause – smoke detector in the laundry room.

## Calendar of Events November 18-23

### Calendar of Events

#### November 18

**Qubad Talbani Presents "Iraq: As U.S. Forces Stand Down, Who Is Standing Up?"**  
Location: Blount/Buckman Lobby  
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

**IS/LAS Buckman Scholar Panel**  
Location: Buckman 110  
Time: 3:15 to 5:45

**November 19**  
**ASIA's Sushi Night**  
Location: Conservatory  
Time: 5:30pm-8:00pm

**Money Management Seminar**  
Location: Orgill  
Time: 5:00pm-6:00

**Art of Henna: Presentation and Hands on Workshop with Nida Mujahid**  
Location: Orgill  
Time: 7:00-8:00

**Lunchtime Lecture featuring Professor Han Li**  
Location: Alburty  
Time: 11:00-1:30pm

#### November 20

**Rhodes College Orchestra: "Overtures and Concertos"**  
Location: McCallum Ballroom  
Time: 7:30-9:00

#### November 21

**Spring Allocations**  
Location: Ohlendorf 225  
Time: 8:00am-10:00pm

#### The Big Diehl: Cirque du Holidaye

Location: Off Campus  
Time: 8:00pm-11:00pm

#### November 22

**Rhodes College Orchestra: "Overtures and Concertos"**  
Location: Off Campus  
Time: 5:00-6:30

**Taiji Pushing Hands Workshop**  
Location: BCLC Activity Room  
Time: 1:30pm-4:30pm

#### November 23

**Rhodes Student Chamber Music Concert**  
Location: Tuthill  
Time: 7:30-9:00

# International justice mission chapter at Rhodes

By NeNe Bafford  
News Editor

**International Justice Mission** is a human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. The agency works to ensure immediate rescue relief for all victims and they also work to persecute the perpetrators. The International Justice Mission has a Four Fold Purpose, this includes: Victim Relief, Perpetrator Accountability, Victim Aftercare, and Structural Transformation. Some other forms of oppression that the agency works against are sexual violence, slavery, illegal detention, police brutality, illegal property seizure, and sex trafficking.

With this in mind, Jessica Mobbs (2013), started an International Justice Mission Campus Chapter here at Rhodes. The group meets every Thursday (location TBA) and will work to raise money and awareness about the mission. Mobbs hopes to hold a fundraiser, a multi-faith prayer, and a humanitarian week in the Spring semester.

"Children are being sold into slavery, thousands every day, so why not help them?" said Mobbs.

For more information, contact Jessica Mobbs, at mobjr@rhodes.edu or visit [ijm.org](http://ijm.org).

### International Justice Mission Facts

#### Bonded Slavery

- In 2004 there are more slaves than were seized from Africa during four centuries of trans-Atlantic slave trade. (Kevin Bales, Disposable People)
- Approximately two-thirds of today's slaves are in South Asia. Human Rights Watch estimates that in India alone there are as many as 15 million children in bonded slavery.

#### Sex Trafficking

- Human trafficking is the world's third largest criminal enterprise, after drugs and weapons. (U.S. Department of State)
- There are an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 children, women and men trafficked across international borders annually. (U.S. Department of State)
- Approximately 80 percent of human trafficking victims are women and girls, and up to 50 percent are minors. (U.S. Department of State)
- Sex trafficking is an engine of the global AIDS epidemic.

#### Police Brutality

- At least 10 prisoners died in Kenyan prisons as a result of torture in 2000. Official figures for deaths in prisons are scarce but, in October 1995, a government minister stated that more than 800 prisoners died in the first nine months of that year. In 1997, more than 630 prisoners reportedly died (Amnesty International).

#### Illegal Detention

- In the spring of 2002, 50 percent of 1,700 detainees in an Ethiopian prison had been there for five to 10 years, many without charge (African Commitments to Human Rights: A Review of Eight NEPAD Countries).
- In 2003 it was estimated that 41.4 percent of South Africa's prisoners were infected with HIV due to sub-human prison conditions, overcrowding, violence and sexual assault (The Institute for Security Systems).

