

THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCV. NO. 19

April 22, 2009

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College



GNOMES
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See Page 5

CASA fights against child abuse

By Anna Meyerrose
Opinion Editor

Child abuse can range from sexual abuse to emotional abuse and can also include domestic violence, neglect, and even abandonment. All of the issues come into particularly sharp perspective during April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Across the country, and even around the world, various organizations have been founded that deal with any or all of these issues, in some form or another. One such organization is a group called Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This non-profit organization, originally founded in Seattle, was formed with the intent of using trained community volunteers as spokespersons in court for neglected or abused children. A judge suggested this, voicing his concern that such cases were being decided without sufficient knowledge of the individual children. Essentially, the volunteers' jobs are to know the specific circumstance of the particular child they represent, thereby helping to assure that the decision reached about the child's future is the best one possible. Furthermore, the aid of these nonbiased advocates in court helps to find permanent and stable homes for the abuse victims.

"CASA's mission to provide trained volunteers to advocate these children in court and our overall goal is to see that children move through the foster care system in a more timely manner," said Keisha



Anna Meyerrose/The Sou'wester

Tridelt representatives for PAN, Jessie Pearson ('11) and Katja Zurcher ('11), sell tickets at the Chocolate Festival held in the Lair to raise awareness for neglected and abused children.

CASA, continued on Page 5

Reflections: Legacy of Leadership

By NeNe Bafford
News Editor

This past weekend, members and alumni of the Black Student Association celebrated 40 years of BSA. On Saturday, members and alumni celebrated the 40th anniversary of BSA with a picnic and a banquet to not only honor the organization's existence on campus, but to also recognize the past and present leaders of the organization. Marcus Kimbrough, Rhodes Alum and President of Rhodes Alumni Association, reflected on this leadership in his March 2009 blog "Celebrating 40 Years of BSA-Marcus Kimbrough '90 reflects on a Legacy of Leadership."

"Our previous 40 years have all been about preparation and experience. At Rhodes, this preparation began from the 'black house' to the basement of Palmer Hall to Tuthill to the spacious Orgill Room. Indeed, we have come a long way in 40 years. The members have experienced great moments within this institution and outside of this institution which means we are represented in several capacities: The Board of Trustees and Board

of Directors, President of Alumni Association, Faculty, Staff, Giving Society, Sororities, Fraternities, Attorneys, Doctors, Business Executives, Mayors. The list goes on," said Kimbrough.

Alumni members who attended the celebration include, the first BSA President, Julian Bolton, and former CEO of Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, Herman Morris.



photo courtesy of Pamela Palmer

BSA Secretary Marrison Scales ('11), Vice President Pamela Palmer ('10), President Simone Simmons ('10), and member Shadana Bracy ('10) celebrate with BSA's founding president Julian Bolton, Class of 1971.



Noelle Smith/The Sou'wester

Rhodes students as well as Midtown residents use the greensward in Overton Park as a recreational hang out for flying kites, riding bikes, and walking dogs.

Overton Park to be a drainage system

By Matthew Childs
Staff Writer

The City of Memphis Engineering is making plans to implement a drainage system into the 342 acres of Overton Park. The drainage system consists of a retention basin in the greensward that will help the flooding issues from Lick Creek. The basin will aid the flooding problem that affects many of the nearby homes in the Bellaire section of Midtown.

The park was built and opened in 1901, and it is a popular place to relax for many in the surrounding neighborhood. The \$4 million project has park lovers concerned and displeased. Despite the cries of the community, Memphis City officials insist that the project will be non-intrusive and will blend in with the surroundings. The basin will be approximately 20 feet deep in which it will be able to contain 57 acre-feet of floodwater and looks to engulf nearly 4 acres of the park.

Overton Park, continued on Page 4

Rhodes students catalogue new slang

By Ralph MacDonald
Editor-in-Chief

"Jabronie" is out, "altbro" is in, at least according to a new research performed by Elisha Bates, Halley Johnson, Allison Jones, and Mark Donnelly. For those not familiar with either term, an altbro (and, conversely, an altho) is "someone who tries way too hard to embody the alternative/hipster image by looking like an American Apparel add."

Rhodes students will undoubtedly find a lot of words that they expected in the dictionary, as well as the occasional obscure reference. "There are definitely a lot of words that were expected. The 'bubble', prostud, FML, Glassell Castle -- a lot of words that are generally indicative of Rhodes and college life in general," said Elisha Bates, Class of 2011.

The process for compiling the slang began with observations by the researchers, but also depended heavily on an online, campus-wide survey. "We tried to keep it all as organic as possible, so we didn't do a lot of editing," said Bates. However, exceptions had to be made, especially when particularly

Slang, continued on Page 4

North Korea: Diplomacy at its worst

By John Ayers
Staff Writer

With the launch of its test missile, North Korea has once again shown the world its contempt for international institutions, laws, and demands. North Korea, and Iran for that matter, has gotten away with these provocative and destabilizing actions for years. What does the world have to show for its six party talks and diplomatic efforts with the two nations? Absolutely nothing. North Korea has acquired its own nuclear weapon and Iran is not far behind; but, let us focus on the issue of North Korea. The United States' and other countries' sanctions, coupled with UN sanctions and diplomatic efforts have only caused the development of nuclear weapons and effective deployment capabilities, not stopped them. Furthermore, China continues to interfere and block any harsher sanctions by the UN Security Council. Last week's slap on the of diplomacy and the UN.

