



Interviews get inside their heads.

See Page 7

April 16, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Allocations results released

By Matt McCulloch
Staff Writer

The issue of fund allocation from the student activities fund has recently attracted attention from the Rhodes community. This academic year approximately forty different organizations requested \$389,143 from Allocations Board. However, only \$104,005.78 was available.

"I've been with an [organization] that has continually improved what it's done every year but it's not reflected because there's not enough money to go around," said *The Southwestern Review's* Tara Daniel, who also participates in GSA and CHEERS.

Other student organizations have expressed similar concern about the misallocating of funds.

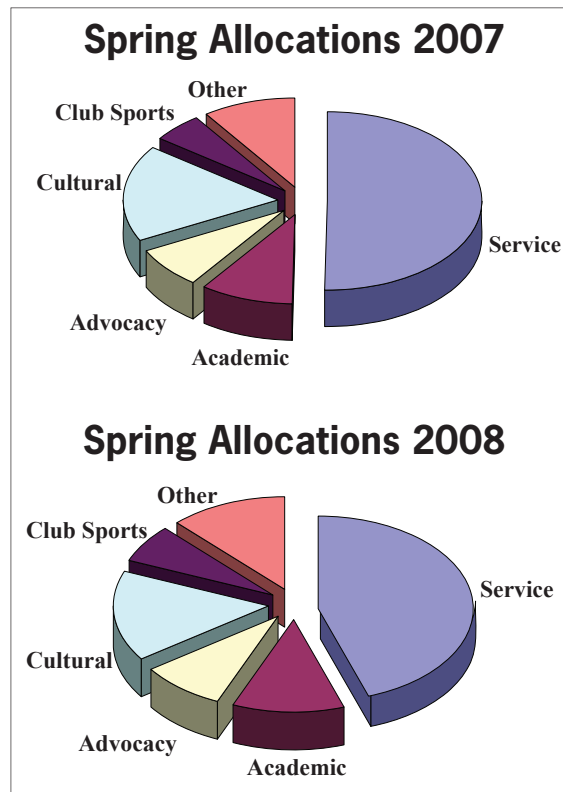
"Allocations seems rather hesitant to go above the minimum required amount," said Christina Cooke of the Media Board (formerly the Publications Board).

Along with stating that necessary funding has been withheld, organizations have also expressed the opinion that some student groups receive too much funding.

Allocations Board representative Alex Heit said that the "problems come in when certain organizations need funding for things that don't necessarily need to be funded by Allocations Board."

Specifically, the Habitat for Humanity organization

Allocations, continued on Page 4



King sit-in continues

By Gordon Conaway
Staff Writer

Friday, April 4, was the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in Memphis. That morning, at 8:30 am, Phil Kovacik walked into the entry hall of the Barrett Library, sat down on the middle of the floor on the Rhodes seal, and began a silent vigil in Dr. King's memory. At 10:30 am, Anthony Siracusa joined him. They began reading Dr. King's speeches and sermons together there, until concluding the sit-in at 4:30 that afternoon.

"This is not a protest," said Siracusa, characterizing the sit-in and reading as a "consciousness-raising exercise."

Rather, the students are employing the very means used by Dr. King - peaceful, sustained dissent - to bring their point across.

"We are providing a King remembrance because Rhodes failed to do so," said Siracusa.

The students claim that they are using the means of Dr. King to convey their message. They are clearly schooled in King's methods, characterizing the exercise in his own terms.

"We, like Dr. King, will stick to non-violence. We will practice means/end coherence. We will not indict people, only evil and injustice," says Siracusa, noting that their action is "Kingian" in nature. "There are ways besides fight and flight. There is a third way, namely, the way of non-violent direct action."

Perhaps not expected to the two students at the time, this peaceful but dramatic act sparked a lengthy and ongoing dialogue with the Rhodes administration. Kovacik and Siracusa allege that Rhodes has failed to duly recognize Dr. King on the anniversary of his death. They have promised to continue their sit-ins until the administration meets one of two demands: one, administrators join them for a few minutes as they read; and two, that the administration send out a formal letter to the Rhodes community acknowledging King's sacrifice in Memphis.

In the April 9th issue of the *Sou'wester*, Kovacik and Siracusa addressed an Open Letter to the Administration criticizing their lack of acknowledgement of King's death, noting that Rhodes "held no programs ... and made no formal

mention of the assassination" on the anniversary. "The undersigned have concluded that this glaring omission of remembrance can only be the result of ... 'Institutional Racism.'"

The administration responded with a letter which they sent to the Commercial Appeal last week. Siracusa contends that the administration did not plan to respond to the letter written by himself and Kovacik until a reporter for the Commercial Appeal contacted them about the matter.

The letter from the administration, written by Vice President Wiggington and co-signed by President William Troutt, Provost Charlotte Borst and Dean Carol Casey, thanks Kovacik and Siracusa for their "passion and persistence" in remembrance of King. The letter counts two events which demonstrate Rhodes' commitment to remembering King's death, a "Dining for Diversity" dinner on March 29, with Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton as the keynote speaker, and an on-campus Town Hall Meeting hosted by Congressman Steve Cohen. Wiggington also points out Spence Wilson, Chair of the Board of Trustees', remembrance of King at a recent board meeting, and the College's leadership for an initiative called Common Ground.

When contacted about the dispute, Dwaun Warmack, Associate Dean of Students, noted a March 26 press release by the College observing Dr. King's death and its consequent importance to the Rhodes community. In addition, he cited Rhodes' comprehensive MLK Celebration Week in January.

The annual Celebration Week, held January 19-25 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of King's birth, included an Essay and Poetry Reading by community elementary school students. On MLK Day, there was a prejudice-reducing workshop, a tour of the Civil Rights Museum hosted by the Big Diehl, and a special Grizzlies game; a viewing of the film *Holiday*; a voter registration drive; a Crossroads to Freedom discussion; and a symposium on African American performances of Shakespeare.

Kovacik and Siracusa's complaints seem to involve more than just the King anniversary. Kovacik implicitly accuses the administra-

King sit-in, continued on Page 5

Students and community get their play on at Rites



William Bruce/The Sou'wester

Gin Blossoms, giant inflatable slides for young and old, pies-in-face and vicious gladiator fights were all present this weekend at Rites. We also think that we have found the culprit for those recent thefts (see right).