## 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.

	9	4	2			1	
5		6			7		
2	7				9	4	
7				3		9	8
3		9	8		5	2	1
4		2		7			3
		5	3			6	4
			7			1	2
	4				6	8	3

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# Fall television season offers exciting new shows

By Janie Logan

Arts and Entertainment Co-Editor

In the ever-changing world of television, you might wake up one morning and a new show has become the talk of the watercooler. More often than not, however, shows have to fight to establish themselves with an audience. So far this fall, networks have already cancelled those series that never really made it out of the gate, like ABC's *Eastwick* and *Hank*. It requires a challenging balance of broad appeal and intriguing, multi-layered characters to make viewers want more.

This fall has been a pleasant surprise, with a handful of memorable new shows that probably have many seasons in their future, as well as several shows in their second season that have managed to overcome the dreaded "Sophomore Slump." The best freshman series have been spread pretty evenly across the major networks, and come from a diverse range of genres.

CBS has been very popular on the procedural front. The spinoff of the very successful *NCIS*, featuring Mark Harmon as the sarcastic team leader of the Naval

Criminal Investigative Service, is *NCIS: Los Angeles*. Starring Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J, the new show, which follows its parent show on Tuesday nights, is able to retain much of the audience, and is doing a good job of finding its own sense of humor while appealing to procedural-loving Americans. Also on Tuesday night is the solid new law drama, *The Good Wife*. Julianna Margulies stars as a woman in the aftermath of her politician husband's public affair and corruption charges. In her best role since playing Nurse Carol Hathaway for 6 years on *ER*, she exudes intelligence and empathy as rookie lawyer Alicia Florrick.

ABC is continuing to offer quality sci-fi/fantasy fare with *FlashForward* and *V*. Both are definite products of a post-*LOST* era, in which television is becoming highly less episodic in favor of serialized shows that develop over season-long arcs through intricate character development and slowly unraveling mysteries. *FlashForward*, with an ensemble cast that includes Joseph Fiennes, Sonya Walger, John Cho, Gabrielle Union, and Courtney B. Vance, tells the story of a world in panic after every person blacked out for 2 minutes and 17 seconds and witnessed their lives 6 months in the future. Observing people's different responses to the event would be an interesting enough psychological study, but add to it that the flashforwards aren't necessarily set in stone and the possibility that a couple of enigmatic, evasive individuals might have caused the blackout, and you have a pretty compelling drama.

*V* follows the same setup as the 1980's sci-fi show on which it is based—an alien race called "The Visitors" arrives on Earth and seeks an exchange of water (to them a valuable resource) for technological and medical advances. After the masterpiece that was the reimagined *Battlestar Galactica*, I will never judge a sci-fi show as cheesy without first giving it a chance. After only a couple of episodes, *V* has not disappointed. *LOST*'s Elizabeth Mitchell stars as an FBI agent who is rightly skeptical of the V, led by the ethereal Morena Baccarin of *Firefly* fame. They claim that they are "of peace, always," but their intentions are thrown into a new light when it is revealed that a group of Visitors have been

living on Earth for years under assumed identities. Presumably, they have sought to infiltrate the human race in preparation for some master plan of destruction upon the arrival of their species.

In perhaps the most unexpected development of the fall, ABC also has some great comedy programming. The Wednesday night lineup contains a block of half-hour comedies—*Modern Family*, *The Middle*, and *Cougar Town*. All have their own merits, and a respectably sized viewership. *Modern*

*Family*, in particular, has been outstanding. Starring Julie Bowen (*Ed*, *LOST*) and *Married...With Children*'s Ed O'Neill, the show follows the same documentary style filming made popular by *The Office*, this time on the wisdom of parenting. *Modern Family* is a wonderful combination of laugh-out-loud funny, smart, and endearing.

