



The debate over the Ground Zero mosque continues...

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September 16, 2010

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Katrina series brings speakers and film to Rhodes community

By Julia Fawal

Five years ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans, wiping out communities, killing almost two thousand and displacing over a million. The Big Easy has come a long way since then, but not without a price. The lives of millions have been changed, and many are still dealing with the repercussions of the terrible storm.

To memorialize the anniversary, the Environmental Studies and Sciences Program at Rhodes College is sponsoring a series of events during the month of September. A film and three speakers will provide multiple perspectives to discuss how Americans have tried to come to terms with the catastrophic events of 2005. The four events will encourage participants to reflect on the importance of telling stories and how it influences the way a catastrophe such as Katrina is understood.

The three speakers of the series are photographer Aric Mayer, economist Henry Storr, and journalist Jarvis DeBerry. They will each speak (free of charge) in Blount Auditorium at 7 p.m. on September 20th, 22nd, and 27th, respectively. Each will provide a different perspective on the disaster in a manner similar to an interactive dialogue rather than a formal lecture.

The series, titled "Telling Katrina's Stories: Interpreting Hurricane Katrina Five Years After," begins at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art with the documentary "Wade in the

Water, Children" on September 18, 2010 at 2 p.m.

"Wade in the Water, Children" was formed by filmmakers Elizabeth Wood and Gabriel Nussbaum after they moved to New Orleans six months after Katrina to teach free film and theater classes. Their intention was to provide an outlet for children to channel their opinions and feelings regarding the tragedy. What began as simply a class assignment suddenly became a sensational, first-hand account of the effects of the storm beyond the visual effects it had on the city.

The film is a collaboration of private videos, uncensored interviews and school-day adventures captured by the children of a notoriously violent New Orleans neighborhood. It provides an alarming portrait of the crisis as the viewers are introduced to the harsh reality of the children's lives: housing projects, broken families, flooded homes, and dangerous streets. The brutal honesty of the narrative reveals a New Orleans few adults speak of—one that was broken long before the levees were.

The film kicks off an amazing series, and it is one Rhodes students should not miss out on. Admission is \$8.00 (\$6.00 for Brooks members).

For more information, contact Jeffrey H. Jackson at jacksonj@rhodes.edu or Heather Holt at (901) 843-3662 or holth@rhodes.edu.

Some insight into sorority life at Rhodes College

By Jordan Farrar

"It's like a club. With a lot of secret rituals and symbols...but you have to be chosen for it, which is kind of a ridiculous process, and it costs money, I guess, but it's fun and there are lots of parties where you dress up as a nerd or in a toga or something..."

A friend from my boarding school had asked me to explain to her the concept of a sorority, and, laughing at her baffled stare, I couldn't help but note how ridiculous I sounded. Because she grew up in the Dominican Republic and now attends college in Canada, she has no sense of Greek life (save for what she learned from fine American cinema). This is in great contrast to our lives here and the common expectation that every freshman girl *must* be dying to run to their respective sorority houses that fateful Saturday morning. As I clumsily tried to explain my year, I noted that, after just one year at Rhodes, I can no longer imagine a life without required meetings, swaps, and an overflowing t-shirt drawer.

I had never seen myself as a girl who would happily don a fanny pack and sing cheers through a megaphone. In high school I did not have but two or three close female friends and often preferred to spend my time in the company of books, opting out of school dances for a date with F. Scott Fitzgerald. I was social, but thought it excessive to be unnecessarily so. And, being in New England, there was no promise that anyone in our graduating class would end up donning letters.

I did not, however, enter our gates without any knowledge of Greek life. My father's favorite anecdotes from his college days involve variations on being forced to do jumping jacks in rooms with low ceilings (no ideas, upperclassmen boys). He often advised me of the networking benefits and strongly encouraged me to go through the recruitment process, if only to meet new people.

My older sister, on the other hand, preferred to terrify me with stories of recruitment at the University of Alabama. "We score a girl by how often she smiles, her family, the length of her dress ... everything." She spoke of the process as if it was perfectly normal, and I could see that, to her, it was. I couldn't decide which was worse: the process itself or how nonchalantly she spoke of girls who "actually thought they would fit in." Would I, too, slip into high heels, safety pin a nametag to my chest, and scrutinize a girl down to the size of her pores? I decided I would not.

Apparently, keeping to a plan is not my strong suit, and I signed up for recruitment. Prior to its beginning, I worried that I would already be blacklisted for being at parties with upperclassmen girls. I imagined that they shot me dirty looks in the line for the bathroom. I thought of the things my sister had told me, and I, overwhelmed, attempted to smile and make eye contact with the entire world at once.

As usual, my paranoia was uncalled for, and things soon fell into place. I practically skipped to my first-choice house on Bid Day, and, in the months that followed, my previous notions about sorority life were obliterated. While I obviously enjoy buying neon pink toga fabric and loved being overwhelmed with gifts during Revelation Week, social events are so wonderful for over a hundred reasons: the girls that I now have the pleasure to call my sisters.

Logically, of course, I feel a sense of belonging. The mutual selection process of joining a sorority is analogous to applying to college. I am at Rhodes with other like-minded people because I belong here, and the same applies to being Greek. While the girls in my house may be from across the country or even pursue ridiculous hobbies (such



Photo courtesy of Google Images

This image shows the disastrous effects brought upon New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina. This year marks the five year anniversary, for which Rhodes is sponsoring a series of three interactive lectures to be held on campus

Mexico's bicentennial met with doubts, concerns

By Rekha Blackerby
Opinion Editor

Thursday, September 16 will mark the 200th anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain. This bicentennial year has the government abuzz with preparations, evident by the informative website excitedly proclaiming a countdown to the day and various links informing citizens of the history, people, and images that are so essential to the meaning of their independence. There is even a link for sharing your own personal story relating to the special day. For the most part, however, the Mexican people are less than eager for the host of planned events.

The New York Times reports the government has set up buses, roads, a marathon, a song, digital library, video game, a representative bird and plant, and the *pièce de résistance*- the fireworks, all in honor of the bicentennial. The commemorative monument, the Estela de Luz (or Trail of Light), is costing nearly \$53 million and, unfortunately, will not even be completed in time for the beginning of the festivities.

Some citizens believe that the war against the drug cartels overshadows this historic occasion. Others believe that such a moment should not be celebrated because of the bloody war. About two-dozen towns have cancelled the fireworks part of the celebration for safety reasons, and the Mexican people are complaining that the war and the associated death toll, numbering 28,000 so far, calls for grieving, not partying.

