

Weekly Weather

Wednesday, April 6
Partly Cloudy/Wind

High: 59
Low: 42



Thursday, April 7
Cloudy/Wind

High: 61
Low: 49



Friday, April 8
Isolated T-Storms

High: 63
Low: 46



Saturday, April 9
Partly Cloudy

High: 66
Low: 55



Sunday, April 10
Partly Cloudy

High: 75
Low: 66



Monday, April 11
Isolated T-Storms

High: 67
Low: 48



Tuesday, April 12
Sunny

High: 71
Low: 54



Weather courtesy of Weather.com

Rhodes Addresses On-Campus Sexual Assault



Steve Kardian spoke to Rhodes students on Monday, April 4, giving tips about self-defense. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

By Jasmine Gilstrap
Co-Editor-In-Chief

According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, one of six U.S. women have experienced an attempted or completed rape. Though this statistic has since remained the same since the survey was first administered in 1998, Rhodes has become more active in ending sexual assault.

While respect has always been the unofficial fourth pillar of Rhodes, it was in 2005 that a place was created for those who had been sexually assaulted to talk about their experience. The Peer Advocate Center, formerly the Women's Center, started with the goal of being advocates for students who have experienced assaults, but not to be counselors.

"If somebody is assaulted and wants to talk to somebody that is not involved with the college, they go to the advocates," said Rob Dove, director of the Counseling Center. "Their job is to put the person at ease and give them information about the next steps to take whether it is involving the administration or taking legal action."

In addition to the Peer Advocate Center, Rhodes created many programs to address sexual assault on campus. Orientation has proved a way to discuss the issues of sexual assault with incoming first years using programs such as "Real Rhodes" and "Sex Signals." The Strengths Campaign, geared towards men was instituted with posters to show

Sexual Assault continued on Page 4

The weekly sassy lesbian column

"I know there are more unicorns out there"

Rin Abernathy
Staff Writer

They are elusive. Well-hidden. Mystical, even. But when you find one, your faith in all things wondrous in the world is restored. Before I go on, I must confess that this article isn't really about unicorns. Although Rhodes College is often compared to Hogwarts, we (probably) don't have magical creatures hiding on this campus. Unicorns here are a metaphor for LGBT students on campus, and how we often seem to have trouble finding one another. The unicorn metaphor ends here, by the way, lest I beat the metaphorical magical horse to death.

It seems like the Rhodes LGBT community is in hiding sometimes. I work with an LGBT working group trying to get policies reformed on campus, and I also devote a fair amount of my life to the Gay-Straight Alliance. In both of these groups, we are always asking one primary question: What do we do to provide a safe and strong queer community at Rhodes College? There are about a hundred different answers to this question; however, the most consistent answer is the most challenging one: it depends on the students.

Rhodes isn't exactly known for its large gay population. Whenever I complain about the lack of an LGBT community here, people usually recommend Hendrix. This recommendation would be a little funnier if I didn't know about at least one gay or lesbian student per semester who transfers for this very reason. This bothers me. It seems like we're losing LGBT students because we don't have a gay community, but how can we have a community without the very students who are leaving?

I would like to dispel the myth of gaydar. Despite being gay, I do not have some innate, superhuman ability to locate other gay people. A lot of my gay friends agree. Now, if you ever meet me in person, chances are you would be able to tell I was a lesbian, but that's because I will probably make a direct comment on it. So, how do gay students find each other? Good question. I'm still not sure myself. I think it's luck, mostly. Either you're out and someone comes up to you, or someone else is out and you go up to them. Sometimes we meet at queer functions, like GSA, or Gen Q, or by luck. We learn a few other people are gay, and when we find new gay kids, we often introduce each other.

This way of finding gay students does not a community make. It seems disturbingly secretive most of the time. There's a fear of outing people more than they want to be outed, so a lot of us stay separate from each other, or keep quiet about each other. It's like an underground club, except nobody knows the secret handshake or the special password.

I'd like to tell more queer Rhodes kids to come out, or to be more vocally out, but that's not always a good decision. There are too many variables—family situation, roommates, personal conflicts—for me to say that everyone who's gay needs to start putting massive amounts of rainbow on their stuff. I would love to see more out and active students, but it's not my place to criticize people on a very personal process.

I'd like to tell more straight students that if they actively identify as allies, then they might start noticing more queer kids on campus. Can you necessarily tell people are gay by looking at them? No. Can you necessarily tell people are allies by looking at them? Also no. If you don't make any outward signs of support, then we might not know you are supportive.

Most of all, however, I'd like to tell the entire Rhodes Campus that silence won't solve problems. If you're an out student unhappy with the way things are? Speak up. If you start talking, there are people who will listen. If you're an ally and think it's unnecessary for any students to be worried here? Make our LGBT students believe that. If I make you angry with an article? Say something. Prove that Rhodes has more than one sassy lesbian on this campus—because I know more than one, and they're all wonderful. Unicorns don't exist. Gay Rhodes students do.

Have a question or a topic you'd like addressed? Want advice or opinions full of semi-witty and sarcastic answers? Email abere@rhodes.edu.

The Panic Button is Game Number Seven

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

As we move past opening day and into the grind of a 162 game schedule, there are a couple of vast discrepancies from last season's performances to this one. While we are only a few games into the season, it should be known that the panic button has been officially calculated to be game number 7. At that point, teams who find themselves at 1-6 or below will find that the playoffs may be harder to come upon than a championship in Cleveland.

It also must be stressed that while the statistical numbers showing the importance of game seven is legitimate, it by no means guarantees that one's fortunes can't change in the other 95% of the season. Basically, just because you reach game seven with a positive record, it does not mean you will end the season with one.

So why we *do* we call 1-6 panic time?