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Hold up on more financial regulation

By Nate Maxwell

Associate and Opinion Editor

The last few months have been hard times for American financial markets and investors. When the housing bubble burst and the sub-prime mortgage market started to suffer, investment firms which had relied heavily on sub-prime securities during the last few years faced disaster. Since this happened, many money and credit markets have basically shut down, some securities are just not being traded, and many financial companies face serious uncertainty about what their assets are even worth. All of this uncertainty is hurting the financial sector and has many observers worried that financial weakness may spill over into the so-called "real" economy and lead to a recession.

In all likelihood, this has already happened; the question is now how long and how deep is the recession going to be. In light of this financial mishap and the upcoming US election, it is no surprise that politicians across the ideological spectrum have offered their thoughts on what went wrong and how to fix it. It is also unsurprising, given most politicians' love for increasing their own power and appearing to be in control, that most of the proposed solutions involve increasing government regulation of financial market, so that this can never happen again. Indeed, it is not only politicians who see this as the best solution for America's economic woes; many pundits, media personalities and other commentators are also sounding the clarion call for more government regulation. Here are three reasons why this knee-jerk reaction ought to be reconsidered.

First, American financial markets are already one of the most heavily regulated industries in the country. Since the Great Depression, there have

been a whole host of regulatory financial laws passed over the years, including the controversial Sarbanes-Oxley Act encompassing a laundry list of other regulations. It is doubtful whether even an experienced attorney who works in the field could list unaided all of the laws, sometimes vague and contradictory, that financial companies must follow. There is also no telling how much the annual costs of financial companies of compliance are. Yet, for all of that regulation, the sub-prime crisis still happened, just as the other financial crises over the years have still happened. It seems logical to ask the advocates of more regulation to answer the question of why previous regulations haven't worked, and to explain how this round is going to be different.

This leads to the second objection, which is that new regulations, in the face of a recent crisis, tend to attempt to prevent the last crisis. Just as generals proverbially fight the last war, financial regulators fight the last screw-up. Of course, financial companies and investors are not stupid; they tend to learn from their mistakes on their own. Financial crises happen because investors and traders find new and exciting ways to screw up. Sometimes the new mistakes are variations of old ones, but mostly they are the result of over-exuberant innovation.

On net, this innovation is great for the economy, it earns profits for wise investors, and the ones who mess up learn from their mistakes. Sometimes the mistakes can cause a period of economic weakness, as they are now. However, it is far from clear that regulators could foresee and prevent future mistakes if they wanted to, nor is it clear that they should even try.

Finally, even if one grants that there is some ideal set of regulations that could be put into place

to improve the economy and prevent future crises based upon what has been learned from this crisis, it is still far from a given that the people who will actually create the regulations that do go into place are well-suited in any way to do so. They are mostly lawyers, and not even practicing lawyers at that. Instead, they are career politicians who know a lot about running for office and winning elections, but not so much about financial markets, investing, or any other kind of economic activity. These people are not all-knowing philosopher kings who clearly understand the impact of what any new regulations are going to do to the economy. They are politicians who are very likely to create regulations for maximum political advantage, even at the expense of the American economy.

Given that, citizens should be very wary of any new regulations proposed by presidential candidates, Congressmen, or even media pundits for that matter. They are very likely to be either some sort of disguised hand-out for a favored constituency, a misguided attempt to prevent a problem that has already happened, or a completely foolish "solution" that either worsens the very problem it is meant to solve, or creates a whole new problem that did not exist before. The best plan would be to let the Fed do what it can to prevent the current financial crisis from becoming a full-out meltdown, reconsider the effects of the regulations already on the books and decide if any of them need to go, and then take a step back and let the economy heal itself, which it almost certainly will do if given the chance. Unfortunately, there is a very good chance that instead America's financial markets will be subjected to the whims of our political elite once again.

Administration responds to protest

Dear Anthony and Philip,

Thank you for the passion and persistence you've shown to remember one of our nation's heroes. The day of April 4 holds special meaning as we reflect on Dr. King's contributions to our city, country and the world. As the city in which Dr. King lost his life fighting for social and racial justice, Memphians should always seek to find meaningful ways to honor his legacy. Indeed, you are correct that he often spoke about institutional racism, and we at Rhodes have wanted to honor King's larger vision for transforming institutions into ones that could help our graduates break down "the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort from the inner city of poverty and despair" with the "battering rams of the forces of justice" [Martin Luther King, Jr., *The Power of Nonviolence*, *Intercollegian* (May 1958); *Where Do We Go From Here?*] Our larger vision has gone beyond a holiday commemoration to effect lasting changes for our students, our faculty, and the very culture of our institution and our broader community. I encourage you to take a look at the attached press release dated March 26 that encompasses Rhodes ongoing commitment to building furthering conversation and action.

In addition to these projects that demonstrate our commitment, we channeled our programming toward two major events:

1. Dining for Diversity – On Saturday evening, March 29, Rhodes hosted approximately 150 people (a combination of students, faculty, staff, and community members) for dinner to celebrate the diversity of our campus and city as well as to have conversations about how we as citizens could engage more Memphians to step out of their comfort zones and dialogue with someone different than themselves. Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton was the keynote speaker. He was joined on the program by several students representing organizations under the umbrella of the Rhodes Office of Multicultural Affairs, Pablo Davis, Executive Director of Latino Memphis, President Troutt, and Vice President Russ Wigginton.

2. Town Hall Meeting – On Saturday, April 5, Rhodes hosted Congressman Steve Cohen's town hall meeting. This meeting was to commemorate the contributions of Dr. King and to remind people that that the work of social justice and equality for all was unfinished. Joining Congressman Cohen on the program were activist and humanitarian Harry Belafonte, Congressman from Michigan, John Conyers, actor and activist Danny Glover and pastor and activist Rev. C.T. Vivian. Approximately 400 people, representing all segments of the Memphis community, attended this call to action event.

Two other items of note that have occurred recently that help demonstrate the college's commitment to act out Dr. King's dream for our society: Spence Wilson, Chair of the Rhodes Board of Trustees, began deliberations last Friday with thoughtful words of reflection on Dr. King's sacrifices for humankind and reminding his trustee colleagues that their commitment to achieving the Rhodes vision is one way to contribute to Dr. King's goals. The college has also been one of two local institutions of higher education on the steering committee for the Common Ground initiative. Common Ground is a citywide attempt to have conversations about the impact and significance of race in the Memphis community. This six-week long program has 300 individuals signed up to begin these conversations. Rhodes is one of two host sites for Common Ground, which has also included the college-sponsored Crossroads to Freedom digital archive on civil rights as one of its primary teaching tools.

