

THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCIV. NO. 14

February 20, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

The girls in the swimsuit edition are hot. Who knew?
See Page 8

Need some things to do around the town?
See Page 7

Johnson pulls back the sheets

By Onalee Carson
Staff Writer

One of the highlights of this year's Black History Month celebration at Rhodes is the presence of renowned speaker Jeff Johnson. In his lecture "Pulling Back the Sheets: Sexuality and Hip Hop," taking place Tuesday, February 26th, Johnson will discuss the ways in which the media, primarily hip hop, is used to view the black community.

"It's going to be enlightening," said Mina Sharifi '10, the Black Student Association's Black History Month Coordinator. "The Memphis community's perception of Rhodes is not good...we want to bring something that will show them that we do care about diversity at Rhodes."

This lecture will most likely do just that. According to Sharifi, because of Johnson's popularity and lecture topic, his lecture will likely be very popular with both students and the Memphis community.

"He has a lot to say about where hip hop is going and how it's going to show people how the black community is," said Sharifi. "A lot of it today is showing disrespect for

women, and if that is what we want to be perceived as, showing that disrespect. We thought this would be a great speaker along with a great topic to have."

Jeff Johnson was recently named by Source Magazine as one of the hip hop generation's key political players. Johnson is known through his numerous appearances on BET as both a correspondent and host/producer of his own show *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, where he discusses a number of social issues he sees within the African American community.

BSA members first decided that they wanted Johnson to be a part of the Black History Month celebration at Rhodes when they heard his lecture "Unclaimed Legacy: Who Will Lead the Next Social Movement?" at the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference.

However, the big selling point for BSA members was his ability to get a message through to college students.

"He has a lot of experience with people our age," Sharifi said. "He knows that issues start with people our age. It works well that

he targets us and hip hop also targets us."

BSA will be holding a Jeff Johnson Forum in conjunction with Soul Food Night in order to bring up topics and questions students may have before attending the lecture. The forum will take place on the Thursday before the lecture and will be led by Dr. Luther Ivory.

"Doing it before gets people in the mindset that they can bring topics and questions [to the lecture]," Sharifi said. "It also starts that connection between groups earlier...you learn each other's opinion earlier and are able to discuss those topics."

BSA, as a sponsor of Black History Month at Rhodes, hopes Jeff Johnson's presence will open new avenues in which discussions can take place between different communities on the Rhodes campus.

Members also want to convey BSA's interest in the greater Rhodes community.

"We are taking on these powerful issues, and we don't want to be a ghost on campus," Sharifi said.

Johnson, continued on Page 5

Economist discusses voting

By Avery Pribila
Managing Editor

On Thursday, February 21, Dr. Bryan Caplan, Associate Professor of economics at George Mason University, will give a lecture on irrationality in the political sphere. Caplan's lecture, entitled "The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies" begins at 8 pm in Hardie Auditorium.

Caplan received his B.S. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. His current research deals with public economics. Caplan has been critical of the profession of economics in general, and he considers behavioral economics to be one of the most important fields in the profession.

Much of his work is devoted to the principles of libertarianism and free-market capitalism. He has published in several journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Public Choice*, and the *Journal of Law and Economics*. His lecture on Thursday is based on his 2007 book by the same name which was recognized as a Best Book of 2007 by the *Financial Times*.

Caplan's lecture is possible because of a grant from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, the Rhodes Department of Economics and Business Administration and the Economics Honor Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon. The International Studies Department and Political Science Department are cosponsors of the event. Contact Professor Art Cardent for more information.

Healthcare issues addressed at event

By Matt McCulloch
Staff Writer

On Monday, February 18, the Rhodes Memphis Colloquium on Religion and Science screened Michael Moore's Oscar-nominated documentary *SiCKO*, which attempts to expose the faults of the United States' healthcare system.

In front of a packed Blount Auditorium, Rhodes professor Stephen Haynes introduced the event's speaker, Rev. Scott Morris, M.D.

In 1987, Morris founded the Church Health Center. Part of the Hope and Healing Center, the CHC is committed to providing healthcare for the poorest residents of Memphis. Since its founding, the clinic has treated over 50,000 patients.

As stated in *SiCKO*, 47 million Americans currently do not have health insurance. "Of the 47 million, half make above two-hundred percent of the poverty level," Rev. Morris said. After the screening, Morris facilitated a discussion about health care issues in

the United States and in the local Memphis community. Members of the audience were encouraged to ask questions.

One question concerning a local issue that Morris discussed is the uncertain fate of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (the Med). "In one year the Med could be closed," Morris said. "Only thirty percent of the Med's patients are uninsured."

Morris explained that because of financial problems, the hospital's future is not secure. Mississippi and Arkansas have not completely reimbursed The Med for its treatment of patients air-lifted from those states. "Arkansas pays almost nothing," Morris said. "Mississippi is a little better."

On a national level, Morris identified what he saw as the primary causes of healthcare problems. "The big issue for me is not the cost of drugs. It is the enmeshment with technology." During the discussion, Morris explained the incorrect American thought

that better medical technology undoubtedly leads to better treatment. "The only way we're going to get out of this is to fall out of love with technology." In short, the technological cost outweighs the miniscule benefit.

People of any political standing can recognize the current inefficiencies of the American healthcare system. According to Morris, America's preventative care is ranked very poorly. "Eighty percent of all healthcare dollars are spent on the last six months of life," Morris said.

Morris also discussed malpractice issues that physicians in the United States face. "Other countries have caps for how much a doctor can be sued for." Morris said he would like to see the United States enact a similar rule.

Lastly, universal healthcare was discussed. "I don't see universal healthcare in the United States until Fortune 500 companies need

SiCKO, continued on Page 5



Gwen Weil/The Sou'wester

Senior Guard Joe Thompson takes a spill during Rhodes' Friday night game versus Sewanee. Rhodes held off a furious rally in the final minutes to prevail 70-66.

Meet the candidates inside on page 4-5.

Conservatives should rally around John McCain

By Joe Cody
Opinion Columnist

There are two reasons that conservatives need to rally around John McCain: Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. It is as simple as that. Senator McCain not only serves as the best chance the GOP has in maintaining control of the White House in 08, but actually is a good choice that conservatives can have pride about. Before I advocate for the Senator, I must fully disclose that I did not even vote for McCain when I had the chance; I cast my ballot for Mitt Romney. However, as a conservative, I believe we must rally around our party's candidate to protect our values, which will surely be assaulted if others are elected. There are three specific areas that the Republican Party and modern conservatives seem to rally around as key points for their candidates. Here is why McCain is the answer to the problems in these areas.