The man in charge of the events, Alonso Lujambio, suggests that the bloodshed and difficulties facing Mexico only enforce the country's need to unite through celebration of its achievements. He also believes that the government will be subject to criticism no matter what it decides to do. So, in light of that fact, why not celebrate two hundred years of independence with a literal bang?

While Mexican President Felipe Calderon's attempts to unite his war-torn country are admirable, they are perhaps too ambitious and insensitive to the plight of those most affected by the war. The govern-

ment's planned events are trying hard to, at least temporarily, sweep the nation's problems under the metaphorical rug. The war against the drug cartels is very much a real issue for Mexico, and its violence permeates the lives of the Mexican people. Life during wartime is never easy. It requires sacrifices and adjustments. The admittedly bad timing of the bicentennial only forces the question of what should be sacrificed or adjusted. Observing the preparations being made by the Mexican government, the answer is that very little should be changed. But maybe that is not the correct answer.

Undoubtedly, Mexico needs a distraction from the unavoidable problem of the war, but is the solution spending millions of dollars that could, and should, be invested in different pursuits? The Mexican government, in its frantic attempt to provide a moment of normalcy for its people, is crossing a line between necessary and extravagant. Yes, it is absolutely necessary to celebrate such a momentous occasion as the two hundredth anniversary of independence, especially for a country with such a violent past. It is absolutely unnecessary, however, to be spending upwards of \$50 million on a single structure simply to commemorate the event. To Calderon's credit, however, at least the new infrastructure and buses can be used outside of the grand affair. What is truly tragic, however, is that to feel a sense of Mexican unity and patriotism such excess must first be displayed.

This important year and its subsequent celebration should be a reflective time for Mexico. The marking of the bloody conflict that brought them their independence finds the country in yet another tragic war. Mexico appears to be caught in a vicious cycle of bloodshed and war, and, instead of figuring out how to prevent it from continuing, the country is preparing for a magnificent festival while turning a blind eye for a while. Perhaps in addition to the traditional *grito de independencia*, or cry of independence, shouted every Independence Day, a moment of silence should be given for the tragedy of the war and the tremendous loss of life. At least that way the Mexican people can be unified by their independence and their collective grief.

Rhodes through a freshman's eyes

By Erica Morozin
Executive Assistant

Being a typical Yankee suburban girl, I first must express the negatives of my first few weeks at Rhodes College before I can bring myself to explain the many positives.

I could go on an exceedingly long rampage about the pathetic size of my dorm, the subpar quality of the food in the Rat, or about the insane amount of homework I have been attempting to manage. Unfortunately, I cannot complain about any of those things because my dorm is more spacious than most, I am not as repelled by the Rat as I thought I would be, and, though my homework load is massive, it is entirely rewarding.

One thing I can thankfully complain about is the community bathrooms. They have lived up to my terrifying expectations and then some. The main problem I am confronted with occurs on the few days a week that I am brave enough to battle the showers. Being a sensible girl, I wear my most unfashionable flip-flops to avoid the fungus that surely grows on bathroom floors but magically avoids my never been washed dorm floor.

Once I muster up the courage to brave the treacherous twenty steps to the bathroom, the showers mock me. Towering at the astronomical height of five feet six inches, I naturally bang my head on the showerhead every time I shower. The times I try to move the showerhead up, I manage to bang my head roughly twenty more times until I realize that the shower was not built for someone with such massive height. Showering has become a ritual involving awkward stretches and bending my knees to avoid concussion.

I do, however, have a concussion from balancing all my free time. Homework, friends, or parties? I should say homework, but I am in fact writing this article last minute as its deadline looms over me, mere hours away. I have been finishing everything, but the sweet surrender

of sleep is lost to me. No nap or eight hours a night, just bags under my eyes. To add even more weight to this crazy balancing act, my wonderful boyfriend takes up a good portion of my time.

He and I met by chance at orientation and began a long distance relationship shortly after meeting. Needless to say, upon arriving at Rhodes I learned that dating your next-door neighbor can be difficult. It was a tough transition aggravated by the fact that I had never even managed a meaningful high school relationship.

I have come to the conclusion that he is a saint for putting up with me. We engaged (or more accurately, I engaged) in a few minor fights during our first week at Rhodes. Much of this was due to our naivety in dealing with an adult relationship. He is more than understanding of my adolescent behavior and even stayed in my dorm cleaning for me after I maturely ran out of the room during a fight. As strange as it may seem, these minor fights brought us closer together, which means he takes up even more of my time.

Thankfully, we do not share any of the same classes. He is the epitome of the term "super-nerd", accentuated by his science and math based courses. Since I am such a well-rounded person, I am taking a language and several politics classes. All entirely language based and all entirely rewarding to take. As in, I do not have to know the value of pi to the tenth digit.

My US Politics class is at the ungodly hour of nine am, yet has proven to be incredibly stimulating. Each class, Professor Wiris tears down our preconceived notions of politics and proves to us that we really cannot defend our opinions. Needless to say, this class is like nothing I have ever before experienced and is changing me for the better.

Unfortunately for me, a pessimistic girl, I look forward to my future with optimism. The next four years seem promising. Despite the crazy balancing act, I know I am at the right place, and it is so rewarding.

THE SOU'WESTER

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ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

To build a mosque at ground zero...

By **Rami Abdoch**
Staff Writer

Recently, it seems like there has been an inundation by the media about the “controversy” surrounding the Muslim community center (not mosque) a few blocks from Ground Zero in New York – entitled Park51. This is becoming a more and more contentious debate by the day for a number of reasons, but, firstly, let me make this clear: this editorial is not a “positive” argument in favor of the community center so much as an analysis of the reasons against it and their relation to the phenomenon of “Islamophobia” generally.

Not long ago, the mere proposal that an Islamic center be built in Murfreesboro, TN drew a large amount of criticism from the community. However, this isn't just a southern phenomenon; negative sentiment was raised by similar plans to establish Islamic centers in Connecticut, Texas, and even liberal California. Unfortunately, all this uniform hostility towards building mosques leads to the belief that the proximity to Ground Zero for the New York Muslim community center may not be the main point of contention with those in support of the project. As for reasons being put forward against the center's construction, it seems to be the case that is mainly being espoused is that this center would “support extremists.” Granted, the Muslim community as a whole is certainly culpable for not being more vocal in distancing itself from radical extremists falsely acting in the name of Islam. There should be more deprecation towards this behavior, condemning it and striving to inform others that this does not represent Muslims as a whole. If proposals to build mosques are constantly and consistently rejected, this would sever an effective means for Muslims to emphasize to their youth and less religiously educated amongst them that these extremists by no means represent Islam and should not be emulated. This notion is supported by a study, entitled “Anti-Terror Lessons by Muslim Americans” by Duke University and The University of North Carolina, released early this year that indicated that building mosques actually helps prevent radicalization.