We thank you for your commitment to help the Rhodes community remember Dr. King. We take his legacy very seriously and continue to take a leadership role in Memphis to ensure that we live out Dr. King's dreams.

President Troutt, Vice-President Wigginton, Provost Borst, Dean Casey

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

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

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ASSOCIATED
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PRESS

Politics and the environment in the 2008 election

By Hannah Spurrison

Fast-forward to year 2030; the Glacier National Park may have no glaciers (U.S. Geological Survey). Fast-forward to year 2050; global warming could claim up to 57% of plant and animal species (*Nature*, 2004). Surely everyone has heard the laments of the environmentally concerned; some people have even acted, but it seems that an overwhelming majority still refuses to give daily consideration to the environment, especially when it comes to politics. America's lack of environmental interest in the current presidential campaign coverage is highly unfortunate, especially since some candidates provide clear answers while others seem to mostly just talk.

The 2008 presidential campaign has stirred up a media frenzy, with coverage ranging from debates about national security to accusations about candidates' personal lives. The news is littered with other important campaign issues, the Iraq War, health care, and the economy, but where does this leave the environment? -- on the perpetual back burner. As an avid news watcher, I can count the number of times I have heard about the candidates' environmental stances -- none. Generally, people learn by experience. From current wars, they learn about future wars. From current health

care policies, they learn about future policies. But the environment does not teach by experience; the damage is irrevocable. Unfortunately, Americans may only become passionate about the environment when the 108th weather prohibits them from enjoying universal health care.

But even today, most Americans expect their candidates to have some environmental plan. However, they often don't care about the details, aren't able to discern the differences between candidates, or even have access to the plans due to the lack of media coverage. This article will pick up where the media has left off: comparing the similarities and differences in the candidate's environmental stances.

On initial appearance, Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, has been a large advocate for environmental preservation. He often mentions his love for the environment and his admiration for President Teddy Roosevelt as a conservationist. In the past, he cosponsored the Climate Stewardship Act of 2003, a progressive environmental preservation bill. Currently, he is strongly for nuclear power, for a cap-and-trade system, against a carbon tax and oil-drilling in Alaska. However, "passionate" McCain is conspicuously absent when its time to vote for environ-

mental policy. For the year 2007, he received a score of 0 from the League of Conservation voters, which rates a politician's environmental voting record on a scale from 0 – 100; he failed to show for all 15 of the year's critical environmental votes of 2007. His overall LCV score is 24, which is not very promising.

Senator Hillary Clinton has an overall LCV score of 87, and Senator Barack Obama has an overall LCV score of 86. Clinton has served on various environmental committees, and both Democratic candidates have far-reaching plans to invest in energy efficient technology and to reduce U.S. carbon pollution. Clinton plans to raise the needed money for these programs by getting rid of oil com-

pany tax breaks, and Obama plans to raise the money through emission auctions. Both candidates have strong, implementable plans on this issue; why aren't they covered by the media?

To be fair, the media should not take all the blame for its lack of environmental coverage; the American people hold their own share of the responsibility. Although many Americans fight everyday for a better environment, not enough care. If all Americans were environmentally concerned, the media could not survive without covering this issue. In closing, I simply ask that everyone consider our environmental future when they decide to vote; if we don't change now, when can we change?

Letters to the Editor

As a religious studies major typically interested in obscure subjects, I was delighted to see that my senior paper topic—polygamy—made the April 9 edition of *The Sou'wester*. That is, until I read the article. While I applaud Mr. Carson's attempt to bring attention to the recent raids on the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints ranch in Eldorado, TX, I question whether insufficient and inaccurate attention is better than none at all.

The initial failure of the article is that it states that polygamy is not a religious practice and is not supported by a religion. Both claims are completely untrue. Polygamy is a religious doctrine, held by all Mormon fundamentalists (who separated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over a century ago), that states that polygamy is the only way to be exalted in the afterlife. The population of Mormon fundamentalists is estimated to be as high as 100,000.

To be sure, polygamy can be bad for kids. However, this has much less to do with maternal neglect than it does with the poor healthcare, lack of education, and physical and sexual abuse that is often a reality for these children. While the situation is often less than ideal for children, it is also abusive and oppressive for women. To speak of the failures of polygamy and merely mention that it is disrespectful to women is appalling. Women suffer the same human rights violations as children, and are often subjected to marriages to older and undesired men, little sexual choice, and complete lack of reproductive choice. In many cases, men bestow financial resources among wives based on sexual favorites; a woman must compete with sister-wives to properly care for her children.

Again, I applaud Mr. Carson's attempt to speak out against polygamy, especially in a community that most likely doesn't particularly care. It concerns me, however, how quickly assumptions were made about a group of people without performing proper research, and I can't help but wonder what kind of uproar would have taken place were the group in question not so countercultural.

Katey Orr '08

Sir/Madam:

The recent editorials by Phillip Kovacik and Jazmin Miller in *The Sou'wester* and *The Commercial Appeal* respectively made me most proud to be an alumnus of Rhodes College. Their reflections on the legacy of one I regard as a modern day prophet, the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as the ever-present challenge of racism gave me insight and hope. Tolerance is not an apathetic state of existence but an active endeavor to be undertaken by all thoughtful, spiritual people, no matter what their gender, race, religion, ethnicity or sexuality. Keep the faith and carry on.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Epps, M.D. ; BS, Biology, 1974; BA, German, 2000



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Student Voice

Was Rites of Spring enjoyable? Why or why not?



“Yes, I thought girl talk was great and the crowd got really involved. But all the bands I heard were good in general.”
-Hugh Barber, 2011

“Yes, on Saturday I really enjoyed Of Montreal because it was cool to see a French Canadian Band.”
-Brennan Lowery, 2011



“Well I had a good time. The bands were all really good and really different. I also thought it was good because it brought the school together and I feel like that doesn't happen enough.”
-Jordan Cook, 2011

“Rites was definitely enjoyable. We got really lucky on the weather. I thought Saturday was weak, but Friday was really great. I really enjoyed Girl Talk and Al Kapone.”
-Jim Kingman, 2009



“Yes, the Lair was open and Bob Marley was great. Plus, everyone at Rhodes got together.”
-Staci Thomas, 2008

CAMPUS SAFETY

April 6-12, 2008

04/06

6:49 pm: Fire alarm, Robb Hall; MFD in route.

