

Wreck into a *Reckless* discussion

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February 24, 2010

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

## New security measures at Memphis airport

By NeNe Bafford  
News Editor

Spring Break is around the corner and before students at Rhodes start to make travel plans, there are a few new security measures at the Memphis International Airport that students should know about. Those who fly out of Memphis may be subject to even more random security tests. The new tests began this week and some of the new security measure includes screenings for traces of explosives on luggage and on hands. Passengers will be asked to hold out their hands and TSA officers will wipe them with a cloth that goes into a machine that detects explosive residue.

As of now, there are nearly 7,000 Explosive Trace Detec-

tion machines at airports in the United States that are paid for through the money from the federal stimulus plan and many air-

in order to create more mobility around the airport.

The new security measures at the Memphis International Airport are a result of the terrorist attack that failed on Christmas Day. A man known as the "underwear bomber" tried to blow up an airplane that was headed to Detroit, Michigan.

According to Scott Brockman, Executive Vice President of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority in a myeyewitness.com article says, "The Transportation Security Administration officers are not looking to disrupt the boarding process. They're not looking to disrupt the flow. The time it takes today to get through the checkpoint and through your gate is similar to what it will be in the future."



Courtesy of ccslsh.blogspot.com

Random searches increase as Memphis beefs up its airport security.

ports hope to purchase more of the devices with the \$39 million that is included in the President's 2011 budget. The devices must be plugged in, but in the future airport authorities hope that the devices will be battery-operated

## Internship orientation preps students for their future

By Alex Yu  
Staff Writer

Internship Orientation for Fall 2010 was this week and served to inform students through the application process and in successfully obtaining internships. If students missed the orientation, they can schedule a make-up meeting with Career Services by calling the front desk (843-3800). However, these meetings must be completed before March 11, 2010.

Internship opportunities here at Rhodes are almost endless. There are internships in basically every discipline from Anthropology to Theatre. Within each of these disciplines are many different internships to choose from. For example, in the Anthropology/Sociology discipline, students can intern in Refugee and Immigration Services where they can set up

programs for newly arrived refugee children, or they can intern with Volunteer Mid-South in Special Events Planning, where they can organize quarterly volunteer recognition events at local venues. There are so many opportunities to choose from, each with their own specific experience.

Internships are an important aspect of a student's college career. Sandi George Tracy, Director of career services says, "Internships provide many important benefits. They help students put classroom theory/knowledge into action. In addition, students gain experience necessary to be competitive in the job market and in the graduate school application process. Internships also help students build professional networks, but most importantly, through the internship program, students are able

to "test out" specific career fields in order to make important decisions regarding career path and life choices. Many internships qualify for F11 credit."

Internships can also be beneficial financially. Students are able to get involved in paid internships which can have a pay range from \$7.50 to \$20.00 per hour, depending on the work and the skill level. Not only are there internships during the school year, but there are also some that are available throughout the summer.

If students would like to participate in the academic internship program, they must be either a rising junior or senior with a minimum grade point average of 2.5. For more information on internship opportunities at Rhodes, please call the Career Services office at 843-3800.

## Rhodes Students refute Memphis' lackluster ranking

By Katherine McCoid

Forbes recently ranked our beloved Memphis as the third most miserable city in the United States. Of course, this is an improvement, for Memphis was deemed the second most miserable city in last year's report. Although instances of serious crime, homicides, and auto theft have declined, Memphis is still considered a very dangerous city on any scale. While we know the benefits Memphis brings to Rhodes' students, the question of whether this unfavorable rating will deter prospective students from attending Rhodes remains. In response to this, Terese Buscher, the Director of Admissions, said, "I am not overly concerned with this blip of publicity because we already have a strong message about how beneficial Memphis is to Rhodes students." She explained, "We believe that being a small, selective college in a large city already puts Rhodes ahead of small colleges in rural areas" because "the opportunities available to our students are so far superior to those of many other small colleges." President Troutt agrees. He explains, "Our experience has been that articles like this one do not negatively affect prospective student decision making. Overall, stu-

dents and their families find our Memphis location with so many opportunities for internships and research to be a real plus."

The general consensus of current Rhodes' students favors positively for Memphis. Katie Kleine believes, "all big cities have their good parts and bad parts, and Rhodes is in a good part." She also thinks Rhodes' Memphis location offers "opportunities to intern and get real world experience" as well as "volunteer opportunities you wouldn't have in smaller towns." In all, Memphis is beneficial to its students because of the opportunities one can only find in a big city.

In addition to the negative image of Memphis, Buscher pointed out that Memphis has received positive attention as well. A New York Times article published last month highlights Memphis' merits, such as its visual art, growing music scene, and night clubs. The article, entitled *Roll Over, Elvis. Meet Indie Memphis.*, even mentions the Rhodes student hotspot Raifords. Buscher sees a positive future and does not hesitate to say that "Rhodes and Memphis are a winning combination and that the connection between the two improves the learning experience for our students."

# HEY!!

The Sou'Wester Newspaper is seeking News writers.  
If you are interested, please contact News Editor, NeNe Bafford at [bafta@rhodes.edu](mailto:bafta@rhodes.edu) for more information.

# The march of the good intentions

By Patrick Harris  
Staff Writer

America's national security seems of late as vital a concern as it ever was. Terrorist attacks have been carried out at Fort Hood and attempted on an airliner over Detroit. Recent weeks have also seen the beginning of a major push by American forces in Afghanistan; as this article is being written, U.S. troops are engaging in treacherous urban combat in southern Afghanistan in an effort to root the Taliban out of their sanctuaries and regain the initiative in a struggle that has come perilously close to failure. Naturally, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was on Capitol Hill arguing in favor of repealing "don't ask, don't tell".

A bit of history on the policy may be instructive. The military's ugly-duckling of a rule regarding homosexual service members was, contrary to the general impression one might receive from the media, designed as a compromise *in favor* of gay soldiers. Bill Clinton had promised in his 1992 presidential campaign that he would end the prohibition against homosexuality in the armed forces. Failing that, he signed into law a bill that prohibited demonstrating "a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts," while still theoretically leaving the military open to gays and lesbians who kept their orientation quiet (as no doubt many have done). In practice this meant that gay service members were hardly any better off than under the previous rule, and possibly worse off since unsubstantiated allegations of homosexuality could snowball into investigations resulting in discharges for violation of the policy.