My problem is when a commotion is raised about the construction of a Muslim center merely for it containing a prayer space, as opposed to directly addressing the doctrines being promoted within that center. An assumption which might be adopted unconsciously by some is that mosques, by their very nature, engender and even breed extremism, which is far from true. A large number of the domestic cases of extremism in the name of Islam since 9/11 involved either lone individuals or a few renegades bereft of support from the larger Muslim community. What is a problem is that more is not being done by Muslims to castigate those extremists for their misrepresenting Islam rather than having their actions silently overlooked by the larger community. Moreover, given that most Muslims are very much moderate and opposed to extremism, would it not make sense to encourage building Islamic centers as

havens for teaching moderate Muslim values in a time when confusion about Islam is rampant?

Now, assume the worst-case scenario: suppose a militant Taliban group, the kind that would mutilate a woman's face by cutting off her nose and ears as illustrated on the cover of TIME's August 9th cover, wanted to open up an allegedly “Islamic center” down the street. I would be the first to call for its being denied permission to do so. Moreover, I would actively condemn what they promote and expose them using proofs from the theological bases of Islam, i.e. the Qur'an, Sunnah, scholarly consensus, and analogical reasoning. The basis for my opposing those in charge of such an establishment is their misguided understanding of Islam and not with the center itself. In the same vein, I propose that this should be a key criterion (among other criteria) to determine whether or not an Islamic center is suitable for a given area. I posit that proper understanding of Islam is a practical first step that can be taken to truly work against the spread of extremism, which should be our collective main concern.

The problem is that this is not what seems to be driving most people to protest. The very fact of the center being labeled Islamic is sufficient reason for those in opposition. According to a poll done jointly by the Washington Post and ABC news, less Americans have a favorable perspective of Islam now (37%) than they did in October of 2001 (47%). Think about that for a moment. This recent fiasco around the proposed center is part of a larger trend of manufactured hysteria and hatred over Islam that Park51 has greatly increased. Images of men with long beards and women with flowing black veils “imposing” Sharia law on the world are all over the Internet. Figures about Muslim population growth imply and/or explicitly state that Islam will rule the world, i.e. whatever negative image associated with Islam in the mind of the viewer will come knocking on their door if they don't “act.” In no way does this suggest that every protestor to Park51 doesn't have legitimate concerns, but what is being said is that it seems a significant majority of those in opposition to Park51 are against it merely because it symbolizes Islam, the object of their hate, their scapegoat. This article is not concerned with why some may hate Islam but rather with the fact that they do hate Islam and that this hate is their justification for opposing this center and harassing Muslims. There was a rally against the center near Ground Zero some 2 weeks before 9/11 in which a man who wore a cap, which apparently resembled the Islamic kufi, was chastised and insulted just for being a Muslim, or so they thought. They continued berating this man, spewing insults about the Prophet Muhammad that will not be repeated, etc; after this tirade, the man calmly asked for no trouble from the protestors, exclaiming that he was NOT a Muslim. This incident speaks volumes. If this man only appeared to people as a Muslim to be treated in such a way, what about a person who is ac-

tually Muslim, such as the New York taxi driver who had his throat and lip slashed, allegedly because he was Muslim? It does not take much to see where these attitudes can lead if left unchecked.

Furthermore, there is the pastor, Terry Jones, who initially wanted to burn the Qur'an on 9/11, though two days prior decided to cancel the event. Presumably, Christians would not want this individual to be seen as representative of them. Likewise, no Muslim accepts to be painted with the broad brush of terrorism and labeled an Al-Qaeda affiliate and supporter. We need to be able to call a spade a spade in this discussion and highlight the multifarious inconsistencies therein. On top of all of that, this hatred and the related acts of violence will only serve to fuel radicalization and provide support for extremist movements, which is exactly the thing that we are trying to curb and eliminate!

The point is this: this issue is about something larger than a \$100 million center near Ground Zero. It has proven to be the catalyst which appears to have put people over the edge with regard to senseless anger and increasing violence towards the Muslim community. I will close with two quotes, the first being a message from Twitter: “Peace-seeking Muslims, pls understand, Ground Zero mosque is UNNECESSARY provocation; it stabs hearts. Pls reject it in interest of healing.” This is more akin to the type of rhetoric that was prevalent at the beginning of this debacle, before it devolved into a diatribe against Muslims. Many contended that the 9/11 first responders would not be honored by this center's construction. Perhaps they would do well to heed Mayor Bloomberg's response concerning that very issue. He said, “The attack (9/11) was an act of war, and our first responders defended not only our city, but our country and our constitution. We do not honor their lives by denying the very constitutional rights they died protecting. We honor their lives by defending those rights and the freedoms that the terrorists attacked.”

The next quote reads: “We don't need to agree with each other on theological matters, but tolerating each other without unnecessarily provoking strife is how we ensure a civil society.” Both are, surprisingly, from Sarah Palin. I cannot stress how essential the second quote is. It really encapsulates the attitude that needs to be adopted from both sides of the debate. Many non-Muslim Americans do not agree on certain things about Islam. I would contend much of that can be addressed with clarification, but, even in cases where the person is clear on the orthodox position and still disagrees, that fact by itself by no means provides justification for blanket hatred and categorization of Muslims as “the other.” I implore all Americans, for everyone's sake, to end this Muslim xenophobia before it leads us to a place of no return. Let us instead work together to defeat the common enemy of extremism.

Written with contributions by **Nabil Abdurehman**.

...or not to build a mosque at ground zero?

By **John Ayers**
Staff Writer

The mosque in New York City has evoked sharp disagreement across the country. It is true that it is very close to Ground Zero where nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in a defining moment for this generation that has shaped the last decade of foreign and domestic affairs. It is not an argument to be taken lightly.

