



Spring and summer styles debut in new fashion section.

See Page 5

Rhodes-Hill Mural creates community dialogue

By NeNe Bafford
News Editor

Rhodes College Trustee, Chick Hill, chose students involved in the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts (CODA) at Rhodes to be a part of the creative process behind the Mural. Hill, along with a Memphis business executive, decided that they would like the mural painted downtown, directly across from the AutoZone Park and combined with the students of CODA to make it happen.

Students involved with CODA made all of the big decisions that went along with creating the mural. These decisions included: coming up with a budget, learning about wall preparation, putting together a committee to have input into the process, writing the RFP (Request for Proposal), interviewing artists for the mural, and making the final selection. Last October, the student selected Jeff Zimmerman, a Chicago artist, to design the mural.

Zimmerman, his associate Brendon Hudson of Chicago, and other Memphian artists, Anthony Lee, Kierston Williams, Niki Johnson, and Jesus Lopez helped to create the five story mural project over the course of the past weeks.

In a press release on Rhodes College's website, the student managers that were in charge of the mural said, "The design for the mural does not offer easy answers. The meanings aren't clear, and everyone will have different interpretations of what this mural says about our city. But everyone can agree that it brightens the landscape; offers proof to every citizen, no matter how young, that we can make a difference in Memphis; and ignites a sense of hope about what is possible in the future."

In the news, the mural has caused a lot of dialogue for Memphians and some people have even been



found the mural to be offensive. Gregory Grant, president of Memphis's local chapter National Action Network, which is led by Reverend Al Sharpton, found one of the pictures in the mural to be stereotypical. This image is a portrait of 80-year-old Savannah Simmons, a Native Memphian and former factory worker, who happens to have a single gold tooth. The portrait displays Simmons' gold tooth on the mural and the National Action Network found this inappropriate.

In a *Memphis Journal* article, Grant said, "We're telling our young people to take the gold teeth out of your mouth and pull your pants up and be a responsible citizen, and then you paint one on the wall."

Grant's belief was soon erased when he contacted a Rhodes official and was told that the portrait was of a real person in Memphis.

"I thought it was an artist's rendition of what he thought an African-American in Memphis should look like. Instead, this is a real live beautiful African-American woman," Grant said in the *Memphis Journal*.

This controversy did not stop the mural from continuing. In fact this dialogue was one of the main reasons why the mural was created, according to the artists and students involved in CODA. In the end, Grant and the National Action Network chapter became supporters of the Rhodes-Hill mural.

The Rhodes College-Hill Mural held its debut party Sunday April 26, 2009 at AutoZone Park.

photo courtesy of rhodes.edu

The portrait of Savannah Simmons in the Rhodes-Hill mural sparks some controversy among the Nation Action Network due to socially constructed racial identification.

Herenton eyeing run at 9th District

By Ralph MacDonald
Editor-in-Chief

At a time when some might be questioning the wisdom of the Almighty for breathing one life into Willie Herenton, the deft Mayor of Memphis is demonstrating that he might have an extra eight in the bag.

Herenton, is under FBI investigation for allegedly using his influence to garner \$116,000 for city contractor Elvin Moon, who kicked back \$91,000 to Herenton.

Mayor Herenton is now considering a run for the 9th District Congressional seat. "He's always had a desire to go to Congress," said Sidney Chism, a member of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners and close friend of Herenton.

The 9th Congressional District

is currently represented by Democratic Representative Steve Cohen, who responded to Herenton's announcement of an exploratory committee for a potential run for Congress with a statement that claimed "I believe that the overwhelming margin of victory during my last year showed that the people of the 9th District of Tennessee enthusiastically approve of the job I've been doing in Washington, D.C."

Chism noted that he was aware of Cohen's popularity amongst his constituents, but noted Herenton's one potentially overwhelming advantage. "I don't think that there's a discontent with Steve. I think that in the 9th Congressional District—that seat was set aside for an Afri-

Herenton continued on Page 4

Spring 2009 Final Exam Schedule

Exam Day	Exam Time		
	8:30am	1:00pm	5:30am
Sat. 5/2		Reading Day	
Mon. 5/4	3:30pm TTh	11:00am MWF	4:00pm MWF
Tues. 5/5	2:00pm MWF	8:00am TTh	9:30am TTh
Wed. 5/6	11:00am TTh	1:00pm MWF	12noon MWF
Thurs. 5/7		Reading Day	
Fri. 5/8	3:00pm MWF	9:00am MWF	12:30pm TTh
Sat. 5/9	10:00am MWF	2:00pm TTh	8:00am MWF

A response to international crime

By Rami Abdoch
Staff Writer

The recent incidents between Somalians and various cargo ships and other seafaring vessels from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Norway, and other countries, have drawn significant attention from the global community and increased awareness of piracy in general. These incidents, which began receiving media attention in mid-2008, are largely portrayed with little to no context to them; this lack of context effectively creates a dichotomy between the ones committing the action and the one being acted upon. The presumption is that there is a group of savage, barbaric pirates attacking innocent, trading ships that have done no wrong. The problem with the lack of context that, I would argue, has become more prevalent in the media, especially in light of the rise of the internet, is that false conclusions are hinted or suggested at that do not convey the complete truth of the matter at hand.

The country of Somalia has had virtually no government for the past twenty-seven years; such has been the case since Siad Barre's regime attempted to regain power after being ousted by another military power, Ali Mahdi, in 1992. Barre originally took power in the wake of the political vacuum left following the assassination of Somalia's

second president in 1969; Barre retained power for twenty-two years. Barre took control by asserting his power and lost it by being overpowered. Both of the forces involved in this power conflict originated from tribalism. The resulting civil war in the wake of this clash has crippled the internal structure of the country. Moreover, the constant shift in power has weakened the already limited effectiveness of the ruling power. One side-effect of this severe lack of structure has been the disappearance of Somalia's coast guard, which has resulted in its waters being susceptible to foreign intrusion. Though this instability is largely the fault of power-hungry individuals, such as Barre and Mahdi, and the greed driving their actions, this is not the root cause of Somali piracy, which has drawn significant attention since late last year. Instead, the piracy in question is a response to nuclear dumping and illegal fishing conducted by many European nations, which have taken and are still taking advantage of the fact that Somalia has no organized body to prevent these crimes. Despite the claims Somalis have been making since the mid-1990s, no careful investigation was ever conducted because the country and its citizens were not taken seriously by the international community.

