



Look inside for a preview TV to watch over the summer!

April 13, 2011

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Weekly Weather

Wednesday, April 13
Partly Cloudy

High: 76
Low: 55



Thursday, April 14
Partly Cloudy

High: 79
Low: 64



Friday, April 15
Scattered T-Storms

High: 69
Low: 50



Saturday, April 16
Mostly Sunny

High: 60
Low: 45



Sunday, April 17
Mostly Cloudy

High: 69
Low: 58



Monday, April 18
Isolated T-Storms

High: 71
Low: 59



Tuesday, April 19
Isolated T-Storms

High: 75
Low: 65



Weather courtesy of Weather.com

From the News Editor's Desk: A Year in Review

By Alex Yu
News Editor

And so here we are again. It's already spring, the campus is green, and Rites has come and gone. The year is coming to a close, and as our seniors prepare to depart and continue their lives outside of our college, a new class prepares to venture into our community.

It has definitely been a busy year for Rhodes in my opinion. We've renovated Palmer Hall completely, a major success was made in improving the dining experience at the Rat (as well as plans to completely upgrade the Rat), and the new dormitories are being built as you read this article. But not only has the school changed in terms of construction and amenities, but also in additions to the community.

This year we have welcomed many new professors in many different departments, all of which have shared new ideas and taught new things to students. Next year we prepare to welcome even more faculty members as we prepare to welcome the class of 2015. This year was a big adjustment in terms of the number of students on campus. The freshman class was definitely larger than in the past, and their presence was definitely felt. There were so many new faces that I assumed every new face I came across was a freshman; however, I was wrong in multiple cases. I mistook a senior and a junior for a freshman. Just take it as a compliment that you look young!

But nonetheless, we all adjusted, and many of us made new friends out of these new faces. In fact, I have been fairly surprised by several of the class of 2014. It's not everyday that you see a freshman in Cell Biology and Chemistry at the same time, and while I was jealous of such utter bravery and genius, I also have a respect for a student who is willing to take on a challenge and see it through.

This year has also been a crazy year in News. For much of the spring semester, most of the

headlines and tabloids were taken by Charlie Sheen and his "winning" philosophy. But honestly, it's not everyday that you come across a Vatican Assassin who has Adonis ancestors and consumes tiger blood. There was conflict in Egypt which affected our study abroad program, a building in Indiana was almost plastered with Harry Baals, Miley Cyrus smoked a bong, Trump might run for President in 2012, Elizabeth Taylor bid us farewell, Natalie Portman shocked us in Black Swan, and all eyes turned to Japan when a 9.0 magnitude earthquake sent a tsunami smashing through the coastline, shattering the lives of thousands and creating one of the worlds worst nuclear situations in years.

Rhodes also had its fair share of news as well. There was a fraternity scandal that made local news, Newsweek labeled us as the "Most Service-Minded School," Environmental Science and Studies received a major, the Rhodes Society of Physics Students was named an outstanding chapter, we ranked 15th on the Peace Corps' Southeast Region Top Schools List, and many more great things.

Overall it has been a great year at Rhodes College. So many great things happen behind the scenes that most students do not even know about, and it's the daily small acts of kindness such as holding a door, giving a smile in passing, and outstanding faculty and staff that make our community something really special each year.

To the Seniors, I trust that you will start a wonderful life outside of Rhodes and take all that you've learned here to make a difference in the world wherever that may be. I wish you the best of luck when you depart in May and congratulate you on your success in the closing of a chapter in your life, and the opening of a new one. For the rest of you guys, see you next year, and have a great summer!

The Weekly Sassy Lesbian Column

"Gay camp: not such a happy summer retreat"

By Rin Abernathy
Staff Writer

When I was young, I loved summer camp. I looked forward to Girl Scout camp every year. At Girl Scout camp, counselors teach you how to do different crafts, ride horses, canoe, and generally be a nice person. When I think of camp, I think of happy fun summer things. Following this logic, a gay camp would ideally be a place where LGBT youth could go to reinforce their identity while also getting to some river rafting, some archery, and learn a bunch of camp songs. If you search "gay camp in Memphis," you will not find an enjoyable summertime retreat. Instead, you will find Love in Action. Love in Action is located in Bartlett, Tennessee. In case you don't know where Bartlett is, it's outside of Memphis. Eighteen minutes away from Rhodes, you can find an ex-gay camp.