North Korea has no need for nucle-defense force. China supports them almost only need for a nuclear device is to threaten as Japan and South Korea. The criticism of Iraq instead of North Korea, if anything," East Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Korea, ignore North Korea's threats of retaliation sanctions. Such sanctions should not include should encompass other areas as well. Fuel, raw materials, consumer goods, and even food should be completely cut off and nothing imported. If this causes China to fill the gap completely, then so be it. This will force China to expend even more money and diplomatic influence on supporting a neighbor that has ignored even its own demands. Furthermore, there does not seem to be any near future relationship between the Communist, closed-off society and the West at this time; therefore, there is no way to hurt non-existent relations. Frankly put, it's time for a dose of realistic politics. When diplomacy fails you for sixteen years, perhaps it is time for some harsher, yet non-violent, measures. The UN, whatever good it may do, is not sufficient for the job because of competing interests in the future of North Korea, and it is time for the nations most threatened to ignore the ineffectual body and make North Korea feel the consequences of its continued actions leading to destabilization.

“ . . . it's time for a
dose of realistic
politics ”

ar weapons. They have a large army and completely, and certainly in defense. The and blackmail neighboring nations, such the Bush administration should be “why The United States, the Association of South Japan, and other western nations should and China's opposition and impose harsh just oil and other important resources, but

Fair Trade fails in the coffee market

By Will Smith
Staff Writer

Recently, there was an event held to promote Fair Trade Coffee (as I am writing this before the event happens, I am unable to describe it, but it's on the calendar as part of the Earth-Day month-long celebration). The timing is unfortunate, because the message of this op-ed is: Fair Trade does not work. Do not support Fair Trade coffee.

The Fair Trade movement attempts to help farmers in developing countries secure a “fair” price for their products. The argument for the existence of fair trade is that many farmers do not get a “fair” price due to market conditions and the greed of multinational corporations. Fair Trade Coffee works by pressuring coffee roasters and retailers to grow only under certain conditions and at an above-market price. Fair trade-friendly products are labeled with the organizations' black, green, and teal logo.

It is doubtless that many coffee farmers are currently going through hard times, and the source of their hardship is rather apparent. A Trade Briefing Paper (*Grounds for Complaint?*) written by Brink Lindsey for the Cato Institute reports that the current hardships faced by coffee farmers are the result of economic progress: the price of coffee has plummeted as new technologies have made coffee cultivation easier and more efficient. One of the major causes of their hardships, however, is exactly what Fair trade proponents claim there should be more of—government intervention. Alex Singleton, in a 2008 article for the UK paper *The Daily Telegraph*, refers to his interviews with Kenyan coffee farmers, who say that they are hurt by being forced to use monopolized mills, and fertilizer companies (who overcharge

them), tariffs which prevent them from using valuable imported tools and machinery, and corrupt police. These obstacles, tariffs in particular, are certainly not limited to Kenya.

The Fair Trade movement has its heart in the right place, but its mind needs to look at the facts. Singleton's article explains how Fairtrade's international certifier, Fairtrade Labeling Organization (FLO) International, will not give loans to farmers unless the farmers belong to a cooperative; the problem is, many farmers do not want to belong to cooperatives, whose leaders are often corrupt and whose business practices are dubious. For example, cooperatives take their farmers' beans and sell them mixed together and pay all the farmers the same amount (thus the farmers are not paid based on the quality of their individual product). This means that there is no incentive for the farmers to improve their product. Additionally, the certification process can be up to five times as costly as normal certification (Singleton).

Coffee farmers often sell in both fair trade and open markets. Because open-market prices are determined by the quality of the product, farmers sell their best coffee in the open market and their worst in the fair trade market (Singleton). Many people probably expect fair-trade coffee to be superior in quality because of all the presumed difficult standards it must pass, but the opposite is often the case.

Finally, the market for fair trade coffee is relatively small—few people, no matter how hard fair-trade works or how trendy it becomes, will base their coffee consumption on political motives. Most of us buy our coffee based on taste and cost, and since fair trade coffee is often low-quality and highly priced, not many people will willingly choose fair-trade coffee.

No doubt this article has upset some of you. Fair trade coffee, after all, is a staple cause at any decent progressive liberal arts school worth its commitment to diversity. I apologize for perhaps seeming like a blasphemous Scrooge, but the fact is, fair trade coffee does more harm than good. The real problem, though, is that many people will not realize this and continue to support fair trade, all the while actually hurting the people they intend to help. If you really want to help, encourage our government to ease or eliminate any trade restrictions on coffee-producing countries. This will help them achieve a competitive price and will help them access technology that could help them. Another, albeit perhaps much more indirect, way to help is to increase the demand for coffee. This may not have much of an impact at the individual level, but, remember, mass impact is made up of multiple individual efforts. Lindsey points out that the producer countries especially could do more to boost demand and that there is a large untapped market of potential coffee-drinkers in Asia and Eastern Europe. Lindsey's report offers some ways in which the coffee industry can also help; for example, the International Coffee Organization could do a better job of collecting data and educating coffee growers about market conditions and cultivation techniques. Many of these alternatives to fair trade are more indirect and do not seem to be as effective. We would all (hopefully) want to encourage coffee farmers' attempts to improve their lives, and fair trade seemed like such an easy way to do it. Unfortunately, fair trade turns out to be an easy way to hurt coffee farmers. The sooner we realize this and shift our efforts to supporting things that actually work, then the sooner we will be helping the coffee farmers.

THE SOU'WESTER

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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
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

History makes comeback in tea party protests

By Kristin Marchell
Staff Writer

Tea Party Protester: "I hear a president say he believes in what Lincoln stood for. Lincoln's primary thing was he believed people had a right to liberty and they had a right..."

CNN Reporter: "Sir, what does this have to do with taxes? What does this have to do with your taxes? Do you realize that you are eligible for a \$400 credit?"

Tea Party Protester: "Let me finish my point. Lincoln believed that people have a right to share in the fruits of their own labor and that government should not take it. And we have clearly gotten to the point..."

CNN Reporter: "Right, but did you know that the state of Lincoln gets 50 billion dollars out of the stimulus? That's 50 billion dollars for this state, Sir."