First, let us look at this from a legal standpoint. Obama was correct in pointing out that those who want to build the mosque have every constitutional right to do so. This country is founded on religious freedom. We are free to worship who we want, and, in nearly every case, where we want. Barring some kind of archeological surprise at the site of the mosque, these Americans are fully within their rights. These cannot, and should not, be infringed upon even if it was across the street from Ground Zero and 99.9% of Americans opposed it. Let the building go forward on these merits.

Second, let us look at the emotional view. This site is being built a mere two blocks from Ground Zero. Debris from the falling towers damaged structures in that area. It is about

as close as America gets to “sacred” ground. Those who perpetuated the attacks were Muslims. Yes, they were extremists but Muslims nonetheless. It is tempting to ask here whether those in Islam would permit a synagogue to be built where many Muslims died to Israeli attacks, whatever the motive. To go down that road, however, would make us no better as a nation and people than the intolerant people who firebomb churches in the Middle East. It would demean our laws and institutions to sink to so low a level as to refuse to allow a mosque simply because it is near Ground Zero.

Therefore, the challenge whether to build the mosque should be placed squarely on the heads of those planning to build it. Much like Christians and everyday Americans widely criticizing the planned Quran burning, despite seeing the Bible and the American flag burned incessantly in the Middle East, Muslims must censor themselves. They must ask themselves whether they are being insensitive to the families who lost loved ones on 9/11 and to the nation as a whole. They must decide whether their teachings condemn the violence that occurred two blocks away, or advocate it. There can be no middle ground, no halfhearted condemnation. This seems

unlikely, given that their chief imam, Feisal Rauf, has criticized America as an aggressor. He suggested, indirectly, that America may have brought 9/11 on itself. This kind of attitude is unacceptable, especially so close to where so many citizens of this “aggressor” lost their lives.

It is for these reasons that, on a constitutional level, I support the mosque builders. Their rights should not be infringed upon. However, on an emotional level, I urge them to reconsider, and, at the very least, take a strong stand against the religious violence that has caused this controversy. I have no personal prejudice towards Islam, or any other religion. But, like many Americans, I worry whether Muslims will criticize extremist Muslims for these acts. Too many times we have seen those like Imam Rauf call for impartiality but not practice it themselves. This country values its rights, such as religious freedom that we extend gladly to all who come here, regardless. We simply ask that those who enjoy these rights will do so in a reasonable and respectful manner. I do not believe those building the mosque have acted reasonably or respectfully, and, until that changes, I oppose the building.

Student Voice

What advice would you give a freshman?



“Buy a pair of rain boots. You won’t regret it.”
– Sarah Rogers ‘11



“Think outside the box. There is more than one way to reach your goals. Choose the path that’s best for YOU, even if it isn’t traditional!”
– Marrissa Scales ‘11



“Stay open-minded. Don’t stress and burn yourself out in the beginning. You have a long road ahead of you and I know that you are more than prepared for the journey.”
– Anthony Maples II, ‘12

“Visit career services. I know its freshman year, but their services are so helpful in forming a plan for college and life.”
– Chidimma Emelue, ‘12



“Balance your partying with your studies. The harder and more efficiently you study, the better you can party.”
– Andrew Bell, ‘12

College students key to November election, national change of direction

Today’s college graduates face a national unemployment rate near 10 percent -- five applicants for every job opening and a 35-week average wait to be hired. Worse yet, recent graduates are accepting substantially lesser positions than they trained for -- law school graduates settling for *paralegal* jobs, for example.

According to Maryland political research organization JMJM, a fundamental change in Congress’ attitude toward and treatment of American business and industry would effect a rapid and profoundly favorable change in the economy and job creation. The principal force in bringing about that change this November is the collective *national voting power of American college students*.

The necessity for change is caused by the politically-motivated actions and inactions of Congress that fail to legislatively support American business and industry

that are the *creators* of jobs, the *eliminators* of unemployment, and the *generators* of personal income tax flow to government. Here is what could bring about that change: Replace one-third of Congress, *irrespective of party affiliation*, on Election Day, November 2, 2010. JMJM believes that both newcomers and those incumbents who survive that election will get the message: “*The well-being of the nation...not your re-election...is now your first priority.*”

College students and their families collectively represent over 35 million votes, equal to 27 percent of all votes cast in the last national election. Despite our nation’s difficult financial straits caused both by Congressional action and inaction, incumbent members of Congress are re-elected about 90 percent of the time. The average incumbent enjoys a 42 percent advantage over the challenger.

The 35 million votes of col-

lege students and their families can change all that. Their 35 million votes are *three times* the number needed to convert the earlier 42 percent incumbent advantage to a 29 percent advantage for this year’s challengers. This would result in a fundamental change in American politics. The defenders of the status quo would have been removed. The broken two-party system would be bypassed. Our newer voters – college students – would have brought it about by taking the lead in a new national direction.

A Master Plan to reshuffle Congress has been crafted. Titled “Congress gone Wild – Our Whores on the Shores of the Potomac,” it sets-forth the plan with its supporting rationale, and names members of Congress who should be voted out of office, *particularly the most senior members*. After all, those who have been in office the longest have obviously done the most damage.

Newsweek names Rhodes #1 school for “do-gooders”

By Anna Meyerrose
Editor in Chief

With its Presbyterian roots, community service and concern for others is evident daily at Rhodes College and can be seen through various organizations. With a large sampling of on-campus groups such as Advocates for the Homeless, First Book Rhodes College Advisory Board, Habitat for Humanity, Kinney, Music As Medicine, Rhodes Rebuilds, Rites To Play, TOMS Rhodes Campus Club, and Up ‘til Dawn, Rhodes students have ample opportunity to get involved in the local Memphis community and to help those less fortunate than themselves.

It would seem that Rhodes students do in fact take advantage of these many opportunities available to them. Recently, Rhodes Colleges and its students received national recognition for their commitment to service. *Newsweek Magazine*, in partnership with the *Washington Monthly*, evaluated 510 colleges and universities across the country to determine which 25 were the most service-oriented institutions. When evaluating various schools, researchers looked at school policies, as well as the percentage of students or alumni participating in programs such as the Army and Navy Reserve Officer

Training Corps (ROTC), the Peace Corps, also taking into account how many students participate in community service activities.

Of the 510 schools studied, our very own Rhodes College came in first place, thereby earning us the title of the best school for “do-gooders” in the nation. Most prominent among the data collected about our school was the fact

that 80% of all students participate in some form of community service during their four years at Rhodes.

In celebration and recognition of this school-wide achievement, President Troutt has invited everyone to join him for ice cream on September 20th at 4:00 on the southeast side of Halliburton Tower.