You can probably guess what an ex-gay camp is. Instead of teaching you how to tie knots, they teach you how not to be gay. They can give you individual counseling sessions at \$75 an hour. They also offer four-day "intensive" workshops. But here's where summer camp comes into play: Love in Action offers a three-month program. For those who especially have out of control desires, they offer a nine-month program. In case you aren't aware, nine months is essentially a school year. During the programs that last several months, you can't contact your family for the first weeks. Even after you are allowed to contact your family again, they monitor the calls. Worse, all of this is done under the guise of Christian morality. Note that I say *guise*. I am pretty sure there is not a Christian text which says, "And then Jesus, Son of Man, told his disciples that instead of following the ideals of love for all people, they should keep people hidden from their families and yell at them until they act like proper heterosexuals."

Sometimes, there's just no pleasing people. I like to think that I'm a pretty nice person. I have never stolen all the presents from an orphanage on Christmas Eve. I have never broken into a museum and used priceless artifacts for skeet shooting. I usually don't kill or maim people. I'd rather hug them or bake them cookies. Yet apparently the minor issue of my dating preferences requires a nine-month intensive program to will away my heathen homosexuality. Love in Action isn't the only program of its kind to operate out of Memphis, either. You might also like to know that a lot of these places accept people who are under eighteen. Remember that time when you were a kid and your parents sent you to camp, except the entire camp experience focused on how you're a horrible person? I hope that wasn't your summer camp experience, but that's what some kids get.

If you think places that try to change fundamental aspects of your human existence are a good thing, I have a counter offer. For the low price of only \$74.99 an hour, I will teach you to be a sassy lesbian. Even if you are a heterosexual male, don't be shy. Your current state of unsassiness is un-natural; you just need my expensive counseling to unlock your true inner self by ignoring the fact that you were fine just the way you were. For those who have an especially hard time changing themselves, I offer a nine-month intensive program to beat the happiness and joy from your heart until you learn to act sassy enough in public.

Or, you could go to a regular summer camp. Start a campfire. Make s'mores. Treat all people with respect. Plot ways to undermine hateful anti-gay organizations. I know which one I'm doing.

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.

Campaign '12: A Motley Herd of Elephants

By Patrick Harris
Staff Writer

Last week in the cloistered world of politics was notable for two developments. The first was the literal eleventh-hour accord by congressional leaders that managed to avert a shutdown of the federal government, which would have led to the furlough of hundreds of thousands of “nonessential” federal workers and the suspension of a great many public services. Your humble columnist was left with two sentiments about this affair which he suspects are widely shared by the American public: on the one hand, relief that there would be no interruption in the machinery of government (purely coincidentally, a certain opinion writer is anxious for an internship application to be processed by the Commerce Department), and on the other, indignant curiosity as to why the hell Uncle Sam has nonessential employees to begin with. But we digress.

The second key bit of news from last week was the official declaration that Barack Obama is seeking a second term in 2012. As a long-suffering nation prepares to submit to another marathon election cycle, it might be worth considering the range of potential Republican challengers to the battered incumbent. The churning sea of GOP hopefuls is remarkable for both its unusual breadth and near-uniform lack of depth, and it takes something of the skills of an anthropologist to give an assessment of this peculiar tribe. Therefore, the reader might consent to allow the author to serve as a field guide to the exotic realm of the candidates. The natives, suffice to say, are restless.

We will preface our study by ethnologically categorizing our subjects into two distinct sub-groups, which may be termed the Grays and the Gimmicks. The Grays consist of those candidates who have difficulty attracting much public recognition, while the Gimmicks are comprised of those who are adept at attracting exactly the wrong kind of attention. We shall commence with the latter.

Sarah Palin

High Priestess of the Gimmicks, Palin is placed at the beginning of this list primarily so that we may move on as soon as possible. There is little new to say here, except that “will she-won't she” speculation will likely persist at least until the Iowa caucuses at the beginning of next year. Unfortunately, while Palin's prospects are nil, a significant portion of the party base is a superstitious lot with a fetishistic belief in the powers of this Alaskan totem.