NBC's *Community*, with Chevy Chase and Joel McHale, has also become a fan-favorite, focusing on a quirky group of students at a community college. Although the peacock network doesn't really have any other noteworthy new shows, *Parks and Recreation* has been gaining momentum in its second round of episodes, after an uneven freshman season. Amy Poehler, Aziz Ansari, Nick Offerman, and Rashida Jones are taking that show to new levels of hilarity, as they continue to tell stories about local government through the lens of the Department of Parks and Recreation of Pawnee, Indiana.

Keeping in tune with the current crazy-hotness of vampires, The CW has found favor with *Twilight* and *True Blood* fans in *The Vampire Diaries*, based on a series of books by L.J. Smith. The young cast is led by Nina Dobrev, Paul Wesley, and Ian Somerhalder, who portray the strong-willed human girl (of course) and the vampire brothers.

While the next series might not have the most viewers, it has without a doubt the most devoted new fan following. FOX's *Glee* has flashy musical numbers, adolescent hormones mixed with sweet emotion, and a unique, if inconsistent, sense of humor. From the creative vision of Ryan Murphy (going from *Nip/Tuck* to *Glee* is not exactly the straightest of lines), this series showcases the talent of musical theater superstars like Lea Michele, Matthew Morrison, and Amber Riley. It is the dry wit of comedienne Jane Lynch as cheerleader coach Sue Sylvester that usually redeems even the shaky episodes. Plus, *Glee* has been so widely embraced by the Hollywood and Broadway communities that they are also able to bring in a shining presence like Kristin Chenoweth, or in future episodes, director Joss Whedon and *Spring Awakening* star Jonathan Groff.

Another gem of the fall season has been FX's *Sons of Anarchy*. Although technically in its second year, this show has seen a rebirth, surging into the pantheon of great television. *SOA* follows a motorcycle club in the small town of Charming, CA, and, odd as it may seem, is a loose adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Charlie Hunnam (*Green Street Hooligans*) plays Jax Teller, the impetuous young VP of the Sons, whose outlook on life is changed by the birth of his son and the discovery of his dead father's journal.

Jax's stepfather, Clay Morrow, is the club's hard-headed president, skillfully portrayed by *Hellboy*'s Ron Perlman. Katey Sagal plays Gemma, the matriarch of the Sons. In Season 1, she had a toughness to rival any of the tattooed, bike-riding criminals, but a brutal attack in the Season 2 premiere left her broken and vulnerable. Sagal's real-life husband, Kurt Sutter, is the creator and executive producer



Photo courtesy of American Broadcasting Company

**Modern Family takes a humorous look at the love and conflict of a family.**

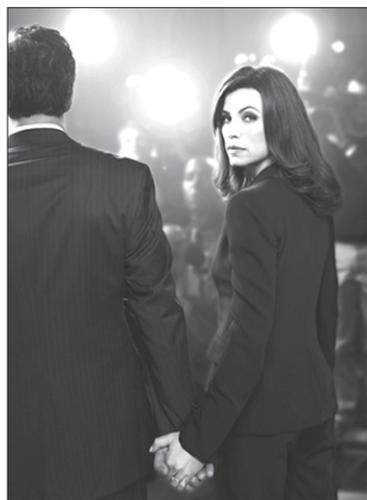


Photo courtesy of Columbia Broadcasting System

**As the strong leading actress in this new courtroom procedural, Julianna Margulies stands by her man, played by Chris Noth, in *The Good Wife*.**



Photo courtesy of FOX Networks

**This glee club features a veritable island of misfit toys, struggling to find acceptance and creative expression in the jungle of high school, amidst problems with teen pregnancy, homosexuality, and disabilities.**



Photo courtesy of FOX Networks

**Charlie Hunnam's Jax leads the Sons of Anarchy down the highway on one of their missions of gun-running, vigilante justice, or just plain joy-riding.**

# Amelia Earhart film lacks substance

By Ferdinand Doumic  
Staff Writer

"A look at the life of legendary American pilot Amelia Earhart, who disappeared while flying over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 in an attempt to make a flight around the world," says the Internet Movie Database about *Amelia*. Is there anything to add? Maybe.