Photo courtesy of Rhodes College

These three students were pictured in the *Newsweek* article pronouncing Rhodes as the number one service-minded school.

Rhodes College Mortar Board chapter receives national award

The Torch chapter at Rhodes College was among the outstanding chapters to be honored for its excellence at the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference, held July 23-25 in Chicago.

The group was one of 77 chapters to receive the Silver Torch Award, presented to chapters meeting chapter management standards while exemplifying the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Chapter Vice President Andrew Millis was present to accept the chapter's award.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 228 chartered collegiate chapters with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. The Torch chapter

at Rhodes College was chartered in 1964 and currently has 26 members.

Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include distinguished politician Condoleezza Rice, Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees and Suzy's Zoo creator Suzy Spafford. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

For more information, please contact Alicia Notestone at the Mortar Board National Office by e-mail at anotestone@mortarboard.org or by phone at 800-989-6266 ext. 106.

Chapter Vice President Andrew Millis can be reached by e-mail at milma@rhodes.edu.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MORTAR BOARD

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Sorority, continued from Page 1

as fostering a love for the sciences), we all made it to the house for a reason. Knowing that we have at least that in common allows me to have a conversation with any one of my sisters without feeling uncomfortable.

We are stereotyped as being vapid, exclusive, and judgmental. This could not be any more incorrect. Sororities have stringent GPA requirements, not only to initiate but for permission to attend social events. We have study nights, and a list of each sister's major and cell phone number is circulated each year as an extra resource. Unified in our pursuit to be successful as a house, we seek to help one another rather than compete.

Needless to say, despite my positive experiences freshman year, I was still anxious for recruitment. I wondered how I could stand to judge a girl so harshly – was I expected to climb a tree, binoculars in hand, at each off-campus party? Should I be paying attention to what the girl in front of me in the Lair gets on her sandwich? Are

banana peppers a telltale sign of major underlying character flaws? Yet again, I worried about what would be required of me, and, yet again, I was wrong.

Recruitment is grueling for everyone involved, but I also know that most girls secretly love the hours they spend in the house complaining. I soon learned I needn't have worried about spying – all we really care about is that a new member can make us laugh or, as I managed last year, talk about her webbed toes for an entire party. Rather than sneering at girls who don't fit in, our cheers for the ones that did were audible from the street.

All in all, we are sorority girls. Our conversations may occasionally be dominated by reports from the previous weekend's swap. I'm sorry we were so loud on Bid Day, but we are fiercely loyal, smart, and capable women, and we can hold a hell of a conversation about community service.

Hey You!

The Souwester needs News writers!

- ✕ Are you literate?
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- ✕ Do you have a passion you want to share with the Rhodes community?
- ✕ Do you want to make Anna Meyerrose's life much easier?

If you answered yes to any of these, PLEASE contact Anna Meyerrose (meyam@rhodes.edu) or NeNe Bafford (bafta@rhodes.edu)

Michael Cera's *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* rules the world



Courtesy of Google

Scott (Michael Cera) attempting to make conversation with Ramona (Mary Elizabeth Winstead).

by Shelby Lund

The first sign that *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World* is unlike anything you've ever seen is the opening Universal Logo, rendered in 8-bit, with the Universal theme remixed in the style of classic videogame themes. Next thing the audience sees is the words "In the faraway land of Toronto, Canada..." This is the set up for something gloriously hilarious.

As the intro hints, the movie is entirely set in Toronto, with multiple references to well-known Canadian businesses. The first 30 minutes of the film play out like a bizarre romantic comedy as we meet the main character, Scott Pilgrim (Michael Cera), and get a glimpse at his life prior to the actual start of the plot. This includes his relationship with Knives Chau (Ellen Wong) who is 17 to his 22, as well as that he has no job,

plays bass in a band called Sex Bom-Omb, and rooms with his gay best friend, Wallace Wells (Kieran Culkin).

Scott's life changes when a beautiful girl he sees in his dreams turns out to be real, the mysterious American Ramona Flowers, Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Newly arrived in Toronto, Ramona can apparently travel through Scott's head and Scott becomes obsessed with her and starts to court her while still dating Knives. He invites her to come and see his band perform in the first round of an exclusive Battle-of-the-Bands type competition. During Sex Bom-Omb's performance, a weird guy calling himself Matthew Patel (Satya Bhabha) crashes through the roof and challenges Scott to a fight to the death over Ramona. That's when the *real* movie starts.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World is, at its heart, the story of

the relationship between Scott and Ramona. However, this seemingly mundane story is made absurdly awesome by the fact that in order to date Ramona, Scott must first defeat her Seven Evil Exes in brilliantly choreographed fights which use stylistic elements from comic books and videogames. These elements include such nuances as showing "VS" every time a fight between two characters breaks out and repeated use of the timeless comic effect of showing sound effects as words on the screen, such as "Whack!", "Bam!", and "Wham."

The comic book feel of the story is excellently captured by the filmmaker's knack for arranging shots so that they look like panels from a graphic novel, as well as the use of subtitles to hilariously comment on the plot. As the movie is based off a series of graphic novels, the comic book style only adds to the movie's awesomeness. Combined with the more videogame-esque effects added to the fight scenes, it seems as though you're watching a videogame in comic-book format with a really great soundtrack as well, I might add.

The acting is solid, with Michael Cera's Scott being both a likeable dork and an annoying jerk as he tries to survive his crazy life. Mary Elizabeth Winstead puts in a decent performance as Ramona who came to Toronto to escape her past only to have it come after her. Ellen Wong's Knives is positively adorable, to the point where the audience's sympathy is greatly on her side even after Scott dumps her and she starts stalking him like he does Ramona. Kieran Culkin's Wallace is by far the funniest, most sarcastic character in the entire film, and never falls into any sort of gay stereotype. The villains are played in wonderfully hammy style, with special mention going to Jason Schwartzman's egotistical villain Gideon.

The film never truly takes itself seriously, and lacks any sort of logic, especially with regards to how exactly some of the characters possess the various weird skills and powers that they have. However, this lack of logic positively contributes to the film's over-the-top style and action, allowing the viewer to sit back and enjoy an ordinary, wimpy-looking guy using mad martial arts skills to beat up a motley crew of super-powered villains and win the girl of his dreams. If you're looking for a thinking man's movie, you're better off seeing *Inception*, because with *Scott Pilgrim*, brains are not necessary, although they do help you appreciate the film's many geeky shout-outs.