Carrying signs with slogans such as, "Give me liberty—Not Debt!" and "Next Time - Read the Bill," protesters gathered across America, on April 15, 2009, to express their concern over the stimulus package, corporate and mortgage bailouts, growing national debt, and over-taxation. These protests, dubbed "Tea Parties," were inspired by a five-minute rant by CNBC financial analyst, Rick Santelli. In this rant, Santelli suggested that Americans hold a modern day tea party, reminiscent of the famed Boston event of 1773; thousands of citizens agreed and organized within their local communities to do just that. The aforementioned, on-air exchange from the Chicago Tea Party is notable for two reasons: first, for the argumentative tone the reporter takes, similar to attitudes elsewhere in print and on the airwaves, and, second, the reporter's complete misunderstanding of the protester's point.

When media members covering the protest made sex jokes about "tea bagging" or commentators, such as Keith Olbermann, agreed with outlandish claims that protests were "racism, straight up," they revealed their own bias and close-minded immaturity. Whether you agree with the stimulus or not, spending \$787 billion, quadrupling the national debt, and passing a bill of over one thousand pages without really reading it, are all actions that can be legitimately contested. The protest was newsworthy,

first of all, because it was completely organic, drawing its motivation from the Internet, rather than from an established organization. Secondly, it was largely non-partisan gathering; protestors did not welcome elected politicians and sometimes even booed them. Finally, this protest was newsworthy due to the fact that many of its participants were first-time protestors. Mocking, criticizing, or dismissing such events is more than simply failing to recognize a good story or falling prey to one's own prejudices; it also reinforces the need for the tea parties such as these: a message of limited government and careful spending will not get out any other way.

It is quite telling that the Chicago reporter could not grasp the man's point about liberty and taxes. When you pay taxes, you lose the opportunity to spend the money you have worked hard to earn; therefore, the liberty you have to allocate your money as you please is limited. At a certain point, we all benefit from services the government provides, such as defense and military, police forces, and fire protection. At other levels of taxation and for other purposes, such as entitlements and bailouts, however, the value to the public is much more debatable. The \$400 tax credit and state grants are not "free money" from a benevolent government, but rather it is money you or your neighbor have earned, or even money the government has borrowed. In some cases, as with the approximately 38% of Americans who have no personal income tax burden after tax credits, it is flat-out a redistribution of personal income by the government. It is not just the money inflows and outflows that offend, but the wasteful ways in which public money is spent and, for many, the very principle of income redistribution. With increased spending and debt, someone, at some point, will have to pay for it, whether it be us now or future generations through taxation or inflation. In these ways, liberty does have something to do with taxes; government projects are not necessarily how people would choose to spend their money, nor are they always a good return for the investment. The tea party movement deserves fair treatment in the press and honest, deliberative consideration from politicians and fellow citizens because of its historic nature, legitimate claims, and the right of the people to hold their government accountable.

Diluted news in a world of convenience

By Dean Galaro
Staff Writer

For anyone who did not attend the Chris Wallace talk on Monday night which, from the sparse attendance of Rhodes students, means most of you, he presented some great insight into how the Obama administration is working and what may come in the next few years. One comment that struck me was a discussion of the impact of the current forms of electronic information dissemination (i.e. the internet). Wallace somberly noted that there has been a recent and swift decline in the circulation of print news in favor of online resources. He saw this as a very sad systemic change because, as people switch to the internet as their main source for information and news, they begin to normalize the condensed form it normally comes in, forgoing the once standard and more in-depth form of print media. Is this distinction as important as Wallace makes it, and is it really affecting us as much as he proposes? Yes, slowly but surely we are becoming lazier and less informed.

In numerical terms, from 2006 to 2007 revenues of the newspaper industry dropped 9.4% while online advertising revenue jumped by 18.8%. This is a clear sign to the industry that people have become less willing to pay for news in print and are more amicable to finding it online, something companies looking for advertising space have obviously picked up on. Immediately this has affected the size of newspapers, resulting in them being downsized across the country in both in actual size and scope. Meanwhile, online connectivity continues to boom at unimaginable rates. Every day, more people connect through services like Facebook, Twitter, and various blogging sites in order to ascertain as much information about the world around them in as short a time as possible.

What is happening is that people are simply getting lazier, or, to put it a little more kindly, excitedly embracing convenience. It is much easier for someone to open up the New York Times website and click through a few articles at no cost than to order and read the paper that would be delivered to their door. This is not to say that convenience is necessarily a bad thing, or that it is something that should be avoided. I am a big fan of computers and word processing software that allows me to type without having to use a slow and expensive typewriter, but at the same I realize that there is an inherent loss of value that comes when something is able to be produced with such ease and by so many people. In simple

economic terms, value comes from scarcity, which is why an uncommon element like gold is so expensive. The same applies to something like the written word. As information becomes more common or mainstream, its value decreases because it is attainable with such ease and there is no battle for ownership that would arise from scarcity. While the world is becoming more convenient every day, social values are making shifts away from items that have now become commonplace in the mass markets of today's consumerism.

Problematic in the relationship between the internet and news is that since the internet is basically a limitless pool of electronic resources, one might think that when news

people.

The fact that so many people can access information and—thanks to the recent plumbing of the blogging world—add their own opinions, is not the problem. In a modern age that has amassed such wealth and opportunity, or in any time period regardless of economic growth, it would be a shame to stop the flow of information to the public. It is a marvel of the modern world that a man in his pajamas can voice his opinion on international relations to a receptive audience. Again though, it is a struggle of convenience versus substance. Because so many people are able to voice their opinions, we suddenly accept their short quips as the standard for that certain type of response.