This ill-formed compromise has since attracted its fair share of ire from the left, given the undeniably discriminatory nature of the rule. Even the conservative icon Barry Goldwater noted that a soldier need not be straight to shoot straight. Critics compare the policy to the racial segregation once maintained by the armed forces until Harry Truman ended it by executive order in 1948. A more recent (and relevant) object lesson lies in the gradual opening of the military to women. After all, hasn't the U.S. military's gender-inclusive policy proven a spectacular success?

Well, maybe. Currently about a fifth of total service members, women have certainly made themselves essential to America's modern national defense. This unprecedented change is not without its drawbacks, however. More than a third of servicewomen have been the victim of sexual assault, a tragic statistic that indicates the difficulties of changing social dynamics in a tightly-knit traditional culture like the American military. If captured, female soldiers are also vulnerable to sexual assault or degradation in a way male soldiers are not, a fact to which a number of ugly examples in recent conflicts can point. All the advances of women in the armed services have failed to eliminate the basic incongruity inherent in placing women in the most masculine of enterprises.

The military proverbially has two functions: to kill people and break things. As such there are any number of prohibitions against certain individuals serving that would not pass muster in civilian life, whether they be against obese people, disabled people, or nearsighted people; there is no "right to serve". The counterargument is of course that sexual orientation (or gender) does not prevent any individual from carrying out martial duties. No doubt this is usually true on an individual basis. But the military's requirements for membership are inextricable from its operational culture. The painful side-effects of the integration of women into the armed forces are testimony to this fact.

Most surveys indicate the majority of service members favor maintaining the current policy regarding homosexuality. If there were even a small chance that overturning it would harm morale or operational capability (and any number of military observers seem to think so), it would merit serious consideration, and should be weighed against the alleged *national security* benefits of ending "don't ask don't tell", of which there are some: the need to avoid losing valuable specialist personnel such as Arabic translators, for example. Let the debate rage on whether the armed forces would protect the country more effectively with or without the current policy.

What ought to be avoided (but of course will not be) is the set-piece portrayal of the issue as a struggle between the old guard of bigotry and the inexorable forces of progress. Simply put, the military ought to be above identity politics. If there are changes to be made, they should come purporting to better defend the republic from its enemies and not to rectify the injustice of the month ferreted out by well-meaning social engineers in Washington.

## Economic problems plague Greece and the European Union

By John Ayers  
Staff Writer

This week, the European Union is facing one of the greatest obstacles in long list of challenges to its growth as a political and economic force. The issue is quite a challenge; Greece is defaulting on its national debt. This is the first country in the EU to do so since the creation of the Euro. This would be disastrous for the Greek economy, and could very well prevent Greece from having future loans unless it proves itself as a fiscally responsible member of both the euro and the world.

However, this problem is not confined to Greece, because it raises questions about the entire list of countries that use the euro as their national currency. Problems associated with having just one currency include risking higher interest costs for all the countries if any one country borrows excessively and too often. It also risks forcing the other countries to bail out members when they are unable to pay their debts. This is exactly what is happening in Greece. The fear now not only concerns what should be done with Greece, but also what should be done with any euro nation that is in trouble. Many experts worry that if Greece defaults, a long list of euro nations could do so as well in the not too distant future, thereby harming all of the economies of the other euro nations.

To curb fiscally irresponsible behavior, the euro area passed a bill to ban bailouts long before the current Greek crisis. Greece evidently ignored this law and now expects to be bailed out by its fellow euro nations; however, to do so means that any euro nation can borrow excessively and take more risks without fear of defaulting because they know the others will bail them out. This harms everyone. It is paramount to their credibility and continued enlargement that the EU does not succumb to pressure to do this.

In order to fix its economy, Greece will most likely need help from its fellow EU nations. While this could come in many forms that are not direct bailouts, the underlying goal must be the same. The government must fix the underlying problems with the Greek economy. There must be strings attached to this money, or else it encourages all these countries to repeat the same behavior. The EU should send a message to all of its members, particularly the ones heading down the path that Greece is, that it will not allow these loose borrowing tactics. It must insure that no member nation can take unnecessary risks, live above its means, and then expect the others to back it up when its borrowing catches up with it. If the euro-area nations send this message and reform Greece, it will add a layer of legitimacy and strength to the organization. It should also help prevent this from being a problem in the future. If it fails and gives in to pressure to bail out Greece, it could very well have long term consequences for the organization that include further defaults among members, alienating member and eligible nations, and possibly causing the downfall of the single currency in the Europe Union.

Two weeks ago, there was an editing error in the article entitled "In the End there Really is No Choice" that repeated the same three sentences in the final paragraph on two separate occasions to the detriment of the article.

### THE SOU'WESTER

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### How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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

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

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

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ASSOCIATED  
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PRESS

## The true meaning of color

By Rekha Blackerby  
Staff Writer

When you hear the word “color”, what do you think about? Maybe you think of your favorite color or the color on your walls at home. But do you ever think of color being associated with someone’s skin tone? Racism and prejudices against people of color are not new topics. Memphis is not a stranger to the effects of racism. Just last month, we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in honor of the man who fought so hard against discrimination and lost his life at a Memphis motel. Racism is a serious concern and should not be taken lightly. We should all be acutely aware that racism has not disappeared and be concerned when it shows its ugly face. But does being insensitive hold the same degree of seriousness as blatant racism?

A very large Asian community in Atlanta is accusing MARTA, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, of being insensitive about the new names on the metro trains. Similarly to the transit system in Washington D.C., Atlanta has decided to color-code the trains as the yellow, red, green, and blue lines. The yellow line has the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) very upset because the yellow line train runs directly to one of the largest Asian communities in Atlanta. MARTA, however, had initially refused to change the name because of monetary concerns.

Asians in Atlanta are finding the situation entirely offensive and suggest that the name be changed to the “gold line” so that the color on the trains can remain the same without being insulting to anyone. MARTA was willing to discuss all possibilities with CPACS while keeping in mind its tight budget. As of February 12, the line was renamed the “gold line” and MARTA profusely apologized after a meeting with CPACS.