Allegations of the dumping of toxic

waste, as well as illegal fishing, have circulated since the early 1990s. But evidence of such practices literally appeared on the beaches of northern Somalia when a tsunami hit the country in 2004. A spokesman for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Nick Nuttall, told VOA that for the past 15 years or so, European companies and others have used Somalia as a dumping ground for a wide array of nuclear and hazardous wastes. "There's uranium radioactive waste, there's leads, there's heavy metals like cadmium and mercury, there's industrial wastes, and there's hospital wastes, chemical wastes, you name it," he said. "It's not rocket science to know why they're doing it is because of the instability there."

Something noteworthy is the fact that Switzerland and Italy signed and ratified the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which originally came into force in 1992. European

"This piracy has arisen in reaction to the crimes of nuclear dumping and illegal fishing that have been going on, unnoticed, for the past 20 years."

Union (EU) member states, as well as 168 other countries, have also signed the agreement. The convention prohibits waste trade between countries that have signed the convention, as well as countries that had not signed the accord unless a bilateral agreement had additionally been negotiated. It also prohibits the shipping of hazardous waste to a war zone. It is clear, then, that what is being done in the waters of Somalia is illegal.

Mind you, this editorial is not intended to justify the Somalian attacks on vessels and their ransom demands; rather, it is intended to elucidate concerns highly relevant to the phenomenon of Somali pirating as a whole. This piracy has arisen in reaction to the crimes of nuclear dumping and illegal fishing that have been going on, unnoticed, for the past 20 years. More than \$300 million worth of tuna, shrimp, and lobster are being stolen every year by illegal trawlers; the local fishermen are now starving. Mohammed Hussein, a fisherman in the town of Marka, which is located 100 kilometers south of Mogadishu, told Reuters: "If nothing is done, there soon won't be much fish left in our coastal waters." It is only in the past three to four years that the clear indicators of the effects of the nuclear waste in the form of a sick coastal population have become apparent.

At first they suffered strange rashes, nausea, and malformed babies. Then, after the 2005 tsunami, hundreds of the dumped and leaking barrels washed up on shore. People began to suffer from radiation sickness, and more than three hundred died.

One must cross-reference to try and get to the bottom of issues before coming to some foregone conclusion. It is not enough to simply accept what is presented at face value and not be slightly skeptical of the writer's intention (depending on the subject matter). A tip to double-check the facts is to have a number of sources at your disposal. Make certain that these are reliable, consistent outlets of information. Cross examining the same story from multiple perspectives will help one derive fact from fallacy. Presumably, most of the people reading this editorial have a negative opinion of the Somali pirates: why? Because Fox, CNN, ABC, and every other media conglomerate under the sun labels them as "barbaric pirates" or "tribalistic criminals." To form conclusions based on insufficient evidence and even (intentional) misinformation is not merely being naïve about the nature of media and information consumption, it is an intellectual blight to the body politic. It is irresponsible to formulate such unsubstantiated positions and then act upon said fallacious positions. Mark Twain

observed famously with respect to news: "If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed." He mentions this not to be cynical about the information presented us; rather, he does so to establish a certain appreciation of healthy skepticism in consuming information. Do not be passive consumers, but be active ones that will critique, question, and re-evaluate.

Once again, I mention all of this not to justify the actions of the Somalians. Rather, this editorial is intended to illustrate the importance of context and cross-referencing in order to distinguish between "bad information" and "good information." One editor sums up the issue nicely in lieu of the concerns I have raised. "Did we expect starving Somalians to stand passively on their beaches, paddling in our toxic waste, and watch us snatch their fish to eat in restaurants in London and Paris and Rome?" asks Johan Hari, editor for *The Independent*, a well-known newspaper printed in the United Kingdom. "We won't act on those crimes – the only sane solution to this problem – but when some of the fishermen responded by disrupting the transit-corridor for 20 percent of the world's oil supply, we swiftly send in the gunboats."

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NeNe Bafford

Opinion Editor

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Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402

Fax: (901) 843-3409

E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com

Address: Rhodes Box 3010

The Sou'wester

2000 North Parkway

Memphis, TN 38112-1690



ASSOCIATED
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Lessons on housing from the economist's table

By Brent Butgereit

A couple of weeks ago, roughly three-fourths of the current student body went through "Housing Registration," which has all of the anxiety of uncertain living conditions combined with the tedium of waiting in long lines. This system is theoretically designed to maintain "fairness" in room acquisition and yet, in practice, proves to be inefficient and largely non-negotiable.

Each student is randomly assigned a number within differently ranked class brackets. Upcoming seniors have priority above all other grades in housing registration because they have, in some sense, "earned it" by going to Rhodes longer (upcoming juniors are ranked below them and so on). The random numbers are meant to take the responsibility of "who gets to pick what room first" out of the administration's hands. Favoritism can be considered less of an influence with merciless chance at the wheel.

But because Housing Registration is a lottery, it is unable to allocate the rooms to the people who would value them the most. Additionally, it may prevent the allocation of rooms to people who have no other housing options. The limited number of rooms and obligation for all first and second year students to live on campus can result in upperclassmen – who, because of their poor lottery numbers, are unable to obtain on-campus housing – having to transfer. Rhodes may be losing excellent students at the roll of a die (albeit a very large one).

At least once a week I have lunch with a table of economists (professors and classmates) to discuss the economics left out of the 101 and 102 models, or the economics of everyday life. The answer to the housing dilemma was simple (but not simplistic): establish a market for housing. One possibility could be that we randomly assign rooms to students and allow them to trade until they settle with a room they like. Students would at least have the opportunity to trade up to a room they value more. And while this could produce a slightly better outcome than the status quo, it faces the same problem of a random "number" generator deciding who is going to stay on campus.

There might be a better way through the use of an auction; we could just bid for rooms. The person with the highest valuation of a room will be the one to get it. Of course, financial means are not equally distributed throughout the Rhodes student body – so bidding with actual dollars will not work (the students with more money have a clear bidding advantage over the students with less money). So what if we started using academic points instead? Simply put: the better you do in your classes (and the higher level the classes are), the more points you get. (For example, an 'A' in a 400-level class would give you 440 points while an 'A' in a 300-level would give you 340 points.) Students who are more successful in more rigorous classes would be rewarded by being able to use the points they earned to bid for better rooms. More-

over, this would still grant some degree of seniority to upperclassmen (who are more likely to take upper-level classes anyways). Rhodes could effectively establish a market for academic points where students could buy and sell each other's points or simply use their own in the housing bidding process. Of course, this does not mean students have to sell their points.

Under the point-bidding system, students who are excelling academically are rewarded for their work, while more-passive students will have an incentive to work harder. It is possible that the well-to-do students just buy a large number of points from the good-grade students and outbid everyone for the best rooms easily. But bear in mind that the good-grade students are able to decide whether they would rather have a monetary bonus or better housing arrangements – and that because they face this set of trade-offs, there will not be the flow of points from the hands of the many to the hands of a few. And regardless of whether or not the points accrue in the hands of the well-to-do, it will not be easy for any bidders to know the valuation others place on a room until the actual auction. Not knowing how many points it takes to win an auction means that attempts to amass large quantities of points could have the same outcome as if moderate amounts of points are amassed. However, it would be prudent to post the previous year's bids for each room so that students can have an approximation of its price.