7:08 pm: MFD discovered an overheated dryer in laundry room of Robb Hall. Unit unplugged; maintenance notified of problem.

11:38 pm: MPD on campus for courtesy patrol.

04/07

7:00 am: Fire alarm in refectory; Campus Safety dispatched.

7:10 am: Cause of alarm – grill turned on without vent-a-hood on, causing it to smoke up the room. All alarms reset; windows opened to air out kitchen area.

1:00 pm: Aramark supervisor requesting officer to respond regarding a disgruntled employee. Report filed with both MPD and Campus Safety.

9:08 pm: Student called to report a theft from her room; report filed.

04/08

12:20 am: Student confronted about reckless driving on campus; report filed.

2:18 pm: Theft of a bicycle from Robinson bike closet.

5:14 pm: Four youths on skateboards, between the ages of 14 and 16, attempting to gain access to campus through the refectory service gate; asked to leave the premises.

5:50 pm: Theft of a wallet in the Barret Library; report filed.

04/09

11:05 am: Student report to Campus Safety the theft of her computer from the Voorhies social room. All information noted; report filed.

11:50 am: Student reported to Campus Safety the theft of her purse. All information noted; report filed.

3:53 pm: Wrecker service on campus to tow a student's vehicle for service.

7:14 pm: Call from the refectory requesting maintenance to free an employee stuck in the elevator.

04/10

12:45 pm: Accident in front of the Barret Library; subject misjudged the turn, striking a tree. No injuries to report; heavy damage to the vehicle. Physical Plant has assessed the damage to the tree.

2:19 pm: Suspicious person setting in a red vehicle at the Evergreen Elementary School. Subject watched until he left the area.

4:01 pm: Several alcohol violations issued.

9:11 pm: Ill student in Trezevant Hall; ADRL present. Student not transported.

10:35 pm: Severe weather forcing participants of the Pike's Beach Party to move inside.

04/12

11:15 am: Several areas of campus blocked out to accommodate the Rites of Spring venues.

3:01 pm: Very large turn out for the Rites to Play in Oak Alley.

7:41 pm: Fire alarm in Stewart Hall; officers dispatched finding faulty smoke alarm.

10:09 pm: Two suspicious juvenile males observed around the Snowden School trailers; MPD notified.

10:14 pm: Two juveniles in police custody.

11:20 pm: Call from Barret Library requesting an ambulance.

11:52 pm: Subject transported to emergency room for further observation.

Allocations, continued from Page 1

at Rhodes has been pointed out as being allocated more money than some feel is due.

“Habitat requested \$20,000 for a build. They have about 170 students participate every year. That does not break down to be very economically beneficial,” said Heit. “Most schools fundraise for Habitat or do outside sponsorship. Rhodes is about the only college that essentially writes a check to their Habitat chapter.”

Every two years, organizations which receive earmarked (a set amount) of funding are re-evaluated. If any funded organization spends less than ninety-five percent of its allotment, its funding is automatically decreased by twenty-five percent for the following year.

“[The effects of this new bylaw] are really going to be seen next year,” said Allocations representative Ally-

son Pellissier.

Although some members of the student body has accused the board misallocation, only four organizations attended a special forum last week to discuss concerns on the issue.

Still, organizations have criticized the process of allocations itself.

“[Media] Board is given \$35,000,” said Daniel. “But that number has not been up for review in at least the last four years. We did not know the process to have this number go up for review. There needs to be more transparency in the process. I know several student reps that were not aware of when they were supposed to be presenting.”

Increasing the student activities fee is obviously one solution, but considering Rhodes' tuition cost, several students do not favor this ac-

tion. “I don't think anybody wants the student activities fee increased,” said Heit.

Allocations is by no means an easy process; board members spend large amounts of time discerning how to distribute funds.

“I was in the room for 23 hours trying to not only figure out the most fair way to divide money but also considering how the organizations would be affected,” said Courtney Eskew, an Allocations representative.

“[During Allocations] there was programming that personally I would've really enjoyed, but had to vote to cut simply due to the scarcity of resources,” said Pellissier.

An appeals meeting in approximately two weeks will give organizations who feel they were not properly funded the chance to re-present their budget needs.

Librarian excels at stage design

By Stephen Spainhour

Anyone familiar with the Barrett Library knows that Bill Short is the man in charge. He is also a successful stage designer and member of the Memphis theatre community.

Short, Rhodes class of 1971, is the coordinator of public services at Barrett and has been part of the Rhodes community for a total of 33 years.

After graduating from Rhodes, Short taught English at Northside High School. After growing somewhat tired of teaching, he worked for two years at a local library, which he enjoyed very much. Eventually he decided to pursue a Masters of Library Science (MLS) at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Short said that he never quite pictured himself as a librarian.

"Being a librarian is more than being pictured as a little lady with a bun and an attitude," said Short. "I look at myself sitting here and I cannot believe that I am lucky enough to be back at Rhodes, recreating the joy I experienced here as a student."

Aside from his work at Rhodes, Short is well known in the Memphis community for his work in the local theaters. He works in collaboration with Circuit Playhouse, Theatre Memphis, the University of Memphis theatre department, Chatterbox Radio Theatre, McCoy Theatre, Germantown Community Theatre, and Opera Memphis.

Theater has always been a hobby of Short's, and he started working at Theatre Memphis in 1968 as a prop manager and stage worker. Through a mentor, Jay Erlicher, he was able to learn all about stage design and slowly worked his way up to being one of the top theatre set



Courtesy Bill Short

Bill Short

designers in Memphis.

In addition to his work backstage, Short occasionally makes an appearance onstage, but the majority of his work takes place behind the scenes. In addition to his backstage work, he occasionally takes the director's seat, as he did last year when he directed a two-man play, *Woman in Black*, at Germantown Community Theatre.

"It's always fun to be viewed as a professional in a community," said Short.

In total, Mr. Short has won 17 Ostrander Awards for stage set design and props. These prestigious awards are given by Arts Memphis at a celebration held yearly for the arts community. In 2006, Mr. Short was given the Lifetime Achievement Award and was thrilled the next year when he was able to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Rhodes theatre professor, Cookie Ewing. He loves going to the awards ceremony.