In terms of national security, the staple of the Reagan administration, John McCain is the closest thing to a real-life Jack Bauer. Not only has he withstood hell, served his country honorably, and been an advocate of a strong defense for our soldiers, he is the only one who has stood with our commander in chief, not accepting the defeatist rhetoric of the Democratic Party, Harry Reid, and Nancy Pelosi. There is a reason that Iraq has been passed by the economy as the number one issue for the electorate today, and that is because it is not being covered anymore. The reason for this is because we are finally winning. The surge has been a success, and McCain was the strongest advocate for it from the beginning. If you are concerned with the fact that Bush

hasn't caught Osama Bin Laden yet, do not fear because McCain has said he will go to the ends of hell to catch him; considering he has been in a Vietnamese POW camp and knows what it is like, I would take his word.

Yes, I can hear the grumbling of conservatives who say that McCain was on the wrong side of the tax cuts and immigration, and this should be his death sentence. But hold on there, Rush Limbaugh, it really doesn't matter now. The fact is McCain has listened to the American people and has modified his views accordingly. People complain that politicians do not listen to them, but when they tell politicians what they want, and the politicians comply, they still complain McCain has said that he will secure the borders. That is the first step in the immigration problem and he has promised to do this. As a Senator from a border state for over a quarter century, Senator McCain knows better than anyone the real life implications of immigration policy. In terms of the tax cuts, although he did vote against them, his reasoning was right in line with the American public. He did not feel we should cut taxes while not cutting spending. Is that really illogical?

Finally, McCain, although certainly not Mike Huckabee, is still socially conservative. McCain fully believes that abortion is wrong, and although he does not support Bush's proposed amendment to ban abortion, he maintains his true conservative colors by wanting the decision to be left up to the states. Which red-blooded federalist cannot get behind a man who advocates states' rights? And for hunters out there, McCain is fully supportive of the Second

Amendment and the right to bear arms.

Let's face it, folks, Mike Huckabee will do a great job at bringing the religious right to the polls, but he will alienate the centrist voters who Republicans desperately need to win a general election. These are the voters John McCain brings to the party.

Most importantly though are McCain's strengths against the opposition that conservatives face. Barack Obama is a political phenomenon in the mold John F. Kennedy and his message is iconic. However, his politics are not. The fact is, Obama has never run a state, a city, or even a business and his idyllic policy proposals reflect his naiveté. He is an advocate of socialized health care, oh wait, I mean the euphoric "Universal Healthcare."

He will raise taxes, which is not the best thing during economic hardships. For those who do not know, since being elected in 2004, Obama has shifted from the 16th most liberal Senator to the 1st as rated by the National Journal. Hillary is only the 16th currently. But his speeches are captivating and this power presents the biggest threat to a Republican victory. It is not that I am counting Hillary out of the race, but I feel that Hillary's high negative ratings present less of a threat in a general election against McCain, whose strength lies in the independent vote. So now is the time for Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter to stop their whining about McCain, and realize that if they really want their conservative values protected, they should rally around John McCain. After all, how many of them have turned Barbara Ann into a political rally song?

The way forward for Rhodes Student Government

By Benjamin Lyon

Over the past week I've been learning from a broad spectrum of groups and individuals across campus. I've listened to an endless supply of exciting hopes and aspirations, but, more pressingly, I've also heard a substantial amount of grievances. Among them, the most prominent is a general lack of communication between student groups, student government, and the administration. This grievance, I believe, can be easily overcome.

Rhodes Student Government (RSG) was designed to be an am-

plifier, a megaphone connecting the voices of the student body to the ears of the administration and vice versa. It was designed to advocate the issues that matter most to those who have the power to address them. And it was designed to be answerable to its constituents – you. Unfortunately, the prevailing opinion is that RSG has failed or severely underachieved to do any of these things, and I think that's a tragedy. Our student government should inspire confidence and pride, not pessimism and indifference. Of course, if it does inspire the latter, the fault

rests solely with RSG.

To turn this Aristotelian tragedy around, we have to trace the problem to its very root, its fundamental character flaw. We have to ask "Why do so many students have no faith in RSG?" and "What is RSG doing or failing to do to make this happen?" Based on conversations I've had in places ranging from the Middle Ground to McCoy, the answer to a large part of this problem seems clear: RSG neither holds itself to, nor is held accountable by, the student body. Senate sessions are spent debating what color to make the official RSG Polo instead of how to better connect student organizations because senators know they can get away with it. If you ask me, I'd say that that's a huge problem. RSG needs to seriously reprioritize.

So what's the way forward? How do we shift course? Happily, I think the answer is a lot simpler than it might sound. If the purpose of RSG is to represent the interests of the student body, officers and senators alike need to actively connect with and listen to you,

the students. We need to visit organizations we otherwise wouldn't. We need to talk about the late-night discussions we hear in the Middle Ground, the early morning complaints we observe in the Rat, and the in-class aspirations of our friends and classmates. We need to do what we were designed to do – listen. And after we've listened, we need to convey the issues being said to those best equipped to address them.

This is our student government, and through it there isn't anything we can't do or change. RSG has the ability to bring this campus closer together, to give voice to the issues that matter most to you, and to bridge the gap between student and administrator. If elected president of RSG, I pledge to do everything in my power to make these things happen, to restore our confidence in RSG. But even if I'm not elected, the way forward is still possible. Let's come together to make our student government something to be proud of. We have the intelligence. We know the way. Let's make it happen.

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief
Daniel Jacobs

Managing and News Editor
Avery Pribila

Associate and Opinion Editor
Nate Maxwell

Entertainment Editor
Adam Teer

Sports Editor
Ralph MacDonald

Layout Editor
Lee Bryant

Copy Editor
Suzi Van Sickle

Photography Editor
Gwen Weil

Humor Editor
Zack Stovall

Business Manager
Jamie Young
Sara Haney

Executive Assistants
William Bruce

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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

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

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

Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402

Fax: (901) 843-3409

E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com

Address: Rhodes Box 3010

The Sou'wester

2000 North Parkway

Memphis, TN 38112-1690


ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

DISCOVER STUDENT CREDIT CARD
TROPICAL BEACH

No-COSIGNER OR MINIMUM INCOME REQUIRED

INSTANT APPROVAL ONLINE

<http://www.1stcreditchoice.us/index.php?productid=161>

mrccreditcard@yahoo.com

Apply Today!



Apple's new laptop: style but no function

By Dean Galaro
Opinion Columnist

With their sleek lines and shiny exteriors, Apple has been pumping out computers—from iMacs to Macbooks—that are beautiful blends of form and function. Macintosh computers have always been for the hipster crowd though, or at least for people willing to learn what the darned Command and Option buttons do. In these ways, Apple has set their Macs apart from any other computer company. Now, though, Apple is trying something new with their Macbook Air, the thinnest and lightest notebook in the world. If it's new and it's from Apple, then it must be good, right?

At 3 lbs. and 0.76 inches at its thickest part, the Macbook Air is an extremely thin and light laptop. As most people have seen, the computer can be tucked into a manila envelope. Pair this along with a crisp 13.3 inch screen and this computer looks to be an incredible and innovative

machine that sure would be cool to have. At a base price of \$1,799 though, this little beauty is not exactly cheap.