The most effective way to operate this auction would be via computers (leading to what I see as the biggest hurdle in changing systems – designing the software for bidding). But I don't see this as being too much of a problem. Each student could place a bid for multiple rooms and the highest bidder would get the room. Should one student win multiple rooms, they select the room they want and the other rooms go to the next highest bidder. It should be made clear that this system would not fix the housing shortage; but it would make it less likely that the better students would have to leave because of a poor housing structure.

The current registration system does not work anywhere near as well as it should. And while the system suggested by the economist's table is not perfect, it provides a way to allocate resources more efficiently. When trying to improve policy anywhere, our goal should be to minimize the inefficiencies knowing that we will never be able to completely eliminate them. With the relatively low cost of switching systems, I don't see any reason why we shouldn't try this out; the ability to improve efficiency and experiment with policy design should be welcomed – especially in a small, liberal arts college where the objective is to expand learning beyond one's major. I would be more than happy to talk with anyone who knows how to get this proposal implemented.


Which direction is right?

By Jonathan Cashon


The Republican Party is currently at a cross-road; it controls no branch of government and its leadership is thoroughly disorganized. I am not here to sound a death knell; that is far too short-sighted. The GOP has plenty of money and hard-core support. Moreover, the recent rash of "Tea Parties" has revealed an active populist movement opposed to present government action. Assuming that these events were not coordinated from GOP HQ (as the demonstrators attest), these people represent a pool of supporters as active as any the Obama camp can muster. No, the Republican brand is far from dead; it is simply in the middle of an identity crisis. Observers often note the rickety nature of the Democratic Coalition – urban laborers of all races, immigrants, leftists, etc. For the moment, however, the Democratic Party has rallied enough of its potential voter-base (in addition to disaffected independents) to take control of the highest offices in the land. The continued electoral hammering and public-relations tailspin the Republicans, who presently find themselves requiring an analysis of their *own* rickety platform.

What, exactly, do Republicans stand for? A "Democrat" can be anyone from a socially conservative auto-worker to a leftist environmentalist. Regardless of the differences between its various factions, the Party at least has liberalism as its anchor. Since "Liberal" has come to mean everything and nothing, let me define it as "possessing a sincere belief in the ability of a Government composed of citizens to aid fellow citizens." In other words, the government can be seen as a positive force; to some, this looks like socialism. I disagree, but that's not the point. The point is: what do Republicans stand for? As of right now, the answer appears to be "whatever the Democrats don't stand for." It's hard to argue with GOP's positioning itself as an opposition party; it worked for the Democrats (though it took them awhile to get their act together). Even so, knee-jerk reactions to Democratic initiatives do not constitute a central ethos. So what options do Republicans have? There was a time when the GOP stood for small-government and individualism; perhaps they can renew their dedication to these causes? This would probably please a great deal of the tea-partiers, who hoisted signs railing against government spending and regulations. Unfortunately, this small-government ideal would butt up against another attested quality of the GOP: the party of security. While both parties try to project that they are protectors of Mom, America, and Apple-pie, Republicans continually berate the Democrats for being "weak on terrorism," or "weak on communism," or whatever else, presumably to corner that particular market. The size of the state apparatus necessary to project that kind of power is not to be found in a "limited government" conceptualization of the United States. This is tied with the recent kerfuffle over the Obama administration's release of so-called "torture memos." It can be hard to view the United States as benevolent and good, while at the same time rationalizing the use of torture as an a moral, pragmatic act. One need only view the recent clip of FOX News' Shep Smith outburst of "America doesn't f___ing torture" in response to his counterpart making the point that certain interrogation methods achieved desired results. The 500 pound Gorilla that is the Religious Right wing of the Republican Party deserves its own article, so I won't get too into it here. Nevertheless, it warrants consideration that certain individuals and factions within the Religious Right do ratchet up the threats of dropping out of the GOP and founding their own party from time to time, if only slightly. If such a schism occurs, will the remaining Republicans find a new way, or will they end up on the ash-heap next to the Whigs?

These are some things to ponder going into the summer and next fall, as election season rolls around again. How will GOP candidates present themselves, and how will the people respond?



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Herenton, continued from Page 1

can-American."

The 9th Congressional District has been represented for more than 30 years by African-Americans Harold Fords Sr. and Jr. Co-

hen is aware of the demographic make-up of his district and has put his fights for the African-American community at the forefront of his record, going as far as an unsuccessful attempt to join the Congressional Black Caucus.

Going green: Your closet and the environment

By Megan Hauver

There are so many easy ways to save our planet. You can turn off the lights when you leave the room, use a reusable water bottle, recycle cans and bottles or unplug your chargers when you are not using them.

Recently designers have been going green as well. The same way we can make small changes to our daily routines, designers can, too. However, don't only depend on the designers if you want to become fashionably green. By following three principles, you can learn to highlight your personal style while saving the planet.

REDUCE

First, Less is ALWAYS more: You don't need those extra accessories; keep your outfit simple by focusing on one bold statement piece. And for those extra pieces you don't wear anymore- sell them on sites like eBay! You'll get money and save your old jewelry from sitting in landfills.

REUSE

Don't buy clothes that look vintage but are really brand new, find the real thing! Go through your mom's or even your grandmother's old clothes- chances are you will find some pieces that may need some tweaking, but with the help of a tailor, you can make these outfits your own! If they didn't have the best style, check out these stores that sell previously owned items (some of which are also made with green materials). By buying them, you save more clothes and jewelry from collecting in landfills.

Shop Hubaloo- www.shophubaloo.com

- Sells Jewelry from the 60's, 70's, and 80's! Selling old vintage jewelry saves these classic pieces from sitting in landfills.

World of Good- www.worldofgod.com

- "The world's first online marketplace to convene

thousands of People Positive and Eco Positive sellers and products all in one place."

Green Team- www.ebay.com/greenteam

- "86 million buyers and sellers on eBay have re-used over \$100 billion worth of products since 1998. By giving used items a longer life and keeping them out of landfills, they're making a big difference for the planet."

RECYCLE

Recycle your phone. You'll help your wallet and the environment. Go to greenphone.com to get money back for more information.