If you don't like comic books, videogames, superhero movies, comedy, romance, or movies that don't require a lot of thinking to enjoy, then you will hate *Scott Pilgrim*, which combines all of these into one awesome, butt-kicking package.

Diana Frid's art classifies and defines the world

by Annika Wuerfel

Tinfoil, masking tape, thread, cloth, and cardboard are some items that may not come to mind when first thinking about a great art masterpiece. However, don't let your concept of what art is fool you. Artist Diana Frid, whose art will be displayed on campus in the Clough-Hanson gallery, makes her two and three dimensional fabric montages, drawings, artist books, and sculptures out of many ordinary objects that could probably be found around a dorm room.

Though Frid's medium of choice may consist of ordinary items, her creativity and pieces are anything but ordinary. From a multimedia paper artwork piece that consists of brightly colored trees with a UFO looking object in the center to a book completely made of fabric and embroidery, her artwork is influenced by systems of cartography, astronomy, botany, and geology.

Born in Mexico City in 1960, Frid moved to Vancouver, Canada with her family in 1983. She currently lives in Chicago where she works at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Frid received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1991 and her Masters of Fine Arts in 2003 from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has been featured in one-person shows ranging from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Esso Gallery in

New York, to Neues Kunstforum in Cologne, Germany.

Frid's interesting combination of craft-like feel of work that contradicts sleek, modern technology helps to enhance the relationship between factual and imaginary, which is the central idea behind her work.

In a previous interview Frid said, "My intent is to subvert the original meaning lent by the initial context of the found image, in order to allow for composite and multiple readings, as in puzzles which have more than one or no particular solution. By doing this, I allude to the inconsistencies inherent in any system that attempts to classify and define the world."

Frid's show, *Works on Paper 2008-2010*, is the first show of the season to be shown in Clough-Hanson and will run from September 17 through October 14. On Thursday, September 16 there will be a very special free event where Frid herself will present a lecture about her work in Blount Auditorium in Buckman Hall at 7 PM with the reception for the show being held in the gallery from 6-8 PM on Friday the 17. The Clough-Hanson gallery is free and open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM to 5 PM. Come and learn more about this amazing, accomplished artist and her works that will truly inspire you to never look at a piece of string the same way again.

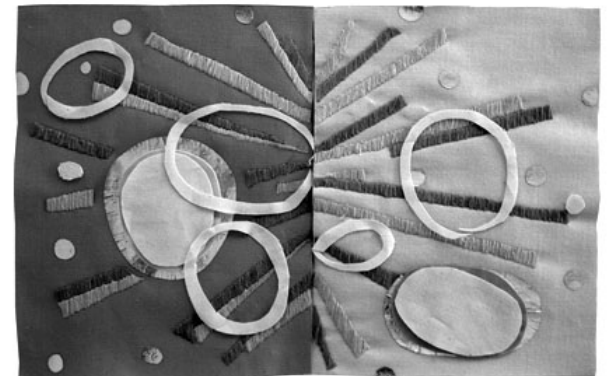


Photo courtesy of Google Images.

This is one of Frid's more dynamic pieces, with the embroidery as the primary focus.

Two shows in two nights

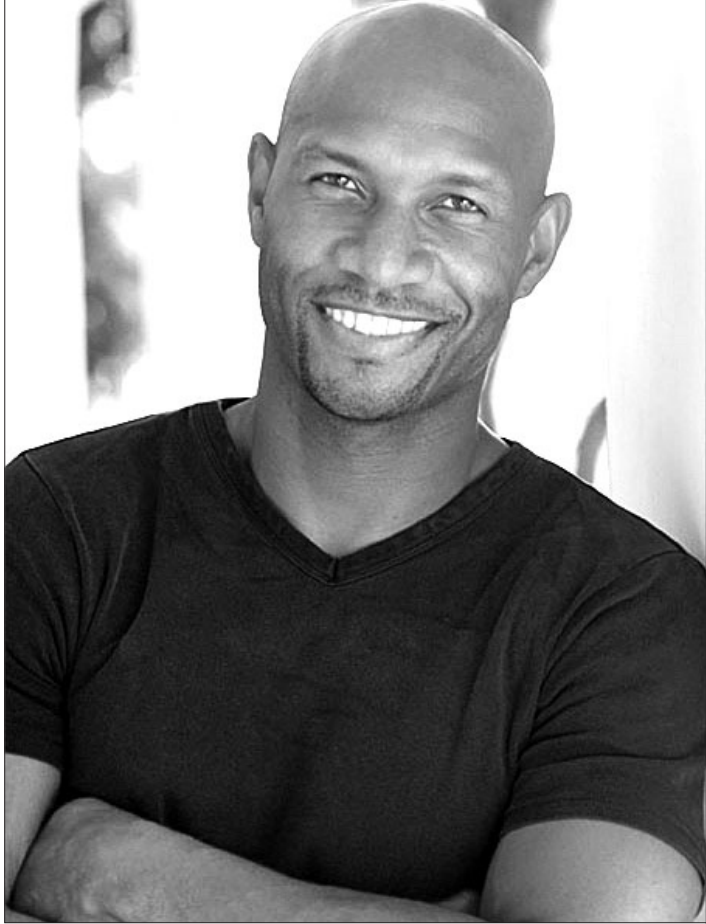


Photo courtesy of Charles Holt.

While attending Rhodes, Charles Holt played football and majored in Business.



Photo courtesy of Charles Holt.

Chosen View front man Andy Lockley performing with his band at a show in late May.

by **Jasmine Gilstrap**
A&E Editor

During a weekend filled with outdoor activities, ranging from beating bears using athletic ability to pledging baby bears and dolphins, I found myself enjoying entertainment indoors. Continuing with the dichotomy of this weekend's events, the two shows I attended were as different as the Memphis weather in which they took place.

The first show of my weekend began Friday evening at the McCoy Theater, with a performance by class of 1989 alumnus Charles Holt. Holt began the show with a story of his introduction to music by his late grandmother and her soulful, early 1950's gospel tunes. Throughout his performance, Holt took the audience on a journey through his self discovery and discovery by directors who helped him reach his current place in the entertainment world.

Holt performed a range of songs, from soul classics such as Billie Holiday's "God Bless The Child" to a rendition of "America, The Beautiful" that served as his audition piece for "Rocky Horror Picture Show," which resulted in him becoming the first traveling African American Rocky. The Rhodes alumnus truly engaged the audience and created a sense of comradery as if we were retraveling the journey with him.