One would think that even though Macs are notoriously more expensive than comparable Windows based PCs, almost two thousand dollars would get you quite a powerful machine. Not exactly. The base Macbook Air has a 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, which might have been considered fast three years ago. Now, however, it is way behind in processor speeds. It has at least 2 gigs of RAM, but the hard drive is 80 gigs and only runs at 4,200 rpm, meaning it is a very slow hard drive compared to your average home-computer hard drive running at 5,400 rpm. Comparatively, one could buy a regular Macbook (excluding the black Macbooks which cost extra) with a faster processor, faster hard drive, and the same amount of memory for \$500 less. The extra five hundred dollars for the Macbook Air buys you 0.3 inches of extra screen and the knowledge that you're

computer can be slid into an envelope.

There are other things missing from the Macbook Air other than just internal pieces. There are only three plugs on the machine: headphone jack, USB port, and an external monitor port. In a wonderful marketing scheme, Apple has made the pieces missing from the Macbook Air available for purchase. An optical drive is \$99, and a USB-to-Ethernet cable is \$29, both of which require use of the single USB port. Apple has also supplied its costumers with a special neoprene carrying case—because no other case is small enough—that will run you another \$29.

Technical jargon aside, all of this information means that the Macbook Air is simply not worth it. As the review for the computer on Computer World writes, "It's the form, more than the function that will sell this laptop." Therein lies my problem with the Macbook Air and even reviewers who love the laptop admit it. Apple's computers have always been stylish and powerful, but the Macbook Air has sadly leaned too far over to the excesses of form and thus given up important functionality that would make it worthwhile. The reviewer at Gizmodo compared the Macbook Air to a sports car because, for those with the money, this is quite a toy to have since "it just doesn't matter to those who are smitten."

As it stands, the Macbook Air is more of a toy than a mainstream computer, and sales have shown that to be true. Most Apple resellers have seen drastically lower demand for the new Macbook Air than they did when the original Macbook came out. Overall Macintosh sales have dropped 18% since the end of last year, and it is estimated that the Macbook Air will only account for 16% of total Macintosh sales this year.

Are Apple's downward sloping sales simply due to the Macbook Air's niche market value? I think it has more to do with Apple's overall shift in their balance of form and function. Macintosh-

es have made a name for themselves over the years for being good looking along with being powerful. There's a reason many professional visual artists, whether working in the fields of photography, design, or cinematography, rely on Macs to get the job done. Lately though, with the Macbook Air and items like the iPod Touch, Apple is starting to shift away from the mainstream into what has been called the "executive" market. Products like the Macbook Air and the iPod Touch are not the most powerful or productive machines available, yet they are more expensive than most. This is because people are paying to look cool and own what is becoming a modern status symbol. People don't even need to know anything about Macs to know that they are cool.

The question Steve Jobs and his crew at Apple need to ask themselves is whether or not they are starting to sell themselves out as a company focused on image and not substance. Yes, image is important, but not when it starts to take away from the functionality of one's products, which has kept people buying Macs for years. Apple has such a dominating hold on the music market these days that it should be aiming to bring its computers up to that level. If Apple continues to dig itself into this executive position, then it is putting itself in a precarious position to lose a lot of its market for computers.

For the time being, we can be glad that Apple is at least pushing the boundaries in computing. Although, realistically, nothing more than a cool toy, the Macbook Air is quite an accomplishment for notebook production and should be recognized as such. For those with the wallet and the willingness to purchase a Macbook Air, it will fill their needs perfectly. For the rest of us though, we'll have to wait and see what Apple comes up with next.

President's Day without class

By John Lentz

Rolling my trash can from the curb to the back of my house drew my attention to a slip precariously placed on the lid reading: "Trash collection for the next week will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008, in honor of the President's Day holiday." The sights of the word "holiday" quickly turned into disappointment as I realized that I would not be enjoying the holiday—I would be stuck in class. I started to think, not nearly for the first time, as to the rationale of why we don't get President's Day off and if this should be reconsidered. My thoughts on the matter are below.

Of course, we do not normally get weekdays off during the school year, so the burden is clearly on the one arguing that this day is special and should be an exception to the generalization. I believe that this challenge can be met for multiple reasons. First, President's Day is a national holiday, listed as Washington's Birthday on the US Office of Personnel Management's official website, alongside other holidays Rhodes celebrates including Martin Luther King Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. On this note, President's Day must be considered more substantial and has a more justifiable existence than Labor Day, a "holiday" solely to give the working man a respite. Rhodes' decision to celebrate one but not the other seems inexplicable.

Second, President's Day is very well timed for a holiday. It is obvious to older students like myself that this time of the year is the least enjoyable for multiple reasons. The weather is generally quite poor, offering much darkness, fridity, dreariness, and general elements for dissatisfaction (thankfully, this winter has been fairly mild). Also, mid-February is usually far enough along in the semester that everyone has had their first batch of major papers and tests arrive in their courses, but spring break is not close enough to become the light at the end of the tunnel (again, an early Easter makes this less true regarding this school year, but the point maintains much of its validity). The poor weather combined with stressful school situations and lack of upcoming breaks make the craving for a long weekend, or break of any sort, nearly overwhelming.

I believe these two reasons alone would make it wise to observe the holiday. However, I am not naïve enough to believe that no objections would be raised. I will now turn my attention to only major objection to the idea of taking President's Day off.

The obvious objection is that we have to get a certain number of school days in the semester. This objection is quite formidable but far from unanswerable. There is always the option of extending the semester one day in either direction. Some might object to this, but I think it's very plausible that the value of a day off during the worst time of the semester might be worth sticking around for an extra day in the spring or coming back a day early. This response is made even stronger when it is considered that URCAS occupies the last Friday of the spring semester, and could be rearranged to allow for an extra day of classes to support the additional holiday. Another possibility is to "trade" holidays: go to class on Martin Luther King Day, but receive President's Day off. Though I'd rather have both of them off, if I could only have one, I'd choose President's Day because it is far better timed. MLK Day is at the beginning of the semester, sometimes before we even have a full week of classes, when students need a break the least. President's Day, on the other hand, could not possibly be better timed for a day off given the poor weather, stress, and school lethargy discussed above. Some may respond that this would be politically infeasible in Memphis, to which I would respond that the decision makers at Rhodes College need to be concerned with the Rhodes community more than they need to be concerned with the Memphis community. The Memphis community is largely unaffected by what goes on at Rhodes; the Rhodes community is obviously far more interested.

Why am I writing this? After all, I'm a senior and this time next year, will hopefully be graduated and working a job (hopefully, one where I get President's Day off). The answer is because I think this needs to be pondered, argued, and seriously considered. I have benefited from the hard work and the ingenuity of previous generations of Rhodents; if this seed of thought can contribute to that, I will be satisfied, even if I do not directly reap the benefits.

Don't be crazy...