Designers are using low-impact materials, such as bamboo fabric, organic dyes, or recycled rubber. Check out these cute and environmentally friendly finds:

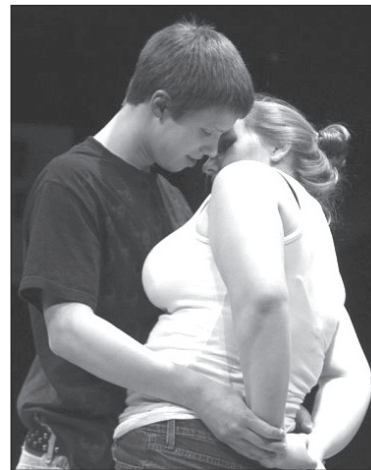
- *Loomstate*: A Clothing Line that only uses ORGANIC materials. AFFORDABLE: They currently have a line exclusively for Target.

- *Threads for Thought*: A Clothing Company that makes T-Shirts out of Organic Materials. The shirts can be found at Nordstrom's or at their website (www.threadsforthought.com)

- *Keds Green Collection*: This new line of shoes is made from 100% Organic Cotton, non-toxic inks and dyes, 20% recycled rubber, 100% recycled PET (water bottles) and recycled insoles! For every pair of shoes purchased from this collection, The Arbor Day Foundation will plant one tree. For more information, or to shop, go to: www.keds.com/text/greenshoes/

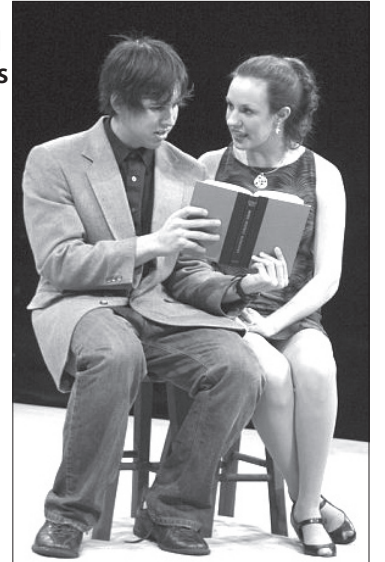
Also, check out organic items offered from some popular lines: Organic Jacket from *H&M*, *Urban Outfitters* organic headbands, headbands by *American Apparel* made from recycled t-shirts, *Delia's* shoes made from recycled rubber, organic Make-up by *Physician's Formula* and lotion by *Jergen's Naturals*.

McCoy '08-'09 season close's with Shakespeare's Shrew



Above: Petrucio and Kate, Steven Johanson ('12) and Alicia Queen ('10), heat up the stage in director Latrelle Bright's modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *Shrew*.

Right: Michael Gabriel ('12) as Lucencio and Jane Kilgore ('09) as Biana brush up on their Latin while performing *The Taming of the Shrew* at the McCoy Theatre.



photos courtesy of NanH

The best of Fashion Week spring and summer 2009

By Chelsea McLeod

In September, 2008, designers gathered in New York, Milan, and Paris—to name a few—to showcase fresh designs that inspired trends for the spring and summer seasons. Highlights from the weeks included crisp fabrics, bright, exotic patterns, plaid, watercolor blouses, sequins, and shredded lace. Despite the genius of this year's spring and summer exhibitions, five distinct designers emerged above the others, representing the best and boldest of the season.



photo courtesy of stylehive.com

Gucci: This season featured a combination of geometric, military, and safari-inspired designs, as well a selection of billowy, watercolor indigo and purple fabric blends. The khaki rompers and cropped jackets added a professional and tailored edge to the daywear portion. Models wore platform sandals and carried bright print emblazoned bags, adding confident and optimistic splashes of color to the runway.



photo courtesy of zimbio.com

Marc Jacobs: The rural and eclectic collection blurred traditional seasonal lines by featuring soft plaids—usually reserved for fall and winter collections—flattened straw hats, and shoulder-padded blazers, adding dash of Great Gatsby chic. Mixed, unconventional prints, rigid collards, soft metallics, strappy platform sandals, and layered, textile fabric also set the collection apart.

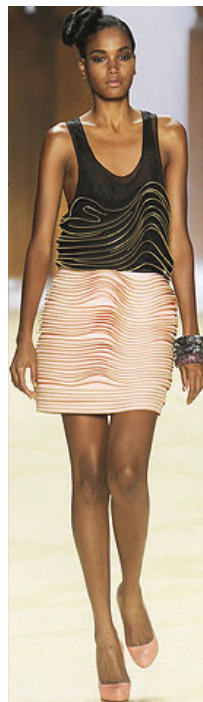


photo courtesy of shopdiary.com

Phillip Lim: The collection embraced a pallet of soft pinks, blues, and beiges. Contesting the milder tones, however, was an occasional jarring glimpse of bold, graphic fabric and zippered embellishments that tumbled down the front of several mini-dresses and tanks. The line also boasted simple but edgy cuts, shimmery metallics, and peep-toe boots and pumps.

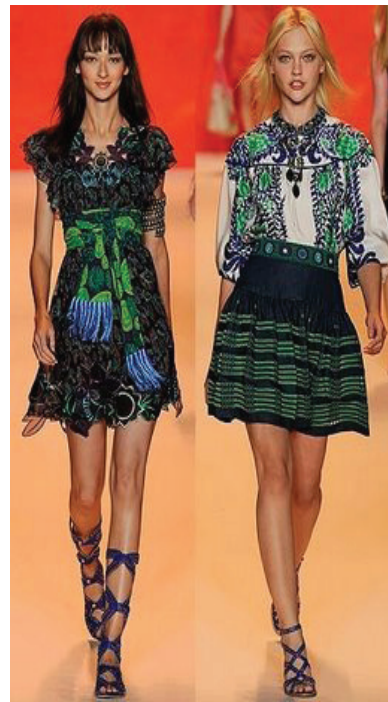


photo courtesy of millionlooks.com

Michael Kors: Kors' spring collection was—as usual—crisp, preppy, and athletic, combining luxurious trademarks of the “Italian Riviera and Porto Fino.” Though he employed luxurious fabrics and bold patterns, particularly thick stripes and polka dots, Kors said he envisioned “clothes you can move in.” He added some degree of edge to the collection by employing a variety of sharp, white visors and floppy hats.

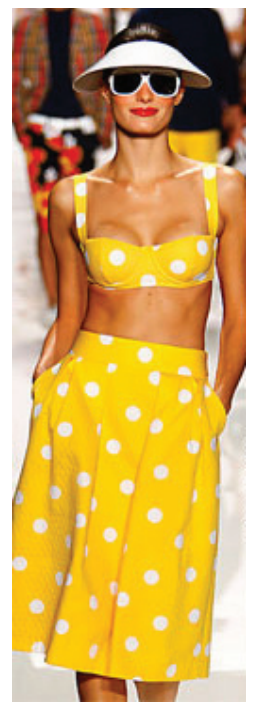


photo courtesy of zimbio.com

Anna Sui: This warm and optimistic collection combined refined dresses and “South-of-the-Border” pieces with fringed hems, beaded embellishments, and peasant blouses. Sophisticated yet casual sequined daywear and refined floral embossment distinguished many of the pieces, including outlandish peacock and hippie-inspired dresses.