Sadly, reading has become a bore and a struggle for many people these days; sadder still is that we knew it was coming. Dystopian views of the future are not uncommon or unpopular, as can be seen through books like *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451*, or movies like *Equilibrium*. The example that comes to mind most clearly is *Fahrenheit 451*, which explicitly tackles the issue of the relationship between books and an uncertain technological future which coincidentally hates books, a symptom of technological progress that we have thankfully not reached. The book eerily describes a world where books and other printed sources of information have been slowly condensed over the years to suit trends of slipping attention spans in an ever-accelerating world, leading to a world filled with only summaries. Does today's society simply not have time to sit down and read a newspaper? I'm sure we could find the time to do so since we have so many hours blocked off for Facebook and YouTube perusing.

Are we more informed today? Yes. Are we better informed today? No, and it's sad that it is not of more concern to a world so focused on the gathering of information and the seeking of truth. You just made it to the end of a roughly thousand-word article; was it that hard to do? For anyone who strives to become informed about the world around them, a cautious and skeptical outlook is necessary to work one's way through the quagmire of unreliable and diluted information available on the internet. Every day, the art of writing gets pushed back further into the dusty shadows and is slowly forgotten. While the attraction of convenience is very strong, it should be kept at arm's length in order to really grasp information in light of the velocity of today's news.

‘What is happening is that people are simply getting lazier, or, to put it a little more kindly excitedly embracing convenience.’

started to shift to the internet that it would simply deepen without the physical limits of paper. Quite the opposite has occurred as the internet has led to a news pool that is actually quite shallow. I use the terms "deep" and "shallow" in terms of the depth to which the news is analyzed, discussed, and considered, which would most likely lead to articles that are longer and fuller, or at least consistent with what can be found in print. The reason that just about everything that appears on the internet is getting shorter is that, as the speed at which we can access information increases, our attention spans decrease accordingly. There is simply no attempt at balancing speed and depth because it is so much easier to rely on speed. It can also be looked at as a fight between quantity and quality; where what was once an industry of a few, quality sources, news has now become a game of numbers where success comes in terms of getting as many stories out as possible in the shortest amount of time to the most amount of

Student Voice

What was your favorite campus event this year?



“Homecoming. Because the weather was heavenly.”

- Will Donnell '09

“Rites of Spring. I enjoyed that it was all outdoors so it had a fun atmosphere.”

- Suzanne Wineke '09



“My mustache bash.”

- Mark “Handlebar” Handelman '09

“Rites of Spring. Just cause it was a weekend-long party.”

- Alex McWhirter '10



“I dunno. Rites of Spring?”

- Brad Atkins '10



Overton Park, continued from Page 1

The project, however, is not set in stone. There are those who approve of the project, and of course, there are those who strongly disapprove. Supporters of the project realize that the basin is cost-effective and is a logical solution to a serious problem that is affecting their homes. On the other hand, “Citizens to Preserve Overton Park” openly display their discontent with the project. Arguments include that progressive cities such as Memphis should be looking towards green options, such as more permeable surfaces in which storm water can easily soak into the ground instead of building up on the asphalt underneath.

Elizabeth Jeans, Class of 2011, said, “I don’t care if the basin is built

as long as it makes Midtown as safer place for citizens to drive during unfavorable weather. The percentage of shock trauma victims is elevated immensely during storms that can affect the driving of citizens.”

Allen Orgeron, Class of 2010, states, “I think that the City should analyze alternatives to see which option is indisputably the best for the sake of the park. However, it is a problem that needs to be fixed, and the park is a convenient, low-cost location.”

Professor Christopher Seaton and Rhodes students Monica Gehrig and Lee Bryant are encouraging students to sign a petition against the park drainage. For more information about this petition, contact Gehrig at gehmc@rhodes.edu.

Slang, continued from Page 1

crude or personally offensive, like if someone referred to particularly bad body odor as “pulling a MacDonald.” As Bates claimed: “We did have take out some of the more controversial entries that could be perceived as harmful towards specific people”

Of course, Rhodes is not always the center of the slang universe, and people might notice words that are derivative of hip-hop and other common culture. “It’s a pretty good mix of homegrown words and more common slang. Some will be familiar to just about everyone, some will probably reach a new audience, but all in all, we hope it’ll be a pretty interesting look at the vocabularies of all our peers here.”

Rhodes celebrates Earth Day



Noelle Smith/
The Sou'wester

Green Rhodes and VOX hosted an Earth Day celebration on April 16. The event took place in the amphitheater as students gathered to listen to musical entertainment The Miner 49ers and Dr. Scuibba speak on how humans impact the environment (below). VOX handed out cholride-free tampons and environmentally friendly comdoms. Students also enjoyed ice cream, hummus, and other snacks while discussing environmental issues in society (left).



Noelle Smith/
The Sou'wester

Calendar of Events for April 22-28

April 22

Earth Day Event: Elizabeth Leahy to Discuss Link between Population and Security

Location: Buckman 110

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Panathenaia Festival

Location: East Village Lodge

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

April 23

Lecture by 1993 Noble Prize in Economics Winner Douglass C. North

Location: Orgill

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

“The Taming of the Shrew”

Location: McCoy Theatre

Time: 7:30pm-10pm

April 24

Shakespeare Birthday Lectures on “The Taming of the Shrew”

Location: Blount/Buckman Lobby

Time: 2:00pm-5:00pm

Bollywood Film Series: *Rang De Basanti*

Location: Buckman 108

Time: 6:00pm

April 24, 25

“The Taming of the Shrew”

Location: McCoy Theatre

Time: 7:30pm-10pm

April 26

“The Taming of the Shrew”

Location: McCoy Theatre

Time: 2pm-4:30pm

April 28

Screening of the Documentary Film:

Imaginary Enemy

Location: Barret 034

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

CAMPUS SAFETY

April 12-18

- 04/13
10:30 pm: Power outage campus wide; MPD assisting Campus Safety with patrols on campus.
- 04/14
9:38 am: Alarm at Presiden Troutt's residence. Campus Safety Responded.
- 04/15
3:57 pm: Student reported a theft in the BCLC; report filed.
- 04/16
7:37 am: Accident at University and Jackson; no Rhodes persons involved.
11:08 pm: Student reported an off campus accident; no serious injuries.
- 04/17
1:15 am: Yellow cab driver approached a gatehouse officer regarding a Care Cab voucher; the cab driver stated that this student exited prior to arrival; student identified.
- 04/18
3:09 am: False fire alarm in Robinson Hall; MFD dispatched; student burning popcorn.