MARTA probably did not originally name the line “yellow” because it is maliciously trying to alienate the Asian community. The naming was most likely a coincidence and it is doubtful that they were making a comment about the Asians in Atlanta metro area. Maybe MARTA was unconsciously insensitive, but maybe it is time for everyone to stop being so easily offended about color. Either everyone can stop using colors that also describe the pigment of people’s skin or we can all stop referring to people because of their color. We could ban the words “red”, “yellow”, “black”, and “white” because they are potentially offensive or we could move past the thinking that these colors have underlying references to how much melanin someone’s skin produces.

It is time to put an end to describing people by the color of their skin because that is the only way to end the hypersensitivity. When we call attention to the fact that someone has a darker or lighter pigmentation than us, is that really making us equals? Stop referring to people as black, white, or yellow because it creates barriers between us. It is a shame that we are still fixated on skin tone, especially since people like Dr. King worked so hard for equality. We have made huge strides since segregation but maybe we need to do more.

If anyone has filled out an I-9 form recently, they might have seen a notice stating, “It is illegal to discriminate against any individual in hiring, discharging, or recruiting or referring for a fee because of that individual’s national origin or citizenship status.” In sixty years, this country has gone from Jim Crow laws to anti-discrimination notices. We are working so hard to make everyone is equal but some people are still hung up on the issue of color. Being offended about the color shows that we have not let go of the past and are not moving forward, as we should be doing. Once we lose the negative connotations of color, we can truly see each other as equals.

## Finding ways to fix the broken computer system

By Lewis Shaw

Suppose we wanted everyone to have a computer. Studies consistently confirm that this little piece of technology greatly improves productivity. Everyone should have a right to computers because they make the average person’s life better and can increase wealth by increasing output. Add other technologies to computers (the internet, for example) and you have a recipe for wealth-inducing progress. By linking computers to one another, we are able to communicate and disseminate information in ways previously unconceivable. Not everyone, unfortunately, has the ability to access computers (i.e., they do not have them and cannot afford them). Because we are certain that owning a computer is in everyone’s best interest, we can just mandate that everyone own one (which would lead to happier, more productive lives and therein contribute to the happiness and productivity of society as a whole).

The policy proposal then is that the government provide free computers to everyone who cannot afford one on their own. Now suppose that the government takes control of a large portion of the computer industry. Private computer suppliers will be able to operate but will fall under certain regulations that are in accordance with state standards. For individuals to make use of the public computer system, they must go to the store nearest to them. Anyone can purchase private computers if they so desire, while those who cannot afford private computers can go to public computer stores on the state’s bill. And again, the only requirement is that those who cannot afford the private computer must get their free public computer from the store nearest to them.

In all likelihood, this government-run computer program would not be as successful as one might hope. The government would have a very difficult time developing newer operating systems without greatly increasing the costs of the computers, or it would end up not making them user-friendly. Perhaps a remedy to this would be to lower the complexity of the operating system so that it could be most easily understood by everyone. At this point, it is safe to assume that people would be dissatisfied with the computers they are getting.

Many explanations and policy suggestions would arise regarding the source of these problems. Perhaps the problem lies in the computer manufacturers. The government should work on hiring better computer technicians. Maybe if we paid them more, they would do a better job. Or perhaps the problem lies in the fact that some people are not even using the computers purchased for them; they

## Lost landmarks in Memphis

By Anna Meyerrose  
Editor in Chief

It is all too easy to find evidence of pure abandonment and various structures falling into disuse throughout the Memphis City area. With the construction of the FedEx Forum, the Pyramid, a not so insignificant symbol often associated with the city of Memphis, became by and large empty while debates raged, with little to no avail, as to what the fate of this unique building should be. Possibilities such as a casino, an aquarium, a shopping center, an indoor theme park, and, most popularly, a Bass Pro Shop, have all been banded about, but none of these have produced any sort of conclusive or definitive decisions.

Similarly, another iconic feature of the bluff-city faces the probability of imminent destruction. On October 29, 2005, Libertyland, located on the Mid-South Fairgrounds, closed its doors for good, following years of discussion and debate. In the ridiculously lengthy four years since, Libertyland as a whole has been left to its own devices, rapidly falling into disrepair. One advocacy group, “Save Libertyland”, has been fighting ever since to have the park reopened and restored, but has had limited success in convincing the various city councils of the importance of its cause.

After four years of inaction, preliminary steps were taken on the morning of November 17, which signaled that Libertyland, in all likelihood, will soon cease to exist altogether. Demolition crews took out a huge chunk of the Zippin Pippin rollercoaster, the trademark ride associated with Libertyland. The purpose of this destruction was to find out whether or not the rollercoaster is in any way salvageable. Unfortunately, this wooden roller coaster, one of the few of its kind to have been in regular operation in the recent past, is severely rotted and unlikely to survive. This was only the first step in the demolition process of all of Libertyland soon to begin in earnest.

Had the question of what to do with the Mid-South Fairgrounds been appropriately addressed back in 2005, when Libertyland first shut down, perhaps the total destruction of the Zippin Pippin, a rollercoaster with both historical and sentimental significance, as well as the loss of many other memorable and beloved rides, could have been avoided. Unfortunately, the inaction too often characteristic of the Memphis City Council won out over practicality yet again.

One of the factors that promoted this lack of initiative can be seen in the inadequacy of even basic information, such as who owns the property rights to various parts of what once was Libertyland. One Robert Lipscomb, city director of Housing and Community Development, when asked who actually owns the Zippin Pippin, answered simply “I have no idea”.

The cases of both the Pyramid and Libertyland/the Mid-South Fairgrounds both suggest that, if things are not changed, Memphis will continue to lose important aspects of its heritage. It would be one thing if changes such as these led to bigger and better things; however, both the pyramid and Libertyland show that this is rarely the case in Memphis. Instead, culturally significant landmarks are merely abandoned by a city government too lacking in efficacy and efficiency to really ever get much done.

If something is not changed, Memphis will continue to lose important parts of its heritage. Soon, Graceland will be abandoned, Sun Studios will be turned into a Gap, and the Pink Palace will be knocked down to make room for some sort of government building with an ambiguous purpose and function. To avoid failures such as these, it is imperative that the structure of city councils and the Memphis City government be modified in some way or another.