The movie goes with two major topics: aviation and feminism. Director Mira Nair juggles between the two so easily that both subjects remain only superficially tackled. Indeed, this is not a political movie, nor a movie about flying passion. So what is it really about?

"A look at the life of legendary..." You will see Hilary Swank flying a fake plane, where the camera is slightly moving (in a plane in the 30s...) and where the characters have to yell at each other because the engine of the plane is too loud even though you can hear their footsteps (!). What is a shame is that Swank actually gives a good performance. She is undoubtedly a great actress, and was well cast as the historical female icon.

But what is McGregor doing as a stylishly handsome lover and father, in a suit too big for him, smoking cigarettes? It seems like they hired him just because he is



Photo courtesy of AE Electra Productions

Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank stars in this period biopic of the aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhart.

Scottish and could pull off an Irish accent.

By comparison, I did not love the recently released *The Men who Stare at Goats* either, but at least McGregor had a suitable role for the movie.

However, I am getting away from my initial subject: flying and feminism. Those two topics may actually be more complementary than you think. Aviation contains a paradox: you can feel the greatest free-

dom flying, but such a freedom is incredibly expansive. Feminism can solve this kind of problem: find a lovely, full of money husband and tell him you are a feminist who needs freedom. Then fly as far as you wish. And die.

This movie could have been good, if only it had a point. This article has only one little point: work on your next paper tonight instead of going to see *Amelia*.

# Remembering a music legend

By Jasmine Gilstrap  
Staff Writer

June 25 marked a day that would forever change the lives of millions and the music industry. Two weeks short of his first performance in over ten years, the King of Pop died from a cardiac arrest in Los Angeles. Flash-forward four months and the performance scheduled to debut July 13 hits the big screen for an audience triple the size of the original show.

In the weeks prior to the film's limited release in October, Jackson's mother Katherine and sister Janet expressed hesitance in releasing the footage originally only for Jackson's personal collection. The two family members felt the film would exploit the already sensitive subject which worsened when Jackson's father Joe began selling \$3,000 tickets to a "Platinum VIP" screening of the film. With the continued media coverage of Jackson's death and speculation about an overdose, "This Is It" was released October 28 with a wide release Wednesday, November 11.

Michael Jackson's "This Is It" captures the spirit of the musician in his final days with footage of Jackson in preparation of what would have been his comeback concert in London. Featuring the songs that his fans would "want to hear," the film brings those watching back to when the songs first hit the airwaves. Covering songs from both the Jackson 5 days and his solo albums, Jackson takes the audience on a journey, telling his life story through music.

Performing in a half-empty Staples Center, Jackson practices his song and moves in front of hundreds of technicians and crew

members for the show. Auditions for the dancers performing along side Jackson took place at a LA dance studio in early March with auditioners coming in from all over the



Photo courtesy of googleimages

Millions of fans have flocked to theaters to celebrate the King of Pop in Michael Jackson's *This Is It*, a recording of Jackson's last rehearsals prior his untimely death.

world. The musicians accompanying Jackson's distinct voice were selected by Jackson and his keyboardist/musical director, Michael Bearden.

While Jackson's voice sounds the same as it did when the songs were first recorded,

the songs receive a slight face-lift. With the help of Bearden, Jackson creates transitions and updates his classics with subtle nuances. The over all performances of Jackson's hits also change drastically from when he last performed them in 1997.

Jackson's iconic "Thriller" retains its scary vibe in its 2009 makeover, but with an added twist--or rather another dimension. *Thriller 2009*, as choreographer/director Kenny Ortega calls it in the film, features pre-recorded 3-D special effects along with dancers in intense make-up. In addition to 3-D effects, the 2 hour long performance contains pyrotechnics, the use of a green screen, and multiple footage from movies. The film also debuted the new Jackson song written for the concert which gives the film its name.

