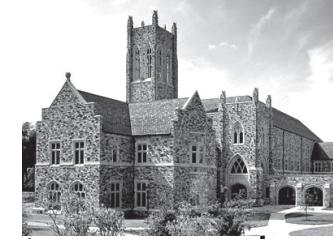


THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCVI. NO. 15

February 23, 2011

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Soon to come: new dorm building at Rhodes!

See Page 5

Weekly Weather

Wednesday, February 23
PM Showers



High: 59
Low: 54

Thursday, February 24
Rain/ Thunder



High: 67
Low: 49

Friday, February 25
Partly Cloudy



High: 52
Low: 43

Saturday, February 26
Mostly Cloudy



High: 62
Low: 49

Sunday, February 27
Showers



High: 60
Low: 57

Monday, February 28
Scattered Thunder Storms



High: 62
Low: 42

Tuesday, March 1
Sunny



High: 56
Low: 40

Weather courtesy of Weather.com

An interview with Rhodes' Jessica Nickoson

By Alex Yu
News Editor

This week I sat down with the new Director of Student Involvement, Jessica Nickoson, as requested by several students and my editor. After being initially nervous due to hearing that she is terrifying and extremely intimidating, I quickly put that aside. Jessica Nickoson is not a terrifying person. In fact, being 6' 5," I towered over her as she warned me not too get too close due to her cold.

When I told her that some students feel she is terrifying, she responded, "I learn new things about myself all the time, and that was something new." Nickoson has been at Rhodes since June 14, 2010, making this school year, her very first at Rhodes. Previously, she worked for the University of Indianapolis as the Student Activities Coordinator for two years, which was a dry campus without a Greek System. When she came to Rhodes she started out by getting acquainted with the college, with the staff, and trying to figure out what to do to prepare for the return of students in the fall.

She is in charge of a wide variety of student organizations and Greek life. "I directly advise Panhellenic, National Panhellenic, and the Interfraternity Council, and I also directly advise RAB, Lecture Board, Up 'Til Dawn, and First Book, as well as Colleges Against Cancer." Having learned what all she was in control of, I wanted to know what changes she was considering. She replied, "I think it's hard to come in your first year and have goals to change, and my philosophy is that I'm going to take a year to learn, a year to begin to institute changes, and then another year to see those changes through. I'm still in that learning year right now. Things happen every week where I'm like, 'Okay, good to know,' so I definitely think that right

now I'm not in a place where I'm trying to make changes. There are things I see that I would like to work on, but things this year..."

Coming to Rhodes has definitely been an adjustment compared to Indianapolis for Nickoson. "Rhodes is very different than the University of Indianapolis with the fact that this is not a dry campus. When I got my masters at Indiana State, during those two years I worked with the Interfraternity Council. So it's been a two year break since I've worked with a Greek system. Even the Programming Board here is very different from the Programming Board at Indianapolis, so I'm trying to make those adjustments to changes and the way that Rhodes College life is."

So, then I put on my George Stephanopoulos face and proceeded to ask the tougher questions. Does the fact that Rhodes is a wet campus make it a little more difficult for you to manage since you are used to a dry campus? To this she replied, "I don't think I would say that. It was something I had to get used to when I first came...It was very much something I had to get used to, but I like the atmosphere of Rhodes College, and I like to be able to come here on the weekends and see people out and about, especially around the fraternity houses grilling out during football season. I think it's really fun that there's so many people out on campus. But no, I don't think that it's harder to manage. I think it was just something new that I had to get used to at first."

So, I then informed her that besides students thinking that she is terrifying, they feel she is being restrictive when it comes to events. To this she responded, "You can look at me, I'm not very old, and I have not been out of college that long, so I like to think that I'm really laid back. I

The weekly sassy lesbian column "Do boys like girls?"

By Rin Abernathy
Staff Writer

I went to the opening night of the Vagina Monologues—a stellar performance as usual, full of female empowerment. After the show concluded, I heard one of two boys in the row behind me speaking to his friend. The first words out of his mouth? "I need a beer and some porn." That's the sort of eloquent speech one can only execute through education at a top-rate liberal arts institution. It's not that I expect guys to really care about female issues, or want women to be treated equally, or think it's cool that women can feel comfortable talking about sex, or—if you haven't caught on to the sarcasm yet, your parents might want to know where your tuition money's going.

I know, I know, I just wrote about womance last week. Male readers might be asking themselves: When does the female empowerment end? I could, if I wanted, write a brotastic article about why I need a girl in the kitchen to make me a sandwich. That would require me to employ such literary devices as sarcasm, irony, and satire. The guy needing beer and porn after the Vagina Monologues didn't sound as if he were making an ironic statement on male-female gender binaries. That sounded more like an uncomfortable male who needed to reassert the fact that he likes vaginas, just not in *that* way.

You know, *that* way. Vaginas are cool if you want to hook up with a girl, or if the girl attached to it does, in fact, make you a sandwich. On the other hand, a woman talking about her sexual organs without a sense of shame? Yeah, bro, totally not cool to support that. I mean, who wants to hear about chick problems, am I right? Blah blah periods blah blah issues of workplace equality yakkity yak problems with misogyny.

This leads me to wonder whether some heterosexual males do, in fact, like women as much as they claim. Obviously, they like parts of women, but the Vagina Monologues aren't meant to inspire a need for porn (also known as entirely missing the point). I don't understand why a guy would watch the Vagina Monologues in the first place if he wasn't interested in vaginas. The explanation from my bros: his girlfriend made him. It seems odd to me that some males are so apprehensive when it comes to vaginas. I'm a lesbian, so I'm by default a crazy biased feminist, but I find it rather delightful when females have sexual empowerment. I think it's just dandy when girls aren't afraid to talk about sex or femininity or the way women are treated. A few males don't get quite as excited over the idea of a woman comfortable with all aspects of herself. They, oddly enough, seem apprehensive when women bring up very real facts, like disproportionate pay or the frequency of sexual assault.

Although silly though their fear may be, I conclude that these men are afraid of both women and vaginas. To paraphrase Dan Savage, vaginas are amazing and wonderful and chew up semen and spit out babies. If any male reading this column was made uncomfortable, I deeply apologize. Believe me, I would never try to undermine your desire for a sandwich. I would, however, suggest that you occasionally ask someone with XY chromosomes to make it for you.

Have a question or a topic you'd like addressed? Want advice or opinions full of semi-witty and sarcastic answers? Email abere@rhodes.edu.

