

# THE SOU'WESTER

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March 26, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



Rhodes has a baseball team (They won on Tues!). But the National League has more.

See Page 8

## Rhodes senior wins Watson Fellowship

By Matt McCulloch  
Staff Writer

"As soon as I heard about it, I wanted to apply for it," said Megan Colnar about the Watson Fellowship.

A Rhodes senior from San Antonio, Colnar recently won a prestigious Watson Fellowship, which funds a year of independent foreign study. She will be traveling to India, South Africa, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, and Chile over the next year. All of her expenses are covered by the \$25,000 awarded through the Fellowship.

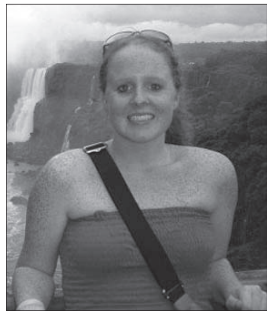
She submitted her application and proposal, "In Peaces: Nonviolence and Reconciliation Movements" to the Watson Foundation for review after being named Rhodes' nominee for the award.

"In my proposal I argued that reconciliation is the modern foundation of the nonviolence movement," said Colnar.

As part of the hour-long interview Colnar had to answer "rapid fire questions" on life, her activities, and her habits.

"It was intense," she said.

While abroad, Colnar will have the opportunity to pursue the objectives described in her proposal.



courtesy of Megan Colnar

Megan Colnar

"I hope to join dialogue groups and go to rallies, services, healing ceremonies, etc," she said. She will be working with local nonprofit organizations, and will also spend time simply meeting the locals and understanding their cultures.

"Each of these countries finds a very important role in reconciliation and define it very differently," said Colnar.

Colnar's activities on campus include the Kinney program, Model United Nations, and as a V-Day participant, "which I think all contribute to my interest in this subject," she said. Last spring, she developed further interest in international reconciliation while studying abroad in São Paulo, Brazil.

When not pursuing these interests, she enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling and "a good dose of bad T.V. with friends."

This May, Colnar will graduate with two degrees: one in International Studies and another in Latin American Studies. Her favorite class at Rhodes was Inter-American Relations, taught by her favorite professor, Amy Risley.

"She adds the perfect amount of sarcasm, realism, and optimism to every class," said Colnar.

Graduating seniors can apply for the Watson Fellowship after being nominated by their school. Professor Michael Drompp serves as Rhodes' Faculty Fellow for International Programs and liaison to the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, which awards the Fellowships. To learn more about the Foundation or the Fellowship, visit [www.watsonfellowship.org](http://www.watsonfellowship.org).

## Five Memphis libraries slated for closure

By Avery Pribila  
Managing Editor

Five Memphis libraries and four community centers are slated for closure on July 1, 2008 as part of an attempt by Mayor Herenton to keep a proposed property tax raise lower and maintain the efficiency of the organizations.

The decision to close these institutions came as a result of a \$600,000 efficiency study presented by Herenton to the City Council in April of 2007. The study stated that by employing several cost-cutting measures, like closing certain community centers and libraries, the city could save up to \$19 million.

According to Herenton the closings will save \$1.5 million to \$2 million each year, and come as part of a larger relocation of city assets. He went on to say that he was "embarrassed" by the state of some of the library branches, and that it was in their best interest to be closed.

The library branches the city will close are the Cossitt library at 33 S. Front, Gaston library at 1040 S. Third, Highland branch at 460 S. Highland, Levi branch at 3676 Highway 61 and the Poplar-White Station branch at 5094 Poplar. The city intends to study how to use the buildings

## Lynx Lair chef wins medal

By Allyson Pellisier

The current Executive Chef for the Lynx Lair, Jason Phillips, recently won a bronze medal in the Aramark Culinary Excellence Competition, hosted this year by Sewanee.

"The way the competition is designed is similar to the NCAA brackets, with the competition divided into regions," said Phillips.

About 3000 employees in his particular region participated in the challenge. While some of the other competing chefs had been preparing since August, Phillips only had about fourteen hours, due to the time-consuming nature of his work at Rhodes. He not only had to plan out a full menu, but also had to obtain all his own supplies.

"We actually had to get all the ingredients here in Memphis, and drive them up with us in coolers," said Phillips.

According to Phillips the structure of the competition was "very stressful" and similar to "what you would see on *Iron Chef*."

In only a few hours, Phillips prepared a gourmet, multi-course meal, with show plates, judging plates, and picture plates for each course. The judges evaluated Phillips on both his final product and his method of preparation.

"While we were working judges walked around the kitchen, evaluating the sanitation level and how we utilized products,"

said Phillips.

Phillips explained that this added degree of difficulty benefits the company as a whole, as "Aramark uses this event to inject new ideas into the company."

As Executive Chef for the Lair, Phillips takes responsibility "for everything from the napkins to the candy bars we offer."

Since his arrival in August, the Lair has greatly expanded its selection, and he hopes to increase the variety even more. Phillips takes pride in the uniqueness of the Lair's offerings, pointing out, "Right now, we are one of only three locations in Memphis to have a stone pizza oven."

In addition to augmenting the food selection, he also plans on increasing the variety of beers at the Pub and offering more beer-tasting nights.

"It's a challenge," said Phillips of the job. "But I love that every day is different."

Phillips developed interest in the culinary arts at an early age. As a child, he gained experience through "trial and error." He then received formal training at the Art Institute of Atlanta's School of Culinary Arts, from which he graduated with honors. Phillips began his career with Aramark during college, working at Georgia Tech as well as the 1996 Olympics. Impressed by his performance, the corporate chef for Aramark gave Phillips his business card and encouraged him to

## Mayor announces resignation

By William Bruce  
Executive Assistant

On March 20, Memphis received word of a resignation letter signed by Mayor Willie Herenton and City Administrative Officer Keith McGhee. This recent election marked Herenton's fifth session as mayor of Memphis and, although this appointment took place just last October, the letter expresses his intention to resign, effective July 31, 2008.

Many of Mayor Herenton's associates were baffled by this move.

One of his closest friends, Shelby County Commissioner Sidney Chism, said in a *Memphis Flyer* article published on March 20 that the Mayor discussed an interest in serving as superintendent of Memphis City Schools or possibly as the 9<sup>th</sup> district congressman. According to the article, Chism was surprised at the speed at which Herenton announced his intentions but also understood Herenton's decision.

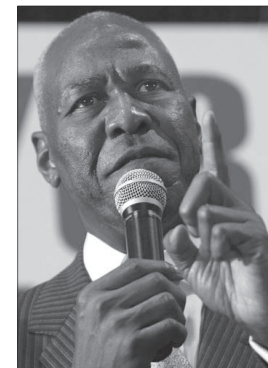
"Education has always been closest to his heart," said Chism. He stated in the article that he believes that if Herenton does plan on running for the congressional seat, currently held by Steve Cohen, he doesn't anticipate it happening "quite this soon."

However, Chism was very clear that Herenton didn't wish to serve as mayor for a fifth term, and if people had left him alone he wouldn't have run again.

"As it was, he just wanted to prove that none of those folks could beat him," said Chism.