Michelle Bachmann

Appealing to much the same audience, Bachmann is the self-appointed first line of defense in the Tea Party's war against creeping socialism. Unlike Palin, she is not known to shoot caribou, but she does exhibit a similar propensity for shooting from the hip and directly into her foot. Bachmann has made her political fortune more by appealing to activists than by being a party-builder; she was much criticized for delivering a Tea Party response to this year's State of the Union address separately from the official Republican speech. Accordingly her candidacy would be loathed by the GOP establishment but would likely be a boon to sellers of gold coinage and fallout shelters.

Newt Gingrich

In a manner befitting his amphibian appellation, the former Speaker of the House has shown himself equally capable of operating on the solid ground of mainstream politics and the turbid swamp of media-whoring and demagoguery. The latter course seems to be winning out, and in any case it's not clear what Gingrich's natural constituency is, more than a decade after his political heyday. Additionally, Gingrich's strained relationship with the concept of monogamy (three wives, with considerable overlap between them) will likely complicate his candidacy.

Mike Huckabee

While one of the more likeable candidates, Huckabee's time in the No-Spin Zone at Fox News has apparently inclined him toward the delusional wing of Republican politics, as he recently made re-

marks that appeared to lend credence to the canard that President Obama was born in Kenya. As a veteran of the 2008 campaign, he'll likely have difficulty generating the same level of enthusiasm this time around if he elects to run. Nonetheless, the bass-playing Baptist minister may still be able to capture a niche as the favorite of social conservatives yet again.

Donald Trump

In comparison with Trump, Republicans would have better odds counting on emphysema to remove the current president from office.

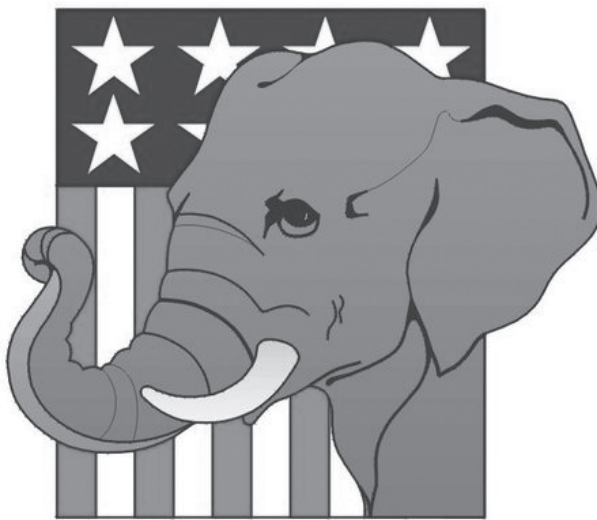
Mitt Romney

We now turn to the other subset of the GOP field, the Grays, of which Romney is the elder and chief. Romney was John McCain's chief rival for the 2008 nomination and has not really stopped running since. His chief disadvantage is not so much lack of recognition as utter inability to generate enthusiasm. While possessed of presidential looks and a bottomless personal fortune to tap into, everything about this man is blander than a toasted bagel with a side of Coldplay. Add his chronic sincerity deficit, and Romney seems best suited for the position of Used Car Salesman of the United States. To top it all off,

his Mormon faith may still be a stumbling block for some voters who wonder whether he wears the weird underwear. One should note the deeply depressing fact that this is the presumptive Republican frontrunner.

Tim Pawlenty

A fresher face than Romney's, this former governor of Minnesota nonetheless shares his strategic use of blandness. Lacking the glaring flaws of some of the other presidential hopefuls, he may be able to position himself as a mainstream compromise candidate. Nonetheless, while his conservative credentials are solid, his challenge will be to establish a strong brand to set him apart. The absurd sobriquet “T-Paw” indicates he is trying a little too hard.



(Graphic Courtesy of Googleimages)

Haley Barbour

The portly governor of Mississippi has a relatively strong record of governing, including steering his state through the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, and a dollop of good-old-boy charm to boot. Nonetheless, he labors under the disadvantages of strong ties to lobbyists (not that this stops most politicians) and media scrutiny towards a number of remarks questionable in their racial sensitivity, besides being largely unknown nationally. To be blunt, your humble columnist is not sure that Americans are ready to elect Jerry Clower's long-lost twin to the White House.

Mitch Daniels

Daniels is the current governor of Indiana, and arguably the brightest spot in the unruly constellation of Republican candidates. While slight of stature and not brimming with what might conventionally be called charisma, Daniels does possess a certain Midwestern charm and an extremely refreshing pragmatism in his approach. His call last year for a “truce” on social issues in Washington to focus on fiscal matters may not have earned him any friends at Focus on the Family, but it represented an almost unheard of straightforwardness and refusal to pander from a potential candidate for national office. As with several of the other candidates, Daniels challenge will lie in building name recognition and a base of supporters. Nonetheless, all the indications are that the more voters are exposed to Mitch Daniels, the more they will like what they see.