Rolling back multiculturalism

**By John Ayers
Staff Writer**

It was not a year ago that Angela Merkel, Germany's Chancellor, declared that "the approach [to build] a multicultural [society] and to live side by side and to enjoy each other ... has failed, utterly failed." Last week, two other important leaders of Western Europe echoed these sentiments, British Prime Minister Cameron and now, President Sarkozy of France. They joined a list that not only includes Chancellor Merkel, but also ex-Prime Minister Howard of Australia and ex-Premier Aznar of Spain. The rollback on multiculturalism in the West has begun.

From where do these sentiments originate? Racism and prejudice certainly factor somewhat into these hostile attitude towards immigrants and the communities they have been building for decades now. However, the growing chorus of national leaders and domestic laws demanding conformance is more indicative of a grassroots reaction rather than a fringe group based on hate. A growing sentiment in Western Europe is that they are losing their national and cultural identity to a growing wave of immigrants who not only isolate themselves, but demand their own laws and customs be tolerated. The killing of the Dutch director Theo Van Gogh, the reaction against the Danish Mohammed cartoons, the headscarf debate, sharia law implementation, and the growing list of home grown terrorist attacks or attempts has finally jolted Western Europe out of its complacency regarding its policies on multiculturalism. Prime Minister Cameron claimed that "under the doctrine of state multiculturalism, we have encouraged different cultures to live separate lives, apart from each other and the mainstream". Not integrating a community into the laws, cul-

ture, and life of their European homes has ensured the breeding of hostile individuals and groups to their own country. Not only this, but the growing population of these hostile communities means that they have taken their demands to the national level, calling for their own laws, courts, schools, and customs (many of which are hostile to

countries have certain values that they do not wish to see any exceptions to, regardless of what an alien culture demands. These are primarily those of free expression, equality of sexes and races, and tolerance, which are not often shared by these hostile communities. What Western Europeans want is the same tolerance they extend to these com-

munities. But what is the solution that does not involve deporting anyone who doesn't wish to conform to the national identity?

Prime Minister Cameron states that only "more active, muscular liberalism where equal rights, the rule of law, freedom of speech and democracy are actively promoted to create a stronger national identity" can overcome the divided societies Western Europe is now facing. The United States would do well to take note of these struggles. The U.S. has long been a melting pot, with notable difficulties, which has strengthened this country. However, the last few decades have seen a less successful, but equally driven push for multiculturalism here.

Let us learn from our cultural cousins across the Atlantic that this policy will only breed hostile communities within the United States and a loss of our Western and national identity that will end in failure. Our rights and the rights of all those who immigrate to America must be upheld. Our democracy, our Constitution, and our belief in equality must be our strengths, and no one who comes here should be able to disregard these values. They must accept them or leave, just as Sarkozy argued. The assault of multiculturalism on Western society and national identity is finally being resisted in Europe; let us resist its spread here as well.



Image courtesy of GoogleImages

Western values) to be respected and accepted by the state and a people who are not willing to allow for the dismantling of Western society. It is a perverse attempt by these non-Western communities to use the tolerance of Western societies to disregard that very society.

President Sarkozy said it best, "if you come to France, you accept to melt into a single community, which is the national community, and if you do not want to accept that, you cannot be welcome in France." While the national community is a fluid and broad identity, France and other European

Note of clarification from the author:

**By Erica Morozin
Layout Editor**

I would like to apologize for any confusion Weil may have felt. I did not mean to appear as if I was taking full credit for the changes.

While I do admit that RSG definitely deserves credit for the cafeteria changes, the thing I praised in my article was the open lines of communication between Sciara and students because of my article. I do not deserve, nor do I assume, all of the credit. But, my article was a direct response to Sciara's letter to the editor – a letter that did not mention Rhodes Student Government but mentioned my original article.

I did not intentionally exclude Rhodes Student Government, but instead was oblivious (like most of the students I have asked)

to the changes that Rhodes Student Government was working on.

I apologize for appearing inaccurate, but from my point of view (and from that of many of the students), major changes surfaced two days after Sciara wrote a letter in response to my article.

Since communication and public awareness seems to be an apparent issue for Rhodes Student Government, I propose that the Rhodes Student Government create a public relations office if they do not have one already. I feel that many students are oblivious to what these elected officials are working on, and I think it would be wonderful if the student body was aware of Rhodes Student Government's efforts and if the student body had more input.

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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Why we still need feminism in the United States

**Erica Morozin
Layout Editor**

In a Facebook group, my good friend posed the following question:

What would you say to people who think that women's rights/ feminism is a thing of the past?

My response went as follows:

I would say that the statement is incorrect because women still have not achieved full equality or respect in every region of this country-- let alone in every region of the world...

Before I came to the south for school, I thought that the subjection of women was no longer an issue in the United States. Sure, the whole glass ceiling exists in the professional world, but I thought that most people, at least socially, were generally more prone to think in terms of equality.

I was raised to be a strong woman and was told at a young age that I should never rely on a man for security or happiness; that it is my responsibility to ensure my security and my happiness. From early on, I was raised to be a feminist, and I always was frustrated by every example of inequality I witnessed, because I was always taught that women and men are equals and should be treated as such. And it seemed that most people in the north that I encountered were raised on the same principles.

There were no grand chauvinistic gestures of a very busy man holding open a door and waiting for a good two minutes before a woman was 'saved' from the hard labor of door-opening. There were no comments about how certain professions were 'women's work'. Most mothers in my town also had full time jobs in addition to the great deal of work that homemaking requires.

Although I expected the treatment of women to be different in the south because of the stereotype of the southern gentleman, I never predicted the extent of which southern women are conditioned to act a certain way and fulfill a certain stereotype of their gender.

Contrary to expectations, it was not a southern chauvinistic man who subjected me when I arrived in



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Tennessee; it was another female who made me feel subjected to traditional gender behaviors, whether it was intended or not. My experiences with sexism in the south are far more frustrating, because in the south I have experienced women vs. women sexism.

This is not a stab at the south in general, this is

Nature vs. nurture debate is yet to be resolved

**By Rekha Blackerby
Opinion Editor**

According to a recent study, children's brains can provide clues to whether they will become criminals. A group of scientists from the University of Pennsylvania have been studying three-year-old children and their neurological functions to determine if they could become psychopaths.

Their research has discovered that certain children may have decreased amygdala function. These scientists measured the possible amygdala impairment by testing the children's fear response to punishment. Apparently, if they did not show sufficient fear at the possibility of being punished, he or she could be a sociopath. Adult sociopaths reportedly have about 18% decreased function of the amygdala compared to those who are not sociopaths. It is suggested that their lack of fear is why sociopaths feel no guilt or remorse after committing a crime.