Fashion and the economy

By Hannah Peck

With the current economic situation, consumers are more cautious about what they buy. Likewise, clothing retailers have to cut deals to keep people shopping. With sales sinking almost 8% for Nordstrom and just under 6% for Saks, department stores are making adjustments. Due to a priority shift of Americans away from luxury clothes, Saks has reported that they will cut 9% of jobs, totaling 1,100.

Even Fashion Week is changing, as many designers are finding it hard to pay the costs of having their clothes shown at Bryant Park. However, big department stores and big name designers are not the only people hurting. Small boutique stores are struggling to keep the new seasons in their stores because the prior season's clothes are not selling. Retailers now look toward internet deals for online shoppers and coupons to bring back the customers. Websites like Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdales are leading the trend of the promotional code. Now, people can simply type in a promotional code and get an offer such as “free shipping with \$150 purchase.”

Because of the recent popularity of promotional codes, websites like www.

promotionalcodes.com are dedicated to bringing consumers all of the deals they can get. The website is a compiled list of all known promotional codes for certain stores, guaranteeing that the consumer does not miss out on any money saving. As the times change, retailers as well as shoppers are adapting.

Neiman Marcus has popularized the idea of the “Secret Online Sale,” which is marketed only to their best clients as a reward for loyalty to the company. These select customers receive an email saying that the next day at 11:30 a.m. there would be a private two-hour sale. All items in the private sale would be available until 1:30 p.m. or until they sold out. The store featured everything from Dior purses to Marc Jacobs sunglasses at up to 70% off. Most items sold out in the first 60 minutes of the sale.

Not to be outdone, Saks later sent out a “family and friends” promotion offering 25% off most items from their website. This deal, unlike those before it, had very few restrictions. Even smaller boutique operations like Tory Burch are cutting deals, recently having a 25% off sale on almost all of their online items. This leads to problems with these web-

sites, as they are unable to deal with the high traffic rate. These new sales have designers on edge as their designs are being sold at a highly reduced rate and being put on sale very quickly. Not only does this not give the clothes enough time to sell for full price and encourages people to wait until items go on sale, but it also upsets boutique owners and clients who are upset about department store prices being cut while their stores remain at the same price. Boutiques, unlike large department stores, have less ability to put their merchandise on sale and still turn out a good profit.

While department store sales account for 80% of their sold merchandise, boutiques rely on loyal customers who return despite the circumstances. These customers get upset when they see the same item that they just bought in a small boutique on sale at a larger department store. Websites like www.shopstyle.com have emerged, notifying people when certain designers' clothes go on sale to ensure that the best price. As consumers continue to lose money, expectations of sales and discounts will continue to increase, as well as irritation among designers and clients alike.

Beach Patrol

By Kyla Graham

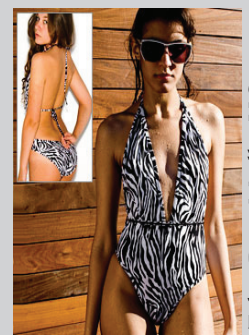
Don't get caught in a bland bathing suit this summer. Check out the hottest bathing suits of 2009:

Classic



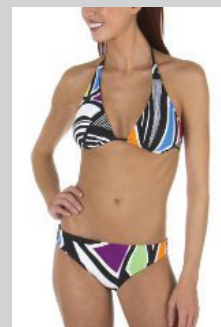
Silence & Noise Bow Bandeau \$48 Urban Outfitters

Wild



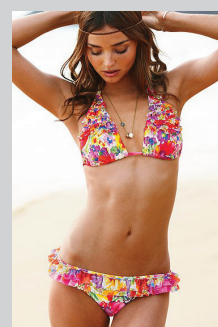
Zebra Print Maillot-V Swimsuit \$54 American Apparel

Geo-Beauty



Xhilaration Colorbloc Swimsuit \$14 Target

Pretty in Pink



\$55 Victoria's Secret

Summer movie preview includes long-anticipated films

By Janie Logan
Staff Writer



photo courtesy of google.com

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (May 1)- Hugh Jackman reprises his role from the X-Men trilogy as the adamantium-clawed, self-healing mutant Wolverine. The movie covers about 80 years of his life, within which time he participated in the "Weapon X" project. The conflicted relationship between Logan and his half-brother, Victor Creed (a.k.a. Sabertooth), will be explored, and a new team of mutants will be featured. A younger version of Scott Summers (a.k.a. Cyclops) will also be seen. In addition to a lot of awesome fight scenes, we will get to see some of the psychological motivations behind Wolverine's ferocious nature.

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (May 1)- Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner star in this *Christmas Carol*-esque romantic comedy about a womanizing guy who realizes with the help of a few supernatural visitors that his first love is the woman meant for him. This is one of those movies that you go into knowing how it will end, but you'll probably enjoy it a lot anyways, especially with a supporting cast that includes Michael Douglas and hilarious rising star Emma Stone. Plus, Jennifer Garner is classy no matter what she's doing, so it's worth seeing just for her.

Star Trek (May 8)- When J.J. Abrams decided to reboot this legendary franchise, the geek community knew

they were in good hands (see: *Alias*, *LOST*, *Cloverfield*). Written by a team of both avid Trekkies and people unfamiliar with *Star Trek*, this film is guaranteed to be a good story with some of J.J.'s trademark shocking twists. The stars of the film are Captain Kirk (Chris Pine), Spock (Zachary Quinto), and Scotty (Simon Pegg).

Terminator Salvation (May 22)- Skynet has tried to wipeout mankind with a nuclear holocaust, and John Connor (Christian Bale) is leading the group of survivors trying to keep the machines from killing them off.

Up (May 29)- In the first Pixar film made in Disney's digital 3D format, grumpy Carl Fredrickson sets out to finally fulfill his dream of seeing South America by attaching thousands of balloons to his house and floating away. He is surprised to find a young stowaway Boy Scout, and unable to get rid of him, they embark on the journey together.

Away We Go (June 5)- *Away We Go* is about a pregnant couple (John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph), traveling across the country trying to find a place where they fit in and start their family. They meet up with lots of family members and old friends who each contribute to their understanding of what they want for a home. The ensemble contains some serious talent—Jeff Daniels, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Catherine O'Hara, Allison Janney, and Jim Gaffigan.