Excessive media coverage in regards to the musician's personal life and death may contribute to the legacy left by the icon, but the stigma did not detract from fans viewing of the film. As the last footage ever to be shot of Jackson performing, the film provides closure to fans after the musician's untimely death. "This Is It" grossed \$11.1 million in the first 2 days and has made \$32.5 million to date.

Despite the backlash Jackson received in the past decade, the musician was scheduled to have made over \$50 million in the London concert alone. Although the last thoughts of Michael Jackson vary from person to person, the King of Pop will not be forgotten. As he stated in a 2007 interview, "Music has been my outlet, my gift to all of the lovers in this world. Through it, my music, I know I will live forever."

## THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

### New Movie Releases 11/20/09:

*Twilight: New Moon*  
*Precious*  
*The Blind Side*  
*Planet 51*

### Television Highlights (11/4-11/10):

**America's Next Top Model**  
Wednesday, 7 pm, The CW. The final two models shoot a commercial and rock the runway.

### Glee

Wednesday, 8 pm, FOX. The Glee Club separates into duos to sing ballads but when one member falls ill, a trio is formed.

### FlashForward

Thursday, 7 pm, ABC.

### Grey's Anatomy

Thursday, 8 pm, ABC. Dr. Bailey gets a visit from her father and Mark discovers he has a daughter.

### The Office

Thursday, 8 pm, NBC.

### 30 Rock

Thursday, 8 pm, NBC. Al Gore guest stars.

### Supernatural

Thursday, 8 pm, The CW.

### Project Runway

Thursday, 9 pm, Lifetime. Carol Hannah falls ill as the final three designers prepare to present collections at Bryant Park.

### Dancing with the Stars

Monday, 7 pm, ABC. Celebrities compete for the Mirrorball trophy in the finals.

### How I Met Your Mother

Monday 7 pm, CBS. The friends celebrate another Slapsgiving.

### House

Monday, 7 pm, FOX.

### The Big Bang Theory

Monday, 8:30 pm, CBS.

### Castle

Monday, 9 pm, ABC.

### So You Think You Can Dance

Tuesday, 7 pm, FOX. Top 10 dancers perform.

### Sons of Anarchy

Tuesday, 9 pm, FX.

# BCS Bowl births are down to the wire

By Andrew Mullins-Williams

As teams get ready for the final stretch in the college football season, there seems to be a level of tranquility among the football elites. It is clear that the three best teams in football are Florida, Alabama and Texas. However, unlike previous years, the top gets sorted out in the regular season by having Florida and Alabama play each other.

Granted, if any of the top three loses to its rival, the equation will cause all-hell to break loose within the BCS system. However, assuming that the three teams win-out, and Florida and Alabama play each other undefeated, the National Championship game will be one of the few uncontested titles in recent college football memory.

However, the rest of the BCS bowls are shaping to be a very interesting race to the finish.

The BCS bowl structure is very strange to begin with. Besides the two top-ranked teams, the six conference Champions of the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10, and Southeastern Conferences all receive automatic bids. Any team not in these affiliated conferences can earn a berth if: they are ranked in the final 12 of the BCS standings, or are ranked in the final 16 and have a higher ranking than that of a BCS Conference Champion.

While it seems complicated on paper, watching it play out every week is even worse. The ACC, and Pac 10 are the only two conferences that will guaranteed only have one team in the BCS. The Big 12 will more than likely join this group, but it is possible in some far-fetched scenario where everyone loses (maybe twice) that Oklahoma St. sneaks in. The Big East is also in this boat, but the battle between Pitt and Cincinnati could perhaps give the conference two teams in BCS positions. However, for arguments sake, we will assume that only the Big 10 and SEC receive two births in the BCS. That means that eight spots are taken and only two open for outside teams. This is where the BCS can become a mess because assuming that TCU wins-out, there would only be one spot left in a BCS game.

These are my predictions:

**National Championship-Alabama/Florida vs. Texas**

This game is the easiest to predict: no conflict here.