"Even though I love the ceremony, the awards are not the reason I do theatre," said Short. "I do theater for the love of the art and the people that I work in collaboration with. It is so funny because I have turned into Jay Erlicher, my mentor, and now I continue to do what I love."

Past shows that Mr. Short has worked on include *Pride and Prejudice*, directed by John Rone, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Germantown Community Theatre. His next project is *Orsen's Shadow* at Circuit Playhouse, directed by Pamela Poletti. Mr. Short particularly loves sharing his experiences with younger generations.

"I love working with younger people and sharing with them my experience," said Short. "Simple things that can turn into complex problems- you know, like not having enough space backstage, creating a mood, or keeping a theater's budget in perspective."

Short has no plans to stop anytime soon, explaining "I look forward to retirement, but I like being busy, so it will be an interesting change for me."

King sit-in, continued from Page 1

tion of systematic, if subtle, discrimination and racism:

"The four years I have spent at Rhodes College have been mired in quiet dismissal and appeasement of racist incidents as well as what I would classify as 'soft' programming toward honoring Dr. King, but also with how this college seeks (I think duplicitously) to appear outwardly committed to diversity, while preserving a largely homogenous student body," said Kovacik in an email.

"I refuse to allow this institution to sweep this issue under the rug, while broadcasting its own attempts to improve its image within the Memphis community ... we do a disservice to this institution, this community, and this world every day if we perpetuate this myth of commitment," he said, referring to the College's Commitment to Diversity and its public relations outreach to the Commercial Appeal.

Asked what they expect to ultimately result from their exchange with the administration, Siracusa mentioned applying King's call for a "living wage" to the staff on campus, as well as investing money in causes such as Darfur.

"My personal hope is that Rhodes students will understand that they can make the world into what they want it to be," said Siracusa. "I hope that Rhodes students will see that public activism is essential in a world plagued with injustice."

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A sober perspective on Rites of Spring

By Dean Galaro
Staff Writer

Some people like to party and then some people really like to party—the latter being ever present this past weekend. From what I could gather beforehand, Rites would be a good time with possibly some good bands and events, and all of that seemed to be true on Friday and Saturday. Indeed, there were good times to be had by all, from the music to the booze to the dancing; it was all there. Inebriation was at an all time high throughout the weekend, contrary to the suggestions on the back of the cups handed out by CHEERS on Saturday night in the BCLC. For me though—the constant designated driver—this weekend was still a great time. Still, no matter what kind of fun everyone had this past weekend, from my sober perspective, Rites of Spring could have been much more fun and better structured.

For anyone who wasn't outside on Friday night (or for those whose memories are a bit fuzzy), there was quite a group of bands that performed. The student group, The Welfare State, put on a great performance reminiscent of Modest Mouse. Looking out on the small crowd that had formed around the stage, I was disappointed that more people hadn't come out to watch. Honestly, I was only there because a friend is in the band, but to my pleasant surprise their performance was excellent. Afterwards the crowds dissipated between the shows and I was worried that no one at Rhodes was going to show up for Al Kapone's performance. However, my fears were quickly alleviated when he started up his show. People slowly funneled in, and halfway through the set, as the music started to quicken and the bass really started to pump, the area in front of the stage really filled up and got moving.

As his show ended the energy on the lawn

dissipated a bit and the Lair—filled with more people and beer than I expected—became a zoo. After an unexpectedly long wait, Ky-Mani Marley put on a show that expertly pulled together his rap, rock, and reggae elements along with a few covers from his father. It was not a show to miss. Finally, as midnight rolled around, a few hundred people were funneled upstairs to the Ballroom, with none of them really sure what was coming. What everyone found was an incredible hour and a half of music and dance, all orchestrated by the wild and talented Girl Talk. The experience was definitely worth wading through the sweaty mob and then losing my hearing for Saturday.

Actually, not being able to hear anything the next day was kind of nice. Coming down from the insane energy of the night before, Saturday was a dull and relaxing break as people either recovered from Friday, played with kids at Rites to Play, or simply geared up for the upcoming performances. The lackadaisical day finally came to a head when the shows started again with the Vagstastic Voyage. I did not go and see the show, but all the people I talked to afterwards thought it was, if nothing else, entertaining. The crowds were a bit thin going into the Gin Blossoms' show. Although a bit older than any other performers up to that point, and having not put out an album since 2002, they put on an entertaining show in an early Goo Goo Dolls kind of way. To round off the night, Of Montreal came on stage (after a long wait) and put on a show that could only be described as "interesting." Maybe they are just not my cup of tea, but the costumes plus the unorthodox cacophony of sound was, if nothing else, exciting to see. However, if not for the free food in the BCLC after the shows, the night would have been completely disappointing.

The unsatisfactory second day aside, my

first Rites weekend was quite an enjoyable one. Still, RAB has an opportunity with Rites of Spring to really put on a great show and end the school year right. Lynxstock was an excellent event with a couple of great bands performing. The atmosphere was completely different from Rites of Spring, with fewer bands, less people, and overall a much chiller attitude towards the event. It does make sense since Rites is celebrating not just the end of a semester, but the upcoming and much needed summer departure from Rhodes.

Here's the rub: the lineup of bands for Rites this year was excellent until Saturday night rolled around. Saturday, being the second night, should have been the more exciting day of the two (if one day must be less exciting than the other). Concerts need to be built up, which is why there are opening bands that play to warm up the crowd for the main act later on. Friday night was the highpoint of the weekend, and from then on out the weekend seemed to simply slide away into the lull of Sunday.

In the same vein, the actual selection of bands on Friday was a much better mix of music that students are going to appreciate than on Saturday. What do college kids want to listen to these days? Rap, Electronica, and anything else that one can dance or jump around to. From Al Kapone to Girl Talk, the students listening were constantly moving, jumping, yelling, and dancing. The Gin Blossoms may have put on a real show for a few nostalgic rockers, but Of Montreal's mix of music only really appeals to a niche audience. Since money is most likely the key issue when it comes to scheduling the bands for an event like Rites, the essential issue becomes whether to invest in quality or quantity. Realizing that true name brand musical performances are far from the reaches of an event put on by Rhodes, the picking of the artists becomes very essential. If Rites was done more in tune with performances like Girl Talk—something that almost everyone can get involved in and enjoy—then it can really become the kind of energetic release it is supposed to be.