Year One (June 19)- This film shows the epic adventures of hunter-gatherers Zed and Oh. The first indicator that it will be hilarious: written and directed by Harold Ramis (*Ghostbusters*, *Caddyshack*, *Groundhog Day*). Second: Zed and Oh are played by Jack Black and Michael Cera. Third: They encounter several biblical figures in their travels, played by such actors as David Cross, Oliver Platt, Hank Azaria, and Paul Rudd.

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (June 24)- Megatron, Starscream, and a group of Decepticons return to Earth to take Sam (Shia LaBeouf) prisoner. Optimus Prime and the Autobots team up with Captain Lennox (Josh Duhamel) and international army forces to protect the world again.

Public Enemies (July 1)- Johnny Depp stars as notorious bank robber John Dillinger and Christian Bale as Melvin Purvis, the federal agent who tries to capture him.

With all the criminal activity taking place during the 1930's because of the Depression, J. Edgar Hoover (Billy Crudup) launches a massive effort to take down the big gangsters, in the process creating the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Bruno (July 10)- The follow-up to *Borat*, Sacha Baron



photo courtesy of google.com

Cohen returns as his alter-ego, Bruno, the gay Austrian fashion expert. Once again, he travels across America, offending people wherever he goes.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (July 15)- The sixth installment in the Harry Potter film series will feature romantic entanglements for Harry, Ron, and Hermione. More importantly, Harry will be working closely with Dumbledore to learn all he can about Voldemort's past and how to ultimately defeat him. Jim Broadbent makes an appearance as Professor Slughorn.

The Ugly Truth (July 24)- This film stars Katherine



photo courtesy of google.com

Heigl as a television producer looking for love and Gerard Butler as her chauvinistic colleague. He wants to prove to her how much he really knows about relationships by helping her catch the guy she's interested in (Eric Winter). Of course, along the way, these polar opposites fall for each other.

Funny People (July 31)- Judd Apatow's latest film will star Adam Sandler as a famous actor/comedian named George Simmons who is secretly dying of an illness. He hires less-successful-comedian Ira (Seth Rogen) to write material for him and be his assistant, and the two form a close friendship. When the doctor tells him his medicine has cured him, George starts seeing life in a whole new way and reconnects with his old girlfriend Laura (Leslie Mann) who is now married to a handsome Australian (Eric Bana). Jonah Hill and Jason Schwartzman play Ira's friends, and Sarah Silverman, Andy Dick, and Norm MacDonald make appearances as themselves.

Memphis summer offerings for a night on the town

Theatre

- Rock musical *Rent* makes its regional premiere at Playhouse on the Square, running June 26-July 26.
- Musical comedy who-dunnit *Curtains* runs June 12-28 at Theatre Memphis.
- Broadway musical spoof *Forbidden Broadway* sends up theatre's best known actors, songwriters, and shows at Theatre Memphis from July 10-26.
- The national tour of Broadway blockbuster *Wicked* enjoys a run from June 24-July 12 at the Orpheum.

Music

- **India Arie (May 24)** and **Eddie Vedder (June 20)** will perform at the Orpheum.
- **Keith Urban (aka Mr. Nicole Kidman)** and **Sugarland's "Escape Together World Tour"** hits the FedEx Forum June 12.
- Live at the (Botanic) Garden artists include **Train (June 5)**, the **Doobie Brothers (June 18)**, and **Joe Cocker (July 18)**.

Odds and Ends

- While their lineup has not yet been announced, the **Classic Movie series at the Orpheum** is always a treat. Former interactive Rocky Horror Picture Show screenings have been a huge treat so cross your fingers that that film will be included in the schedule!
- The **Zoo Brew fundraiser (May 22)** at the Memphis Zoo features almost 30 different kinds of beer.
- **July 31-August 1**, be sure to make to the **Memphis Pops Fest**, featuring music that "celebrates the past, present, and future of the Memphis recording industry."
- The **May 30, June 15, July 4, and July 11 Redbirds games** will feature fireworks.

May sweeps mean exciting things for television

By Janie Logan
Staff Writer

Finals may be next week, but your favorite television shows are also preparing for their own version of finals. It's definitely worth it to take a few study breaks and tune in.

Gossip Girl, whose finale airs **May 18**, has been laying the groundwork for an appearance by Rufus and Lily's love child. The half-brother of Serena, Dan, and Jenny is thought to be dead because his adopted parents don't want to lose him and have tried to keep him a secret. Lily has played a prominent part this season because a spinoff is in the works that will tell the story of her teenage years, with young

Lily being played by Brittany Snow. Nate and Blair are back together (much to the chagrin of fans who know that Blair *should* be with Chuck because their chemistry is insane and they are only ever truly themselves when they are together). Chuck appears to have turned his seduction efforts to Vanessa. Serena might have reverted to her wild ways after Jenny's 16th birthday party got out of hand and she fled to Spain with a friend. And, of

course, decisions about college are putting a lot of pressure on the Upper East Siders.

LOST's finale, airing **May 13**, will set up the show's final season. At the moment, Jack, Kate, Sawyer, Jin, Hurley, Juliet, Miles, and Faraday are living in 1977 when the Dharma Initiative is still actively performing experiments on the island. The hatch they found in Season 1 shortly after the crash, which they later came to discover was the Swan Station, is only now being built. Everyone knows that "The Purge" cannot be too far off when a younger version of Ben helps the Hostiles of the island kill all the Dharma people. Meanwhile, Sun, Ben, Frank Lapidus, and Locke are on the island in 2007, along with the rest of the people who crashed on the Ajira Airways flight that brought the Oceanic Six back to the island. A group of those survivors have taken over the Hydra Station island and keep asking the question: "What lies in the shadow of the Statue?" Sun, Ben, and Locke are on the main island, with occasional appearances from the enigmatic Christian Shephard. Locke has been resurrected by the island and possesses a newfound knowledge that Sun hopes will reunite her with Jin. And Ben does not really know what's going on.

The Office finale, entitled "Company Picnic," airs **May 14**. After breaking off from Dunder Mifflin and forming the Michael Scott



photo courtesy of google.com



photo courtesy of google.com

Paper Company, Michael is back as the Regional Manager of the Scranton branch. Pam is a new salesman, and Ryan has also returned (from Fort Lauderdale, not Thailand). Dwight will probably be lamenting the loss of Charles, as will Angela and Kelly. Otherwise, I think the atmosphere in the office will be a happy one. Jim was treated like the redheaded stepchild for a while, but now his fiancée is back, along with a boss who, though slightly annoying, thinks he is the coolest, smartest guy ever. I bet even

Stanley missed Michael, who never tried to make him stop doing crossword puzzles or appointed him "Productivity Czar." So it will certainly be interesting to see how things adjust with everyone back together again, including Amy Ryan! Her character, Holly, has been greatly missed by Michael and viewers alike and will be making an appearance in the finale.