This comes from the analysis of the past 25 seasons where 45 teams have started their season 1-6 or worse. Of those 45 teams, eight have finished with winning records and only one has ever made the postseason (where they didn't win a game and lost first round).

Recently, only the Philadelphia Phillies have managed to pullout of a funk after starting 1-6—which it did in '04, '06 and '07. The Indians are the other side of the spectrum as they have gone 1-6 four times since 1980, and lost 100 games in three of them.

It's hard for fans and players alike to not become frustrated with poor starts, or look to deep into them. However, in recent history teams that go 1-6 average 70.4 victories per season. That means that while 100 losses is by no means a foregone conclusion, winning a championship is certainly out of the picture.

Entering into Tuesday's games, the Baltimore Orioles and the Boston Red Sox were the two teams that stood out the most from their 2010 campaigns. However, they are in no way the only surprises and disappointments of the early season.

The Orioles are perhaps this year's Cinderella story, but more likely this is just some fool's gold post St. Patty's Day. While the Orioles have a lot of young talent, it would be ridiculous to think that with a rotation consisting of Chris Tillman and Zach Britton and an ageing roster supporting the tail end of both Vladimir Guerrero and Derrek Lee's career, that the Orioles are going to continue to battle in one of the toughest divisions in baseball. Even if Boston and Tampa Bay start struggling, there still are the pesky Blue Jays and dominate Yankees to deal with. Having Baltimore start off strong is good for baseball, but when your closer is the trash of the Chicago Cubs you're looking more likely to end up near the bottom than the top.

For all the positive that Baltimore has given baseball the struggles of Boston is equally as damaging. This was supposed to be Boston's bounce back year. They went out and spent tons of money to bring in Bobby Jenks, Adrian Gonzalez, and Carl

Crawford and they have all responded by staring the season 0-3—with New York and Tampa Bay right around the corner. The question mark surrounding this team was never its ability to hit, which it did just fine against Texas, but rather the ability to stop others from outscoring them. The backend of their rotation is a disaster as Josh Beckett and Daisuke Matsuzaka both had over a 4.50 ERA last season. Not to officially panic, but if Crawford's under .200 batting average is any indication of what is to come, then panic is not far away.

Like the Baltimore Orioles, the Philadelphia Phillies, Texas Rangers, and Cincinnati Reds all are undefeated through the first weekend. However, unlike Baltimore, these teams are expected to continue their success throughout the season. The Phillies opened their season with a miraculous comeback victory against Houston and then continued to steamroll over the seemingly outclassed Astros. Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, and Roy Oswalt all delivered, as the three of them combined for five earned runs and 23 strikeouts over the weekend.

The Texas Rangers were supposed to have a battle of a series with the Red Sox and instead just flat out annihilated them. They hit 11 home runs, 21 extra-base hits, and scored 26 runs. They also had a plus 15 run differential which was by far the best in the major leagues. While Nelson Cruz, and Ian Kinsler are not going to break the major league home run record this season, their contribution to the teams output of runs is no fluke.

Finally, the Cincinnati Reds are the last unbeaten team in Major League Baseball and are using the same formula as last year to be successful. Last season's MVP Joey Votto is off to a good start batting .300 and scoring four runs. Young pitcher Travis Wood has continued his development and leads the team with a 1.29 ERA. The decline of the St Louis Cardinals will also help this team and it will not be surprising if they end up with another division title at the end of the 2011 season.

While the teams listed above are the teams with the best starts (Baltimore, Philadelphia, Texas and Cincinnati) and then the one of the biggest disappointments (Boston), there are still a lot of other teams that have made headlines for their positive and negative early performances.

It's true Boston is taking a lot of heat for starting 0-3, but they are in a lot better shape than both the Houston Astros and Milwaukee Brewers. The Tampa Bay Rays are another team that has started 0-3 this season, but like Boston their lineup and pitching should pick them up before too long. Other teams that have yet to realize the season started last weekend include the St. Louis Cardinals, San Francisco Giants, and Los Angeles Angels.

The positive news is that teams still have 3 games or so until we reach game 7 of the season. At that point one had better hope a lot of these teams have at least two victories under their belts, or it could be a very long summer.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

2011 season.

News and Notes from around the Sports World

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

For those of us who are not Connecticut basketball fans, watching the NCAA Championship game against Butler was painful...utterly painful. Usually when a team shoots 19-55, manages 6 assists and 11 turnovers, and shoots 1-3 from behind the arc, they lose. Nonetheless, the only thing worse than Connecticut were the Bulldogs—who shot 18 percent for the entire game. In fact, I was going to write an entire article on the final game, but could only manage about one sentence without writing an expletive to express my displeasure in that viewing atrocity. I can honestly say the women's game will be much better.

The NBA is coming down to its final games and it looks like the Grizzlies are going to the playoffs. In fact, they are currently only 1 game back of the 6th spot which would assure them of missing the Lakers and the Spurs in the first round (Aka: the Grizzlies might have a chance to win a first round playoff matchup if they can secure the 6th spot).

The NHL playoffs are also coming up soon and while the Vancouver Canucks

have secured the best record in the league, the Nashville predators look to have the 6th spot in the Western Conference under control.

In soccer news the UEFA Champions League is now in the quarter finals and the Manchester United- Chelsea matchup seems to be the most intriguing of them all.

Carl Crawford is by far the worst \$142 million dollar investment ever by the Boston Red Sox and while everyone thinks he will turn it around, I am not convinced and believe he will be struggling all year in Boston.

We are now three weeks into the NFL lockout and fans still are not putting pressure of anyone that they care. On another note the players have decided to try their luck at the United States court system as they continue to believe they don't make enough money. So far it looks like the owners are winning this battle as they still have their billions and all the time in the world to sit on it.