63% of Rhodes students who live on campus typically consume 4 or fewer drinks per occasion.*



*2007 Rhodes College Alcohol Use Survey

Rhodes College

RSG PRESIDENT**Jill Carr '09**

Jill is the current vice-president of RSG, and has served as a class senator since her arrival at Rhodes. As a sophomore, she chaired the Internal Affairs Committee. She has served as a leader in Rhodes' sponsored community service, Greek life and faith based organizations on campus.

During her extensive service in the Senate, she has worked on various projects. Some highlights: Jill wrote the proposal that succeeded in extending library hours to 2am. She also made the 2006 Student Discount Card and led Lair renovation focus groups. Jill also co-chaired the Campus Crime Commission last year, and has served on Summer Orientation and Burrow Student Services planning committees. She is currently working on a report that will be presented next week urging for a liberalization of the Rhodes College AP policy.

Jill's familiarity with the inner workings of the Senate and its current and past projects, as the current Chair of the Senate, makes her the only candidate who can provide the level of continuity in leadership that is required to keep up RSG's progress. She is a dynamic leader who knows how to compromise, but also knows when to stick to her guns.

She's not an issue candidate, even though she cares about issues – she is driven by principles. Just stop her in the quad and ask her! Above all, Jill Carr will fight for increased student freedoms on campus, academic and social, in the coming year if elected to the position of president.

Colin Cox '09

My goal is to provide change that benefits both the school and you. As a senator for almost two years now, I am currently the chair of the Student Organization Relations standing committee for RSG. My committee handles the process of Allocations and I act as a liaison between student groups and the senate. Also, I, along with others on a committee, have been revising the allocations by-laws since last November and it is currently up for approval by the senate.

However, I have also undertaken other RSG projects such as the homecoming cup competition last fall. Along with Christian Dewhurst, I planned and organized the event for the first time. We put that event together in two weeks and hopefully we have now started a new tradition at Rhodes.

Outside of RSG, I have helped the Inter-fraternity Council in its quest to gain back student gatherings from the administration. As a Greek, I have remained active within my fraternity by organizing All-Sing, Parents-Weekend, and Homecoming. From the success of those events I am now the alumni chair for my fraternity. I also am a work-study student and I try to work 10-12 hours a week. As a leader on campus, you must be

innovative and have faith that the example you set resonates with others.

My vision for the presidency is to provide more for students by compelling the senate to continue to strive for increased student freedoms. Our time at Rhodes is short and we have to make the most of it while we are here. I will be the link between the administration and the school that works to do more for you.

Jim Kingman '09

I am Jim Kingman, from Corsicana, Texas. I have been involved in Rhodes Student Government since my freshman year. I am a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity where I served as an executive during my freshman and sophomore year. I have also been on the Mock Trial team, ENVISION, and been an active participant in TF, Souper Contact, and Habitat for Humanity. I am currently a Senator for the class of 2009. Last year I served as Treasurer of RSG and President of the Allocations board. This unique opportunity not only gave me the experience of being an executive of the Student Government, but also the experience of overseeing a large and important part of Rhodes with minimal administrative oversight. Under my tenure as Allocations President, I took steps to ensure that the Student Activity Fund would be spent more efficiently, which led to \$20,000 more spent on programming. I also oversaw money being diverted to IFC to pay for the security costs of open social parties to respond to the tightening social policies from the administration. I am still involved in making the process of funding organizations, so crucial to every student, the best possible. Last semester, I was abroad, first on the European Studies program, then on my own in Spain.

I spent a concentrated amount of time with a cross-section of Rhodes students I otherwise would not have known. Even away from this campus, I learned a great deal about the workings and makings of Rhodes. In a field of strong candidates, I am unique because of my experience with creative problem-solving, managing big jobs efficiently, and working with people to make sure that they are carried out in a way where everyone wins.

Ben Lyon '09

This election is about the student body, and who we are as candidates only matters insofar as we can accurately convey its voice – your voice. Having served on the Student Government as both a Parliamentarian and Senator, I am confident of one thing: the body that is supposed to advocate our concerns and aspirations is in dire need of restructuring. I promise to give voice to the silenced issues that matter to the student body, even if they go against the grain or step on a toe or two. I promise to be your advocate and mediator in issues both as simple as streamlining a bureaucratic process and as complicated as restoring our besieged freedom of speech. And, most importantly, I promise to be your ally, remembering always that we are far stronger together than apart. So that we may more effectively fulfill the values promoted in these halls and achieve the greatest autonomy of which we are capable, please vote for me for RSG President. Thank you.

RSG VICE PRESIDENT**Aaron Fitzgerald '10**

Currently I hold the positions of RSG Senator, Allocations Board Member, HOLA

Treasurer, and I am a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. As you can see, being a Rhodes student signifies many things, but it's the student body that makes it such a great experience. As one of the students here I often have my issues with the school; issues like campus safety and speech policies are some of many that I hear regularly from students. If I am elected your Rhodes Student Government Vice-President I will be an unbiased proxy from you to RSG. RSG VP is after all elected by the student body and that is where I feel the power should be held, in every individual.

For too long RSG has been looked at negatively by the students. After I am elected, I will do all that I can to show a valuable RSG presence at the school. As a person, I try to model myself after great leaders from the past. When I look closely at the characteristics that made these leaders great I find qualities I value such as: partnership and voice, knowledge, patience, passion, trustworthiness, and an understanding of the strength of character. These qualities and values would govern how I plan to lead in RSG and are what would make me a great choice for Rhodes Student Government Vice-President.

Rachel Harpool '10

Hey! I'm Rachel Harpool, and I have had the privilege of serving on Rhodes Student Government

for the past two years. Rhodes Student Government has been an amazing experience for me. I have absolutely loved getting to serve Rhodes students, and more than anything, I want to continue to be a part of RSG. As a RSG Senator, I have been a part of the Rat Loft and Lair renovations, improvements to campus food service, and the introduction of a better study room policy for finals. But I want to do so much more. I am running for RSG Vice-President because I truly care about the work that RSG does for students. If I am elected, I have a lot of ways I want to improve student life. First, I want to work in collaboration

with IFC to bring back student gatherings. I believe that Rhodes Students deserve to have this privilege. As Vice-President I would work with administrators and campus safety to make student gatherings a reality again. Second, I want to continue reforming the allocations process so that student organizations can receive more money and have fewer restrictions as to how they can spend that money. Rhodes has so many different student organizations – it is my goal to make sure each one of them has the funds they need to be an active on our campus. Third, I want to improve student life by improving the "little" things that tend to annoy us as students. I want to improve food in the Rat and the Lair and add more wine tastings and drink specials at the Lair. In short, I want to serve as your Vice-President of RSG. Please allow me that opportunity by voting Rachel Harpool on February 21st.