Over the years Mayor Herenton has been subject to various legal accusations, including fraud. Also, some speculate that a federal grand jury is looking into Mayor Herenton's relationship to an anonymous city contractor that may have served subpoenas at the Memphis Area Transit Authority's offices. Still, no solid evidence has been found to substantiate these claims.

"I take him on his word that he is



www.commercialappeal.com

Mayor Herenton

# How John McCain can win

By Alex Mahoney

It seems right now that McCain is merely hoping that all of the media attention given to Obama will abate. Like Obama though, McCain has some house-keeping to do before he can really launch his candidacy in earnest. McCain must first campaign for the hearts and minds of the conservative base that is suspicious of his credentials as the next successor of Ronald Reagan. McCain has a daunting task; if he wants to win the election, he cannot completely abandon his maverick positions, but he must convince the conservative base that he presents a stark contrast to Obama. Right now, he should be furiously campaigning for the support of leaders in the deeply conservative part of the base, silently winning over these voters while all of the media attention is focused on Obama. He should humbly ask them to accept his supposed imperfections, and emphasize that his critique of the handling of the Iraq war has been vindicated, as well as his ardent opposition to wasteful spending. He should also point out that he has fairly consistently supported gun rights and pro-life causes. Fortunately for McCain, the conservative base is very loyal to the Republican Party and, despite their griping, will vote for a candidate that can present a clear contrast with the Democratic nominee.

Once McCain has made amends with the conservative base, he needs to go on the offense on policy areas in which Democrats now have a strong advantage. Obama assumes that Americans are going to agree with him on his important policy proposals. This may not be an unsound assumption. Lately, in public opinion, Democrats have been on the right side of public opinion with regards to the role of government in peoples' lives, health care, and the environment. Republicans have either ridiculed or disregarded these issues, instead focusing on the trinity of national security, tax cuts, and social conservatism. McCain cannot afford to go along blindly with his party on these issues; instead, he must propose creative free-market solutions, coupled with tax incentives, to induce people to adopt these solutions.

First of all, on health care, McCain cannot simply say that a universal health insurance program can never work. Instead, McCain must provide a clear alternative to the statist solution that Obama and Clinton are advocating. His program, like Obama's, could include tax incentives to buy health care, but it should also include lifting restrictions on where Americans can buy health care and what programs they can buy. He should also go after ambulance-chasing lawyers (while pointing out that they have been very gen-

world communities going through their own industrial revolutions to slow their progress.

Finally, McCain must not directly attack Obama's lack of experience; despite the insistence of conservatives that what did not work for Clinton will work for a Republican candidate. McCain should not underestimate Obama's rhetoric and his message. In other words, McCain should not run on the premise that Obama is not ready to be president. With regards to experience, McCain does not even have

“despite the conventional wisdom, Obama is eminently beatable this fall. McCain can secure the election by developing a policy platform that does not merely refute Obama's proposals, but one that directly addresses each policy point with a viable alternative.”

erous to Obama's campaign) and point to how they have driven up health care costs. From this point, he should also make a case that the costs of Obama's health care program would rapidly balloon far beyond the estimates of the campaigns of Obama and Clinton. In other words, McCain should advocate a robust, competitive, market-oriented health care system with strong tax incentives for buying health care.

On the environment McCain cannot seem to be in league with the conservative base in its attempts to ridicule the issue of global warming. Once again, McCain cannot win on this issue by merely arguing that Obama's proposals would hurt the economy; he must stick to his support for emissions control while advocating investment in technologies such as solar and even nuclear power. He can also provide a clear alternative to Obama in rejecting the cap-and-trade system, which essentially makes a futile effort to convince third-

to slight Obama; simply talking forcefully about his own foreign policy experience will probably convince voters that McCain is better equipped to deal with our foreign policy challenges. Regarding bipartisanship, McCain should hold Obama up to his own standards of his ability to build consensus. No Republican is in a better position to point out Obama's double-standard on this measure; McCain has consistently reached across the aisle, as in the “Gang of 14” concessions to Democrats that helped Bush's judicial nominees get through the Senate, while Obama's votes have been highly partisan. In fact, the nonpartisan National Journal ranked Obama the most liberal senator in the senator for 2007, a ranking of which a “unity” candidate should be ashamed.

Thus, despite the conventional wisdom, Obama is eminently beatable this fall. McCain can secure the election by developing a policy platform that does not merely refute Obama's proposals, but one that directly addresses each policy point with a viable alternative. McCain should also attempt to neutralize Obama's claim to be a “unifier,” pointing out that he himself has been much more willing to compromise on issues that are not an absolute priority for his party's base. To be sure, in this election cycle, attacking Obama for a lack of experience is a potentially dangerous gamble that could even serve to affirm Obama's pitch that he would be a breath of fresh air to the White House. Undoubtedly, with the Republican brand badly damaged and conservatives demoralized at the likely prospect of further congressional losses in 2008, coming out on top will be an uphill battle for McCain. Still, if he shows the resolve that he has so far in this race, his chances might just be a little better than 50/50 to win it all.

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*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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# Neocons mislead about “Islamofascism”

By **Rami Abdoch**  
Staff Writer

Islamofascism is a term often thrown around these days? What does it mean and more importantly, what are the implications of using such a term on the general perception of Muslims? The term was first coined by French historian Maxime Rodinson in response to the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Presumably, he used the term in order to distinguish mainstream Muslims from those who promote violence as a means to further their agenda. This is problematic, however, since that “agenda” decidedly varies among groups who are labeled as Islamofascists. I think we can readily agree that traditional fascism is violent in nature, authoritarian to some degree, and concerned with the enforcement of a particular ideology. This has absolutely no root in Islamic doctrine as related and practiced by mainstream Muslims.

Even in branched “versions” of Islam that explicitly denounce Western values and display hatred for America, the mindset is one which is not able to, nor desirous of defeating the West and democracy through violence. Their response is largely out of spite towards the West’s intervention and political gameplay in the Middle East since the late 1940s. That is not to say that they would rather not

have the West destroyed, but these feelings do not stem from a wish to spread and enforce Islam in the West. Rather, these outcries have become more fervent and widespread due to the United States’ increased interference since 9/11. More importantly, they give rise to unqualified statements concerning the state of the Islamic world at large and foster a hatred of Muslims both at home and abroad.

The matter central to this supposed “Islamofascism” is the democratic imperialism imposed by Neoconservatives. One need look no further than the Bush administration as the prime example of neoconservative thought acted upon so forcefully. In 1997, along with **Donald Rumsfeld**, **William Kristol** and others, Cheney founded the “Project for the New American Century,” a neo-conservative U.S. think tank whose self-stated goal is to “promote American global leadership.” Ever since 1998 this organization has lobbied for the Iraq war. Note that this occurred 3 years prior to 9/11. Neoconservatism is largely concerned with a global American presence at whatever means necessary and is inextricably tied to the Iraq war and imperialism.