## Calendar of Events

February 25-March 2nd

Reckless

Thursday thru Saturday 7:30; Sunday 2:00

Location: McCoy Theater

### February 25

Lecture - "Economist" Columnist and Correspondent Robert Guest

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Orgill

Peyton N. Rhodes Physics Lecture: "Women Physicists and the Manhattan Project"

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Location: Hardie

### February 26

Clough-Hanson Gallery's Opening Reception for Peter Williams: *Recent Works*

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Orgill

### February 27

Bacchus Network

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Location: Buckman

### February 28

Rhodes College Orchestra performs at the Memphis Central Library

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Location: Off Campus

Dinner A Cappella

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Lynx Lair

### March 1

Kappa Delta's Mr. Shamrock

Time: 7:30pm

Location: McCallum Ballroom

Can I Kiss You?

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Blount/Buckman Lobby

### March 2

Envision Hosts Multicultural Food Fest for Rhodes Community

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

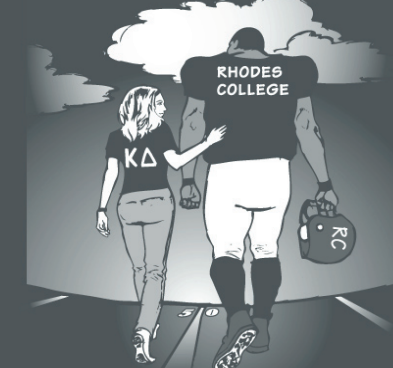
Location: McCallum Ballroom

AmeriCorps Interest Meeting

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

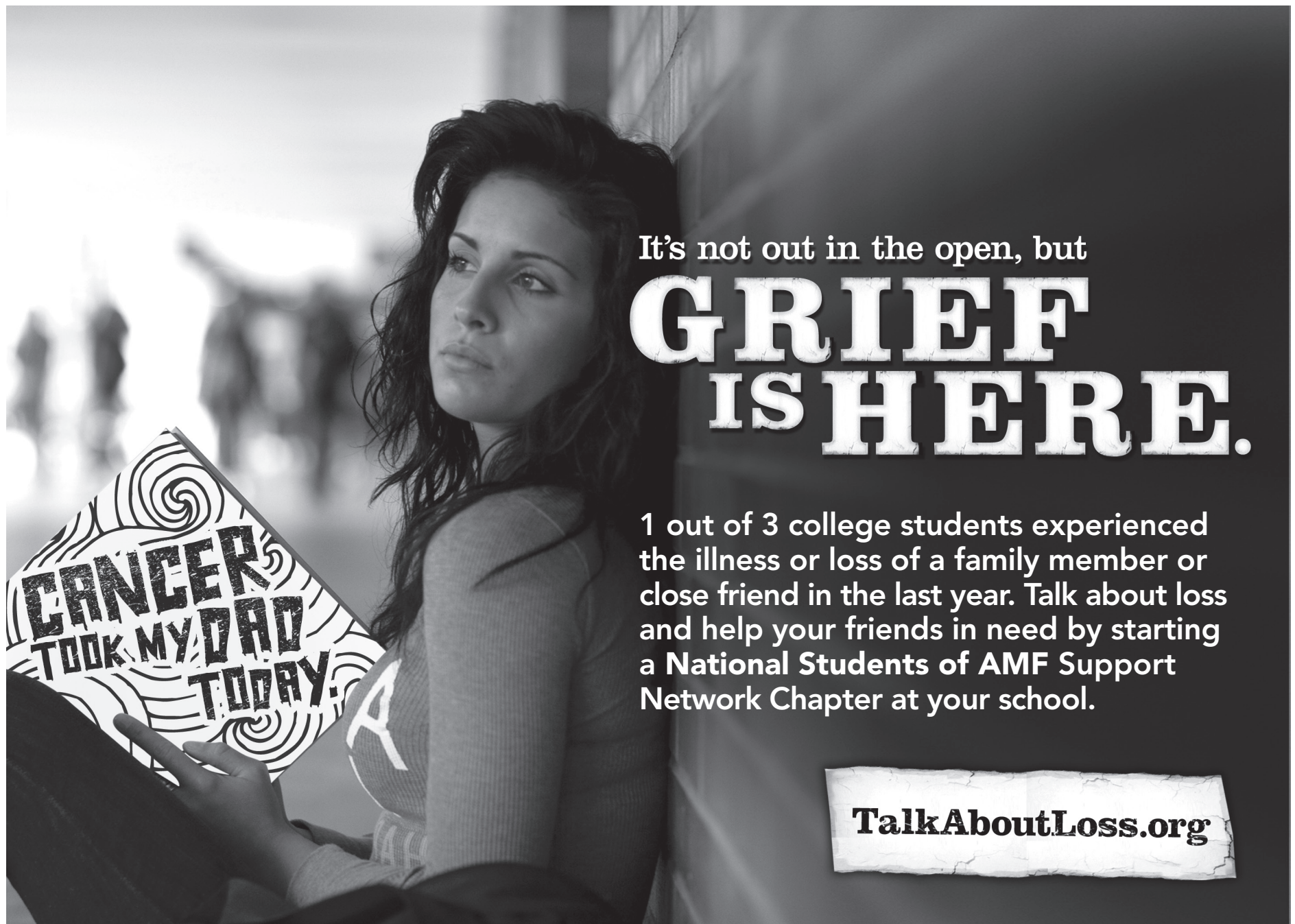
Location: Orgill

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Letter to the Editor

We write in response to two opinion pieces, *Cross-dressing students feels oppressed* by John Ayers and *In Maine, thirty-first time is not the charm* by Patrick Harris, that appeared in your November 11<sup>th</sup> issue. The first of these sided with a high school against one of its male students who came to school dressed as a female. The second commented favorably on the recent rejection by Maine voters of a state law that would have allowed same-sex couples to marry.

Mr. Ayers' main point seems to be that a cross-dressing student constitutes a distraction in the classroom, and that schools are therefore justified in requiring students to conform to norms of attire that they impose. In our opinion, a cross-dressing student might be a distraction on the first or second day of class, but that the level of distraction will surely decline as the novelty of the student's attire wears off.

African-American students were surely "distractions" in formerly all-white schools during desegregation. Some may similarly find students with noticeable physical disabilities to be "distractions." We sincerely hope that this reality would not lead Mr. Ayers to exclude students from either of these categories from the classroom. Rather, the natural expectation is that all we should all accept and respect the right of students from all backgrounds to seek an education.