Juliana Lynch '10

I am qualified for this position because I am not only dedicated, strategic and creative, but I have experience within RSG, a history of responsibility, and a strong sense of leadership. Many of these adjectives are used frequently throughout biographies such as this and I hate to continue to abuse them. However, when they fit so perfectly into a given context, it's difficult to allow myself to substitute words of a weaker nature. I am able to bring a unique level of opinion to the high table of Rhodes College while maintaining a positive and communicative connection with the students and administration. On behalf of RSG, we want to hear your opinions, suggestions and

complaints; you need to elect someone to listen and help the school work towards common goals. This spring please elect Juliana for Vice President of RSG.

SRC PRESIDENT

Mikkel Quam '09

I presently hold the Social Regulations Council Presidency as a junior. Since arriving at Rhodes in August 2005, I have held the Class of 2009 office for the Social Regulations Council twice. Despite having represented the SRC on several campus leadership committees, and now having been the President once already, this is hardly the beginning or the end of my campus involvement. Since becoming a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, I have occupied four offices, including the Vice-Presidency; furthermore, I am a first responder at the Rhodes College Women's Center working survivors of rape and other crisis. My campus involvement, moreover, includes holding the office of treasurer and, more recently, Co-President of the Gay Straight Alliance, shopping for Souper Contact, oversight of the Math Support Center for the past three years, in addition to German and Mathematics peer tutoring. Additionally, I am involved with LEAD, Habitat for Humanity, RICE, MSA, Kinney, volunteering with MIFA, Up Til Dawn, Rites to Play, V-Day, and Rhodes Rebuilds among other organizations on and off campus. Now I wish to continue my activity on campus, so I request your vote for Mikkel Quam for SRC President.

SRC VICE PRESIDENT

Grant Monda '10



My name is Grant Monda and I am a sophomore from Cleveland, Ohio. I have served for the past year as a representative on the SRC, and I am now running for the position of Vice President. This is a role I have been prepared for by my time spent on the SRC, and my experiences and leadership positions that I have held with other campus organizations. The SRC and its Constitution are an important part of our school and I look forward to upholding these traditions.

Peter Zanca '10



After serving on the council both freshman and sophomore years, I feel that I've gained the experience necessary to step forward into a leadership role on the council. Whether it's been through investigating cases, serving in hearings, representing the council at various school functions, or simply speaking up at meetings, I've sought every opportunity to get involved with the council. I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve as vice-president because it will allow me to represent not only the student body, but also the students who come before the council. I feel that I am a very fair, responsible person who can be trusted with this duty. It has been a great honor to represent the student body thus far, and I hope with your support I can continue to do so for the 2008-09 school year. Thank you.

SENIOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Christian Dewhurst '09



I currently serve as a junior senator on Rhodes Student Government and was appointed last year as chairman of the Student Athletic Committee, which works to improve student participation at Rhodes athletic events. I have also run track at Rhodes for the past three years and served as an active member in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. From these various student organizations, I have learned important time management skills and the necessary leadership skills. I believe that it is important to delegate tasks as a leader, while remaining accessible and open to suggestions from my peers. As your Senior Class President, I will continue to expand the responsibilities of the

Senior Class Council and its accessibility to the ideas of the senior class. I will approach this position with the dedication and sincerity that I put into every aspect of my life.

SENIOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Katie Amundson '09



While at Rhodes, I have participated in Rhodes College Democrats, served as the student coordinator for the Freshman Host Program, and have helped coordinate and find locations for social events through my sorority. I would like to be the Senior Council Vice President because I have a lot of great ideas for exciting Senior Events and party locations and I am always willing to work with others and their ideas. I am eager for the opportunity to make senior class events as fun and as memorable as possible and I believe I have the creative capacity and determination to do so!

HONOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Thorne Maginnis '09



Serving on the Honor Council for the last five semesters has significantly impacted my time at Rhodes. I have come to understand the importance of the Honor Code and its central role at Rhodes. On the Council, I feel that I have been dedicated, as well as considerate. As importantly, I have genuinely enjoyed my work with the Honor Council, both as a class representative and, currently, as vice president. I ask for your support because I feel that I am fully prepared to take on the challenges and requirements expected of the president. I will continue to use my experience and enthusiasm to ensure that the Honor Council remains fair and thorough in every decision that it makes.

HONOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Sharpe '09



It has been a privilege to serve on the Council for the past two years, and during this time, I have come to appreciate both the advantages and the complexities of our student-run judicial board. The role of the Honor Council as it relates to the Rhodes community is important to me; I enjoy discussing and interpreting the Code and Constitution with my peers, both on and off the Council. I firmly believe that ongoing dialogue and communication is a fundamental part of a successful, approachable Honor Council. As the Vice-President, I plan to establish more ways for students, faculty, and staff to engage in meaningful discussion centered on the Honor Code. The community should know who represents them, and students should feel comfortable asking questions to their representatives. If you have questions or just want to say hi, please feel free to email me at shaen@rhodes.edu. And be sure to vote Thursday, February 21!

Johnson, continued from Page 1

"We really hope that this month and the events that are happening and have happened prove as a starting board to show that BSA is contributing to campus and is a powerful force."

SiCKO, continued from Page 1

it," said Morris. He went on to explain the drug and healthcare industries' emphasis on marketing. "For every dollar spent on research and developments, [drug companies] spend about two to three dollars on marketing."

The Colloquium's event helped raise awareness and promote education about healthcare in the United States. In 2005, Tennessee cancelled the Medicaid health coverage of 200,000 of its residents.

To learn more about the CHC, visit churchhealthcenter.org.

CITI PLATINUM SELECT VISA
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

NO-COSIGNER OR MINIMUM INCOME REQUIRED
 INSTANT APPROVAL ONLINE
<http://www.1stcreditchoice.us/index.php?productid=239>
 mrcreditcard@yahoo.com
 Apply Today!

BANK OF AMERICA
STUDENT PLATINUM PLUS
VISA CREDIT CARD

NO-COSIGNER REQUIRED
 INSTANT APPROVAL ONLINE
<http://www.1stcreditchoice.us/index.php?productid=191>
 mrcreditcard@yahoo.com
 Apply Today!

Will Ferrell is a one-trick pony

By Adam Teer
A&E Editor

I am personally getting sick of all the ways New Line Cinema is plugging *Semi-Pro*, the upcoming Will Ferrell ABA comedy. I have seen ads for both Old Spice and Budweiser featuring Jackie Moon, Ferrell's character in the movie, regular theatrical trailers, as well as Moon's guest spot on ESPN's recent Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition Special. There is no reason Jackie Moon needs to be in the SI Swimsuit special; none at all. Why I should be overly bombarded by another one of Will Ferrell's cookie-cutter characters? I am a little fed up that Will Ferrell makes the same damn movie over and over again.

Originally Will Ferrell movies were enjoyable, especially his first successes were *Old School* and *Wedding Crashers*. Most of his supporting roles have been comedy gold, but that does not necessarily equate to Ferrell being the best leading man. Ferrell really carved out a niche for himself with his first major starring role in *Anchorman*. *Anchorman* was actually not the first starring role for Ferrell, *Elf* was, but it was the first one that did not suck. I know I am going to get some grief for saying *Elf* was terrible, but I stand by my opinion. After *Anchorman*, Ferrell struck out with *Bewitched* and the unwatchable *Kicking and Screaming*, but scored some box-office success with *Talladega Nights* and *Blades of Glory*. Those last two, however were not very good movies, nor was Ferrell's performance anything noteworthy.