Modern American elections being interminable in nature, voters will have plenty of chances to become better acquainted with this list in the coming months (and to whittle it down, thank God). Nonetheless, whoever ultimately carries the day, the GOP is sorely in need of a campaign philosophy articulated in Mitch Daniels' recent address to the Conservative Political Action Conference:

“A more affirmative, “better angels” approach to voters is really less an aesthetic than a practical one...I submit that, as we ask Americans to join us on such a boldly different course, it would help if they liked us, just a bit.”

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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AS
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“Magic Mirror on the Wall, is Memphis the Least Fair of Them All?”

By Adiha Khan
Staff Writer

One of my favorite travel sentiments is this one from Mark Twain: “Travel is lethal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” But apparently, travel is not lethal to the perpetuation of silly stereotypes. At least judging from the results of *Travel & Leisure’s* latest reader poll, which appeared in the December issue. The “America’s Favorite Cities” survey ranks 35 U.S. municipalities in 54 categories as disparate as cultural attractions and pizza joints. Those are fairly benign topics. Sure, there’s some room for argument, but a city’s reputation as a cultural hub or having superior pizza is somewhat quantifiable, even if in only a quasi-objective way. But *Travel & Leisure’s* survey also delves into wholly intangible areas that rely on perceptions, not facts: Which cities are home to the most (and least) attractive/intelligent people?

How do you decide that a city is blessed with the most attractive residents? Beats me. Regardless, *Travel & Leisure* crowned Charleston, South Carolina, with that honor. And which city, then you ask, was honored with the rating of possessing the ugliest and dumbest people in America? *Travel & Leisure* announced that “ya’ll picked” Memphis as most deserving for this distinction.

My responses to this rating: 1. Seriously? 2. I imagine a city called Bucksnot might have the possibility of housing people maybe a *tad* bit less attractive and perhaps maybe just a *little* less intelligent than you and I. 3. They should walk into a Walmart in Charleston. 4. Whatever happened to beauty being a personal conception, different in varying cultures? Is our ugliness really that overpowering that we don’t even deserve the benefit of that alternative thinking? 5. They need to learn how to abbreviate “y’all” correctly because “ya’ll” makes no sense.

What do people have to say about this? Stewart Dobson of “The Public Eye,” author of some random website that I’ve never heard of before, had some thoughts:

“Memphis, famous for its music and its great food, nevertheless has the ugliest people, which makes you wonder, with all the tasty food, how people there can eat it? I mean, it would kind of put you off your feed if you went to a barbecue joint with the thought of ordering a big plate of ribs only to discover that your server has a face like the bottom of a sheepherder’s shoe. ‘On second thought, make mine a Pepto Bismol.’ In Baltimore, at least, our servers aren’t as ugly, which is a good or bad thing, depending on how you would prefer to be known. ‘Visit Baltimore: Our servers aren’t as ugly’ doesn’t sound like as much of a draw as, ‘Visit Memphis: We have the ugliest servers you’ve ever seen.’ Even better would be the slogan, ‘Come to Memphis. We don’t just have fun, we get ugly.’ There is a curiosity factor at work here, just like the reason so many people come to the beach right after a storm to check the destruction, or rubber neck out their car windows at the scene of an accident. It’s as if people ask themselves, ‘How bad can it be?’ As a result, Memphis gets a real marketing plug for being plug ugly, as people from throughout the country will rush to that great city to find out just how ugly ugly can be. It’s just a guess, but if they’re as bad looking as the survey suggests, they don’t have rest stops on the highway, they have retch stops.”