CASA, continued from Page 1

Walker, Executive Director of the Memphis and Shelby County chapter of CASA. "We also seek to expedite the process of ensuring safe, permanent homes; when children have the opportunity to speak, it leads to greater opportunities and better outcomes."

Congress further promoted this program in 1990 with the passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act. However, even before this act, Kenneth A. Turner had founded the Memphis and Shelby County chapter of CASA in 1986.

"We at CASA believe that children's voices really matter. Here, we are daily making decisions about their future and wellbeing; they should have a say in both of these issues," said Walker. "We do not ascribe to the cliché that 'children are better seen than heard.'"

Today, the Memphis chapter of CASA has over two hundred volunteers, and they,

through various initiatives, are continually working to raise money in support of their cause.

This April, Rhodes, led by PAN, is getting involved and working to raise money for CASA in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On Tuesday April 21, PAN hosted a Chocolate Festival in the Lair; they raised money through ticket sales, which were \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door, and all proceeds went directly to CASA.

Another way in which Rhodes students are becoming involved in this campaign against child abuse is through music. Along with the Chocolate Festival held by PAN, the Rhodes women's a cappella group, Lipstick on Your Collar, performed at a candle-lit vigil held by CASA, on Tuesday, April 21; this vigil was in remembrance of all children who have died as a result of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

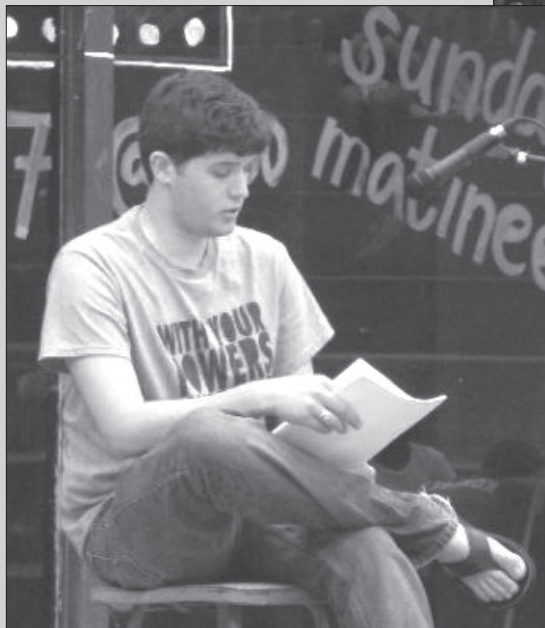
GNOMES Festival brings campus arts together



Liz Mansfield ('10) spreads cheer by painting faces at the GNOMES Fine Arts Festival.



Women's a cappella group Lipstick On Your Collar performs for GNOMES Fine Arts Festival attendees.



Austin Freeman ('11) provides entertainment with his poetry reading.



Stephanie Cassel ('10) blows bubbles in the amphitheater in between performances.



Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity members dance as part of the entertainment at the GNOMES Fine Arts Festival.

all photos courtesy of Liz Mansfield

I went to see Death Cab for Cutie play at the Orpheum

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

"Do you want to see Death Cab for Cutie play at the Orpheum?" My little sister, for the first and definitely last time, queried me that very question.

"No," I said, aimlessly nibbling on a delicious batch of Doritos.

"Why not?" She snapped back with fierce, unnecessary sass, her words cruel sound-harpoons.

"The band's name. It's entirely too clever." I wiped the Dorito dust from my belly into my belly button, licked my finger, stuck it back into my belly button and ate of the forbidden morsels before torpidly turning to my sister to say, "Besides, the name makes me

think of attractive women being murdered in taxis."

My sister didn't laugh either. Irony is an often hit-or-miss comedic enterprise. After she finished not laughing, she reminded me I wouldn't be doing anything else that day, saying, "Let me remind you that you won't be doing anything else that day." This was entirely too true. She also reminded me that I don't have any friends when she said, "I should also remind you that you don't have any friends." This was also true, but very hurtful.

To cut a really, really funny story short, we went to see this Meth Lab for Scootie. We caravanned with other indie-music pilgrims to the concert in my red Nissan, our in-my-red-Nissan banter dangerously hip, our quips edgy, the very fiber of satire. For example, we mocked the rednecks we saw in the street, but quietly, with the windows up and the doors locked.