The scientists have been quick to reassure that their research cannot predict who will and will not be criminal offenders later in life. That statement alone begs the question: why does it matter who has a better functioning amygdala? Perhaps we will have to reexamine the law in these cases. If someone is found to have some brain abnormality that could have caused their crime, we could have a problem on our hands. Should they be tried the same as those without such abnormalities, or should they be given special treatment? With such ethical questions being raised, they are difficult to answer in light of these

studies.

Psychologists also warn about "callous-unemotional traits". Children who have these traits may feel no guilt about doing something wrong or lack basic emotions. They could even be characterized by being uncompassionate or unkind to those around them. How much of these traits are genetic though? Could there not be an

"It is an old argument. Are people good or evil?"

other reason for their behavior?

After hearing about this study, I was reminded of John Locke's tabula rasa theory. Most political science majors and probably even a few Search students have heard of John Locke. For those of you who have missed out on Locke, he theorized that humans are born like blank slates. We have a free will, but our environment plays a crucial role in shaping and molding our minds. The other side of the argument is that our genetics and biology pre-determine who we are. It all boils down to nature versus nurture.

merely something I experienced. I know that sexism is very much a presence in the north as well, but my culture shock in the south allowed me to notice the prevalence of sexism in the south because it was a new concept to me. Sexism differs region to region.

I will not go into great detail about my situation, but I will say that a problem arose that made me realize that the feminist movement still has not reached far enough.

I was raised to believe that if a man settles a problem by talking to another man, then I am to settle a problem by directly talking to the other person. In my situation, I was advised not to talk to the person that had a problem with me, effectively silencing my opinion.

Although the silencing of my opinion may not have intentionally been an act of sexism, I viewed it as such due to the nature of the conversation and due to the fact that women have traditionally been silenced for holding views contrary to views that they "should hold". Even if that person's intentions were pure (and she has since assured me they were), the event shaped my demeanor and my views about my immediate social structure.

I was not raised to be indirect and petty (for lack of better words) about issues, yet I found many southern women behaving that indirect and petty.

I was also not raised to generalize or speculate about "what women do" or about "what women should do", yet I found many southern women behaving that way. I was raised upon a presumption of equality.

My experiences in the south reminded me (in the same way that Palin's candidacy reminded me) that not all women are feminists. Not all women seek or desire total equality, but I believe that a great deal of that can be attributed to conditioning. The best way we can combat sexism is through education and through telling girls from a young age that they can do whatever they want to do in life. We are equal to men and have just as much of a right to happiness as men do.

We must reveal to women the extent of their subjection and conditioning. In order to achieve all we wish to achieve as feminists, we need to save women from inadvertently being part of the problem.

Nature vs. nurture debate is yet to be resolved

It seems too cruel to find a child's brain development suggestive of the criminal activity that they might be responsible for later in their lives. How can we write someone off as being inherently evil before they have even had a chance to fully develop? Environment impacts a child far more than their genetics.

Racism, for instance, is not something we are born with but rather, it is taught by the parents or by one's community. It would never cross a child's mind to avoid a playmate because they are of a different race or ethnicity. Children are color blind to someone's skin until they hear otherwise. They really do not care if their friends are black, white, Asian, or Hispanic. But children are extremely impressionable. If the parents made a comment about that child's skin color, it could become an issue. They are no longer a blank slate but rather, they have been influenced and written on by adults.

It is an old argument. Are people good or evil? Maybe I'm a deluded optimist, but I prefer to think that people are inherently good. We are all blank slates until our environment writes on us and formulates who we will become as adults. As for those with malfunctioning amygdalas, I'm certain that there are many people who have such abnormalities but manage to be civilized, contributing members of society, never committing any crimes because they were taught differently. Violence really is not the answer, but we have to be taught that lesson. We cannot know it from birth, because, according to John Locke, we don't know anything at birth. We are clean slates.

Student Voice

Do you think there has been more of a crackdown on drug/ alcohol use this year?

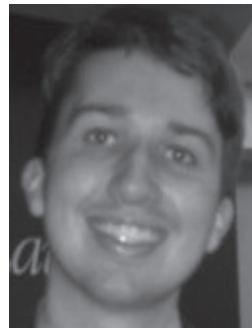


"I heard they shut down parties off campus. I understand why they do it, but that doesn't change student reaction."

-Rue Tsoka ('12)

"I don't feel sufficiently informed on the topic to offer my opinion, due primarily to a lack of involvement in large parties."

-Alex McGriff ('13)

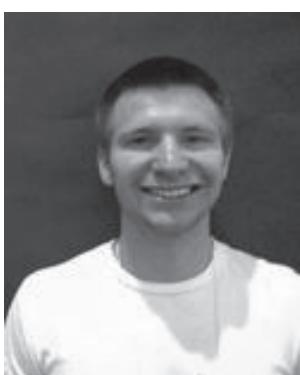


"I don't really think there has been. If they are trying to crackdown on drug and alcohol use, it definitely still goes on and students still get away with it."

-Mary Godfrey ('12)

"Not necessarily. But, if students continue to end up in the hospital for alcohol related reasons, it could happen. Settle down, youngsters..."

-Jared Swenson ('12)



"Absolutely. Campus Safety has begun enforcing policies that they haven't in the past and as a result there have been more incidents on campus."

-Jonathan Berube ('12)

Interview, continued from Page 1

think that any new person is going to pose a threat to some people, especially the students that don't really know me or that don't interact with me on a daily basis, and maybe those people are more intimidated by me, even though I'm not really an intimidating person. And, you're right, there was a big uproar [with the fraternity drama last semester], and policies are changing, but the truth is that the social alcohol policy is still the same, and nothing has changed. Therefore, I've been working for a semester to try to kill some of those rumors that started and didn't have any backing to them. As far as restrictive behavior on my part towards events, we are still having events every weekend, and there are some Thursday events. So, from what I see, I don't know that anything has changed since from when I got here." As far as off-campus events go, Nickoson said that she has the "expectation that off-campus events happen at a rented venue with buses."

"You can't make everybody happy but I tend to think that I get along with most of the students pretty well. I didn't know people were terrified of me," Nickoson said jokingly. On a lighter note, we then discussed how her experience at Rhodes has been thus far.