The term allows neoconservatives to consolidate the aforementioned collectives into a single enemy that can be easily referred to. By doing

so, the threat appears that much more prevalent, immanent, and dangerous. Mark Humphrys, an Irish scientist and writer, goes so far as to liken Islamofascism to communism in scope and vivacity, a seemingly baseless claim. He further asserts that it really took shape during the Iranian revolution of 1979, which is in line with Rodinson’s opinion. Assuming that the main drive for the term’s introduction in that context was to distinguish such persons from mainstream Muslims, we cannot fault Rodinson entirely.

I would contend, however, that this was not the case. Why use such a loaded term as Islamofascism when Islamic fundamentalism or another alternative would suffice just the same? Their reason, I would argue, is to provide a false historical background to the movement imply that it was being fostered for many years. Some, such as Humphrys, go so far as to say the Islamofascist ideology began as early as 1928 with the Muslim Brotherhood as its precursor. One begins to question how such a claim can hold any water given that the term was first introduced in 1979.

Many seem to associate the term “Islamofascism” with any and all so-called Muslims that pervert the religion and use violence to achieve their goals – this is primarily due to the popularization

of the term post 9/11. A deeper analysis will find that though this term only became widespread after 9/11, it has a history that dates back much farther than that. Why is this so? How come the material regarding this presumably long standing ideology is only now coming into play? How come “Islamofascists” don’t even consider themselves as such? They were merely handed the title. Ultimately, it seems that the impetus behind this term is the Neoconservatives’ wish to justify the spread of democracy over the Middle East and modernize Islam to suit their own agenda. “There isn’t actually any such thing as Islamofascism — it’s not an ideology; it’s a figment of the neocon imagination. The term came into vogue only because it was a way for Iraq hawks to gloss over the awkward transition from pursuing Osama bin Laden, who attacked America, to Saddam Hussein, “who didn’t,” remarks NY Times columnist Paul Krugman. They do not care whether or not democracy is right and proper for the people of the Middle East, much less if it is compatible with the *Shariah*, or Islamic law. If anyone falls in line with the characterizations of Islamofascism [focus on violent means, imposition of ideology, contempt for human rights, etc.] it is the neoconservatives.

# From humble beginnings to presidential hopeful

By **Brianna McCullough**

What is it about human nature that encourages us to cheer for the underdog? It could be the fact that the majority of people in the world come from humble beginnings, and if someone that we can genuinely relate to can achieve success, then why can’t we? Therefore, when American citizens see that Barack Obama, a 46-year-old African American whose net worth is a fraction of that of most politicians, could possibly become the next president of the United States, they are overwhelmed with hope for the future.

Because Barack Obama is competing against the “institution candidate,” Hillary Clinton, he began campaigning in Jan. 2007, with national polls reporting him over 30 points behind. In most states, just weeks before their elections, Obama was still behind in polls, yet he has won over twice as many contests as Sen. Clinton and is now ahead in the delegate count and popular vote. How did this improbable movement sweep the nation?

Multiple factors can be attributed to Barack Obama’s success, but his ability to relate to all Americans seems to be the most significant factor. His campaign champions many emotionally powerful phrases, such as “Hope,” “Change We Can Believe In,” and “Yes, We Can!” His inspirational speeches have attracted record-breaking numbers of people, his ability to bring in new voters has resulted in unprecedented voter turnout in every state, and the organization in this grassroots movement has allowed his campaign to reach out to groups who have long been ignored, including students.

With the help of scholarships, Barack Obama graduated from Co-

lumbia University in 1983, became a community organizer to help laid-off steelworkers in southern Chicago, and launched a grassroots movement to register 150,000 new voters. He then attended Harvard Law School and became the first African American to head *Harvard’s Law Review*. Instead of proceeding to work for a large corporate law firm, making millions, Obama worked as a civil rights lawyer. When he realized that he would need the help of the government to create real change, he ran for the Illinois State Senate and was elected in 1996. In 2004, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and is now well on his way to achieving the top executive office in the country. Obama has successfully worked his way up without accepting any campaign contributions from special interest groups or Washington lobbyists, yet he has managed to raise over \$138 million during the past year, coming from one million individual donors.

However, there are those who feel that Obama is merely peddling hope and making false promises. If these critics examined his legislative record of his eight years in the Illinois Senate, they would realize that Sen. Obama will follow through on his promises. He sponsored over 200 bills on health care and public health, 125 on poverty and public assistance, and nearly 100 on the economy, business, and finance. If that isn’t enough of a testament to his dedication, look at the bills he worked on in the U.S. Senate: the Lugar-Obama Bill to Keep Weapons out of Terrorists’ Hands, the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. While other Democrats were working in vain to pass legislation

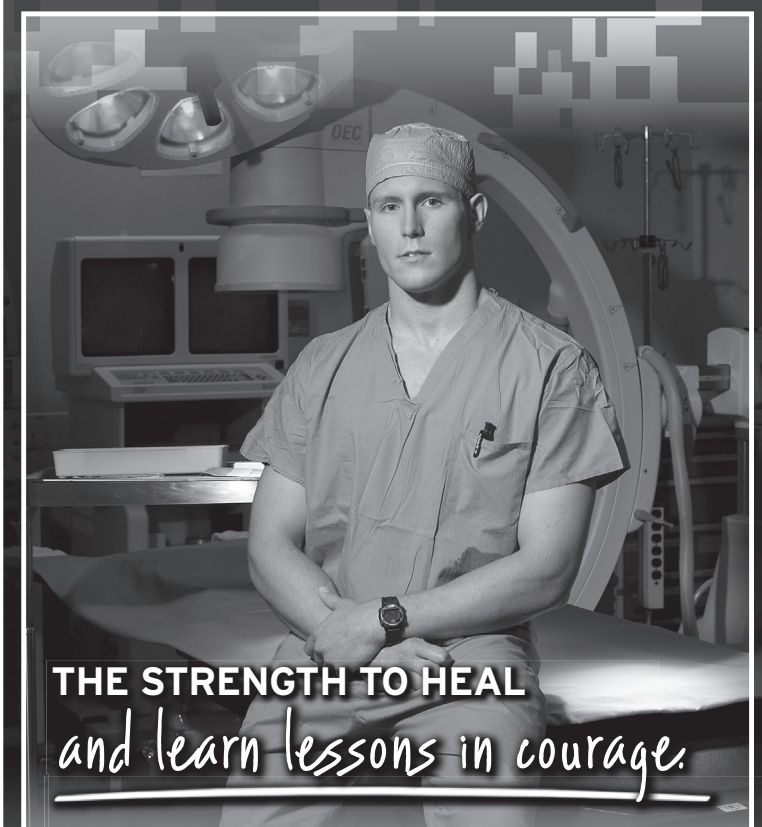
in a formerly Republican-dominated Congress, Obama was wise enough to work in a bipartisan effort with Republicans, such as Dick Lugar, in order to effectively create new laws and to work toward the common good.

His speech on race, which has over three million hits on YouTube, has been overwhelmingly praised by expert analysts who have called its delivery Obama’s “Lincoln Moment.” In the words of John Dickerson, “It was bold and risky in a way that Obama often claims for his candidacy but rarely achieves, and we got a glimpse of how his attempt to bring people together works in practice rather than merely having to take on faith his assertion that he can do so.” In his significant endorsement last week, Bill Richardson said, “Senator Obama has started a discussion in this country that is long overdue and rejects the politics of pitting race against race.” Obama’s remarkable ability to honestly and openly address the delicate issue of race is a testament to his tremendous ability to bridge the painful racial gap in this nation.