If we were really as Dobson makes it out to be then I think we would have known if we had degraded down the evolutionary ladder into another form of being that cannot be classified as human, but can just be classified as “ugly.” What is really lacking in all of these reviews and criticisms of Memphis is a broad relationship with the city. If you had lived here

since you were six, like I have, then I think you would have had the chance to see beyond the ugly, and actually see the “pretty.” And sure, we have crimes, but doesn’t every damn city have crimes? Yet we are also rated “most miserable.” My point with all these ridiculous reviews is this, before they look into the magic mirror on the wall and declare that Memphis is the least fairest of them all, they should take a good luck into the mirror at their own city and their own problems. You will find blemishes in any place, and though I find myself agreeing with some of what is said about boring and Memphis being interchangeable terms, I can’t bring myself to swallow such an outrageous proclamation. I think beauty lies in the eye of the beholder so my opinion may be as biased as that which spurred this article, but a truly integrative assessment could never be established. Even if you gathered all the people of Memphis in one place to count the uglies and non-uglies, you would still be at a loss. You’re not counting the people on vacation. Maybe they went to Charleston that summer. But seriously, an article of this type, making assumptions and propagating generalizations about the ugliness of people and cities is truly striking and worrying because the human mind is vulnerable. In some cases, what it reads, is all it knows. Not only is it capable of inculcating such a perception of our backwardness into the minds of our country’s citizens, but into the minds of anyone and everyone on this globe as they become exposed to this thread of stupidity, which could in turn, translate to large scale effects on business and economic health due to the movement of people away from the “ugly and dumb city.”

I do wonder how they plan to derive their ratings for next year. I suppose, to be a little more accurate, they could try sending a survey to every Memphis household that asks the simple question: “Are you ugly?”

Blind Leading the Blind: Education Reform Debate

By Joe Casey
Staff Writer

In an April 9 article in the New York Times, columnist Jonathan Mahler discussed the history of the ongoing debate about education reform in America. He also explains its intricacies, the apparent deadlock, and the complexities that make this issue so hard to resolve.

This matter is receiving such great attention and is being so hotly debated because it goes to the root of our societal and personal values. As Mahler is correct to point out, this is a “morally charged policy issue,” meaning that this is not just an issue that can be resolved by consulting statistics or by adjusting one or two variables; it is much more important to individuals, families and society in general. While Mahler makes the mature observation that there is no “quick fix” to education reform, his column ultimately deflates to little more than a journalist’s observations on an obvious problem, which leaves the reader with no idea what to do, but with some glimmer of hope that debate (let alone a solution) might take place.

It is not really a mystery why many Americans hold education (regardless of how they define the term) in high esteem. In many cases, an education helps one on the road to happiness – it can secure someone a good job and significant income, and allow one to fulfill one’s dreams. After all, America is supposedly the “land of opportunity”, in part, due to education and its privileges. Education is also appealing to Westerners because it is inherently democratic.

There are many other issues in the debate on education reform, such as equality of opportunity, which cannot possibly be addressed here, for a complete analysis of the reform debate could fill a book. But light may be shed on the debate by focusing briefly on just a few things.

What is at the crux of the debate in this case? At the risk of sounding overly simplistic, suffice it to say that there are two primary assumptions held by the opposing sides in this struggle. The differing opinions about testing, course placement, teachers unions, and other problems all stem from more profound assumptions. The varying policies, or rather philosophies, have their origin in a long history of mankind’s thinking about the nature, purpose and value of various types of education.

One school of thought is that which some deridingly call the “old-fashioned” or “outdated” educational system. Many think this system has little value – and I like to think that Rhodes attracts those who understand the system’s rich heritage and value, but I know that this is not always the case. The traditional school argues that the liberal-arts core with its incorporation of the humanities (with composition, literature and philosophy), classics, languages, mathematics, science and music – in other words, a highly-tuned version of the medieval *trivium* and *quadrivium*. This school argues that education consists of teaching one how to think, analyze, read and write, as well as educating them in their human (in general) and Western (in particular) heritage. It measures character as well as intelligence, which it defines not by an IQ test or any test score, but abstractly as “one’s ability to see the truth.” There is a balance between the

humanities and sciences, though; it is not unfair to argue that it ends up favoring the humanities. One of the biggest objections to the historical mode of education is simply the question “What does it (tangibly) produce?” “Nothing” or “I don’t know” are the usual replies.