"I've had a wonderful experience here, and I was just talking to the parents of some admitted students through the admissions office about how,

when I first came to Rhodes, and maybe some of the students have a different interpretation of this than I do, I never sat in a room with students and felt like I was the new person. Everyone that I've interacted with has been very welcoming and really awesome. I don't know what it is, but there's not a specific title you can put on Rhodes students, except for that I don't think that I've ever enjoyed a group of students as much as I do the students here. I always say that they're going to keep me young, they're going to keep me here, and they're certainly going to keep me on my toes. I really enjoy working here and the degree of how committed Rhodes students are to service has been really nice, as compared to other colleges and universities. I went on the Rhodes Rebuilds trip during fall break and that was a lot of fun, going to New Orleans with a group of students and watching them do service, even when it's outside of student organizations, for example the Polar Plunge. I recently participated in the Polar Plunge with 17 students and, between the 17 of us, we raised over \$4,000 and Rhodes received the award for the team that raised the most money. I have participated in this event on my own the past two years in Indianapolis, and the students here reached out when they saw that I was going to participate here and asked me to join their team. I thought that was really great, and I've definitely enjoyed my time here."

Handguns may soon be allowed on some American college campuses

By Anna Meyerrose
Editor-in-Chief

Back in July of 2009, Tennessee state legislators passed a law that would allow handguns to be carried in bars and restaurants throughout the state (assuming, of course, that the carrier possesses a valid handgun license). Notable figures, such as Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen, opposed this bill, arguing that putting guns and alcohol in close proximity is "an invitation to a disaster". Proponents of the bill, on the other hand, argued that Tennessee residents have a good history of responsible gun handling.

More recently, students in Texas have been awaiting the verdict on a similar law. The current bill under debate is one which would allow all students, faculty, and staff of Texas colleges and universities with a concealed handgun license to carry weapons on campus and even take them to class.

Those in support of the passing of this bill assert that such a law would increase the security of everyone on campus, and that it is, above all else, an issue of self-defense in that it does not make the campus community dependent on law enforcement for their physical protection. In the words of Republican Texas Senator Jeff Wentworth: "I don't ever want to see repeated on a Texas college campus what happened at Virginia Tech, where some deranged, suicidal madman goes into a building and is able to pick off totally defenseless kids like sitting ducks."

Furthermore, advocates argue that such a law would not cause a threat due to the lengthy and in-depth process through which everyone must go in order to obtain a concealed handgun license. According to the Houstonian Newspaper, "In order to obtain a Texas Concealed Handgun License, applicants must be 21 years of age, pass both a state and federal criminal background check. They must be of sound mind mentally, not be delinquent in debt and

not have a felony record or a Class A or B misdemeanor record for the previous five years. They must take a 10- 15 hour course and pass a marksmanship exam very similar to that of the police weapons qualification exam."

Opponents on the other side of the issue, however, have more than a few reservations about this potential law. "Just because you have a CHL doesn't mean you have a stable personality. I just don't understand why anyone would need a gun at school," one student from Sam Houston State University said.

"There is no scenario where allowing concealed weapons on college campuses will do anything other than create a more dangerous environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors," asserted Oklahoma Chancellor of Higher Education Glen Johnson.

Another potential concern linked with this proposed law has to do with alcohol. College and university campuses, much like bars, tend to be home to an inordinate amount of alcohol (and undoubtedly, Texas schools are no exception). Since this is the case, Governor Bredesen's aforementioned concern about the co-mingling of alcohol and guns is also applicable to this scenario.

All of this raises the question: is a similar law possible in Tennessee in the future, and, furthermore, would such legislation be beneficial to Rhodes students, faculty, and staff members? After all, it can easily be argued that Memphis is not the safest city in America (in fact it is one of the most violent). On the other hand, Rhodes already has a large gate and Campus Safety to act as a deterrent to violence and danger on campus.

Who would have guessed five years ago that people would be going to bars accompanied by their trusty handguns? Only time will tell how far our country is willing to go to maintain one's right to self-defense.

CAMPUS SAFETY

February 16-22, 2011

02-18-2011

0015 Reckless Driving- Mallory lot- Pertinent information gathered report filed.

1720 Theft- BCLC- wallet taken from weight room, wallet recovered near East Village, money missing. Pertinent information gathered and report filed.

02-19-2011

0101 Unauthorized Access/ AV- East Village "A" Pertinent information gathered report filed.

0135 Medical/Injury- Mallory lot, trip and fall, no medical transport, declined medical treatment. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

1736 Vandalism – Glassell – Window found broken in laundry room for the second time. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

2355 Medical/AV- Bailey Gate- Pertinent information gathered report filed.

02-20-2011

0214 Medical/Injury- Pike House, cut foot, no medical transport, basic medical treatment given. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

0215 Disorderly Conduct/AV- Bailey Gate Pertinent information gathered report filed.

Hey You!

The Souwester needs writers!

- ✗ Are you literate?
- ✗ Do you want to improve your resume?
- ✗ Do you like to write?
- ✗ Do you have a passion you want to share with the Rhodes community?
- ✗ Do you want to make Anna Meyerrose's life much easier?

If you answered yes to any of these, PLEASE contact Anna Meyerrose (meyam@rhodes.edu) or any of our section editors!

Make way for West Village at Rhodes

Julia Fawal
Staff Writer

Say goodbye to the Glassell parking lot, because after spring break, it's getting replaced with construction workers. The new dorms are going up.

Expected to be complete by the start of the 2012-2013 school year, the new dorm building is going to be situated right where the Glassell parking lot currently is, and it will fit between Glassell and the Student Health Center.

A couple of weeks ago, groups of students were randomly formed to give a student perspective on the dorm plans. Called the "New Dorm Focus group," this group viewed the floor plan and was asked for opinions on issues such as lighting and carpeting. Freshman Taylor Jackson was in a group, along with four other freshmen and a sophomore. "So far the plan is to have two common rooms on the first floor, both with fireplaces and a kitchen," she said.

With such a large current freshman class and plans for the 2015 freshman class to be just as large, many students are wondering if the new dorms will be large enough to accommodate everyone and make up for the current lack of dorm space. The new dorms will be able to hold 141 students in 6-10 person suites—a much larger number than the rumored 50-person dorm that many thought it would be.

The dorms will be for juniors, which will be the Class of 2014 when the dorms open, said Marianne Luther, the Director of Resident Life. "We will work with

a group of students to determine the selection process for the buildings, prior to housing selection next year," she said. Naturally, the current freshmen are looking forward to having a brand new building to themselves. But, like many other sophomores, Esha Sharma said, "Obviously we need more dorm space, but it'd be nice if the current sophomores could live there, too."

"The new dorms will benefit housing so that there's more space for the surplus of students that we currently have, but I think parking is already such an issue that I wonder if this will cause more problems to arise," said freshman Liz Marlowe. Marlowe is not the only student to express that concern. Currently there are no plans to increase the number of parking spaces, so whether or not that will become an issue has yet to be determined.