Mr. Ayers asks "at what point can the professor simply refuse to teach a student whose very appearance disrupts the classroom?" For the record, we have never had a student in class whose dress caused such a distraction that action was required on our part. This includes unusual costumes as part of rush, non-standard hair colors and cuts, revealing outfits, kilts, creative fashion statements, and clothing with political and religious messages. We have never had cross-dressing students in our classes, but if we did, we would welcome them as we do every other student who is eager to learn and respectful of their peers.

Mr. Harris disparages the "typical self-righteous vitriol" of those who seek the same recognition by the government for same-sex relationships as is currently enjoyed by male-female couples. He characterizes ballot-box initiatives as "a noxious and disingenuous affectation" and counsels advocates of same-sex marriage rights to "drop the pretense that they have any regard whatsoever for the will of their fellow citizens." If gay marriage opponents had any regard for the will of their fellow citizens, the whole issue would be moot. In fact, it is reasonable for gays to ask for their rights at the ballot box and, if they do not receive satisfaction there, to insist on those rights in the courts. Gay-rights advocates are wisely using a multi-faceted approach to achieve their aims, as virtually all modern political movements do.

Mr. Harris incorrectly characterizes the gay-rights movement as belonging exclusively to liberals and progressives. In fact, there are liberals who oppose gay marriage and conservatives who support it, especially those with a libertarian streak. No particular political point of view is required to recognize the unfairness inherent in denying millions of people of the right to visit a sick mate in the hospital, to parent a child, or to medical coverage under a spouse's benefits package.

We respect and celebrate the right of Mr. Ayers and Mr. Harris to present their points of view on these important issues, but we feel that in reaching their conclusions, both authors failed to adequately consider fundamental principles such as equal protection under the law, restricted government, individual liberties, and basic human fairness. We are concerned that the simultaneous appearance of these two columns has helped to perpetuate an environment of fear and intimidation at Rhodes for students who find themselves outside of the mainstream Rhodes culture on matters of sexual and gender identity. It is our hope that the Sou'wester will allocate some editorial space to the pro-gay marriage position in future editions.

Sincerely,  
Eric Gottlieb, Jeff Hamrick

## Rhodes Alumna Wins Tennessee Bar Association's Top Award for Student Volunteerism

Diana Comes, a 2008 graduate of Rhodes College and a second-year law student at The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, recently was named Student Volunteer of the Year by the Tennessee Bar Association. This is the association's top award for pro bono work by a law student.

Comes volunteered 280 hours with Memphis Area Legal Services Inc. during the summer of 2009. According to an article about her in the February 18th issue of the Memphis Daily News, she also helped Linda Warren Seely, director of pro bono projects, on a case involving a wheelchair-bound Memphian fighting for her TennCare coverage.



Read more about Comes and her commendable service in the Memphis Daily News.

She says, "In the summers, you can find me volunteering every Saturday at the Downtown Memphis Farmers Market. It's a fun place to catch up with friends and stock up on amazing locally grown tomatoes."

An English major at Rhodes, Comes also demonstrated a commitment to women's issues and helped establish the college's Women's Center.

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## The remake of *Wolf Man* is better looking but superficial



Courtesy of Google

First released in 1941, the new *Wolfman* contains some elements of the original movie, but with a modern touch of suspense and blood.

By **Ferdinand Doumic**  
Staff Writer

The first version of the *Wolf Man* came out in 1941. It was a great success. It quickly became a classic. I admit I often wondered why people would recklessly make remakes of legendary movies with legendary actors. Why would Guss Van Sant make a remake of *Psycho*? What was the point of being rated 4.6/10 on Imdb? What did Michael Haneke expect by doing a remake of his own movie *Funny Games*, becoming *Funny Games US*? Would that be a new Hollywood fashion, to make a US remake for each for-

eign classic?

I might actually answer to those highly rhetorical questions. It seems that most of the time a remake comes after a revolution. Hitchcock, for example, remade his 1934 movie *The Man Who Knew Too Much* mainly because in 1956 he could shoot it with colors. I guess a successful film director, when he has the opportunity to remake one of his most famous features should do so. The *Wolf Man* remake was also based on a technical evolution. Indeed, the computer revolution of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century accurately improved the *Wolf Man* physical abilities. Unfortunately,

this argument seems limited when one acknowledges that *Avatar* already updated the 'sensational' value of such special effects. While considering the morbid quality, the 2005 *King Kong* had already vastly prepared the way.

In *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, Hitchcock had also changed the setting of the movie. In the *Wolf Man*, the plot is slightly modified. However, the modification is only worth it when some interesting element is added to the plot. The *Wolf Man* of 2010 is unfortunately one of those movies that have nothing to bring to the story. The romance scenes were usually the most pathetic and cliché. Imagine two tortured individuals, sad and flirtatious, skimming stones on a lack in a dark atmosphere; the valorous man teaching the beauty how to spin rocks so it can bounce easily on the water. I do not know if film director Joe Johnson gave a particular metaphysical meaning to this scene or if he just had to put a romantic scene in his script, but the first instance seems very unlikely. As a result, I can affirm with confidence that the plot was not an innovative element either.

So what is left of the *Wolf Man* 2010? Well, to be very honest, the werewolf. Bloodthirsty hyperactive teenagers may possibly want to take a look at the preview. But otherwise, you just should rent the 1941 version or a Hitchcock.

## Breaking the chains of mental slavery

By **Chidimma Martha Emelue**

When one encounters Slave Haven, inconspicuously situated on North Second Street, it comes as no surprise that Slave Haven was a once secret safe house where a merchant by the name of Jacob Burkle helped slaves on their journey to freedom.

Under the pretense of being a slave master, Burkle surreptitiously housed slaves in his cellar until it was safe for them to make the two-block trek to the banks of the Mississippi River. The harbor turned house of history is now open to the public and provides intimate details about the journey to freedom that many slaves bravely attempted, and some miraculously succeeded. As a means of celebrating Black History Month, Rhodes students, faculty, and staff spent Saturday, February 13 on a Black Heritage Tour of Memphis during which they were provided with the opportunity to experience Slave Haven.

One rather memorable aspect of the museum is the presentation by museum personnel on the use of coded art, quilts especially, and music to communicate signals and messages between slaves and Underground Railroad agents. This presentation also included a visit from the "spirit" of Harriet Tubman who informed the audience

of her story and her troubles before offering words of encouragement.