In analyzing Will Ferrell's roles and the movies he stars in, I come to several conclusions. Ferrell's starring roles usually end up being big box office draws, but poorly reviewed films, with the few exceptions. They seem to be getting worse and worse as he makes more and more films. Also, his movies are pretty much the same thing recycled over and over, with the same recycled jokes and

gags.

The only things that change between films is the setting (news anchor, basketball player, race car driver, ice skater) and the names of the character. The core character that Ferrell plays is a carbon copy of the last one he did. Usually his character is an intolerable jackass who thinks he is on top of the world. Then, through some misfortune, he is set off on his own, trying to regain his title as the best. Ron Burgundy, Ricky Bobby, and more than likely, Jackie Moon are the exact same character. And the movies become less and less funny when the same characters from the other movies you spent seven dollars on show up.

Will Ferrell needs to come up with some original ideas and not play the same jackass in every movie he stars in. He has tried to take on some serious roles, in movies such as *Stranger Than Fiction* and *Melinda and Melinda*, but those movies were both box office disasters. I am not worried about *Semi-Pro* making 20 million plus on its opening weekend, because I know it will happen. I am worried however that that kind of box office performance will be the impetus for Will Ferrell to make more inane carbon copy movies, whose characters I have to be constantly bombarded by.

This article is a desperate plea for Will Ferrell to be original and not rely on the same used-up fart jokes and sexual innuendos that I have seen in all of his other films. I wish he would go back to what he does best, costar in very funny comedies and play the parts he is good at. So instead of paying nine dollars to go to a movie you have pretty much already seen, *Semi-Pro*, stay at home and pop in *Old School* and see Will Ferrell go up in flames in a mascot outfit. That, ladies and gentlemen, is the classic Will Ferrell.

Sawaddii Thai Cuisine

By Elizabeth Hooke
Staff Writer

Sawaddii is a restaurant with many traditional Thai dishes tucked away on Union Avenue. It's incredibly easy to miss and the only real indication of the restaurant is a small, wooden looking sign hanging over the door's alcove. The decoration is very Asian-inspired and modern looking; the walls are red, but the effect is more calming than aggressive. Every table has a small light on it, while the small seating area is very personal.

The menu is filled with a variety of choices, including Lettuce Wraps, Grilled Mahi Mahi and Shrimp with Asparagus. Sawaddii also has several different types of curries with chicken, shrimp or beef. The entrees can be prepared with beef, chicken, pork, vegetables, or tofu, and range from spicy to not spicy. The Fried Rice was incredibly delicious, as I ordered pineapple fried rice with chicken, a few shrimp and cashews with curry powder and other vegetables. The spiciness of the curry balanced perfectly with the sweetness of the pineapple. The Pad Thai was decent, though not spectacular; however, Sawaddii has a number of other noodle dishes as well. The House Specialties section of the menu is also full of good options. There were so many interesting things on the menu that there was a lively discussion among our party about the best choices.

The atmosphere of the restaurant is very hip but still very comfortable. The wait staff was pleasant and helpful, but appropriately aloof for a "trendy" sort of place. The artwork was subtle and nice to look at, but didn't jump out from the walls. The lighting was low and accented the atmosphere appropriately. The air in the restaurant was rich of the smell of spices.

The feeling in Sawaddii is a perfect example of how atmosphere can definitely accentuate a dining experience. Sawaddii was conducive to talking and carrying on amusing conversations, but the atmosphere is calm enough to dissuade from raucous behavior. Sawaddii is a place that could fit in with jeans, or a good place to go to before a more formal night out. It fits many moods, occasions and, overall, has excellent food.

4.5 out of 5 stars
121 Union Avenue
(901) 529-1818
sawaddii.com

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

intern abroad



summer 2008

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Dublin Internship Program
London Internship Program
Los Angeles Internship Program
Madrid Internship Program
Paris Internship Program
Sydney Internship Program
Washington, D.C. Internship Program

Application Deadline: March 1, 2008

ALL INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS ARE:

- Guaranteed for each student
- Personalized for each student
- Project-based/academically directed

COMMON PROGRAM FEATURES

- Open to all majors
- Housing provided
- Organized excursions and activities
- Financial aid available

VISIT
WWW.BU.EDU/ABROAD
TO REQUEST YOUR
SUMMER 2008 CATALOG!

live intern explore www.bu.edu/abroad

Memphis revisted

By Rami Abdoch
Staff Writer

Looking back on the past semester at Rhodes, I think of all the times that my friends and I tried to think of things to do around the city.. It usually was not hard to to a conclusion without much bickering, but there have been many instances that some were wary of going to certain places. Granted, at times there are good reasons for this kind of caution. However, this skepticism can too extreme in a way that severely diminishes the city's social potential for students. I think that Rhodes has done an excellent job promoting on-campus activities for freshmen this year, but the college should do more to dispel misconceptions about the surrounding area, particularly downtown, without leaving out crucial information that should be taken seriously. I think doing this early in the school year or even during recruitment will go a long way towards enhancing the initial experience of the city for students and give them a good starting point to explore the city. More importantly, current students should help as well so that incoming students feel more connected because they are receiving the information from people who have shared the same experiences in the past.

Though I have only lived in Memphis for about 7 years, I believe the city boasts a rather nice assortment of places to go and things to do. One enjoyable place is Otherlands Coffee Bar & Exotic Gifts. It is a comfortable place to relax, study, or talk over a drink and/or snack. They offer java, organic teas, and even homemade soups. On Saturday evenings there are often performances by a variety of local musicians. The coffee-house also offers wireless internet access, which makes it an excellent choice for an off-campus study break during midterms or finals. In addition to all of this, they display various artists' work, some of which can be purchased as original gifts. Other similar places worth checking out are Mo's Memphis Originals and Caritas Village.

Memphis is a city rich in artistic background, boasting a number of galleries consisting of paintings, photographs, sculptures, and more. These galleries include *Bennet Stained Glass*, *Rivertown Gallery*, *Second Story Contemporary*, among others. The South Main District is home to 13 galleries, all of which are open on the last Friday of the month. On that day, the Art Trolley Tour goes all around South Main, stopping every now and then so that Memphians and tourists alike can take in the sights. The tour takes place from 6pm - 9pm. Those who want to get a feel for the aesthetic value of the city should not miss it. Memphis also hosts a number of museums that reflect the musical heritage of the city, including the Stax Music Academy, the Rock 'n' Soul museum, and the W.C. Handy Blues Museum. My personal favorite is the Rock 'n' Soul museum; it offers an impressive look into the value of music in Memphis's development as a key mid-western city and center of the soul-music genre.