I do applaud RAB though for still putting together a terrific Friday night and a weekend in general that was a great first Rites experience. Rites of Spring 2008 was a good event, but I think it could be taken to another level if put together in a new format. There is so much that could be done with the funding and time allotted for Rites (and the other musical events throughout the year) that it is a shame when it is disappointing. I hope everyone else had as good a time as I did, and we'll see what comes around next year.

Heston always found way to center stage

By Ralph McDonald
Sports Editor

"I have only five words for you: 'from my cold dead hands.'"

The NRA members screamed and applauded as their president, Charlton Heston, raised a gun over his head as a symbol of defiance to a potential Al Gore regime that threatened to take away their Second Amendment rights. It was a familiar scene for Heston, who always seemed to be in the forefront of things no matter where he went.

As an actor, he played commanding roles including Moses in *The Ten Commandments*, Ben-hur in *Ben-Hur*, Michelangelo in *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, John the Baptist in *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, El Cid in *El Cid*, and astronaut George Taylor in *Planet of the Apes*.

But beyond his leading roles in movies, Heston was extremely active on multiple political fronts. He campaigned for Democratic presidential candidates Adlai Stevenson and John F. Kennedy and supported the civil rights movement. Heston was so committed to civil rights that he joined a picket of his own movie, *El Cid*, when he discovered that the movie theatre was denying admission to African-Americans. Adding to his list of liberal causes, Heston also campaigned for the Gun Control Act in 1968 following the assassination of Robert Kennedy. By 1969, his political awareness and charisma led him to be approached by the Democratic Party about a possible Senate run.

But in an odd turnaround, Heston found himself leading the country in a completely new direction by 1972 when he reportedly voted for Richard Nixon. By the 1980s, he was a card-carrying conservative who opposed affirmative action and supported Second Amendment gun rights. In 1998, he became the president of the NRA and served for five years before stepping down for health reasons. He was extremely outspoken on the ideals of White Pride and cried foul when a Caucasian woman was not given the chance to play an Asian woman in "Miss Saigon." His devotion to White Pride was so strong that he had himself initiated into a tribe of Sioux Indians in order to make the term "Native Americans" stretch beyond the "Indians" and include white people as well.

Charlton Heston's hands are now indeed dead and cold, but his works as an actor and as a political activist have left an indelible mark on the country. He leaves one of the most unusual histories behind him, as another man responsible for backing both Martin Luther King and Newt Gingrich is difficult to find. There is no telling what made Charlton Heston change affiliations so sharply and so quickly but there is no doubting that the man was always at the front of a crowd, rousing an ovation and embracing his role as a leading man.

The Puzzler

I have placed a dime in nine of the 36 squares of a 6 × 6 grid. You may choose three rows and three columns and take all the coins you find in them. Can you always get all nine coins?

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

The Right Girl



By Matt Jack

One-on-one with Al Kapone

Adam Teer: First off, for those who don't know much about you, or much about your music, can you quickly describe yourself musically?

Al Kapone: For people that don't know me, I'm actually one of the pioneers of the Memphis rap scene, which has evolved into what everyone knows as crunk now. Some of the most notable things that people know me are from a movie called *Hustle and Flow*, where I wrote three songs: "Whoop That Trick", the "Hustle and Flow Theme Song", and "Get Crunk, Get Buck", and kind of coached the actor, Terrence Howard. I won a Critic's Choice Award, nominated for a Grammy, co-wrote "Snap Yo Fingas" by Lil' Jon.

AT: You also worked with E-40?

AK: Yeah, I co-wrote "You and That" for E-40, which took his album gold. Those are a few things that I have done.

AT: How did you decide to become a rapper?

AK: I identified with the music. I couldn't sing. Being able to rap was a way to express yourself without singing. And I identified with the music and the whole struggle of it. It just brought me in. That was kind of my motivation.

AT: Who would you say were some of your influences when you first started?

AK: Pretty much all of the early hip-hop. All the early pioneers. East coast, west coast. The Run-DMC's, The NWA's, a lot of the early artists in those days.

AT: How did you settle on the name Al Kapone?

AK: Well my name is Al. And my grandma used to call me Al Kapone when I was little, before I got into the rap game. When I got it, it kind of felt right. With my name being Al, it just all worked together.

AT: Southern rap was not very big, and has just blown up on the music scene. How has Memphis treated you in that aspect, and supported your music?

AK: Memphis always supported the things that I did, and what I still do. The only thing I feel like is that Memphis, until the movie *Hustle and Flow*, as a city, still never got the notoriety like cities like Atlanta, New Orleans, and Houston. So the city has supported me, but in a lot of ways, the city never got support nationwide until movies like *Hustle and Flow*. Other than artists like Three Six Mafia and 8 Ball and MJG.

AT: You have worked with Three Six, and I heard they are coming up on your new album.

AK: Exactly. I am featured on their new album that's coming out. I was also just featured on 8 Ball and MJG's last album that was on Bad Boy. In turn Three Six in turn did a song with me and Young AJ, my son. So that will be featured on my next album.

AT: When is that going to be coming out?

AK: I am looking around the fall. Because we are still working on developing, because it is a live album. It is an all live band, all live instrument. Except for the rap drums. We are keep-

ing the drums with a rap feel. But we still have live drums in it. It is a bigger production than a normal rap album.

AT: I was looking through your list of writing and production credits, and you talked about that a little bit. Do you like producing and writing more than performing, or do you prefer laying down tracks and getting onstage?

AK: All of it collectively, but my first love is performing. That is actually what got me into doing what I wanted to do. It's just being able to get on that stage and being able to perform. I have always had a real passion for this. The writing and producing kind of came afterwards. The fact that I was able to do it for other people and movies became a plus.

AT: "Whoop That Trick" took you from the streets of Memphis to a global scene. Did they come to you, show you the movie, and ask you to write songs? Or were they biographical songs that happened to tie into the movie?

AK: It was actually both. "Whoop That Trick" was actually a song I already had done. It was going on my album. And the way the whole process came about is it started with them needing a theme song for the movie. That is when I wrote the *Hustle and Flow* theme song. I got with a producer and we co-produced the song together. We had one night to do it because John Singleton was coming into town the next day. And it was my chance to get into the door. I pulled it off in one night. And when he heard it, he liked it so much that he wanted to hear other stuff I had. I just so happened to have my CD. When I played some stuff, and he heard "Whoop That Trick", they went into a frenzy. They were like "We need that one! We need that one!" So that was already my song. It wasn't made it for the movie. We converted it into the movie. I told them how I started to write the song in the first place, and they incorporated part of my story into the storyline of the movie, up to the part where they actually started recording the song. The theme song "It Ain't Over" was written specifically for the movie.