**Rose Bowl: Oregon vs. Ohio St.**

Both the Big 10 and Pac 10 have obligations to this bowl, and Oregon and Ohio St both hold a game in the standings against their opposition. A loss by either team will change this matchup, but Michigan and Oregon St are hardly difficult opponents.

**Sugar Bowl: loser of Alabama/Florida vs. Cincinnati**

The Sugar Bowl loses its representative (the SEC) to the National Championship game. Therefore, it gets first choice in picking between the rest of the field. It is hard to argue the loser of Alabama/Florida, but the opponent could be anyone. However, it is hard to imagine not picking the highest possible ranked team to play the SEC runner-up, which (assuming they beat Pittsburgh) should be Cincinnati.

**Orange Bowl: Georgia Tech vs. Boise State**

The conference affiliation forces the Orange bowl to take Georgia Tech, but then they are allowed to pick an outside team. I believe Boise State should qualify for the last remaining spot in the BCS, but by no means does that mean they will. They have an impressive victory over Oregon and are ranked within the top-10 of the BCS. However, if they are not selected, the last team in will play Georgia Tech.

**Fiesta Bowl: Iowa vs. TCU**

Like the Sugar Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl loses its affiliation (Big 12) to the National Championship Game. TCU should get a birth because it will have finished in the top 8 of the BCS standings, but its opponent is completely unknown. Iowa and Penn St seem to be the leading candidates, but Oklahoma St could be a possibility depending on what happens down the stretch. Iowa seems to be a slight favorite to land this BCS spot because of their victory over Penn State. However, Penn State has a national following and could easily be a picked ahead of Iowa. It all depends on how the Fiesta Bowl organizers feel.

# CC qualifies for nationals

By William Hunt

The Women's Cross Country Team won their Regional meet at Guilford College—in Greensboro, N.C. The Lady Lynx scored 35 points on Saturday November 14, 2009; their closest competitor was Emory, which trailed them by 65 points. A solid pack of Rhodes runners led the race and secured their victory.

Wood trails made up a significant part of the course at Guilford, and a rain-storm the previous day ensured that the racers would face adverse conditions on muddy clay. This wasn't enough, however, to prevent Senior captain Cybil Covic from leading the way for the Lynx. She finished the six kilometer race as the second overall runner (out of 189 other competitors) with a time of 23:35. Sophomore Taylor Stephens was the second runner for the Lynx team, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in 23:53. Melissa DeFabrizio (Sr.) followed her closely, sprinting ahead of a pack of other runners to finish fourth overall (24:01). Kelsey Dudziak (Jr.) was only three seconds behind her, and placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall. The 19<sup>th</sup> finisher overall, and final scorer for Rhodes, was Ana Johnson (Sr.) with a time of 24:41. Sandy Henin (Jr.) and Maddie Harrigan (Fr.) finished off the race for the Lynx, in 25:08 and 25:18 respectively.

The Women's team earned the right to compete in the NCAA D-III National meet in Cleveland, O.H, November 21<sup>st</sup>, with their 1<sup>st</sup> place win at the Regional meet. Chris Moore, who finished 12<sup>th</sup> overall in the men's competition, will also compete in the Nationals Championship as an individual representing Rhodes.

# What lies ahead for Memphis basketball

By Andrew Mullins Williams

The University of Memphis Basketball program ended the 2008-2009 season with a loss to the University of Missouri. Since that moment, the program has been in constant motion. On April 1, 2009, John Calipari left Memphis for the history-rich

program at the University of Kentucky. The move was a shocking realization to the city of Memphis and it left the basketball program with an unknown future.

On April 6, 2009 athletic director R.C. Johnson responded by hiring Josh Pastner as the 17<sup>th</sup> head coach of the Tigers. Pastner is now inheriting a program that has won 49 straight conference games (61 including the conference tournament), and has not lost a regular season conference game since March 2, 2006.

Even so, what can really be expected this year from the Tigers?

Besides losing Calipari, Memphis also lost its top scorers from last season.