Dorm space was definitely cramped this year. RAs had to live together, and some students were even living in dorm common rooms. The administration is currently pushing students towards moving off-campus to make room for the upcoming freshman class, which is expected to be large. Current freshmen were given the option of living off-campus as a sophomore again this year, as a means to meet the demands for on-campus housing. But, hopefully, these new dorms will alleviate the stress due to the crowded living quarters and add another element to Rhodes that will further unite the campus. "I think they'll be amazing! I want to live there!" added Freshman Lexie Krall.

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Fisk Jubilee Singers Bring Negro Spirituals to Rhodes

by Annika Wuerfel
Staff Writer

Brought to Rhodes by the Mike Curb Institute, The Fisk Jubilee Singers will give a special performance this Saturday at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. No better way to wrap up the last few days of black history month than by having this world famous African American choir perform.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are known around the world for their Negro Spiritual music. Through world tours, the singers are able to share this rich culture as well as allow all ages to experience this unique type of music. The Fisk Jubilee Singers have won countless awards including the 2008 National Medal of Arts, 2006 Music City Walk of Fame, 2004 Dove Award, 2000 Introduction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, 1996 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the National Arts Club of New York, and they were nominated for a Grammy.

Though the Fisk Jubilee Singers are extremely successful now, their beginnings in 1871 were a little different. Back then the group consisted of nine young African American men and women who wanted to introduce "slave songs" to the world. Seven of the members were former slaves. When the Fisk Jubilee Singers were first formed, Fisk University, located in Nashville, was having a difficult financial time. The treasurer, George Leonard White, had the idea to take these nine gifted singers and have them perform all over the North in order to raise money for the University.

The group of nine decided to follow the path of the Underground Railroad and stop and different places to sing. Though their first stop in Cincinnati was a warm welcome, the collected donations were less than \$50. After several stops and not raising much money, the group began to grow sick and weary. However, their luck turned around in December when Henry Ward Beecher had the singers perform for his



Courtesy of Google

Don't miss the world famous Fisk Jubilee Singers this Saturday at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

weekly prayer meeting at Brooklyn's Plymouth Church. From that time up to the present, churches around the country have wanted The Jubilee Singers to perform. Not only did the group perform for American churches, the singers also performed for the likes of Mark Twain, President Ulysses S. Grant, congressmen, diplomats, and the royal families of Holland, Germany, and Britain.

According to fiskjubileesingers.org, Queen Victoria was so impressed by their struggle she wrote in her journal, "They are real Negroes. They come from America and have been slaves. They sing extremely well together."

The groups' dedication and determination to raise

money to keep their beloved University open paid off, literally. The group not only paid the school's debts, they also had an extra \$20,000, which they used to buy the land where Fisk University is located today. The Jubilee Singers not only saved their school, they also introduced the world to the power of their spirituals. "In their wake, hotels, railways, steamship lines, and boards of education integrated their facilities. The Jubilees not only introduced the world to the music of black America, they championed the liberties of all Americans," says Andrew Ward, co-writer of the documentary and author of "Dark Midnight When I Rise: The Story of the Jubilee Singers." After all this time The Fisk Jubilee Singers are still carrying on the tradition of spreading their timeless songs throughout the world.

Though there are now 16 Fisk Jubilee Singers, their beautiful acappella sound they were originally known for has stayed the same. The choir's voices blend so well together; you can't even pick out any single voices. Their smooth, clear tone is refreshing and very beautiful. Perhaps the most mind blowing things about this group is that they are all college students. From the high quality sound of their voices one could easily guess the singers are much older than college age.

This amazing event takes place Saturday, February 26 from 7pm-9pm in the Evergreen Sanctuary right across the road from campus. Admission is free, however tickets are required. The Rhodes community can pick up tickets from Rhodes Express. The general public can reserve tickets by going to www.rhodes.edu/fishjubileesingers.

Gods, Aliens, and Mutants, Oh My!

by Shelby Lund
A&E Editor

Superhero movies have been around for a lot longer than most people think, and from the looks of it, they're going to be around for a good, long time. Case in point: this year four films based on classic comic book superheroes will have the traditional summer blockbuster treatment. While all look like they're worth seeing, which ones will look fantastic on a big screen, and which are destined for a one-time viewing off the Internet? Hang on to your hats, and we'll take a look.

First up is *Thor*, hitting theaters May 6. Based off a popular Marvel Comics character, *Thor* tells the story of, well, Thor, the Norse God of Thunder, played by Chris Hemsworth, whose arrogant, rash behavior gets him banished from Asgard, the home of Norse Gods, to Earth. Now, Thor has to get used to living amongst humans, helped by his new love interest, scientist Jane Foster played by Natalie Portman, but trouble is stirring in Asgard, courtesy of Thor's evil brother Loki, Tom Hiddleston. That trouble quickly finds its way to Earth when Loki decides to wipe out humanity.

The trailers show a film of epic scale and proportion, with gorgeous visuals and great-looking action sequences. The previews also indicate a nice balance between over-the-top special effects and ordinary filmmaking, the special-effects-laden fantasy world of Asgard contrasted with the every-day reality of Earth. This duality reflects the story of a god trying to find his place amongst mortals very well. Overall the film, which will be released in 3D, looks amazing. Definitely something that should be viewed on the big screen.

Next up on June 3 is *X-Men: First Class*, the latest in the long-running *X-Men* film franchise and another film based off characters from Marvel Comics. This film is a pre-

quel to the original *X-Men* trilogy and is set in an alternate version of the 1960s during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Civil Rights Movement. Best friends Charles Xavier, the future Professor X played by James McAvoy, and Erik Lehnsherr otherwise known as Magneto, played by Michael Fassbender, battle to stop the forces of the Hellfire Club from taking over the world.

In the process, the two friends will develop a conflict of ideologies which will lead to their future rivalry.

So far, the film only has one trailer released, but it looks fairly promising. The premise of an alternate version of history is an intriguing one, and it will be interesting to see how American—and world—history changes with the presence of mutants during the Cold War. The effects and action look decent, although not quite as spectacular as *Thor*. Nevertheless, it looks like a good film to go check out over the summer, even though, unlike other releases this year, it will not be in 3D.

Three days later, on June 6, DC Comics releases its sole superhero of the year: *Green Lantern*. This film is another origin story, focusing on Hal Jordan, played by Ryan Reynolds, a gifted, but cocky test pilot who becomes the first human ever to be chosen as a Green Lantern. With the help of his mentor Sinestro, played by Mark Strong, and his love interest Carol Ferris, Blake Lively, Hal will have to master his new powers in order to help the Green Lantern Corps defend the universe from evil. The previews so far look excellent. Reynolds' Hal is charming and funny while still daring and heroic, the visuals and costumes, once again done for a 3D release, look amazing. *Green Lantern* looks to be a very fun,

enjoyable movie, the perfect thing to go see with friends or family over summer break.