Another lasting impression of the museum is the brief moment spent in the cellar where fugitives hid until it was safe to proceed with their journey. The cellar was approximately 175 cubic feet. An individual over 5'6" would have difficulty standing erect in that space, let alone be able to crawl through any of the five minuscule ovals that adorn the walls of the cellar and provided the only source of ventilation and means of entry and escape for the fugitives.

My experience of Black History month so far has been more rewarding and influential than any experience to date. This experience however, has shown that history of any kind, whether race, gender, or issue specific, should not be limited to just some day, week, or month, or any other definite length of time. I encourage Rhodes College students and faculty to participate in the remaining BHM events listed on posters around campus and in the Thursday announcements. However, it is crucial to remember that there are places like Slave Haven in and around Memphis that provide the opportunity to educate oneself and eradicate mental slavery throughout the year.

## Rhodes performs V-Day classic

By **Jasmine Gilstrap**  
A&E Editor

With the belief that "rape, incest, battery, genital mutilation and sexual slavery must end now," playwright, performer, and domestic violence activist Eve Ensler started the movement known as V-Day. Although Ensler has fought towards ending domestic violence for years, it was not until she finished her play *The Vagina Monologues* that she was inspired to launch the movement that supports anti-violence organizations throughout the world.

Based on the interviews with more than 200 women, *The Vagina Monologues* celebrates female sexuality and strength. In addition to recognizing the strength and sexuality of women, the play has liberated the "v" word and inspired countless women throughout the world to take control of their bodies and their lives.

Rhodes has produced a production of *The Vagina Monologues* for the past seven years. This year's production, headed by Cristina Iskander, will star over 20 students and faculty members with proceeds from ticket sells going to the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis. Though there have been performances in the past, this year's production marks the return of a monologue from a transgender woman.

"I have been looking forward to this monologue for some time. It has not been performed at Rhodes for several years and Brenna Ragghianti, a Rhodes alumna who participated in the ensemble performing this piece, was very excited about reviving it this year," said Ciara Conway, Head Vagina. "We strive to represent various aspects of the female experience, both the horrific and the hilarious. For us to fail to

acknowledge the struggle of the transgender community felt like a disservice. With this monologue and all the others included in our show, the ultimate goal is to promote discussion and spur a dialogue amongst women and men, friends, mothers and daughters," said Cristina Iskander.

For more than twelve years, *The Vagina Monologues* has given voice to experiences and feelings of women not previously exposed in public. Since the first performance, *The Vagina Monologues* has been staged in more than 130 countries in more than 45 different languages. The Rhodes production will take place at 7:30 P.M. in Blount Auditorium Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. Tickets are on sell for \$5 at the door. For additional questions, contact Cristina Iskander at IskCE@rhodes.edu.

## Vagina Monologues Acknowledgments

Directed by **Cristina Iskander**

Featuring:

**Lindsey Akers, Kelly Allison  
Sabrina Brown, Meredith Cavin  
Paige Dotsy, Allie Eiland  
Courtney Eskew, Dani Fincher  
Monica Gehrig, Liz Moak  
Beth Hazelrig, Elizabeth Hollingsworth  
Daisy Laird, Amanda Law  
Bri Levy, Liz Mansfield  
Bridget McCall, Kayla Miller  
Gayatri Patel, Jessica Newman  
Brenna Ragghianti, Rashna Richards  
Jerica Sandifer, Rissa Scales  
Tanisha Wakefield, Whitney Warren  
Emily Wheelwright, Joanie Williams**

# Reckless star not reckless towards nature

By Jasmine Gilstrap  
A&E Editor

Native of Powell, Tennessee, junior Lee Bryant is no stranger to the stage. With a childhood that consisted of playing soccer, singing and acting, and being annoyed by her younger brother, Bryant's life is very different from the complex life of her character Rachel in Craig Lucas' play *Reckless*. After starring in her first lead role at Rhodes, I interviewed Bryant who discussed her past and present experiences in theater.

**SW: How did you first get started in theater?**

LB: I acted at my church when I was little and was in a children's choir. I went to a performing arts middle school and was in *Oliver!* at the Clarence Brown Theatre on the University of Tennessee in Knoxville campus. But from the beginning, I was a pretty dramatic child. I should have won an Oscar for pitching fits.

**SW: Do you think your first acting experiences helped to shape your style as an actor?**

LB: Not really, I mean, as an actress I'm always being shaped you could say. There is always something to learn and ways to improve in acting, and even when a show opens the performances are still works in progress.

**SW: What was your first show at Rhodes?**

LB: I was Gladys in *The Skin of Our Teeth* in the fall of 2008. It was an awesome experience working with other theatre students as well as some community actors. Being in the show actually helped me get cast in another show in the summer of 2009, *Much Ado About Nothing*. The actors who played my parents in *Skin*, John and

Mary Hemphill, were putting together a cast for a production of *Much Ado* and asked me audition for the part of Hero.

**SW: You said that your fellow actors have helped you as an actor and to land future performances. How has the Rhodes theater department helped you as an actor?**

LB: The department really is my family and like all families we don't always agree and things can get emotional, pretty sure every professor has seen me cry and I'm not one to cry about little stuff, but I feel completely comfortable and free to be myself with the professors and fellow students. I know the professors will give me their honest opinions to help me grow as an actress, not just the "you did a great job" blanket statement.

**SW: It seems that theater is a big part of your life. Are you majoring in it?**

LB: I'm a double major with Theatre and Environmental Science. I know, I know, weird combination, but they are my two passions and I can't ignore that. I'd like to use theatre to teach kids about the environment and instill in them the same love and respect I have for the earth.

**SW: Speaking of children, you play Rachel in *Reckless* who has two sons. Aside from the marriage and children, how different would you say you are from her?**

LB: Actually...she kind of is me. From the moment I read the play I fell in love with her. She has a quirky personality, loves to talk, and while at times is overwhelming to those around her ultimately she is a very endearing individual. Connecting with her was automatic at the start, but as I read the play over and over and started picking out what really makes her who she is I discov-

ered she's extremely complex. That discovery was wonderful and drew me to her even more.

**SW: Seems like you two are similar. How did you prepare for the part?**

LB: I wrote a character analysis and read the play several, several, several times. I already felt so connected with Rachel so I wasn't grasping to find out who she was. But the lines...oh the lines...learning my lines was and still is the most difficult part of being Rachel because she hardly ever stops talking.