Last, but not least, one highlight of Memphis that few would argue is the great

variety of restaurants. Memphis is home to a number of quality places to dine, including Texas de Brazil, Bonefish, Le Chardon-nay, Sekisui, and the Blues City Café. The cuisine in and around the city ranges from Japanese to Chinese, Italian to Mexican. Though some of these restaurants can a bit expensive, particularly Texas de Brazil, it is worth going to them at least once if possible just for the experience. As for The Blues City Café, don't let the look fool you - the atmosphere at this diner-style cafe is so authentic that the place was used virtually unchanged in "The Firm." The decor is intentionally weathered, with corrugated iron and glass blocks. These are but a few of the many locales to have a good time with friends and kick back after a long week.

This is but a small insight into what Memphis has to offer to those who want to enjoy themselves and get to know the city. Though Rhodes did offer "excursions" of sorts into the city during fall orientation and a pamphlet that details some of the places I mentioned, I think a more concerted effort by the college utilizing current students to dismiss stereotypes surrounding the dangers of Memphis should be attempted. Of course one should use common sense when going out under any circumstance to be safe, but that doesn't validate a baseless fear of a city one knows little-to-nothing about other than stereotypes. Endorsing certain locations for students to delve into will enhance the overall experience and ease whatever anxieties students may have about Memphis in general.

The buzz on pop culture

By Cristian Iskander
Staff Writer

The Good

Following in the footsteps of Celine Dion and Bette Midler, Cher announced she would headline a series of concerts at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Cher will perform approximately 200 shows over the course of 3 years. Featuring costumes by Bob Mackie, the show is sure to be a spectacle and the absolute definition of camp—it is Cher, after all. Have you ever seen her one-woman performance of *West Side Story*? Check it out on Youtube—it's ridiculous, but in a completely entertaining, satisfying way.

The 25th anniversary edition of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* featuring hits like "Thriller", "Beat It", and "Billie Jean" was released. Thank you, *Thriller*, for reminding me how cool Michael Jackson was before his face started falling off and he named a baby Blanket.

The Bad

While doing press for her new film *The Hot Chick* and *the Nottie*, Paris Hilton thanked her acting coach Ivana Chubbuck for her guidance. I'm not sure for whom I feel worse—Hilton, for having an acting coach and still giving such vapid, flat performances or Chubbuck for having to admit that Hilton is one of her protégées.

The CW network premiered *The Pussycat Dolls Present: Girlicious*. Wow, I wonder what will happen this season. One girl will cry, one girl will say, "I'm not here to make friends, I'm here to win," and all the scantily clad contestants will try to win a spot in a band that no one will remember a few months from now. CW has also launched the newest cycle of *America's Next Top Model*. Get excited for another season of catfights, blatant Cover Girl marketing, and faux therapy sessions with the models where Tyra channels Oprah.

Jamie Lynn Spears was spotted with boyfriend/baby-daddy Casey Aldridge in her hometown of Kentwood, Louisiana shopping at a convenience store wearing "a white Heineken beer T-shirt that showed the faintest hint of her growing stomach." Why do the Spears sisters make it so easy for me to make fun of them?

When not annoying Tony Romo's fans, Jessica Simpson has been contemplating joining forces with CMT for a reality show about the making of her country album. Who is advising her that this is a good idea? Do we really want to give her another chance to show her ignorance?

The Awkward

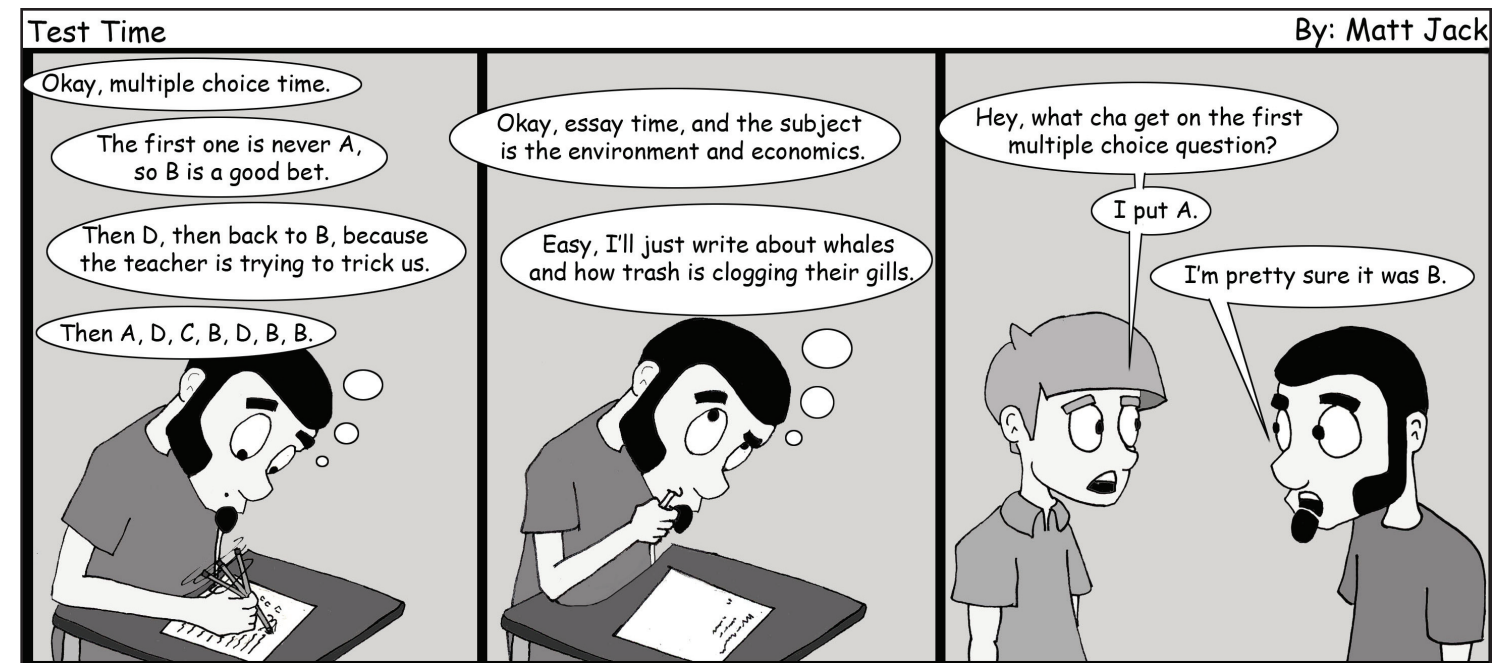
Watching Meredith Viera during her interview about the *Vagina Monologues* with Jane Fonda and Eve Ensler is pretty uncomfortable—the nervous laughter, the raised eyebrows, the serious apology for one of Jane Fonda's comments. Don't even get me started on the uproar about what Fonda said. If you're going to find fault with it, you've completely missed the point.