This movement began on the steps of the Springfield, Illinois courthouse and has perpetuated into the hearts of the American people—the white, black, Hispanic, Asian, poor, affluent, young, and the elderly. Obama has been able to reach out to ordinary citizens to bring about extraordinary change. He possesses the will and energy needed to change the way politics works, to bridge the divide between liberals and conservatives, and to revive our country’s reputation abroad. With this momentum, many pundits say that John McCain will not be able to stop him in November, and many recent polls between the two show Obama

with a slight edge. Our generation has never known a candidate quite like Sen. Obama, someone who wishes to unite the American people and who declares that “our destiny will not be written

for us, but by us.” Imagine what we can achieve together if we reclaim the American dream and elect a president we can truly believe in.




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# Student Voice

What is your reaction to the death toll in Iraq reaching 4000?



"I think that our soldiers losing their lives in Iraq is saddening, but I'm proud to know that these men and women are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."  
- Trent Schill ('11)

"I think that any loss of life, Iraqi or American, is shameful. My sympathy goes out to all families touched by the war."

- Katie Grills ('10)



"I think it's pretty tragic, the number of lives that have been lost. How much more of this will continue before we pull out?"

- Onalee Carson ('09)



"I think the lives of our American troops have been devalued. It is continually said that the death toll for this war is so low, but each life lost is devastating to that soldier's family and friends."

- Allison Price ('11)



*Library, continued from Page 1*

for different purposes.

The four community centers that will close are Bethel-Labelle at 2698 Larose, Greenlaw at 190 Mill in Uptown, Hamilton at 1363 E. Person and Simon/Boyd-Magnolia at 2130 Wabash.

This decision to close certain library branches follows the unexpected resignation of Judith Drescher, director of the

Memphis library system for 23 years. It was reported that Herenton was not going to reappoint Drescher to her post, a fact which he defended. "No individual owns the library system," said Herenton. "It is the city's library system."

Herenton recently appointed Keenon McCloy as the new director, a controversial appointment since McCloy does not have a library science degree.

*Phillips, continued from Page 1*

consider working for Aramark again in the future. Phillips kept the card, but decided to work in Europe first.

In Europe, Phillips primarily stationed himself in London but also found time to venture to Belgium, Germany, Italy and other European countries.

"I would use my Europass, find a place with a kitchenette, and purchase local ingredients from the outdoor markets," said Phillips. "For example, the markets in Italy had fresh mozzarella, basil, fifty different kinds of olive oil."

Upon returning to the United States, Phillips ran his own restaurant for seven years and then took his current position at Rhodes. Phillips plans to continue his career here "as long as it's a challenge."



Photo courtesy of Jason Phillips

**Chef Jason Phillips (far right) won the bronze medal at the recent Aramark Culinary Excellence Competition.**

## Calendar of upcoming events

**Wild World of Wine and Beer Fundraiser:** On Friday, March 28 the Memphis Zoo is hosting the tenth annual Wild World of Wine and Beer. Presented by Morgan Keegan, this is the zoo's largest conservation fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the Zoo's Conservation Action Network, a funding agency for local and global conservation research. The event takes place from 7 to 10 p.m., and includes live entertainment in the CHINA exhibit, a silent auction, and live animal entertainment. Tickets are \$50 for Zoo members and \$60 for nonmembers. Call (901) 333-6755 for details and tickets.

**African April Cultural Awareness Festival-** This annual festival celebrates 22 years of African History and Culture on Beale Street at Robert R. Church Park in downtown Memphis. The festival is a four day event from April 17-20 that emphasizes cultural diversity and ethnicity, including music, cuisine, education, economics, history, and more. Each year a different country is selected, and the 2008 country is the Gambia. Below is the event schedule:

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Hot Wing Festival:** this festival takes place from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday, April 26 on South Main Street between G.E. Patterson and St. Paul Street in downtown Memphis. Admission is \$1, or free with the donation of a canned good for the pantry at the Ronald McDonald House. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald house. There will also be a silent auction and live bands throughout the day.

**On Location Memphis:** the 9<sup>th</sup> annual International film festival will take place from Thursday, March 27 to Sunday, March 30. The festival takes place at several theaters around Memphis, and includes 83 films from 20 countries, 2 workshops, 2 panel discussions, and after parties each night. Special student passes are available for \$30 for the festival with a valid college ID, but they don't include parties. For locations and more information visit [www.onlocationmemphis.org](http://www.onlocationmemphis.org).

**Candle Light Vigil Civil Rights Museum:** On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the National Civil Rights museum will host a candle light vigil in honor of the occasion. Special guest speakers and performers will be present, and forty lanterns will be lit by local citizens from diverse backgrounds. The lanterns will remain lit for forty days.

**Spring Market:** The Spring Market will take place from April 11-13 at the Agricenter International. There will be more than 125 merchants representing well-known gift shops and boutiques with spring fashions and home accessories. There will also be door prizes, gift giveaways, and food vendors. Admission is \$8 for adults.

**New York Times Columnist David Brooks:** David Brooks, an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times* will present a lecture entitled "What the 2008 Election Says about America" on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm in the BCLC Ballroom. Brooks often writes about politics and American culture, and his books will be on sale after the lecture. This event is free and open to the public.

**Scott Ritter lecture:** On Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Scott Ritter, a former UN Weapons Inspector in Iraq, will speak at Christian Brothers University at 7:00 pm. Ritter is a former marine and head inspector of UN Weapons Inspection Teams in Iraq. He has been a vocal opponent of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

# CAMPUS SAFETY

March 16-22, 20008

- 03/16  
Nothing unusual to report.
- 03/17  
8:14 am: Tree in front of East Village B cordoned off due to lightening strike.  
  
6:43 pm: Suspicious person entering North Parkway gate on a bicycle. Subject stopped and identified as a visitor and instructed to use the Bailey gate to properly sign in.  
  
9:07 pm: Fire Alarm in East Village B; fire department notified.  
  
9:13 pm: Cause of alarm: student burning food in room; fire department departed campus.
- 03/18  
10:47 am: Channel 13 news on campus.
- 03/19  
12:11 am: Report of an injured student; ADRL has been notified; student will be transported for treatment.  
  
7:12 am: Accident at North Parkway and University; no Rhodes student/fac/staff involved.  
  
4:05 pm: Fire drills being conducted in Williford, Trezevant and Voorhies/Townsend.
- 03/20  
1:08 am: Noise complaint Voorhies Hall. Located student playing drums; asked to stop, student complied.  
  
11:03 am: MPD advised Campus Safety of a suspicious person in our area; older person on a bicycle.  
  
5:45 pm: Fire alarm in Robinson Hall; MFD dispatched.  
  
5:49 pm: MFD on campus; cause of fire determined to be student cooking in the kitchen in Robinson. Alarm reset; MFD departed campus.