AT: I find it very admirable that when you are touring and doing shows, you have a live band. Most rappers now just have a DJ in the back and they throw on the track. So how did you decide that you wanted a full band behind you?

AK: I figured it would be a great way to introduce the Memphis hip-hop scene on a different level. I feel like crunk, even though it originated in Memphis, Atlanta kind of put their stamp on it. A lot of people tend to associate crunk with that.

AT: Like with Lil' Jon.

AK: Exactly. I felt it was another aspect of Memphis that still hadn't been exposed. A live side of Memphis. And the roots and the history of what has been going on here for so long hasn't been revealed. That was an angle that I could take to the Memphis hip-hop scene, and hopefully introduce it to the country and the world. We are about live instrumentation. And at the same time, I feel like hip-hop needs something else to show that it is bigger or more diverse than what has been for a lot of years.

Interview with Ky-Mani Marley

Adam Teer: For those who don't know you or your music, can you quickly describe yourself musically and how you came to be a musician?

Ky-Mani Marley: Oh man. Musically, I am a very diverse artist. I tend not to stick to one genre of music. I tend to be free and creative with what I do. I feel my talent is one of which allows me to explore different genres like soft rock, or Top 40, reggae, you know, my roots. It is funny to say, but I try to play as little reggae as possible because that is what is expected of me. I was raised in Miami, been living there almost all of my life since I was seven years of age. So a lot of my musical influence is from the States. It is soul music. It is R&B. It is hip-hop. You can definitely hear that in my music. And what made me want to become a musician? I really did not want to become a musician. It kind of just gradually happened. For me, playing music started as something I was playing around with. And in my childhood I never had it in my head that this was something I wanted to do. It was actually the furthest thing from what I wanted to do. And you know, somehow, some way, I came back to it. It came and got me.

AT: Who were some of your musical influences?

KM: Oh whoa! Influences like Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Gun and Roses. I'm all over the place. I am a lover of music, and good music in general. I listen to a lot of rock and roll. It doesn't matter if it is rock or hip-hop or reggae, whatever it is, as long as it is good, and I can feel it. That is what I gravitate to.

AT: Radio was your first album in about 6 years. I know you took some time off to do some acting and whatnot. What made you decide it was time to start making music again?

KM: I never stopped. I did not have an album out, and I was busy in a different arena. But I never stopped recording. I have been recording for years. I have a lot of material still recorded. I still try to keep recording and trying to establish myself as one of those artists that will be everlasting. I look at a lot of artists now, and they last a year or two. My whole thing is to be kind of like Van Halen, who I got the opportunity to go on tour with. And when I think about my career, that's what I want it to be. 50 years old, still selling out fucking arenas. Still rocking. You have to have the music that allows you to do that. You know, there is no fifty year old rapper still rapping.

AT: Do you find carrying on the name of your father is more of a burden or a blessing?

KM: It's a little bit of both. It is a blessing because I am coming from one of the greatest legacies in the world. And I am very proud and honored to be a part of that. But what I do to carry on that legacy, is I have to do it in my own way. A lot of people expect when they hear Marley, they automatically think they are going to hear a bunch of reggae songs. My thing is to be the exact opposite of what you expect and still carry on that legacy, and speak of love and life. Sometimes my music gets a little bit aggressive, but that is life. We are not smiling all day or happy all day. We have moments where we are in war mode. Instead of going to war, I just put it down on paper.

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Robert Flanagan chases the pitching dream

By Rebekah Keller
Staff Writer

Becoming a professional baseball player is every young boy's dream. In the 2008 Major League Baseball draft this coming June, senior Robert Flanagan will try to make that dream come true.

Flanagan, a pitcher from Shreveport, LA, has been playing baseball since he was 4 years old. In high school, he was both a pitcher and a first baseman, winning awards in both positions as an All-State Pitcher and First Baseman in Louisiana, as well as All-District and All-City four years in a row. Since coming to college, he has focused strictly on pitching and the result is quite the impressive laundry list of honors. Here at Rhodes, Robert is currently the All-Time Career Wins leader, All-Time Single Season Wins leader, and the All-Time Single Season Strikeout leader.

"I think I'm pretty close to the Career Strikeout record, too," he says, with a modest shrug.

In addition to the records he holds at Rhodes, he was appointed All-American last season. He has also been named All-Region, All-SCAC, SCAC Pitcher of the Year, and Ten-

nessee Pitcher of the Year for the last two years running.

One would think that a player with such recognition would be happy to brag about himself, but Flanagan seems just the opposite. When asked about his career in college, he immediately responds with remarks about the team's overall performance.

"My freshman year we came in and we were terrible, we went 11-28. But we turned it around and went 28-15 my sophomore year, and then 36-10 my junior year. Right now, we're 26-11. So," Flanagan finishes simply, "my progress in college has been good."

It isn't until after a little more prodding that Robert will offer up his own statistics which, by the way, boast win-loss records of 10-3 and 12-1 from the past two seasons. He currently holds a 3.43 ERA and 4-2 record, with 57.2 innings pitched and 42 struck-out batters. He considers his fastball as his best pitch.

So, what becomes of all this outstanding data? Flanagan hopes to enter the draft this summer in hopes of pursuing "every little kid's fantasy," as he put it. Last year, there was talk that he might get drafted, so he attended the Cardinals

Workout down at Autozone Park, which consisted of all the Cardinals front office people standing with their arms folded, holding radar guns.

"Just like you see on TV," he reflects with a smile. Though the workout went well, in the end it didn't develop into anything. "So, we'll see what happens in June."

Flanagan, an International Studies major who plays the bass guitar in his spare time, says everyone has been extremely supportive in his aspirations. He acknowledges his coaches as being really helpful and encouraging in the draft possibility, but credits his parents as his biggest influence.

His nonchalant and humble demeanor have almost a childlike essence about them as he describes what it would be like to play, "It would be awesome." This isn't surprising, as I challenge you to find any male, Little League age or grown businessman, who doesn't get that same twinkle in his eye when thinking about what it would be like to play professional baseball. Robert Flanagan is no different, who names Randy Johnson as his favorite baseball player and says he doesn't care which team drafts him. "I just want to play."