Holt's musical abilities, despite not taking a single music or theater class at

Rhodes, were like none other I have witnessed before. His microphone technique for creating a decrescendo with his voice absolutely surprised me and impressed a few of my companions currently enrolled in a voice class. The affectionate, yet not too forceful, tone of his voice gave the audience a soothing feeling as though the theater transformed into a joint from the pre-Civil Rights Movement era.

Holt's commentary on society and culture combined with his emphasis on the genesis of his life and different music genres made the performance truly live up to it's name, "Sole Music." By describing his self as a "little fire ball of inspiration," Holt captured the feeling the audience had leaving the McCoy that night and the spirit he seems to have exuded during the performance and after.

My second musical endeavor this weekend came from the Minglewood Plaza. Though my intentions for attending the concert were to support the band Eyes Around from my hometown, I left with a yearning to see Memphis-based band Chosen View again. The five man alternative band opened the show with a bang, performing "Under The Swell," the second track on their demo "The Common Thread." Throughout their performance, vocalist Andy Lockley's alto voice gave off a sweet yet rugged sound similar to fellow Memphis-bred singer John Cooper of Skillet.

CV's similarity to Skillet continues

with their use of screaming, which resembled the squeals of the new baby owls and pandas I heard earlier in the day. However, CV differs from the band with their same hometown as their secular lyrics and dynamic stage presence make them a great band to see live. Though the band is not affiliated with one belief system, the fierce-fivesome did pay a tribute to the victims of the 9/11 attacks with the very appropriately titled song "We Will Rise."

After premiering their new song "Keeping Hope Alive" and covering Alanis Morissette's "Uninvited," CV ended their set with fist pumping, dance worthy song "Reaching Out." With all their quirks during instrument changes from rhythm guitar player Joshua Myers frequent abandonment of the stage to enter act with the crowd while playing to Lockley's multiple attempts to tell jokes, the CV concert experience was a unique one to say the least.

My ability to experience two drastically different musical stylings within two days displays the range of the Memphis music scene. Holt represents the historical and somewhat traditional Memphis Blues scene, while Chosen View accurately displays the upcoming, modern rock scene emerging in the city. Both musical acts have websites for those wishing to indulge in their varying sounds and can be found at charlesholtproductions.com and myspace.com/chosenview.

Show Core comes alive

By **Darshan Gasque**

Imagine live stage energy and raw talent, while performing modern musicals that speak to the audience. This is precisely what student Maia Henkin, 2011, planned to create.

"Basically, we are performing musical numbers from musicals and singing and dancing. When a lot of people think of musicals, they think of jazz hands, sequence, top hats, and this is nothing like that. Think *Glee*, but not lame," said Henkin.

Since her freshman year, Henkin wanted to create a place where music and dancing come to life. Being in both theatre and Rhodes Singers, Henkin felt as if there is a divide amongst the two programs. Thus, Henkin "bridged the gap" between the two while helping others have the opportunity to do both and from this, she created the "Rhodes Show Core."

Henkin states how she wanted to do a "show" and "choir" but these words were not lively enough to express exactly what she wants, feeling that those terms are not hardcore enough. Thus, the term "Show Core" emerges from her idea of a hardcore show choir.

Why does Henkin say think *Glee*? Well, In Summer 2009, Fox TV introduced a soon-to-be hit series called *Glee*, which revolves around a teacher that successfully tries to put together a high school glee club. Ranging from the jocks to the nerds, the shows diversity in its performances brings life to some of today's popular songs and to some of the past's chart-topping hits. All over the country, *Glee* has inspired a multitude of people in such ways as fashion and musical identity.

In connecting *Glee* with Rhodes, when students heard about Maia Henkin's idea for "Rhodes Show Core", they imagined themselves as cast of the next *Glee*. One student, Alex LaBat, 2013, was thrilled to hear about this opportunity.

"My first reaction when I heard about Show Core was 'I've got to audition for this!' I thought it sounded like a lot of fun and my initial thought was that it would be like the television show *Glee*," said LaBat. "I love to sing so I figured I might as well try out and see what happens."

However, *Glee* fits very differently into Henkin's idea of "Show Core."

Henkin's sentiments express that Rhodes Show Core is a live performance, minus the whole sound editing and vocal cords. These performances will be more focused on real, raw talent and, unlike *Glee*, where the performances are more fixated on one particular individual, these numbers will also include ensemble pieces.

Nonetheless, Henkin's hard work paid off. With 47 people that signed up to audition, Henkin's plan is looking to be a success and she would really appreciate the support of her fellow students in making this hardcore show choir a lasting effort. If you are interested in becoming a part of history here at Rhodes, don't hesitate to audition for The Rhodes Show Core or any performance.

CC starts out strong

By William Hunt

MEMPHIS, TN—The Lynx Cross Country season got off to a fast start at Sewanee's Invitational on 9/4; the men's team tied one regional rival for first place and outright beat two others. By a narrow margin the women finished second overall but still finished 81 points ahead of the third place team.

Furthermore, several of the Lady Lynxes finished the day with career personal records in the 6 kilometer race. Seniors Kelsey Dudziak and Anna Johnson ran 23:05 and 23:06 respectively. Sophomore Maddie Harrigan ran 23:16, and freshman Rebecca Olivarez finished her first collegiate meet in 23:45. First-year standouts Maggie Klusman and Allison Bruff finished their premier races in 27:58 and 28:20, times which were good for 64th and 65th in a field of 104 individual runners.

For the men, senior Chris Moore led the team by running 26:40, his career-best season start. Micah Wasserman led the class of 2014 for the men's team. He was 27th in a field of 104 with a time of 28:28 in the 8 K. Fellow freshmen Noah Brown finished 35th overall (28:48), Nicholas Domino (74th, 31:26), Shamit Dua (76th, 31:45), and Charles Walker (89th, 32:35), also completed their first 8 Ks.

Rhodes football wins home opener

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

MEMPHIS, TN—Rhodes College earned its first win of the season with a 14-10 victory over Washington University in St. Louis.

The Lynx used a formula of solid defense and timely offense to improve their record to 1-1 on the season.

Rhodes fell into an early hole by giving up a 22 yard touchdown pass with 9:27 left in the first quarter. QB Tyler Perkins responded by connecting with freshman WR Buddy Legens for a 22 yard strike to tie the game momentarily in the second quarter. Washington University added a field goal as time expired for halftime, but they would not score again.