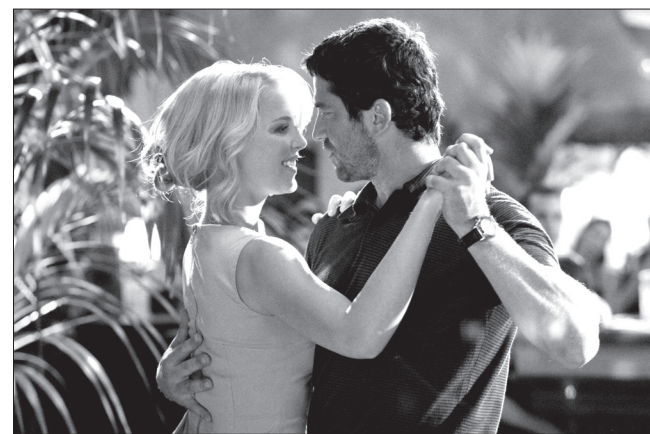


photo courtesy of google.com

Grey's Anatomy will also air its finale on **May 14**. Earlier in the season, Izzie was having hallucinations of Denny because she had cancer that had spread to her brain, skin, and other organs. She has a 5% chance of survival, with hardcore chemo and about 15 surgeries in store for her. Rumors have abounded regarding whether Katherine Heigl will be leaving the show. T.R. Knight, who plays George, has been mostly invisible this season and also has a high probability of getting written off. The gradual development of Cristina's relationship with Owen has been fascinating. They had a strong connection, but he was suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after serving in Iraq and losing his entire platoon. He had a nightmare and almost strangled Cristina to death and is now seeking treatment from Meredith's former therapist. Sloan and Lexie have become two of the best characters on the show, aided by the fact that their relationship is adorable. And, at last, Meredith has matured and gotten past her commitment issues so that she is ready to marry McDreamy. The wedding in the finale may not turn out as expected, but no doubt it will be an emotional end to the season.

How I Met Your Mother, with its finale airing on **May 18**, has been establishing the storyline of Barney being in love with Robin all season, so that will most likely be the main focus of the last episode. Ted has barely made any progress in his quest for "The Mother." Important things have happened for Ted though after he got fired and decided to start his own architecture firm. So in addition to whatever happens with Barney and Robin, I bet they will surprise us in the finale with a big reveal about the mother before they go on hiatus so that something will be established for Ted in Season 5.

Injustice to Rourke

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

In a sane, harmonious universe Mickey Rourke would have won the Oscar for Best Actor for *The Wrestler*. But we do not live in said universe. We instead live in a world soaked in psychosis, where the only harmony is the harmony of collective and irrational murder. It is up to people like me—courageous, bias-refusing, rootless truth-nomads, to set the world aright. Now, reader, hear my prophetic ink-screams and inspiring typographical-shouts against injustice. I will begin with the most pressing and most definitely not-irrelevant issue on the table: why Mickey Rourke was not given a tiny gold statue-man. Don't tell me I'm being hyperbolic. I don't like that word and I am not entirely sure I know what it means.

Now, I know the other performances were good, great, and spectacular, but they were not *transcendently ordinary*. They were not dazzling menial. They could not stun with humdrum. They could not convince us of their pretense of unpretentiousness. They could not assure us that they embodied, completely, consummately, and unknowably, the elegant grace of inelegant authenticity. In concise, un-beaten-around-the-bush terms: they could not persuade us that they were *real* people inhabiting *real* spaces. Their performances were too sweeping, too grandiose, *too polished*. The characters they portray are brilliant, lustrous husks: unvexed, weightless cut-outs who evaporate after the credits roll. Playing a hero is easy: be sexy, say cool quips, progress along a simple character arc, and arrive at a trite epiphany. Playing a zero, on the other hand, takes some definite finesse: walking the tightrope of hero and villain, embracing ambiguity, and refusing to resolve that ambiguity in five acts. To play a zero well you must animate and dignify the *everyday*. Now I know what you are thinking, and hey, you are even right: other performances did that and I really don't know what I'm talking about. But, dang it, don't mess with my editorial flow here! I'm gushing ink-streams of passion. I am trying to prove a point: that *The Wrestler* is a fine movie and Mickey Rourke does some tremendous *living* in this movie. What else can you call it? He unequivocally became another person.

The Wrestler is the story of Randy "The Ram" Robinson, a battered, bruised hunk of circus-meat. He used to be big, huge news on the wrestling circuit, but that was 20 years ago. Now he's a has-been of a has-been. He ghosts second-tier venues and hammers his broken-down body into spandex-laced disrepair. The other wrestlers respect him. He is a veteran. But he is also a shadow who refuses to realize just how much he does not really exist. There is no life for him outside of the ring. He lives in a trailer. He sells meat at a grocery store. Oh, and his daughter hates him. And his only friend is a stripper. Randy only lives for the ring, chasing after the traces of glories long gone, ramming steroids and drugs into a crumbling body. I have yet to see a more profoundly isolated character stamped to celluloid. But every word, every breath, every pulse is absolutely and pathetically believable because Randy is a pitiful dreamer in the way that we are all pitiful dreamers.

The cinematic technique mirrors and emphasizes the masterful performance. The camera moves in shakes and quivers. The entire film is shot with hand-held camera, tightly framing Randy with a guerrilla-style documentary technique. The camera is objective: it reports Randy. It does not excuse, belittle, or exaggerate what he does. The cinematic verite privileges the realism of Rourke's performance. It is indispensable to the film.

There is so much to Rourke's performance and so much to this movie. Although the plot at first seems to follow the simple contours of an underdog/redemptive tale, it ultimately frustrates such simplicity. Instead, *The Wrestler* is a movie of unsettled tensions, of ambiguity. There is no happy ending. There is not even a clear ending. Perhaps that is why I like the film so much, why I like Rourke's performance. He plays a character who unravels in a plot that is not neatly bound. And that is what life is to me most of the time.

Do people make too big a deal over the NFL draft?

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

Unless you don't watch ESPN, care about sports, or follow any sort of football, you are well aware that this weekend brought the NFL's 73rd drafting class. While much has certainly changed since 1936, the importance of the draft still remains the same. From winless teams to Super Bowl champions, every coach, player, general manager, and fan has their eyes on the podium, as the picks are made.

But is all the hoopla and jargon surrounding the draft really necessary?