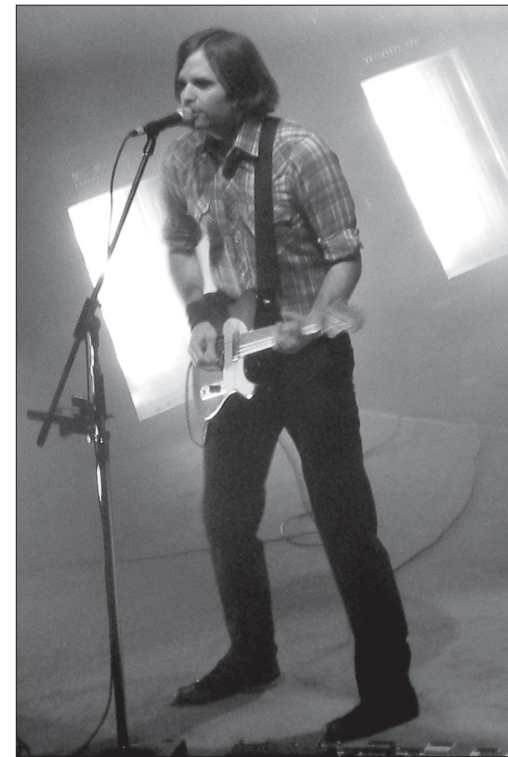
With trendy, viciously self-aware black comedy as our guide, we finally got to the Orpheum. I've never been greeted with so many erudite faces, their bodies trapped in post-modern fabric-traces. The Orpheum was a-flutter with their twitter and chirp. The eclectically-chic, the fashionably-bleak, and the music scene-elite were all equally eager to hear the legendary melancholy of Bed Bath for Beauty. The buzz around the auditorium was conspicuous, flagrant even. No one could stand to sit still. I could not stand not to. Tuning out the riddle words, the bright clothes, I tried to take a nap-a-rooni. But alas my soft slumber was interrupted by the muffled cries of the crowd as the lights slowly dimmed and the night's opening act shuffled onto the stage.

I'm not much of a music man. I'm simple. I stalk the fertile pop-radio prairies in search of killer hooks and arena-rock choruses. The night's music would prove to be an uncomfortable honeymoon: reflective, dissonant, eerie sheets of sound hitting my simple virgin ears. Ra Ra Riot was first up. Their music was a glorious musical mishmash. I really enjoyed their act, especially because their electric-celulist was extremely attractive and danced onstage like a really cute sea breeze. Cold War Kids came up next and wow, they did a really great job...if their job was to do a really bad job. They seemed intentionally disconnected from the audience, playing music for the chamber halls of their own inside joke...

Then a hush fell over the crowd. Here it was at last, the crest of the new wave of indie-rock: Death Cab for Cutie. Everyone let out their own unique Death Cab battle cry. Mine was a polite holler, simple, classic. Others were much more savagely enthusiastic. Lead singer Ben Gibbard said thank you, his slight pudge welcoming all

to the upcoming musical feast.

Death Cab dove right into their set, the clear, melancholy staccato of Gibbard's angel voice threading through each contemplative song. I don't know if you know, but Death Cab songs are



Lee Bryant/The Sou'wester

Death Cab for Cutie lead singer Ben Gibbard performs for audiences at the Orpheum Theatre on April 11.

tremendous, each a ying-yang between clever, winding lyrics of contemplation bridged to brightly brisk beats. They played songs from their latest *Narrow Stairs* album with tremendous musicianship. By the second song the entire audience was a swaying sea. It was that good. Those who were really, really into it were even doing some feather-soft moshpitting. After a while even I started to dance: a standard shuffle with some eclectic flourishes at key body joints.

I hate to interrupt a really good article, but does anyone else notice that some of Death Cab's songs, if you stop to listen to the lyrics, are frighteningly creepy? "I Will Possess Your Heart" seems ripped out of a poetic perverts blood-inked diary. Just saying.

In true style Death Cab for Cutie did a 30 minute encore before taking a final bow, Ben Gibbard wishing all to drive home safely. Thanks to you, Ben Gibbard, I did.



photo courtesy of google.com

Death Cab for Cutie band members from left to right: Nick Harmer, Ben Gibbard, Jason McGerr, and Chris Walla.

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Parks and Recreation not as fun as the name would suggest

By Janie Logan
Staff Writer

On the surface, *Parks and Recreation* should be hilarious. Cast of great comedic actors? Check. Witty writers? Check. A ridiculous premise that has the potential to create entertaining scenarios? Check.

The pilot episode aired on Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 pm right between two episodes of *The Office*. They want you to associate the two shows. After all, *Parks* comes from Greg Daniels, the executive producer in charge of *The Office*, and Michael Schur, a writer from *The Office* who makes occasional appearances as Dwight's strange Amish cousin, Mose. *Parks* also uses the same style of storytelling, with an unseen film crew playing a part in the show. The camera is in the middle of a scene, the characters occasionally glance directly at the screen to show their reactions to something, and there are interviews mixed in with characters responding to implied questions.

This "mockumentary" style has been used effectively as comedy, in particular by Christopher Guest with his films *Best In Show*, *This Is Spinal Tap*, *A Mighty Wind*, and *Waiting for Guffman*, which are so funny because of the truths they portray about dog shows, rock bands, and small town theatre, and by Ricky Gervais with the original British version of *The Office*.

can appreciate and laugh about.

Perhaps this is why *Parks and Recreation* didn't quite hit the mark in the first episode. A small-town government employee named Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) has delusions of grandeur about turning a pit in an abandoned



photo courtesy of google.com

Actor Aziz Ansari and actress Amy Poehler star in NBC's newest comedy *Parks and Recreation*, created by Greg Daniels.

lot into a park, complete with a jungle gym, swing set, swimming pool, basketball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, regulation-sized football stadium, and an amphitheatre where people could have "Shakespeare in the Park." In theory, it is funny, but I found my-

Rashida Jones, who portrayed Jim's non-soulmate girlfriend, Karen, on *The Office*, plays Ann, a member of the community who pushes for something to be done about the empty lot because her boyfriend fell in the pit and broke both of his legs. Jones' comedic style is very understated. She doesn't speak with a lot of emotion or intensity, or show a lot of facial expressions, and in the case of her character Ann, I thought the simplicity worked, in comparison to the enthusiastic Leslie. Other characters included Tom (Aziz Ansari), a perverted young Indian guy from South Carolina; April (Aubrey Plaza), a monotone intern who keeps records of Leslie's "fact-finding missions"; Ron Swanson (Nick Offerman), Leslie's boss who doesn't believe in government and keeps a poster of Bobby Knight on his office wall for inspiration; and Mark (Paul Schneider), the only person at the Department of Parks and Recreation who seems willing to help Leslie achieve her goal because he admires her optimism.