**SW: What are you hoping the audience gets from this performance?**

LB: *Reckless* is a dark comedy so I hope the audience laughs! But more than that, I hope they are able to relate to Rachel and the other characters like I was. Each character in the show is magnetic and plays an important part in the story. The show is about dreams and what happens when they do or don't come true, a journey through the absurd that hopefully the audience will follow and enjoy.

**SW: What advice would you give to others trying to participate in the Rhodes theater department?**

LB: DO IT! For real though, if you want to be a part of a show then definitely audition. It won't hurt anything and who knows you might be cast. There are also plenty of ways to participate off stage with production, costumes, lighting, sound, any aspect of the theatre. The McCoy is for the whole campus, not just the theatre students so get involved.

**Reckless plays through this Sunday. Performances are at 7:30 on Thursday through Saturday and at 2:00 on Sunday.**

# Fashion world loses iconic McQueen

By Marjorie Demaria

Last Thursday, February 11, award winning British fashion designer Alexander McQueen was found dead at his in his London flat. McQueen committed suicide by hanging himself early Thursday morning, just one week after the death of his mother. The designer was 40 years old and leaves behind a tremendous legacy in the fashion world.

Born March 16, 1969, McQueen grew up in a modest family and learned from experience, not from school McQueen did however gained his technical clothes making skills from an apprenticeship with Savile Row tailors which grew when he attended London's prestigious fashion school, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. After graduating with a master's degree in fashion design in 1994, McQueen worked with musician Björk before releasing his first collection.

Critics described McQueen's early work as lavish and unconventional which earned him the title of "the hooligan of English fashion." In 1996 McQueen became the head of Givenchy, a prominent French design brand known for its modern, ladylike styles, whom he stayed with until 2001. During this period McQueen won "British Designer of the Year" four times with his toned down creations.

2000 marked the beginning of McQueen's partnership with Gucci during their expansion and became the Creative Director of the company. This collaboration led to other partnerships with the shoe company Puma and the cosmetic



Courtesy of Google

**McQueen's outfit made headlines when Lady Gaga wore it to MTV's Video Music Awards.**

line M.A.C. With the new found confidence for his work, McQueen launched a women's and men's line as part of the huge group Pinault-Printemps-Redoute which blossomed, creating boutiques in London, New York, Los Angeles, Milan and Las Vegas.

In 2004, McQueen returned to his earlier risqué days with a show at London Fashion Week which parodied the movie *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* He created controversy again in 2005 with his collection "Rape in the Highlands," featuring models covered in blood with torn clothes, or with fake legs. During an interview after the show McQueen stated "I like to reveal the things that people hide: war, sex, religion. And I make them take a good look. That's what art is about."

The award winning British created looks for Prince Charles and some of Hollywood's finest including Nicole Kidman, Penélope Cruz, Sarah Jessica Parker, and recently, Rihanna and Lady Gaga. The future of McQueen's line remains unknown as there is a question regarding whether or not his new show, scheduled on March 9<sup>th</sup>, will get cancelled and who exactly will take over the line and company. Despite issues with his family over his sexuality and the controversy surrounding the suicide of his long time friend Isabella Blow, Alexander McQueen will be remembered for his extravagant and intricate designs. McQueen accurately sums up his life as one of the best fashion designers of all time when he said, "I'm shy so I let my clothes talk for me."

## THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

### New Movie Releases:

2/26/10  
*The Crazies*  
*Cop Out*

### Television Highlights (2/24-3/2):

*American Idol* Wednesday, 8 pm, Fox. The top 12 male singers perform.

*Psych* Wednesday, 9 pm, USA. Shawn and Gus join a think tank designed to protect a tycoon from assassination plots.

*Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains* Thursday, 7 pm, CBS. Another member of the tribe is voted off the island.

*Kitchen Nitemares* Thursday, 8 pm, ABC. Chef Ramsey visits Casa Roma, an Italian restaurant in Lancaster, Cal with a packed bar, but empty dining area in addition to other problems resulting from the eatery's inexperienced owners and kitchen staff.

*Project Runway* Thursday, 9 pm, Lifetime. The designers create outfits with the winner of the challenge having their design on the cover of a high-fashion magazine.

*Pay It Off*, Friday 7 pm, BET. A game show focusing on personal-debt dilemmas. Contestants have the chance to earn up to \$25,000 to pay off debt.

*Smallville* Friday, 7 pm, CW. Lois gets kidnapped when a once-dead doctor escapes with hostages to prove that aliens exist on Earth.

*Amazing Race 16* Sunday, 7 pm, CBS. The 9 teams remaining continue to race to Chile.

24 Monday, 8 pm, Fox. A tense meeting between President Taylor and Omar Hassan tales an unexpected turn.

*Damages* Monday, 8 pm, FX. Patty strikes a surprising bargain to make progress in the Tobin case. Meanwhile, Ellen uncovers evidence about Louis Tobin.

*Lost* Tuesday, 8 pm, ABC. The series' final season continues.

# Second half of NBA season starting to heat up

By Andrew Mullins-Williams  
Sports Editor

Two weekends ago marked the 59<sup>th</sup> NBA All-Star Game with the Eastern All-Stars beating the West 141-139. While the game itself was purely an exhibition, it did provide us with a nice break as the NBA prepares for the second half of a very exciting season.

In the Eastern Conference, Cleveland has emerged as the dominate team. Led by All-Star LeBron James, the Cavs enter the week with a 43-14 record. The biggest difference this year is the bench play, and the emergence of some young talent. Obviously the team runs by the will of LeBron, but unlike previous years, he seems to be getting help.

Last year, Cleveland had the 13<sup>th</sup> ranked offense in the league averaging 100.3 points per game. This year they jumped to number 9.

Perhaps the biggest reason for the improvement is not that Cleveland is that much better, but that the Eastern Conference has gotten weaker. Orlando and Boston, usually teams that challenge and even beat the Cavs, have both fallen prone to injuries. Chicago, a team that took Boston to the brink of elimination last year, has fallen short of expectations. Even upstart Toronto and Charlotte can't seem to make the jump into the elite category this year.

At the start of the second half of the season, Cleveland had a 7 game lead in the Eastern Conference. However, mid-season trades shifted the lineup for the Cavs. The addition of Antawn Jamison has yet to be a blessing, as Cleveland has lost 3 straight since the All-Star game. However, as this team becomes more acquainted with each other, it will not be long for them to pick up on their winning ways.