Finally, Marvel puts out its third film on July 22 with the long-awaited *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Yet another origin story also shot in 3D, the film is set in 1942 during America's initial entrance into World War II, when physically unfit Steve Rodgers, Chris Evans, is selected to participate in a secret government project to create a super soldier to fight the Nazis: Captain America. Aided by loyal sidekick Bucky Barnes, Sebastian Stan, the new hero must battle the forces of the evil Red Skull, Hugo Weaving, a Nazi weapons' master who plans to use a magical artifact known as the Tesseract to take over the world. So far, the only preview released has been a short Super Bowl TV spot, but the film looks highly promising. The costumes and setting of the film lend it a very WWII atmosphere, and promises a darker, grittier superhero movie set in the context of one of the bloodiest conflicts in world history. All in all, this is definitely something that should be viewed in theaters.

So, overall, this year's crop of superhero films looks very promising. Will one of them be the next *Dark Knight* or *Iron Man*? Maybe. Will one of them be as bad as *Catwoman*? Probably not. Will they all, at the very least, be as fun as the *Spider-Man* films? Most definitely. Should you go see these films in theaters? Overall, yes. Superhero movies are escapist fiction at heart, and what better way to escape from a hot summer day than sitting in a cool, dark movie theater watching superheroes kick bad guy butt? So this summer, grab your hammers, rings, and shields and head to the nearest theater for an explosive, action-packed good time.

SEVEN: A Docu-Drama

by Joanie Williams
Staff Writer

I had not planned to attend *SEVEN*—it seemed like it was going to be another event to delay my Friday night plans, although I'm sad to say my plans included laundry. More or less it was another review for this newspaper. To say the least, it was the most compelling and entertaining event of my night. Even though I am comparing the performance with mundane chores, I must stress that the Rhodes College's production of *SEVEN* had the same effect as it would any night. It wasn't completely life changing, but the stories of these strong women leaders brought together in an intimate setting and presented in a no-frills manner was rather refreshing and invigorating, duly achieving the goal for which this play was conceived.

SEVEN was created by Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international, non-governmental organization whose mission is to "identify, invest in and bring visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity in their communities." *SEVEN* is a docu-drama based on the lives of seven inspirational female leaders from different backgrounds all over the world. These women and their respective countries are: Hafsat Abiola of Nigeria, Farida Azizi of Afghanistan, Anabella De Leon of Guatemala, Marina Pisklakova-Parker of Russia, Mukhtar Mai of Pakistan, Inez McCormack of Northern Ireland, and Mu Sochua of Cambodia.

Each member of the seven had a corresponding playwright to articulate their story into dramatic being, and weave their stories into somewhat of a discourse, building upon each other for effect. These playwrights, Anna Deavere Smith, Ruth Margraff, Gail Kriegel, Paula Cizmar, Susan Yankowitz, Carol K. Mack, and Catherine

Filloux, organized to match the woman each interviewed and collected personal interviews and oral histories from each of these extraordinary women.

As always, the intimate setting of the McCoy Theatre helped provide the right atmosphere for the docu-drama. Some tales were hard to endure because of the injustice and unnecessary hate that these women encountered, but that's precisely why this play was created—to help spread awareness and send messages of empowerment and perseverance. Although, there were some moments that were hard to hear, due to one or two of the cast members turning their heads completely away from the audience. Otherwise, the ability to have actresses who are close in ethnic background and convey an accent related to the woman they portrayed was rather fulfilling.

With the exception of a head scarf that kept falling down and some occasional inaudible words, the performance seamlessly came together; one even forgot about the notebooks the actresses had in their hands and were reading from. The Rhodes production was directed by Cookie Ewing and included a cast rather involved in the Rhodes Community; four professors, Nora Jabbour, Sasha Kostina, Shira Malkin, and Gail Streete, an alumna, Jazmin Miller, and three students, Rigelle Tran, Lee Bryant and Tracy Lian Jenkins participated in bringing the stories of these women to life. Overall, it was a very productive performance and a nice, even unintentional relation with V-week and the production of the *Vagina Monologues*.

For more information on the extraordinary women, the play and Vital Voices, visit sevenplay.org and vitalvoices.org. Quote taken from vitalvoices.org

Album Review: Adele – 21

by Jasmine Gilstrap
A&E Editor



Courtesy of Wikipedia

In 2009, Adele won two Grammy Awards, Best New Artist and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

My trip to Target to get *21* was one filled with anxiety, due partially to the train which had stopped on the tracks causing traffic in addition to the already hectic o'clock rush hour. My anxiousness finally subsided when I held the black, protective wrapped square in my hands after waiting nearly 2 years since *19* for British songstress Adele to release another album. Having fully exhausted the single "Rolling In The Deep" on my iTune (my current play count is 61), I leaped for joy when February 22 finally came and I could make the trip to purchase this soon to be epic album. *21* is the first album I have bought a physical copy of since 2008, when I bought the now dismantled Copeland's last album. After listening to *21* on the way back to campus, I'll say I was happy to finally have a CD in my possession rather than just an mp3.

The transitions between songs on *21* is very well done with Adele's more slow, bluesy, and emotion filled songs mixed in with more upbeat, contemporary ones. Kicking off the album is "Rolling

In The Deep," an obvious personal favorite and a single with lots of exposure, including use in the "I Am Number Four" trailer. "Rumour Has It," a song produced by OneRepublic frontman Ryan Tedder with a sound very similar to 1960's soul, is complete with a bluesy guitar melody. Tedder puts his signature on this track with the use of strings, courtesy of his bandmates. The third song, "Turning Tables," is classic Adele with the piano driving the song, yet allowing Adele to showcase her full range. The song is the second track co-written and produced with Tedder. "Don't You Remember" is one of the country inspired songs that features twanging, acoustic guitars, a definite departure from Adele's more classic soul, blues sound in *19*. "Set Fire To The Rain" is one of the more upbeat songs not unlike the song with rain in the title on *19*. The song has less of the old soul, 60's vibe and more of a modern twist that is foot tapping worthy.