Maybe the show will improve with more episodes (*The Office* definitely hit its stride in Season 2). But I don't predict these being the types of characters with whom I can connect or the types of stories in which I'm interested.

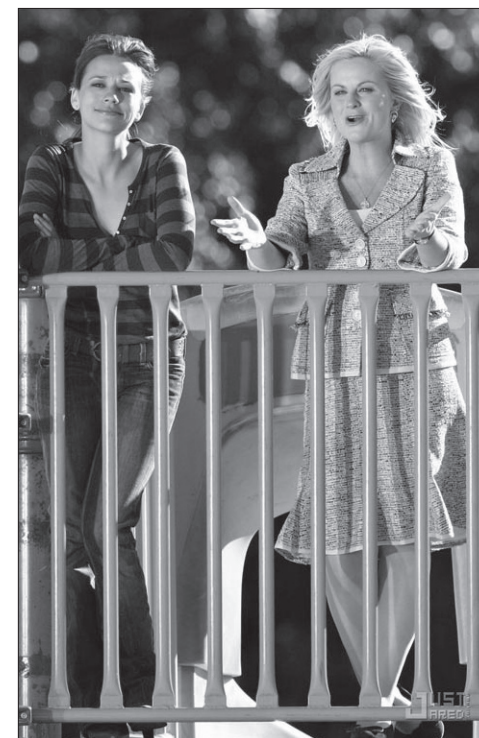


photo courtesy of google.com

Actresses Rashida Jones and Amy Poehler chat on the set of *Parks and Recreation*.



photo courtesy of google.com

The cast of *Parks and Recreation* from left to right: Paul Schneider, Aziz Ansari, Amy Poehler, Rashida Jones, Nick Offerman, Aubrey Plaza, and Chris Pratt.

Greg Daniels saw in *The Office* a type of humor that applies in every culture, evident by the fact that the show has been adapted in several other countries worldwide, from France and Germany to Brazil. The American version, now in its fifth season, has become very popular over the last couple of years because of how relatable it is. Annoying bosses, competitive coworkers, uncomfortable situations, and just the simple boredom of working in an office—these are things that everyone

self only occasionally amused. The one time I laughed out loud was in the final scene when Leslie has her committee approved to work on the project and gets drunk off celebratory champagne. I love Amy Poehler when she is excessively goofy. Most of the time, her character is taking her job way too seriously, and that comes off as being more pathetic than funny: "I'm barely 34, and I've already landed a Parks Department Exploratory Sub-Committee. I'm a rocket ship!"

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First round NBA playoff predictions

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

With the NBA regular season waiting until the final week to seed the two conferences top 8 teams—it looks as if we are in store for a wild finish.

For the LA Lakers, the path to a championship must first run through the Utah Jazz. At 48-34, the Jazz would be a potentially dangerous matchup for most teams. Even so, the Lakers have too much talent to let this one slip through their fingers. With the addition of Andrew Bynum (back from injury) and Pau Gasol moving back to power forward, the Lakers could be tough for anyone in the West to stop.

Prediction: Lakers in 5.

The 2-7 matchup in the West features the Denver Nuggets that have quietly put together a tremendous year. It pits them against the very talented New Orleans Hornets who boast arguably the best point guard in the league. Even so, the Hornets ultimately may not have an answer for the frontcourt of Denver. But due to less than stellar play on the road, it could be a closer series than anticipated for a 2-7 matchup.

Prediction: Nuggets in 7.

The San Antonio Spurs-Dallas Mavericks matchup is one that could really go either way. If San Antonio can control Josh Howard and keep Dirk Nowitzki from dropping 30 plus points a game—they should be in good shape. However, minus Ginobili, the Spurs can often go into cold shooting stretches. Playing an elimination game at home could be the difference in this one.

Prediction: Spurs in 7.

The Houston Rockets-Portland Trail Blazers series is one that has been anticipated by many to go 7 games. However, the Blazers are a young team and if Brandon Roy does not get any support or they do not

find an answer to Yao Ming, they could be looking at an early exit.

Prediction: Rockets in 6.

In the Eastern Division, the Cleveland Cavaliers should breeze through the Detroit Pistons. Trading Chauncey Billups really hurt the Pistons, as they lack the scoring ability against Cleveland to keep up with LeBron James and company.

Prediction: Cavaliers in 4.

Chicago Bulls and Boston Celtics could turn into a surprise series due to Kevin Garnett being injured. Both Ben Gordon and Derrick Rose have the shooting ability and floor presence to carry the Bulls. However if either goes cold, Boston has the veteran players, such as Allen and Pierce, to produce a series win.

Prediction: Celtics in 7.

The Orlando Magic should take care of the Philadelphia 6ers without too much difficulty. With Dwight Howard inside, and Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis at the forward position, the Magic should have more than enough fire power to take over Philadelphia. However, given previous postseason history, the 6ers have a knack of pulling upsets at home, so don't be surprised if Orlando sleeps through one or two games.

Prediction: Magic in 5

Atlanta Hawks vs. Miami Heat in the 5-4 matchup is one of the most intriguing of the playoffs. At first glance, most people will jump on Miami's wagon and pick them to win easily. I am not one of these people. The Heat have this nagging problem of being hit or miss and even with Dwayne Wade and Michael Beasley, they often go missing offensively for long stretches. Combine that with a steady does of defense and the front court dominance of Josh Smith and Al Horford and all of a sudden this becomes a very interesting series.

Prediction: Hawks in 7.