Atlanta, Orlando, and Boston are all fighting for the number two spot. Behind them Toronto, Charlotte, Miami, and Chicago are holding the last remaining spots. Outside the playoff bubble, is Milwaukee followed by everyone else. Even so, with players coming back from injury, the East should be extremely competitive down the stretch— even if it is by less-than-stellar teams.

In the West, things are not so clear cut.

The cream of the crop is clearly the Los Angeles Lakers, but their lead over the Denver Nuggets diminished over the last few weeks of the first half. Like the Cavs, Los Angeles relies on its superstar Kobe Bryant. He currently leads the team in points (28 per game), and assists (4.7 per game). However, due to a recent injury, the Lakers were able to experiment playing without him and had some success. Unfortunately for Kobe and the Lakers, the Western conference is as competitive as ever. A recent trip to Memphis showed that a young and competitive team can beat the top of the division this year.

Closely behind the Lakers are the Denver Nuggets. After beating the Lakers right before the break, they find themselves only 5 games back. With Carmelo Anthony, Chauncey Billups, and Kenyon Martin, leading the team in points, assists, and rebounds respectively; the Nuggets are a well balanced team capable of beating anyone in the league.

Behind the Nuggets is a jumbled mess of about 9 teams all fighting for the remaining spots in the playoffs. Utah sits in the number three slot, followed by Dallas, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, San Antonio, and Portland. Just outside the top 8 are Houston, New Orleans and Memphis. Each team trails the team in front of it by no more than 2 games. This means that if any team gets hot they will easily propel themselves into the playoffs and vice-versa if they stumble.

If the All-Star game was any indication of what is to come, we should be in for a great second half of the NBA season.

## Bracketology: under-achieving teams

By Andrew Mullins-Williams  
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Maven Report.

Carolina head coach Roy Williams looks bewildered at another loss

With a little over three weeks until selection Sunday, I have decided to post a bracketology section. Every week I will look at different leagues, teams, and possible seeds to help understand the crazy selection process that is the NCAA tournament. This week I am looking at underachieving power-house teams that have some work to do to.

North Carolina: Just one year removed from a National Championship, North Carolina started the year with high hopes. The Tar Heels were supposed to have some growing pains, but a 3-9 conference record is outrageous for a team loaded with this much talent. A loss to the Charleston Cougars seemed to derail the Heels and put them on a spiral of losing unseen in the Roy Williams era. The problem with Carolina is that they are simply not showing heart. They have shooters, big men, defenders, and rebounders, but can't get a full commitment for 40 minutes out of any of them. They have four games remaining, plus the ACC

tournament to try and play into consideration for an at-large-bid. They do have signature wins against Ohio State and Michigan State, but unfortunately their bad losses more than erase their early successes. In reality, they must win the ACC tournament to make the Big Dance. Perhaps if they win out (this includes a win at Duke), they might sneak in by simply reaching the finals. Regardless, North Carolina is in a lot of trouble and the way they are playing now, they might not even make the NIT.

Texas: What happened to this team? This seems to be the question of the year in college basketball. They won their first 17 games before finally falling to Kansas St on January 18<sup>th</sup>. While this team does not have the terrible losses that have plagued North Carolina, it has lost 6 of its last 10 games. With two tough road games left, Texas could easily be looking at an 8-6 conference record. Even so, while this team is certainly under-achieving, it will definitely make the tournament bearing a catastrophic meltdown.

Connecticut: This just might be the streakiest team in the nation. This is a squad that lost to a very mediocre Michigan team, yet beat a powerful Villanova team on the road. On any given day this team can play with the best, but for some reason they don't. Unlike some of the other teams on this list, Connecticut knows what it can do, and what it can't. They are at their best when they spread the ball around and drive to the basket. They usually lose when they settle for jumpers and three pointers—as they are not particularly good sharp shooters. Before a win against Villanova, this team seemed life-less and headed for the NIT. However, three straight wins starting with Villanova has propelled them back into the discussion in the Big East. With three games left against Louisville, Notre Dame and South Florida, it is not unthinkable that U Conn could position itself well for a medium range NCAA seed.

Pac-10: Man-oh-man this conference is bad. Remember when UCLA lost to Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State? Well, that same UCLA team is 7-7 and in the middle of the Pac-10 race. California and Washington were once ranked teams and supposed to compete with the best of the other conferences. With 4 games remaining, the Pac-10 race is wide open and available for anyone who wants it. It is hard to pinpoint any single team, but this entire conference will be lucky to get more than one team into the tournament. The only foreseeable way for this to happen would be for the regular season champion to make the finals of the Pac-10 tournament and then lose.

## Olympic Games seem overrated

By: Andrew Mullins-Williams  
Sports Editor

The Olympic Games are only a week away from their Closing Ceremonies and I for one can't wait.

For those who are Olympic enthusiasts I apologize, but it seems as if I am not alone. I am not saying that no-one watches the Olympics, but a majority of Americans seem very uninterested. While the opening ceremony was watched by 33 million viewers, I bet that curling and ice dancing had slightly lower viewership. The USA Men's hockey victory over Canada was one of the great highlights of the Olympics, but outside of that, the overall competition has been weak.

With that said, here are a few reasons why I was watching a Troy vs. Middle Tennessee State game last week instead of the Olympics.

In curling, a Danish player was teary-eyed after losing a match and blaming it on the pro-Canadian crowd that was too loud and distracted her.

Slovakia managed to lose a women's hockey game 18-0. Eighteen to zero!

USA beat China 12-1. Which begs the question: why does China have a women's hockey team?

Vancouver is under constant threat of rain and they had to bring in snow to cover the skiing events. This is funny because the last time I checked having enough snow is one of the requirements of a host city during the *Winter* Olympics.

The Opening Ceremony could not get the torches to light correctly and NBC's idea of a prime-time event is figure-skating (ice-dancing I believe).

Even with all the mishaps and the untimely and tragic death of luger Nodar kumaritashvili, the Olympics still have the ability to capture my attention. It is not like I am completely shutting them out, but they just have not been up to the task of entertaining me. There have definitely been moments of brilliance, and it should be noted that a lot of the medal qualifications come in the last week. Even so, the competition has been bleak, events off schedule, and television coverage spotty at best.

At least the closing ceremonies are supposed to be spectacular—even if the games themselves are not.