The Puzzler

Seven pennies lie heads-up on a table. In a single move you are allowed to turn over any four coins at the same time. Using a sequence of such moves, can you get all seven coins to lie tails-up on the table? Can it be done if you are allowed to turn over any five coins in a single move?

If you think you know the answer, e-mail it to rinsl@rhodes.edu for a chance to win two movie tickets.

By: Matt Jack



Congress takes a swing at professional sports

By **Ralph MacDonald**
Sports Editor

As we close in on our fifth year in Iraq, celebrate six years in Afghanistan, and face a financial recession, it is comforting that our law makers are doing their best to sort out what has gone wrong with professional sports. On February 13, Congress listened to depositions from Roger Clemens, Brian McNamee, and Andy Pettite while NFL commissioner Roger Goodell stood trial before Senator Arlen Specter. Because re-election years seem to come all too quickly, it is good that members of the U.S. Congress get a chance to posture and earn some cheap publicity for their campaigns.

Attacking steroids in baseball like George Mitchell in his famous "Mitchell Report" and the current congressional hearings being conducted around Roger Clemens and Andy Pettite are cheap manners of getting attention with absolutely no risk of political repercussion. Every publication, website, and T.V. station that covers sports is covering these Congressional hearings and Representatives like Dan Burton are getting airtime and headlines with attention grabbing quotes like: "You're here to tell the truth, yet we have lie after lie. I know one thing I don't believe—and that is you." I just hope that the political backlash of chiding Brian McNamee, a sports trainer connected to steroids, is not too great for Mr. Burton.

But not just baseball is being picked on. Another diligent public servant, Senator Arlen Specter, decided to prove just how valuable his time was to America by grilling Roger Goodell for an hour and forty minutes on Goodell's handling of the New England Patriots' illegal videotaping of other teams signals. Specter is taking a hard-line approach with the com-

missioner, showing that he too is unafraid of receiving headlines. The Senator claimed that "we have a right to honest football games," and for that reason was threatening to cancel the league's anti-trust exemption if Goodell did not meet with him and answer his answers satisfactorily. Although revoking the league's anti-trust exemption might appear to be a bad thing for the NFL initially, it would ultimately help solve all of the problems that have plagued the most popular professional sports league in America.

By Friday, Congress and Roger Clemens lawyers were already arguing over whose idea it was to have a hearing, each claiming the other side insisted upon it. It appears that neither side wanted to be seen as responsible for the waste of taxpayer money that was the hearing. At very least, Congress wants to distance itself from the time they spent on the Clemens case, which at least shows some sense of propriety. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Senator Specter, whose conversation with Goodell has led him to go forward in his attempts for an investigation that, again, would be funded by the taxpayers. To prove that Specter is not the only blowhard in the Senate, the honorable Patrick Leahy is giving the go ahead to fund the people and logistics for an investigation. Leahy's participation makes the Goodell witch hunt a bipartisan effort, proving that when the parties work together, there is no limit to how much time and money they can waste.

Admittedly, the commissioner's office was being very shady in their handling of the "Spygate" Scandal. The punishment (heavy fines for the Patriots and their coach, loss of a first round draft pick) was handed down be-

fore Goodell watched the videotapes the Patriots recorded and the evidence tapes and the notes taken on the tapes were destroyed. However, Goodell and former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue have done an excellent job of keeping the league away from scandal over the last few years and deserve a pass on one case of poor judgment. Furthermore, the penalties imposed for stealing the opposing team's signals were harsh, especially considering that almost every team makes an effort to steal the other team's signals somehow. The idea that the Patriots got off easy is so laughable that the Pittsburgh Steelers, who make a home in the state Specter represents and are noted rivals of the Patriots, issued a statement supporting the Commissioner's Office and the penalties they imposed: "We consider the tapes of our coaching staff during our games against the New England Patriots to be a non-issue. In our opinion, they had no impact on the results of those games. The Steelers fully support the manner in which commissioner Goodell handled the situation and the discipline that he levied against those who violated league rules.

We are confident that the commissioner has taken appropriate action in his investigation of this matter, and will do so again if new information arises which requires further investigation and/or discipline."

The last time I checked, Senators and Representatives did not have their voting records inspected by Bud Selig or Roger Goodell. It seems that the three commissioners do not have the time or expertise to evaluate and fix all the problems that Congress seems capable of cooking up. I do not know where Congress is finding the time to put the largely successful leagues on trial and I would be thrilled to discover the source of their expertise. Bud Selig and Roger Goodell have proven themselves to be very competent at their jobs and should be able to perform them without interference from Congressmen and women who have very little experience with these matters. There are serious issues facing our country and it would be nice if Congress would take a break from posturing and do the job we elect and pay them to do.

2008 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition: The Review

By **Will Leibner**
Staff Writer

The 2008 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue is back yet again and once again did not disappoint. A bevy of beautiful women graced us with their presence in the 2008 issue, but interestingly, the top SI models were American for the first time in recent memory. Two US-born models in particular headlined the issue: Tori Praver and Marisa Miller.

Praver, just 19 years of age, made appearances modeling bathing suits and graced body painting section. Without question, she has solidified herself as the future of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition for years to come. If Tori Praver is the proverbial young top prospect, Marisa Miller is the perennial All-Star on the Swimsuit models team. Miller, nearing 30 years of age, did not miss a beat coming off of a great performance in last year's issue. There is truly not a picture where Miller can possibly look bad. With the killer combination of Miller and Praver, the Americans have hijacked control of the top slots in the 2008 issue. This is the exception, not the rule, as over the last 10 years, the Swimsuit Issue has been dominated by mainly foreign models. Only Rebecce Romijn-Stamos stands out as a leading American in the past issues, while foreign-born women like Heidi Klum, Daniela Pestove and Yamilia Diaz-Rahi have graced covers and highlighted most issues.

The top international model in the 2008 issue has to be Bar Refaeli. Refaeli, currently dating Leonardo DiCaprio, modeled in her home country of Israel and burst onto the scene in a big way. Other than Refaeli, no international model made a major impact on the issue. Heidi Klum had a frankly odd series of shots with Will Ferrell promoting his new film *Semi-Pro*, but that was it for international superstardom in the 2008 issue.

To me, this issue, just like the Slam-Dunk contest until this year, needed something novel to draw in more readers. Millions of people will always read and enjoy the Swimsuit issue, but it seems the magazine is running out of ideas to keep the issue fresh. The section of player's wives has always seemed bizarre to me and the shots of Danica Patrick were certainly worth leafing through but were also out of place. Overall, the 2008 Swimsuit Issue ushered in a new era of American presence in the yearly publication, but left us wanting something refreshing to take the load off of Tori Praver and Marisa Miller for the 2009 edition.



I'm here to save you money.

Get a free rate quote today.

GEICO
geico.com

1-800-947-AUTO
or call your local office.

Come visit us at Spring Break in Panama City Beach, FL
& South Padre Island, TX.