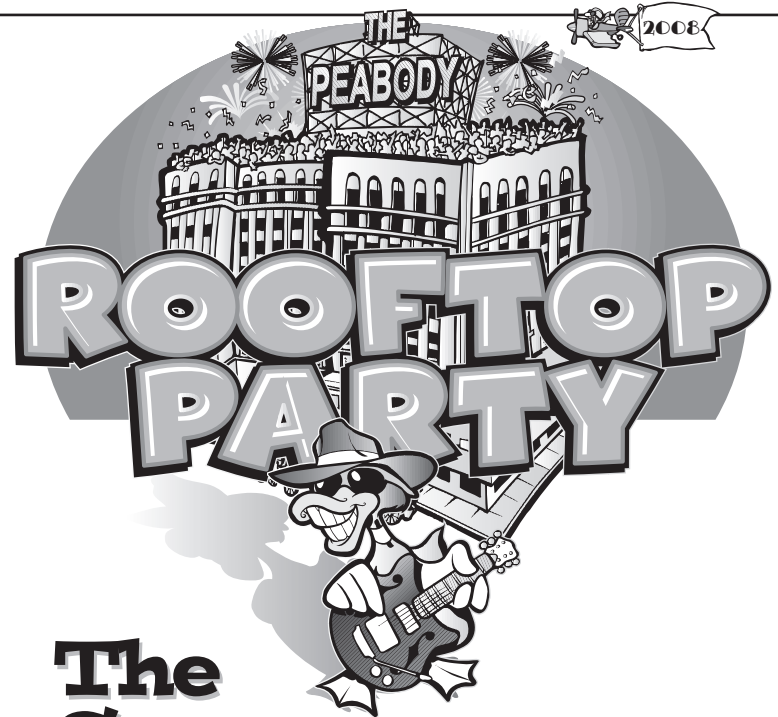
## Never go it alone...

Approximately 5 out of 7 Rhodes students who drink alcohol off campus make sure that they have a plan in place to ensure a safe return to campus.\*

### Kudos



\*2007 Rhodes College Alcohol Use Survey



## The Season is Open

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*Herenton, continued from Page 1*

looking to move to the position of Superintendent of Memphis city schools," said Professor Marcus Pohlmann of the Political Science Department.

According to Pohlmann, Herenton's intention to resign was prompted by "the harsh things being said about him from high profile individuals from both the black and white communities."

However, there may still be a chance that Herenton will remain in office for the duration of his term.

"I don't think the letter could be considered an official and complete letter of resignation," said Professor Wirks, Associ-

ate Professor of Political Science. "He is using this expression of intention to influence the city school board in its choice of a new superintendent."

Wirks added that if Herenton is not appointed he will probably not resign.

"He's a slick operator," said Wirks. "Politicians can make some outstandingly selfish moves, but this one deserves a prize."

Herenton served as superintendent of Memphis City Schools for twelve years before turning to politics in 1991. In his change to politics, he ran against and defeated incumbent Memphis Mayor Richard Hackett by only 146 votes.

# Black Lodge Video offers rare movies and much more

By Ralph MacDonald  
Sports Editor

This expedition almost ended before it began. The two Rottweilers almost made me get back in the car and go back to write about a much tamer and less dangerous subject. I was in the “parking lot” of Black Lodge Video, and if those Rottweilers had not been puppies then you would be reading a story about my day at the zoo instead of this piece. I was already apprehensive about pulling into what was basically the driveway of a home that supposedly housed one of the top-five largest collections of videos in the nation. My background research on the establishment’s MySpace page had revealed that Black Lodge Video was the home of Snuff and Death Films, Women in Prison Films, Drug Flicks, a Conspiracy, Confusion, and Chaos section, and Violent Rage films, along with other, more standard video options. The shades were down, a hand-rolled cigarette was on the steps, and I stared down the knob on the red door for several seconds before mustering up the courage to go into the place co-owned by a man who “views existence for what it really is...a practical joke that nobody is in on.”

Co-owner Matt Martin laughed, “Bryan wrote that for us, but I’d probably agree...there are so many layers of absurdity to this world that it’s impossible to take it seriously and no one seems to understand that it’s supposed to be funny.”

I was far calmer by this point. Behind the door was a well-lit and not even remotely scary room with a woman smoking while watching a movie playing on the TV in the corner. The place was certainly not concerned with appearing to be a normal rental place as the rack immediately in front of the door was labeled “Sexploitation/Erotica.” While some of the sections were similarly labeled by genre, many of them were ordered by director. In order for a director to earn a section in Black Lodge he must have at least five videos that are deemed acceptable to owners Matt Martin and Bryan Hogue. The two men are film experts and only bring in movies that “are good in their own right,” according to Matt, who granted me an interview on the spot as he went around stocking the shelves. The selection of

videos is wide, and despite the offensive potential of some of the selections, they are chosen carefully by the two men who have turned their hobby into a living.

Black Lodge Video’s location in a personal home is indicative of the store’s character. People come in to smoke and watch movies, and employees work for free rentals and a place to just hang out. In the middle of my interview, a teenager with a nose ring came in with some of his new music for Matt. Matt did not have the time, but told him to come back tomorrow while lamenting that he “wanted to listen.” However, he did have time for a cigarette while I wrapped up the interview. By this point it was less of an interview and more of a conversation about the writers’ strike (“It’s just”); Johnny Depp’s preparation for *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (“Much better than Bill Murray’s Hunter S. Thompson because he spent six months out on Hunter’s ranch”); and the worst movie to come out lately (“I usually know what is going to be bad so I avoid watching them, but *Transformers* was pretty awful”).

Black Lodge seems to be the unlikely child of modern expression and country store values. It has plenty of movies that would make Ann Coulter’s head explode, although these are probably in the minority to the more “regular” movies. But much more notable is the Black Lodge’s throwback notion of what it means to be a business in a community. Like the country stores of old, Black Lodge seems to be as much a community center as it is a place of business. People can come, smoke inside, and talk about movies or anything else with owners who seem more than generous with their time. The owners have created something that they love being a part of, and their passion and expertise has made Black Lodge into a very personal and engaging place to be. During the course of the interview, Matt told me how he was trying to find some titles that had been eluding him, but that there were “fewer and fewer that he did not have.” Black Lodge may be nearing the point where it has every video that it needs, but the energy and passion that built this incredible video library has not been diminished.

# The buzz on pop culture

By Cristina Iskander  
Staff Writer  
*The Good*

It’s only a matter of time before television favorites start new episodes in April; although it’s a compact season, most shows are doing their best to present strong storylines. Addison (Kate Walsh) is set to return to *Grey’s* for a brief appearance, Julianne Moore will appear as Bree’s sister on *Housewives*, and *The Office’s* Michael and Jan will throw a horrific dinner party for the other couples of Dunder Mifflin. Rumor alert: NBC is pushing for a 30 episode *Office* season next year.

“Hello, lover.” After months of speculation and a few online leaks, *the Sex and the City* movie trailer was officially released. Spoiler alert: it looks like Carrie may be left at the altar, Miranda and Steve are headed for a rough patch, Charlotte is pregnant, and Samantha...is well, still Samantha. It’s good to have these ladies back. I’ll admit it; I want to get “carried away.”