Tyreke Evans (17.1 points per game), Robert Dozier (12.9

Points per game), Shawn Taggart (10.4 points per game) and Antonio Anderson (10.2 points per game), all have left the program.

However, there are new and rising stars eager to show what they are capable of under the new leadership of Pastner. Senior Doneal Mack is a solid scorer from the perimeter and one of the few returning players with applicable previous playing time. Pierre Henderson-Niles, and Willie Kemp are the other seniors that will be leaned on heavily to help bridge the learning curve on the 2009-2010 season. Junior guard Robert Sallie is another face with some experience. He currently is one of the better shooters on the team and has proven that he can make shots on the biggest stage when he dropped in 10 three pointers in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 2009 NCAA tournament. Duke transfer, Elliot Williams will also provide a new spark at the guard position.

The Memphis frontcourt is going to be the main concern for Memphis this year. They have a lot of newcomers that can provide depth and potential, yet they have few experienced players who understand the rigorous demand of the inside position against elite opponents. Even so, junior college transfer Will Coleman is going to get the bulk of the minutes in the front court and he will likely have to pick up the rebounding and inside scoring burden. Being a 6-9, 250 pound forward, Coleman has the

size and strength to battle for rebounds, but also the agility and speed to keep up with the face paced offense.

While no one believes Memphis will go undefeated again, Pastner has certainly kept the energy alive within program. Conference USA is a soft conference and only Tulsa and Texas El Paso seem to be within striking distance of the top. Outside the conference, Memphis plays Kansas, Tennessee, Syracuse, and Gonzaga, but outside of those four teams they should be favored in most of their games.

With that said, Memphis has the ability to reach the NCAA tournament, but it will depend on how the team plays as a unit and how they deal with adversity that will decide their fate come March. While this year looks to be a gap-year for Memphis, as they wait for their No. 1 ranked recruiting class, by no means does it mean they are throwing in the towel. Assuming that Conference USA receives only one bid to the NCAA tournament, the success that Memphis has against the middle of the conference will ultimately dictate if they go the dancing or if they are stuck playing in the NIT. A win against a ranked out-of-conference team would certainly help their resume, but at the end of the day, Memphis holds its own fate within the Conference.

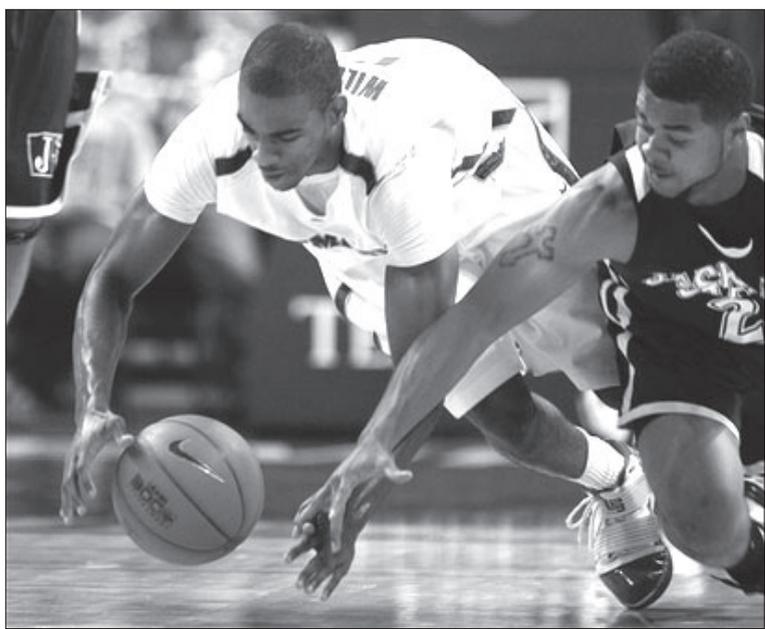


photo courtesy of Associated Press

**Memphis guard Elliot Williams, hustles for a loose ball against Jackson State: the Tigers won their season opener 82-53**