Senior linebacker Andrew Meier recorded a season high 13 tackles, and junior David Thomas added an interception in the second quarter. Down 10-7 coming into the second half, the Lynx mounted a comeback early in the fourth quarter. With 13:01 remaining in the game, RB Chris Rose took a handoff from Tyler Perkins and rushed into the end zone to cap a nine-play, 62 yard drive.

"It was a hard fought, well played football game," said Head Coach Joe White. "Today we made enough plays to get the win."

Senior RB Matt Gilbert had a game high 101 yards on 20 carries, and sophomore quarterback Tyler Perkins connected on 11 of 16 passes for 98 yards, while adding 14 more on the ground.



Photo courtesy of rhodes.edu

Rhodes' football team came from behind to defeat Washington University on September 11, 2010. The final score was 14-10.

Leading 14-10, the Lynx defense kicked into high gear with a great goal-line stop with less than three minutes left in the game. Facing a 1st and goal from the four yard line, Chase Duke and David Thomas stopped Washington's C. Castelluccio for no gain. Following a 1 yard run and an incomplete pass, Senior DB Pete Bilan dropped the Washington Bears running back in the backfield for a loss of four yards.

Rhodes then took over on downs and ran out the clock for the victory.

"I saw maturity today from many of our senior leaders," responded Coach White in a post-game interview. "I am so proud of our guys."

Following this victory, Rhodes will travel to take on Trinity in San Antonio, TX on September 19. The next home game will be against LaGrange on October 2.

When Fantasy Football becomes a problem

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

MEMPHIS, TN—Mark St. Amant had a conundrum. At age 36, he was one of the directors at Keiler & Co., a Connecticut based advertising agency. However, like many Americans, he was finding work was competing with his ability to field a championship fantasy football team. Using the natural common sense of a working professional with clear-cut principals and priorities, he decided to quit his job for a chance to win his 700 dollar fantasy football league. In the process of giving up his six-figure-job, Amant never once reconsidered his actions.

"I'd been playing in an office league since the late '90s and never won," says St. Amant. "I came close a few times, but it was an always-a-bridesmaid thing. I realized this job was draining my time

and preventing me from winning."

While this is one extreme consequence of fantasy football, more and more people are finding that it can cause problems.

First, fantasy football is a fantasy sports game where players or "owners" are organized into a competitive league, earning "fantasy points" by implementing the statistics of actual football players.

With the NFL reaching an all time high in popularity, there is no question that fantasy football has become a nationwide phenomenon. While exact figures are hard to find, a 2006 estimate from the Fantasy Sports Trade Association (yes it does exist), suggests that there are between 15 million and 18 million fantasy sports players in the United States.

That was four years ago.

Today an estimate puts the number near 27 million as fantasy football dominates almost all aspects of the sport. You cannot turn on a game without "fantasy impacts" being broadcast during timeouts and halftime. Highlight reels are now tailored to interested fantasy owners wondering how "their" players did. Chris Russo, the chairman and CEO of Fantasy Sports Ventures said that the annual revenue in advertising dollars from fantasy football is between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

However, this new cult of fantasy football may be becoming more of a problem than ever imagined.

Last year, four employees at Fidelity Investments in Westlake, Texas were fired because of their involvements in fantasy football leagues. One of the accused, Cameron Pettigrew, acknowledged that he was betting 20 dollars on his league but knew of others in the office with buy-ins in the hundreds and thousands.

In a recent study conducted by outplacement consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, half the people surveyed admitted that they spend at least one hour per day thinking about their fantasy football team. Furthermore, the study showed that American companies could be losing as much as \$1.5 billion in productivity during an average football season because of fantasy leagues.

Even with the new problems that have arisen due to fantasy football. Most owners are simply looking for a fun way to get more involved in pro football.

This has been found to be especially true here at Rhodes, where most people join fantasy leagues because it's a fun way to enjoy football season with friends. While some leagues certainly do have money aspirations, it is a far cry from wanting to drop out of school to win a fantasy football championship.

"Fantasy football makes an un-meaningful game meaningful," says senior Jared Ewing. "I like the competitive aspect; it makes you pay attention to every single player in every single game."

Fantasy football provides an outlet on Sundays away from the stress of school and homework. With a new digital age upon us, it can be certain that fantasy football is not going to disappear.

Just don't quit your job over it.

EXCUSES

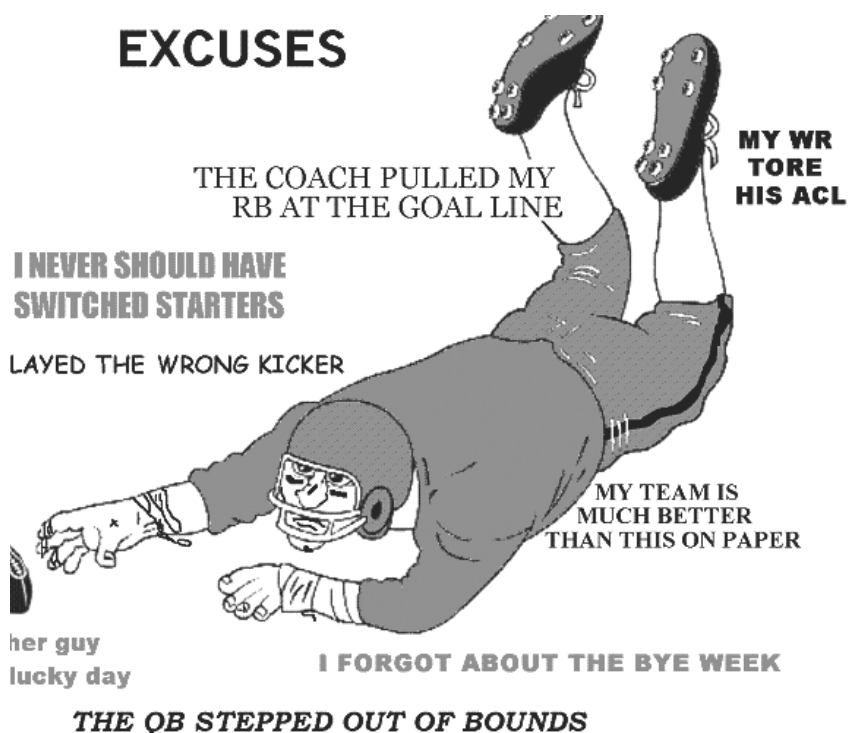


Photo courtesy of Google Images