Steve Guttenberg got a job! He’ll be appearing on *Dancing with the Stars* alongside stars like Shannon Elizabeth, Priscilla Presley, and Penn Jillette. His last film credit was *Major Movie Star*, a Jessica Simpson vehicle. You can say that *Dancing with the Stars* is for C list stars, but in Steve’s case, I think it’s a definite upgrade. Who wants to be billed behind Jessica Simpson? And while I’m on the subject of *Dancing with the Stars*, can magician Penn Jillette make that annoying Bruno Tonioli disappear? Everything that comes out of his mouth is just so exaggerated.

After the Oscars, Jimmy Kimmel premiered his response to girlfriend Sarah Silverman’s video confession that she’s having an affair with Matt Damon. Silverman’s video gets points for being funnier, but Kimmel’s response, confessing he’s having a tryst with Ben Affleck, earns points for star power. Cameron Diaz, Christina Applegate, Robin Williams, Harrison Ford, Don Cheadle, Lance Bass, Brad Pitt, Meatloaf, Macy Gray, and Josh Groban all make an appearance.

Christopher Walken will return to host Saturday Night Live April 5, 2008. Walken, known for his appearance in the “More Cowbell” sketch and his role as a sleazy paramour in “The Continental” never disappoints when he appears on the show. Side note: Buy Walken for President t-shirts at Walken2008.com.

## The Bad

Mario Lopez is coming to Broadway; he’ll begin his stint in *A Chorus Line* mid-April. A.C. Slater, most recently seen in *Husband for Hire*, *Holiday in Handcuffs*, and as the host of MTV’s *Randy Jackson Presents America’s Best Dance Crew*, does not need to be on Broadway. His dancing abilities seem fine, but the producers clearly have not seen him act. Kevin Federline is also in talks to come to Broadway. *Legally Blonde* producers supposedly want him to portray the UPS man, the object of manicurist Paulette’s affection. Seriously? Who would lust after Federline?

Michael Bay must be stopped. The “mastermind” behind such gems as *The Island*, *Armageddon*, *The Amityville Horror* remake, and *Transformers*, has his eye on produc-

ing remakes of *The Birds* and *Rosemary’s Baby*. Mr. Bay, you (and the rest of Hollywood) really need to learn that you should not attempt to remake classic films (see *Psycho*, *The Stepford Wives*, *Sabrina*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, or *Planet of the Apes* for examples.) The reason they’re so esteemed is because they were great films in the first place. Leave them alone and quit trying to recycle old ideas and put a “fresh twist” on them. It’s called original ideas, Mr. Bay—try getting some.

Paris Hilton is returning to reality television. Can she return to jail instead? Hilton’s new show will feature her “search for a new best friend” since Nicole Richie is busy with baby Harlow. Go watch auditions for the show at ParisBFF.com. I have to admit though, this show and the new *Bachelor* season has me thinking. What kind of world is it that we search for best friends and significant others on television?

Aaron Carter was arrested for possession of marijuana. His father lamented that he “felt hurt and betrayed.” Is he really that surprised? If I had to live with the fact that I was responsible for “Aaron’s Party (Come Get It)”, I’d probably turn to drugs too.

“Eligible bachelor” Flavor Flav gave the twins on his reality dating show the nicknames “Thing One” and “Thing Two” because *The Cat in the Hat* is one of his favorite books. I’d wager it’s also the last book he read.

Lindsey Lohan and her film *I Know Who Killed Me* took honors at the Razzie Awards winning for Worst Screen Couple, Worst Horror Movie, Worst Screenplay, Worst Director, Worst Remake or Rip-off, Worst Actress, and Worst Picture. Take that, Ms. Lohan. You can take as many photos as you want emulating Marilyn Monroe but you’re not an icon and any chance of that probably disappeared by the second time you went to rehab. (And if you don’t like that reason, should I cite your performance in *Herbie: Fully Loaded* or the fact that you dated Wilmer Valderramma? You’re not mysterious and you have no credibility.)

## The Awkward

Pre-Oscar red carpet interviews are always a little bit annoying, a little uncomfortable. Add Ryan Seacrest to the mix and you double, maybe triple that. However, this time it was not Seacrest that was the source of awkward tension but Gary Busey. I have to hand it to Busey, he’s one heck of a train wreck. Busey interrupted Seacrest as he interviewed nominee Laura Linney and presenter Jennifer Garner. Busey greeted Linney with a hug and kissed Garner’s neck as he embraced her. Garner attempted to stay poised but was visibly uncomfortable and she made a comment about wondering where husband Ben Affleck was before Linney (thankfully) led her away.

While home for spring break, I (unfortunately) discovered CMT’s *Redneck Wedding*, which is just as frightening as it sounds. Different episodes feature a camouflage wedding dress, a bride making her entrance by tractor, and reception activities like mud wrestling and mattress surfing. However, what’s even more frightening than this kind of wedding ceremony is the fact that these couples so proudly (and readily) admit they’re rednecks.

## Juxtapart[y] bab[y]!

It seems every day when I walk to morning and afternoon classes there are four or five more flyers adorning each entry way. I feel that almost half of the student population seems to be running for Student Government or promoting noble causes around campus. While this says something positive about our campus, it also causes extreme confusion for those of us who are more ADD and attracted to the faces and neon sheets decorating the halls.

One particular flyer that has been sprouting up a great deal as of late is “Juxtapart[y].” Yes, the flyers are visually appealing and the event sounds intriguing, but what is it? Juxtapart[y] is an arts festival celebrating the film, photography, paintings, drawings, compositions, and musical talents of the Rhodes populous. There will be belly dancing, delicious Asian food and sandwiches, paintings and drawings, people playing guitar, attractive boys singing a cappella (Woolsocks anyone?), and perhaps a spontaneous rave. The more people that show up the more fun it will be. So, do yourself and your peers a favor. Bring a blanket or bean bag chair and enjoy some free food and student art. Juxtapart[y] Arts Fest will be held Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30-11:00 in Fischer Gardens.

# Beale Street music festival 2008 roundup

## Musical lineup promises quality performances

By Adam Teer  
A&E Editor

This year's line-up is not as impressive as last year's, which is not as impressive as the one before that. But there is still a large range of bands and musical genres that are represented. There is also a good split between bands to draw the high school and college crowd and classic bands that appeal to the adults. The main headliner of the entire three day extravaganza, unfortunately, is Fergie. Yes, you heard me right. That is a big disappointment for me, but there are some good artists playing at the same time, so I don't have to listen to her. She plays on Sunday night at approximately the same time as Michael McDonald (the old guy playing piano on the DVD that is played in the electronics shop in *40 Year Old Virgin*), and the Black Crowes. The other headliners are My Chemical Romance, Sheryl Crow, The Roots, and Keb 'Mo on Friday, and Santana, Disturbed, and Matisyahu on Saturday.