Fearless predictions for the 2008 NFL Draft

By Ralph MacDonald
Sports Editor

This is one man's guess as to how the NFL draft will shake out. Trades and GM's rogue assessments always make picking the draft almost impossible, but with nothing else going on in pro football, we need something to speculate on and argue about. So without any further ado, the picks:

1. Miami Dolphins: LT Jake Long, Michigan. Pick almost any spot on the football field and the Dolphins need help there. Except of course at running back, where Darren McFadden is the near-consensus top player in the draft. Multiple needs and the Dolphins go with the surest thing.
2. St. Louis Rams: DE Chris Long, Virginia. Again, so many places where they need help, except at running back. Chris Long is another player who seems to have a surefire chance of being a productive player in the league.
3. Atlanta Falcons: DT Glen Dorsey, LSU. The Falcons are finding themselves back-sliding a ton with the loss of Michael Vick and the quick departure of coach Bobby Petrino. Dorsey is a playmaker and the Falcons can settle their QB

situation in round two.

4. Oakland Raiders: RB Darren McFadden, Arkansas. Justin Fargas had a fantastic year last year, but it's hard to imagine owner Al Davis passing on an offensive talent as explosive as McFadden.
5. Kansas City Chiefs: OT Ryan Clady, Boise State. The Chiefs need linemen, cornerbacks, and wide receivers, and Clady is the only player at any of those three positions worth drafting at number five. Brodie Croyle should be excited about the prospect of not being sacked every other play for the first time since high school.
6. New York Jets: Trade to the Baltimore Ravens. QB Matt Ryan, Boston College: The Jets already have Kellen Clemens and Chad Pennington but would still be a threat to take Ryan with this pick. The Ravens desperately need a franchise QB and will pay the price to move up.
7. New England Patriots (From San Francisco): DE Vernon Gholston, Ohio St. The Patriots lost a lot of defense off last years team and will need to reload. The extremely quick Gholston gives Bill Belichick the kind of versatile defender that he loves.
8. New York Jets: RB Rashard Mendenhall, Illinois. Sedrick Ellis is also a possibility, but Men-

denhall gives them a young back who is an excellent complement to Thomas Jones and can help take the pressure off of whoever is throwing the ball.

9. Cincinnati Bengals: DT Sedrick Ellis, USC. The Bengals are ecstatic to have a talent like Ellis fall into their laps at number nine. The defense needs serious help and Ellis will contribute right away.
10. New Orleans Saints: LB Keith Rivers, USC. New Orleans needs serious upgrades at linebacker, Rivers is the obvious pick.
11. Buffalo Bills: WR Devin Thomas, Michigan St. The Bills need a playmaker opposite of Lee Evans to help sophomore QB Trent Edwards.
12. Denver Broncos: OT Chris Williams, Vanderbilt. Mike Shanahan needs more help if he's to keep his title of offensive genius.
13. Carolina Panthers: DE Derrick Harvey, Florida. Julius Peppers was a non-factor last year on one side, aging Mike Rucker might retire on the other, and the Panthers are happy to take Harvey with this pick.
14. Chicago Bears: OT Jeff Otah, Pittsburgh. RB Jonathon Stewart is too much of a reach at fourteen so it looks like incumbent RB Cedric Benson will get another try behind the new O-lineman.
15. Detroit Lions: Leodis McKelvin, Troy. Lions hope to take pressure off of the high-octane offense with a defensive pick. McKelvin is probably the top CB in a decent class.
16. Arizona Cardinals: CB Dominique-Rodgers Cromartie, Tennessee St. The cousin of the Chargers star Antonio Cromartie, this work-out warrior looks to boost a weak Cardinals secondary.
17. Minnesota Vikings: WR Malcolm Kelly, Oklahoma. It is way too early to draft any QB's, so the Vikings are going to have to hope incumbent Tavaris Jackson progresses with his new target.
18. Houston Texans: CB Aqib Talib, Kansas. The Texans need insurance in case starter Dunta Robinson is slow to recover from a knee injury. Worst case scenario: Talib takes over. Best case: Talib and Robinson team up in a very good secondary for years to come.
19. Philadelphia Eagles: G Branden Albert, Virginia: Keeping the backfield healthy is critical to

the Eagles success and Albert will help them do just that.

20. Tampa Bay Buccaneers: RB Jonathon Stewart, Oregon. If the Bucs have figured one thing out it's that they cannot depend on Cadillac Williams.
21. Washington Redskins: WR Limas Sweed, Texas. A little bit of a reach here, but Jason Campbell needs at least one receiver over six feet tall.
22. Dallas Cowboys (from Cleveland): CB Mike Jenkins, South Florida. If the Cowboys get Pac-man Jones, all bets are off but Jenkins should help the thin Cowboys secondary and prevent S Roy Williams from getting exposed as much.
23. Pittsburgh Steelers: OLB Dan Connor, Penn St. Defensive-minded coach gets another weapon and the Pittsburgh get a player who fits right into the hard-nosed Steelers mold.
24. Tennessee Titans: WR Desean Jackson, Cal. Vince Young desperately needs weapons and Jackson can add an explosive element missing in the return game since the suspension of Pac-man Jones.
25. Seattle Seahawks: OT Gosder Cherilus, Boston College. The offensive line has struggled since the departure of Steve Hutchinson and Cherilus gives the Seahawks a successor to the aging Walter Jones.
26. Jacksonville Jaguars: LB Jered Mayo, Tennessee. The Jaguars draft for value to add to their already very solid team.
27. San Diego Chargers: DE Phillip Merling, Clemson. Again, a value pick that will make the Chargers defense downright scary next season.
28. Dallas Cowboys: RB Felix Jones, Arkansas. A perfect complement to Marion Barber and replacement for the departed Julius Jones, Arkansas native Jerry Jones cannot pass on such an opportunity.
29. San Francisco (from Indianapolis): QB Brian Brohm, Louisville. The Alex Smith era might be coming to an end soon and the 49ers need a replacement.
30. Green Bay Packers: TE Dustin Keller, Purdue. Another weapon to help usher in the Aaron Rodgers era.
31. New York Giants: CB Brandon Flowers, Virginia Tech: The Giants defense needs help after multiple defections and the aging secondary is a key priority.

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