NFL Draft thoughts

By Ralph MacDonald
Editor-in-Chief

1. The Lions might or might not already know what they are doing with the number one overall pick, but there is far from any consensus on the correct way to spend the pick. Matthew Stafford has been considered the odds-on leader since he declared for the draft, but former first round quarterbacks make up less than the league's starters. It would seem that the Lions have too many holes to fill to gamble on such dangerous odds. Aaron Curry is the safest pick of the bunch, but the pay scale for a number one overall pick would make him the highest paid linebacker as a rookie. Of all the picks, left tackle Jason Smith out of Baylor looks like the most attractive. Offensive linemen have a high success rate in the NFL, and elite left tackles are paid just below franchise quarterbacks, so the rookie pay scale will not be a deterrent. Receiver Michael Crabtree might be the best player in the draft, but after picking four top-ten wideouts from 2003-2007, Motown might experience a riot if there is even speculation that they might take another receiver.

2. There has been a lot of speculation about whether or not the Lions will allow their 15 minutes expire on draft day and drop down to the number three or four pick in order to save money. It is an interesting plan since there are several players they are targeting, and has several interesting implications. The first issue is that St. Louis would be a slam-dunk to take the most logical choice for the Lions, Jason Smith. Secondly, it is tough to know how any of the other GM's would handle such a scenario. Moving up draft slots costs money, and personnel people like Kansas City's Scott Pioli would not necessarily be thrilled about moving up in a deep draft class that is muddled at the top.

3. The Jaguars need a receiver and could stand some depth at defensive tackle. If receivers Michael Crabtree or Jeremy Maclin are on the board at number eight, look for the Jaguars to take them there. However, clear-cut number one defensive tackle B.J. Raji is rumored to have failed a steroids test, as well as a marijuana test in college. If true, expect the Jaguars to look another direction even if the receivers are off the board. 2004 and 2005 first round picks Reggie Williams and Matt Jones have both been caught with cocaine in the last year, and it is unlikely that the Jags would risk such a high pick on a player with questionable character.

Minimum age requirement good for NBA?

By Gordon Chadwick
Staff Writer

With the NBA Draft still 2 months away, it may still be a little early to be talking about its rules.

The minimum age limit is one of the most controversial and interesting things to happen to sports drafting in recent years. As you probably already know, the NBA requires its draftees to be at least nineteen years old. Furthermore, the league also requires that a player be at least 1 year removed from high school (with the exception of international players). David Stern, the commissioner of the NBA, has discussed raising the limit even higher—a move which would surely renew old controversy.

The rule was the subject of much debate when it was created. Many players who had made the jump from high school thought the rule was unnecessary and controlling. Miami Heat center Jermaine O'Neal went as far to call it "racist." Critics of the rule see it as a block to financial security, since players are forced to risk injury in college before they are allowed to make a dime.

On the other hand, the rule makes sense for NBA. It acts as a quality assurance because it forces players to have an extra year of learning and growing before entering the league. Thus, the limit results in fewer skinny high school kids who need several seasons to adjust. Supporters of the rule would no doubt point to Kevin Durant, O.J. Mayo, and Derrick Rose as good examples of the rule's success.

The rule works for the NCAA too because it provides it with superstars that it would normally not have access to. Again, Durant, Mayo and Rose are three perfect examples of talent that the NCAA might not have had if they were allowed to make the jump directly from high school.

Some might say that it has cheapened the NCAA game because these players were never expected to stay more than their obligatory one year. These "one and done" players are akin to free agents, they are like hired guns in the NBA. To some, their recruitment makes recruiting in general more interesting because landing one these players can make a season. However, it also takes away from the importance of having a good system and developing players for 4 years.

David Stern will likely push to raise the age limit to twenty, the age he had wanted in the first place, when the current Collective Bargaining Agreement runs out.

Maybe raising the age limit one more year isn't the worst idea. After all, from a business perspective, it makes sense for the NBA and can only benefit the NCAA by providing it with more talent. Of course the downside would be a great risk of injury, as well as the possibility of players going overseas to start making money instead of going to college, (big prospect Brandon Jennings has recently tried this alternative). Regardless, an extra year would help college basketball because it would allow teams to keep their young stars a year longer while also getting rid of the one and done mentality. The NBA would still get its quality check too, so it seems like a win-win situation for the business of basketball. Therefore everyone benefits.

Everyone that is, except for the players.

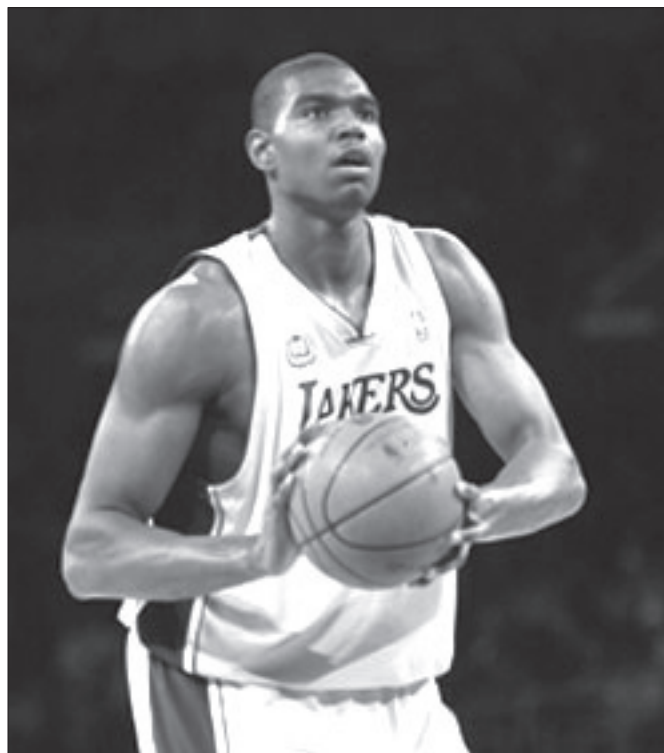


photo credit google.com

Andrew Bynum, now the starting center in his third year with the championship-contending Lakers, entered the NBA draft when he was 17 years old.