Some other lesser acts that popped up on my radar are Friday's Ben Folds, Flyleaf, and Project Pat. I saw Project Pat last year at the Festival and he gave a pretty energetic and exciting show. Saturday has a longer day and, thus, more performers. Saturday includes Seether, Buddy Guy, Simple Plan and up-and-comers Colbie Caillat, and John Butler Trio. Colbie Caillat has recently rocketed onto the music scene with her hit "Bubbly". I would definitely recommend checking her out now before she starts playing sold out arenas. John Butler Trio is an amazing group from Australia which is a more rocking version of Jack Johnson with a splash of Dave Matthews. I got one of their CD's last week and I cannot stop listening to it. The Whigs, who played at Rhodes last year during Rites of Spring, will also be playing on Saturday.

Earlier on Sunday is Finger Eleven (whose hits include "One Thing" and "Hypnotizer"), Jerry Lee Lewis, Aretha Franklin, O.A.R., Gavin DeGraw ("I Don't Want to Be" and "Charliot"), and Pete Francis. Gavin DeGraw broke out about 4 years ago and has not released a new album since. He has one due in the next month or two, so more than likely he will be playing a

lot of new material. I have seen Gavin before and he gives an amazing stage show, which is guaranteed to include a kick-ass rendition of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On". Pete Francis was one of the members of Dispatch. I got to interview him before he played at Rhodes last semester. He is a great singer/songwriter, so I would recommend checking him out. He will more than likely play some Dispatch songs as well.

So, as you can tell, there is a wide variety of performers that you can see. And surprisingly, you can get a three day pass and see all of the performances for around 60 bucks. From my past experience with the Beale Street Music Festival, I have compiled a list of tips, if you choose to attend: 1) Eat and hydrate before you get to the Festival. They are Nazis about bringing in outside food and drink. They will pat you down. Water and food are both ridiculously overpriced as well. 2) While drinking beer is fun to do at concerts, it dehydrates you and it is super-expensive inside the concert. It is about 7 dollars for a beer, no joking. 3) If there is a band that you are dying to see, like B.B. King for me, get to the stage they will be performing right when the band before them ends. This means you will have to wait a good 45 minutes, but you will get an excellent spot. If you show up at a stage 10 minutes before the performer starts playing, have fun enjoying a 300 plus foot view, especially if it is a headliner. 4) If there is not one band you are dead set on seeing, walk around to other stages because you might stumble upon your new favorite band. Also feel free to listen to part of a set of one band and then catch the end of another band's set if two artists you enjoy are playing at the same time. You will not have a good place to stand, but you will still get to see part of the set. 5) Bring a rain jacket, even if it is 90 degrees out. Every year it manages to start raining for some reason. Rain plus thousands a people tromping around on grass on the banks of a river accumulates a lot of mud. So make sure to bring shoes that can get muddy/you won't mind losing or throwing away. 6) If you enjoy collecting terrible tattoos, Beale Street Music Fest is the frickin' jackpot.

## Festival celebrates Memphis musical culture

By Adam Teer  
A&E Editor

Every year the city of Memphis puts on a fantastic celebration throughout the month, which they have dubbed Memphis in May. For those who have not experienced it, Memphis in May is a great and exciting celebration. While the festivities last the month of May, there are a few large scale events that are the peak of Memphis in May. The first of which is the Beale Street Music Festival at Tom Lee Park by the river, which is held the first weekend of May. The second event is the World Championship BBQ Cooking Contest which is also in Tom Lee Park. The final event, and the longest running of the three, is the Sunset Symphony featuring the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and this year The Four Tops. The Beale Street Music Festival is the most well-known of the three events, and brings in thousands of people.

The Beale Street Music Festival is one of the premiere music festivals in the country. It is a three day music fest including over 60 bands on 4 stages. There is a wide variety of genres and performers represented. Past performers have included Iggy & The Stooges, Jerry Lee Lewis, Daughtry, B.B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Ray Charles, Beck, Van Morrison, ZZ Top, Al Green, Dave Matthews Band, John Lee Hooker, Sammy Hagar, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Styx, Charlie Daniels, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Kansas, Cheap Trick, Creed, Collective Soul, Peter Frampton, Sheryl Crow, Booker T & the MG's, Albert King, Widespread Panic, Etta James, Bob Dylan, James Brown, Bonnie Raitt, Wilson Pickett, Hootie and the Blowfish, James Cotton, Blues Traveler, Bobby Blue Bland, Black Crowes, Ziggy Marley, the Allman Brothers Band, The Offspring, Saliva, Puddle Of Mud, Tom Petty, Three Six Mafia, and many more. Since it is in Memphis, there is one stage, in a tent, that is dedicated to just Blues acts. More than likely the line-

up will include several music legends, some of your obscure favorites/up-and-comers, and some bands/performers you have never heard of before. There is also a plethora of great dining options (Corky's BBQ nachos have been a staple for me) and fun activity tents and displays.

I am currently a junior this year, and I have attended the last two Beale Street Music Fests. I was drawn the first year because of B.B. King, Train, Robert Randolph and the Family Band, Jason Mraz, Billy Gibson, and Zac Brown Band. I only went for the performances on Friday. But one major problem arose, as it will tend to do. Some of the bands you want to see perform at the same time. Since I wanted to see 6 acts on a Friday (when there are only 4 slots for bands) I had to pick and choose what I saw, which kind of bummed me out. I decided to go all three days last year, and the experience was pretty epic. By day three you are a little burned out on the whole concert scene, but Sunday night is when the biggest headliners play. So, it is worth the wait. There tended to be a lot of downtime when the performances start in the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday. It was nice to get out of the crappy weather and take a nap in the Blues tent and listen to some sweet blues guitar. Overall, I did get to see a lot of bands, some of which I knew and some I heard for the first time. The performances themselves vary too. Jason Mraz put on one of the most disappointing shows I have ever seen, while Godsmack rocked my face off. Robert Randolph and B.B. King also rank in my top 5 for concerts I have seen.

The Beale Street Music Festival runs from May second to the fourth. Single day tickets as well as three-day passes are now available on ticketmaster.com. For a complete list of the line up for this year's concert, go to [memphisinmay.org](http://memphisinmay.org). The actual schedule of when people start their sets and what stage they are playing on will be released once it is closer to the beginning of May.

### Professors Know Their Shit

By: Matt Jack



# Arizona is the class of the National League

## NL East

### 1. Atlanta Braves

2007 Record: 84-78

2008 Prediction: 93-69

Key Additions: Tom Glavine, Mark Kotsay, Jair Jurrjens

Key Subtractions: Andrew Jones, Edgar Renteria

On the Rise: Jair Jurrjens, Yunel Escobar, Jeff Francouer, Matt Diaz, Kelly Johnson, Brian McCann

On the Decline: Tom Glavine, Chipper Jones, Mark Kotsay

Am I a total homer for picking the Braves? Perhaps. But they have the deepest pitching in the East and a ton of young players hitting their stride at the same time, unlike the AARP-sponsored Mets clubhouse.

### 2. New York Mets

2007 Record: 88-74

2008 Prediction: 92-70

Key Additions: Johan Santana, Ryan Church, Brian Schneider

Key Subtractions: Shawn Green, Paul Lo Duca, Tom Glavine

On the Rise: Jose Reyes, David Wright

On the Decline: Moises Alou, Louis Castillo, Pedro Martinez, Carlos Delgado, Orlando Hernandez

Adding Johan Santana was very important for the Mets because their staff was getting frail. Johan will make this team better but age is catching up to the many of their key players.