Classic Adele re-emerges in the second half of the album with the song inspired by a heroin addict friend of Adele's titled, "He Won't Go." Not only do you hear the classic old soul sound that made me personally fall in love with *19*, but also the instrumentals contain little nuances that bring a modern touch to such aged sound. The return of the Eg White-Adele partnership that birthed "Chasing Pavement" off *19* comes in the form of "Take It All," another ballad song. The next song, "I'll Be Waiting," has that "a new day has come" feeling, which transitions perfectly into yet another soulful, 1960's style blues song, "One and Only," that lends itself to hip swaying and snapping. Similar to Adele's now infamous Bob Dylan cover of "Make You Feel My Love," her cover of The Cure's "Lovesong" almost makes me wish she performed the song before Robert Smith. The emotion in her alto, soulful voice conveys a different vibe than Smith's 80's angsty original, but it makes the song an Adele song and not just another cover of the classic rock hit. Rounding out *21* is "Someone Like You," a song which has already reached number one on the UK Singles chart. The song, though written about the same guy as "Rolling In The Deep," shows the miserable side of a break-up done in the true Adele style, closing the album with a classic piano driven ballad.

Though I'm a self proclaimed Adele fangirl, my first time Adele listening friend agreed that *21* IS an album worth giving a listen. Her discussion of love, break-ups and hook-ups, is done in a way that gives hope to us single college girls and lets us know we are not alone. The differences in the messages of the first and last song on the album display the journey Adele herself went on in writing the album and the journey towards discovering love that we all inevitably go through. Twenty-one may be the age at which Americans can legally drink, but in my book, it will be the number that corresponds with one of the best albums I've listened to in quite some time.

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

New Movie Releases:

2/25/11
Drive Angry 3D
Hall Pass

Television Highlights (2/23-3/1):
Criminal Minds, Wednesday, 8 pm, CBS. Reid's ability to connect with an autistic child may prove helpful in finding the boy's parents.

Modern Family, Wednesday, 8 pm, ABC. Gloria and Jay try to help when Phil and Claire get into a huge argument.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, Wednesday, 9 pm, NBC. After a woman is found dead, detectives investigate her personal contacts, including a close friend.

Community, Thursday 7 pm, NBC. The school has its first student election; Abed befriends a Secret Service agent.

Grey's Anatomy, Thursday, 8 pm, ABC. Meredith's fertility treatments start affecting her eyesight; April learns more about Dr. Stark.

Jersey Shore, Thursday, 9 pm, MTV. Snooki's hook-ups haunt her, Mike pranks Deena, and Snooki and the guys ditch Mike.

Devil Wears Prada, Friday, 7 pm, FX. A young woman lands a job with a famous and diabolical editor of a New York fashion magazine.

Fringe, Friday, 8 pm, Fox. Revisiting an intense period in the lives of the Bishops and Olivia.

House, Monday, 7 pm, Fox. A patient has a severe rash after being exposed to caustic chemicals at work.

Gossip Girl, Monday, 8 pm, CW. Ben's mother visits; Russell risks alienating Raina by resolving to destroy Chuck's family legacy.

Teen Mom 2, Tuesday, 7 pm, Fox. Adam forces Megan to move out; Barbara helps Jenelle; Leah and Corey's romance heats up.

Parenthood, Tuesday, 9 pm, NBC. Adam and Kristina struggle with talking to Max about his Asperger's syndrome.

Carmelo Anthony joins the New York Knicks

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

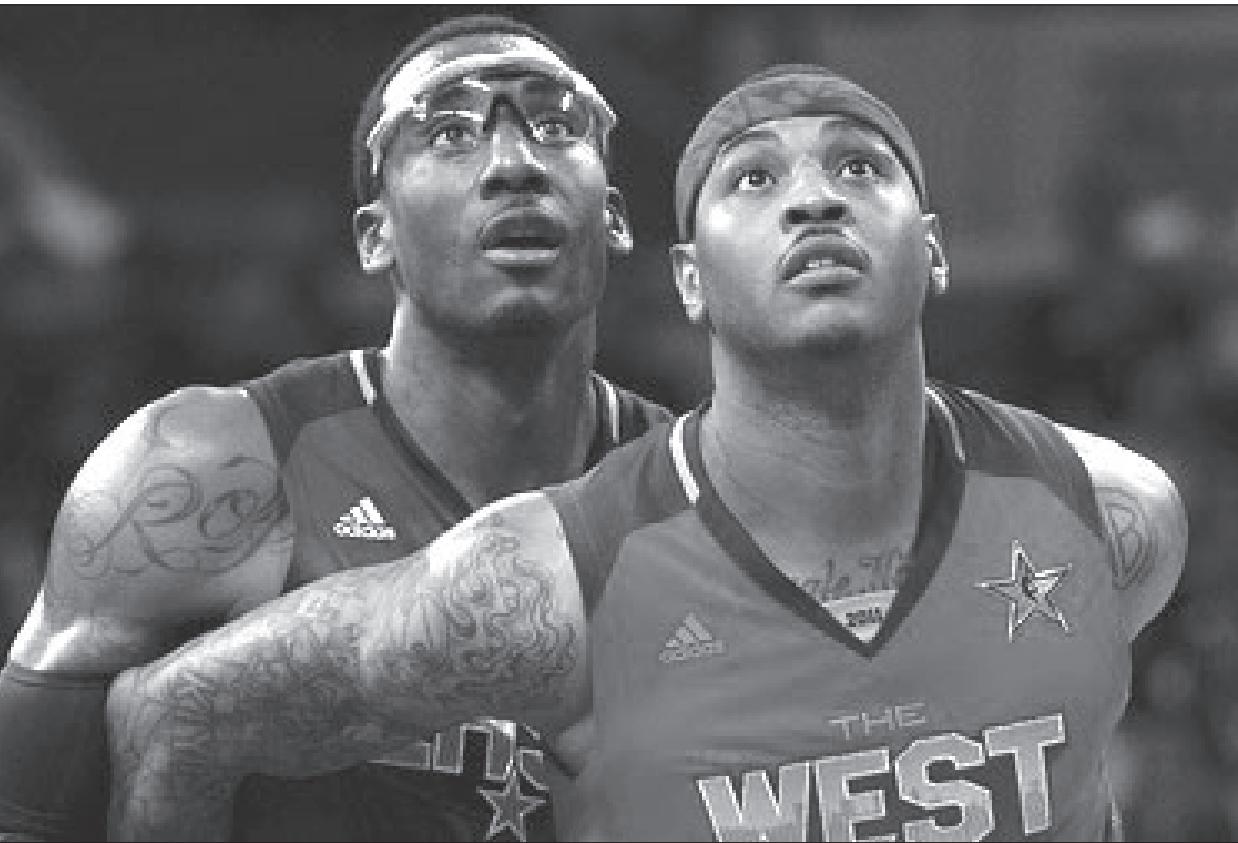
It only took 5 months, the distraction of at least four teams, vigorous negotiations, bombastic rumors and lots and lots of money, but the New York Knicks finally acquired their desired target in Carmelo Anthony.