No one is going to argue that the draft can't instantly help a team. Last year, two first-year quarterbacks (Matt Ryan and Joe Flacco) helped lead their teams to the playoffs and in the past, the first round has produced such gems as Peyton and Eli Manning and Randy Moss. However, for every Manning brother drafted, there is a Ryan Leaf and Tim Couch.

According to draft analysis for the 1998 draft, Leaf was to the Chargers, "the guy they want to build their team around." Equally, the New England Patriots received a B- grade for their 2000 draft class. This was the same class that produced multi-Super-Bowl champion Tom Brady. The lesson learned here is to not look too far into the grading system provided at the end of each draft.

It is hard to judge the true worth of a draft class until a few years have passed. In 2006, Mario Williams was expected to be the next first round bust when he was drafted by the Houston Texans. No one could imagine why they passed on Reggie Bush and Vince Young. Two years later, Williams recorded double digit sacks and was named AP Defensive Lineman of the Year. Bush has recorded a career long run of just 22 yards and Young had 9 touchdowns to 17 interceptions and only running for 395 yards.

You have to love that D rated drafting class from the Texans.

This year, according to Yahoo Sports, 6 teams earned grades of A or A- and only two received less than a C-. However, what if Oakland (who received an F) with Darrius Heyward Bey and Michael Mitchell turn into studs and the Jets (who received an A-) have another USC offensive flop with Mark Sanchez? At that point, who cares what about the 2009 ratings because it won't matter.

In reality, the real value of draft classes is found in the lower rounds. If your second and third round picks can turn into starters in the near future—you have had a successful draft. However, when your mid round picks are a bust, you turn into the 2008 Detroit Lions.

At the end of the day, the NFL draft becomes all speculation. If nothing else, it can give fans hope for better days, or provide needed reinforcements for a playoff push. But even so, understand that the draft commentators and ESPN columnists can see into the future about as well as Miss Cleo. Thus, everything that is graded and said, is done so based on college performance

And given past history, success in college does not always transfer to the NFL.



Matthew Stafford was drafted by the Detroit Lions in Spring 2009.

photo courtesy of google.com

NBA playoff thoughts

By Ralph MacDonald
Editor-in-Chief

1. The city of New Orleans should kiss Clay Bennett's feet, if for no other reason that his butt is still being occupied by fans of the team formerly known as the Supersonics. Down three games to one, following a record-setting blowout to the Denver Nuggets on Monday, the New Orleans Hornets appear doomed to an early exit and uneasy future. The already insufficient line up will almost certainly lose starting center Tyson Chandler and his nearly 12 million dollar salary to avoid the luxury tax, leaving Chris Paul and David West to try to drag a C-list supporting cast to the Western Conference playoffs alone.

2. If anyone is going to beat the Lakers before the finals, it will be the Nuggets, who have benefited from Chauncey Billups' leadership and have two electric scorers in Carmelo Anthony and J.R. Smith. In the same vein, you have to wonder when Vegas is going to stop taking bets on the Eastern Conference championship. If one were to bet on the Cavaliers today to make the finals, you would be given 1 to 10 odds. According to Vegas, Boston and Orlando are both 25 to 1 shots to win the championship, by far the closest of any two teams not the Lakers or Cavaliers. That pretty much says all you need to know about these NBA playoffs. Enjoy the different match ups now, because everybody and their momma know how this one is going to turn out.

3. For me, the most intriguing match up has not been the one with the most suspense. The Bulls-Celtics series has been great, but without Garnett its not really the Celtics and so the games feel more like an intense exhibition before the winner gets knocked out in the second round (again, we all know how this tournament ends). I have been far more interested in the Blazers-Rockets series. The Blazers have great young talent in Brandon Roy, Rudy Fernandez, LaMarcus Aldridge, and Greg Oden and the Rockets seem to get by without a whole lot of elite talent (Yao Ming, Ron Artest, Luis Scola, this is not the most fearful line up). The Rockets are dominating now, but it will be very interesting to see how Portland develops its young talent and if they use the money saved off of Laef Lafrenz's expiring contract to haul in a veteran who can put them over the top (maybe even the aforementioned Ron Artest).

4. Nevermind the fact that Dwayne Wade's motto "fall down seven times, stand up eight" is literally impossible, the man's going to have a hard enough time pulling his gimpy self up for the seventh. A bad back is hampering Wade severely, which bodes poorly for the Heat (Quick: who is Wade's co-captain? Answer below) who already do not have home court advantage and were pretty much playing five on one basketball before Wade went down.

Answer: Udonis Haslem. Udonis freakin' Haslem. Win a playoff series with Udonis Haslem as your best healthy player and I will match the salaries of every single player on that team, I do not care how many brothers and nieces I have to sell to Chinamen.

How bad are the Nats?

By Gordon Chawick
Staff Writer

When *The Washington Post* told Ralph Nader that they weren't covering his most recent presidential campaign because he had no chance of winning, he responded, "Then why are you covering the Nationals?"

As of April 27, the Nationals are 4-14(.222). Their winning percentage, if maintained, would put them ahead of only the 1899 Cleveland Spiders who had a .130 winning percentage(20-134). I don't mean to pick on the Nationals, but their horrendous start has gotten a few people wondering if this team could lose 120 games or more.

First off, the hitting isn't horrendous. In fact, the Nationals team batting average of .269 is right in the middle of the pack. Young players like Ryan Zimmerman, Jesus Flores and Elijah Dukes have been hitting well, while veterans Nick Johnson and Adam Dunn have also produced.

The Nationals real problem is their collection of young pitchers. The starters are unimpressive except for top prospect Jordan Zimmerman who has looked very good in his first two starts. Other than that, the Nationals have issues with Scott Olsen, Daniel Cabrera and the rest of the pitching staff.

So far, the bullpen is where the Nationals are really lacking. Out of the 14 losses so far, the Nationals' relievers have lost 7. The bullpen has no one interesting or intriguing. Some of these guys are just the failed starters of the last few seasons like Jason Bergmann and Joel Hanrahan. The one reliever who was expected to be solid, Saul Rivera, has already been sent down to the minors for losing 3 games. The bullpen has dragged an already bad team even lower and who knows how far they will drop.

The Nationals will at least come close to losing 120 games. Their team WHIP and ERA are at the bottom of the league—even with the benefit of a playing in a pitchers park. The hitters aren't going to do much better than they are right now, and the bullpen can't be much worse either. Maybe the Nationals can ship Adam Dunn to a playoff contender for a good, young pitcher and maybe Lannan and Martis will develop. However, for the immediate future, it's going to be ugly. When Julian Tavarez signed with the Nationals this off season, he said it was like a drunken person lowering one's standards at closing time at a bar.

If he wakes up next to a 120 loss season, Tavarez might wish he had gone it alone at the end of free-agent season.

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