### 3. Philadelphia Phillies

2007 Record: 89-73

2008 Prediction: 85-69

Key Additions: Geoff Jenkins, Pedro Feliz, Brad Lidge

Key Subtractions: Aaron Rowand

On the Rise: Shane Victorino, Cole Hamels, Brett Myers

On the Decline: Pat Burrell, Jamie Moyer, Geoff Jenkins, Tom Gordon, Brad Lidge

How do the Phillies end up in third after finishing first last year? They simply do not improve in a competitive division where the other two teams (the Nationals and Marlins are not teams) are constantly getting better.

### 4. Washington Nationals

2007 Record: 73-89

2008 Prediction: 68-84

Key Additions: Willy Mo Pena, Lastings Milledge, Elijah Dukes,

Key Subtractions: Ryan Church? Who was ever key to this team?

On the Rise: Everybody but Dmitri Young, no where to go but up.

On the Decline: Dmitri Young

A new stadium, Ryan Zimmerman, and faded outfield prospects from other organizations and you have the entirety of the "buzz" around the Nationals.

### 5. Florida Marlins

2007 Record: 71-91

2008 Prediction: 59-103

Key Additions: Cameron Maybin, Dallas McPherson, Jorge Cantu, Andrew Miller

Key Subtractions: Dontrelle Willis, Miguel Cabrera

On the Rise: Everybody but Matt Treanor

On the Decline: Matt Treanor (There's always his inevitably super-athletic children he will have with volleyball champion Misty-May)

The only good news for the Marlins is no one on their team is due for a big pay raise soon so stingy owner Jeffrey Loria will probably keep this cheap team on the field for next year too.

## NL Central

### 1. Milwaukee Brewers

2007 Record: 83-79

2008 Prediction: 85-77

Key Additions: Mike Cameron, Jason Kendall, Eric Gagne

Key Losses: None

On the Rise: Yovani Gallardo, Prince Fielder, Ricky Weeks, J.J. Hardy, Ryan Braun, Corey Hart, Manny Parra

On the Decline: Mike Cameron, Jason Kendall, Eric Gagne

Gagne and Cameron will bring some positives to a young team that is only going to get better.

### 2. Chicago Cubs

2007 Record: 85-77

2008 Prediction: 88-74

Key Additions: Kosuke Fukudome

Key Losses: Mark Prior

On the Rise: Felix Pie, Ryan Theriot

On the Decline: Mark DeRosa, Ryan Dempster

A very solid team that stayed fairly stagnant during the off-season will pay the price to the rising Brewers.

### 3. Cincinnati Reds

2007 Record: 72-90

2008 Prediction: 76-88

Key Additions: Corey Patterson, Francisco Cordero

Key Losses: None

On the Rise: Brandon Phillips, Norris Hopper, Homer Bailey, Edwin Encarnacion

On the Decline: Scott Hatteberg, Ken Griffey Jr.

This is truly a testament to how putrid the NL Central has become. I feel Aaron Harang and Bronson Arroyo can keep this team mediocre, which is good for third place in this division.

### 4. St. Louis Cardinals

2007 Record: 78-84

2008 Prediction: 73-89

Key Additions: Troy Glaus, Cesar Izturis

Key Losses: Scott Rolen, Jim Edmonds

On the Rise: Rick Ankiel, Chris Duncan, Adam Wainwright

On the Decline: Troy Glaus, Adam Kennedy, Matt Clement, Braden Lopper

From mediocre World Series Champions, to a mediocre third place club, to just a plain bad baseball team, so go the St. Louis Cardinals.

### 5. Houston Astros

2007 Record: 73-89

2008 Prediction: 71-91

Key Additions: Michael Bourn, Kaz Matsui, Miguel Tejada, Jose Valverde

Key Losses: Brad Lidge, Adam Everett

On the Rise: Hunter Pence

On the Decline: Miguel Tejada, Brad Ausmus

If GM Ed Wade merely gets fired for creating this roster then he should be considered lucky. Tejada has not looked remotely close to a big league shortstop and his best years are behind him, Matsui is a mediocre player when he's on, and Valverde has one year of success and many years of inconsistency on his resume. Watching Houston fans talk themselves into this team is like hearing a girl list the reasons for taking back the guy who cheated on her.

### 6. Pittsburgh Pirates

2007 Record: 68-94

2008 Prediction: 62-100

Key Additions: None

Key Losses: None

On the Rise: Matt Capps, Ian Snell

On the Decline: None

A bad team that could not be more stagnant coupled with five long months until football season and life back in Pittsburgh.

## NL West

### 1. Arizona Diamondbacks

2007 Record: 90-72

2008 Prediction: 96-78

Key Additions: Dan Haren

Key Losses: Carlos Quentin

On the Rise: Stephen Drew, Justin Upton, Micah Owings, Connor Jackson, Chris Young, Mark Reynolds

On the Decline: Randy Johnson

The addition of Dan Haren gives the Diamondbacks a fantastic rotation that can only get better if Randy Johnson returns to anywhere near his old form. Add solid hitting and you have a clear front-runner for the National League Pennant.

### 2. Colorado Rockies

2007 Record: 89-73

2008 Prediction: 92-70

Key Additions: None

Key Losses: None

On the Rise: Brad Hawpe, Matt Holliday, Troy Tulowitzki, Jayson Nix, Jeff Francis

On the Decline: Todd Helton

The Rockies nucleus is only going to get better with an additional year of seasoning, plus the confidence that comes with their amazing winning streak and World Series run.

### 3. San Diego Padres

2007 Record: 89-73

2008 Prediction: 84-78

Key Additions: Jim Edmonds, Tadahito Iguchi, Greg Maddux, Randy Wolf, Mark Prior

Key Losses: Mike Cameron, Milton Bradley

On the Rise: Kevin Kouzmanoff, Adrian Gonzalez, Jake Peavy, Chris Young

On the Decline: Edmonds, Tadahito Iguchi, Greg Maddux, Randy Wolf, Mark Prior, Brian Giles

Bringing in a bunch of creaky players is simply not going to get it done in this hyper-competitive division.

### 4. Los Angeles Dodgers

2007 Record: 82-80

2008 Prediction: 78-84

Key Additions: Andruw Jones, Esteban Loaiza

Key Losses: Randy Wolf

On the Rise: Russell Martin, James Loney, Chad Billingsley, Matt Kemp, Andre Ethier

On the Decline: Jason Schmidt, Nomar Garciaparra, Juan Pierre, Jeff Kent

These guys would be competitive in the Central, but they are going to regret investing in the strikeout machine that is Andruw Jones.

### 5. San Francisco Giants

2007 Record: 71-91

2008 Prediction: 64-98

Key Additions: Aaron Rowand

Key Losses: Barry Bonds

On the Rise: Tim Lincecum, Matt Cain, Noah Lowry

On the Decline: Everybody else.

Take a great hitter off an awful team and you get the San Francisco Giants. Only the young pitching offers any hope for the future.

Summary by Ralph MacDonald  
Sports Editor