The trade should become official by Tuesday, but ESPN is reporting that the Knicks are sending Danilo Gallinari, Raymond Felton, Wilson Chandler, their 2014 first-round pick, their two second-round picks (acquired from Golden State Warriors in the off-season), and about \$3 million dollars in cash to Denver. Accompanying this trade, New York is also sending Anthony Randolph and Eddy Curry to the Minnesota Timberwolves, who will then ship Corey Brewer to New York. The Knicks will get Carmelo Anthony, Chauncey Billups, Shelden Williams, Renaldo Balkman and Anthony Carter from the Nuggets.

While contract negotiations have been a giant game of cat-and-mouse between New York and Denver, the dealmaker seems to be the expected signing of a three-year contract extension worth about \$65 million dollars for Carmelo. Trade talks surrounding the New Jersey Nets were the topic of the town over the All Star Weekend, but apparently Anthony's unwillingness to confirm an extension stalled talks—and then New York swooped in.

"When you go out hunting, would you rather have a bigger gun or a little gun?" said the Coach of the Knicks Mike D'Antoni. "We got a bigger gun."

Joining with fellow All-Star Amare Stoudemire, New York now has one of the strongest one-two punches in the league (even if they unloaded everyone around them to do so). Stoudemire leads the Knicks with 26.1 points per game and has shown he is capable of keeping the team at about .500 (28-26). However, with the addition of Anthony, they look to be much more dangerous, adding his 25.2 points per game with



Billups 16.5 points and 5.3 assists.

The Knicks benefit from a weaker Eastern Conference, and, like the Miami Heat at the beginning of the season, they could face a few weeks of transition as teammates get oriented with each other. However, once that transition period is finished, the Knicks will be a stone's throw away from their first playoff spot since 2004.

Even though the Knicks acquired one of the top talents in the NBA, they had to give up quite a bit of real estate to do so. Felton is an above average point guard, averaging 17.1 points and 9 assists per game, Chandler adds another 16.4 points and 5.9 rebounds, and Gallinari adds 15.9 points. (Gallinari also could bring more draft picks as his name is being circulated in more trade rumors).

What this means is that we should not feel so bad for the Nuggets, who actually fared quite well considering they were on the verge of getting nothing in return for Carmelo. Time will tell if Denver will continue to be in playoff contention. They currently sit in the number 7 spot but are only one game behind Utah and Memphis.

No matter what the outcome, the Nuggets weren't going to "win" the

Carmelo sweepstakes, and their return could have been far worse. The real winners, however, are the Knicks, Knick, fans, and Anthony himself, who finally got to sign with the team he coveted most. If all the players involved report on time, Anthony's first game with the Knicks is projected to be Wednesday against the Milwaukee Bucks at Madison Square Garden.

Some news and notes in sports this week

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

It looks like the number one ranking in college basketball is turning into a game of roulette, with the ball falling on Duke this week. No one seems to want to hold onto the ranking for more than a week since Ohio State lost it a few weeks back. Texas seemed ready to take it before stumbling at Nebraska, Kansas actually had it before being embarrassed at Kansas State, Ohio State can't beat a quality opponent on the road, and Pittsburgh fell victim to St. Johns at Madison Square garden.

So the winner is: Duke. At least for this week.

The NFL's labor contract with the players' union expires on March 3, and we could be looking at a season lockout if a deal is not struck by then. While no one is fretting (just yet) that this could be a real possibility, neither side is really making much progress. However, after the most watched Super Bowl ever—despite the halftime show—it's hard to imagine anyone losing playing time over this dispute. There is just too much money involved, and no one likes losing that.

Baseball season is right around the corner, and everyone is trying to benefit from off season trades that revamped both the Yankees and Red Sox—even scalpers. Currently spring training games in Florida are selling for up to \$750 for top notch boxes and only slightly less

for nearby seating.

This is ridiculous.

It's spring training. If you want to watch a bunch of missed grounders, dropped fly balls, half-hearted swings, and pitchers throwing pitches they are trying to "develop," I would suggest saving some money and try popping in a tape of last year's Pittsburg Pirates.

Going back to college basketball, it looks like Alabama might get to cheer about something that isn't related to football. Currently they are first in their division and, with a few more victories, should be able to return to the NCAA tournament for the first time since the 2005-2006 season.

In soccer news, Manchester United seems to have locked up the EPL title again, with only token resistance from Arsenal. Chelsea is terrible, and Torres so far has looked like a £50 million disaster.

In the NBA, Carmelo Anthony was traded on Monday continuing the trend of having only 6 competitive teams by the 2015 season. Also, being that the trade could possibly be seen as a positive move for the Knicks, Isaiah Thomas naturally wants praise for his role in the signing.

Finally, I think Hockey is going on if you want to watch it, and the NCAA tournament starts on March 15.

Rhodes track and field update

By William Hunt
Staff Writer

Rhodes College closed its 2011 Indoor Track and Field season by chalking off several old records from the books. The most sensational story thus far from the Lynx's season is the trade-off between junior class mates Cody Beatty and Evan Nelsen: both middle-distance specialists they have already broken the school's mile record of 4:25. Most recently, Beatty has run ahead in this subtle rivalry, by finishing the mile race in Monmouth College in 4:24:36. Nelsen was not present in that race, instead completing an 800 meter dash in the nearly-as-sensational time of 1:57. The 2011 season has yet to feature a race in which Beatty and Nelsen have raced against each other for the record, but it is sure to continue getting faster and faster as the outdoor season gets underway this March.

Not to be outdone by distance runners, the Rhodes throwers have smashed records of their own. Andrew Maryott (Sr.) set a school record for the Indoor weight throw at 52'6". Taylor Stephens (Jr.) left her own mark in Indiana, setting the 5 kilometer race course record at the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology at 18:04. Madie Harrigan (So.) jump-started her season with a personal record of 5:18 in the open mile. Sandy Henin (Sr.) and Will Hawes (Jr.) also set their personal bests at new highs, in the 800 for Henin (2:20) and 5 K for Hawes (16:59). Henin also doubles (and even triples) over in the 4x200 and open 400. Football standouts Julian Hawkins (Wide receiver/sprinter) and Blake Mayberry helped veterans Greg Palm (Co-Captain, Sr.) and Kevin Stechler (Jr.) to a 1:36 in the 4x200 meter relay.