The fact that some Rhodes students do not appreciate “old-fashioned” education can be attributed, in part, to the education system of prominence of the last 65 or, arguably, 90 years. This system had its roots in the intellectual remains of the first World War and was firmly solidified after World War Two. It was not only a historical response to the traditional educational philosophy but also an evolutionary adaptation (hopefully a temporary one) to the political and economic climate of the post-war era. The two world wars, and especially the Cold War (and its arms races), had put a premium in the United States on technical specialization and scientific mastery. Education suddenly focused on the “practical” sciences instead of the interesting, but not immediately relevant questions of philosophy and the humanities. I do not hide my bias towards to prior system, for this the modern ideology professes early specialization in college and teaches that one pursues education to learn to do something “practical”. It is also the indoctrinating force which promotes false measurements of “intelligence” such as flawed versions of standardized tests and has created an entire culture of elitist (and unfortunately, uneducated) high school students who think that achievement and happiness lie in being in “advanced placement” classes of grossly-inflated value. The biggest objection to the modern mode is “What does it produce?” “Scientific achievements and technological wonders” are the usual answers.

While this shift in focus may have been temporarily necessary for the purpose of self-preservation, the effects of this mentality have lingered and diluted the effectiveness of the school system. The aftermath (perhaps “fallout” is a term which better describes such utter devastation) is a mindset that has significantly weakened the intellect, character, culture and morality of the general citizenry. Unfortunately, an in-depth justification of one system over the other is beyond the scope this article.

It is imperative that it be understood that the solution is not to eliminate the strong emphasis on science and math, or even to make it secondary to the humanities. The goal, ideally, would be to restore the proper balance between science, math, and the humanities that has been achieved historically. The goal is to produce critical thinkers and writers as well as great scientists – and, believe it or not, these two skills are in no way incompatible (in fact, they work best when paired together, as they naturally complement each other). This is not an easy concept for the children of the modern education mindset, whose very concepts of education and intelligence are profoundly different from that of their predecessors. While the assumptions of the opposing sides of education reform collide, it is possible that they could align at some point. This however, requires much goodwill, determination, and constant dialogue to discover what our society truly values.

Student Voice

What are your plans for this summer?



"I am going to Cuenca, Ecuador for a Maymester to study Spanish Literature. After that, I will be heading to Costa Rica to volunteer for two months at an orphanage for kids who are infected with HIV. A week before school, I will visit some family in Mexico"
-Rene Sanchez ('13)

"I am jumping off of a bridge after graduation! Seriously, I will be working, writing, learning some new things, and having fun!"
-Eli Bates ('11)



"I will hopefully be studying abroad for 6 weeks in Morocco!!"
-Natalie Malouf ('12)

"I plan to work on the Rhodes campus as a Bonner Summer Intern"
-Brian Tchang ('14)



Professor's Blog Experiment

By Julia Fawal
Staff Writer

"Read more, write more, think more, be more." Not only is that Professor Leigh Johnson's number one rule for life and all of her classes, but it is also the title of her blog. Though her schedule was busy, I was able to catch her in between meetings for an interview. Any uncertainty I had about coming up with conversation points was completely erased within two seconds of sitting down, for Johnson could captivate an audience for hours just by discussing the things she loves, which, among many things, includes Memphis, her classes, blogging, and the various intricacies of life.

Not many students can say that their professor has a widely-read blog with over 80,000 hits. Professor Johnson began blogging in 2006 without any real sense of where she was going to take her blog or how blogging even works. She just started writing about anything that related to the blog's headline, "where philosophy, music, politics, and pop culture get equal deconstruction." Initially, Johnson wrote for her personal benefit and for the handful of readers who followed her philosophically-oriented posts, but three years after she began, suddenly things took off. "I don't know why, but it just did. It went from getting a few dozen hits a month to more than a thousand," said Johnson, still perplexed as to what changed.

It was that burst of popularity and outside interest in her blog that got Professor Johnson thinking about using blogging in the classroom. "Blogging got me in the habit of writing for pleasure regularly," said Johnson. "When I realized that habit made writing for work much easier, I wondered if it would be true for the students as well."

Like other Rhodes professors, she now has all of her students blog for every course. She splits her classes into two groups: "authors" and "commenters," and those roles switch each week. "It has been a great benefit," said Johnson "Students can carry on conversations they're having in class outside of class, they can bring new issues into the discussion, and they can also get to know each other's thinking and learn each other's writing."

Professor Johnson acknowledges that her subject, Philosophy, is often viewed as a conservative and old-fashioned, and that is why she is such a firm believer in bringing new media into the classroom. The classroom blog allows students to incorporate images, links, and videos into the writing that they do for class. It also creates a community of people who encourage each other to bring legitimate and well-formulated ideas to the table for discussion. Professor Johnson says it allows her to treat her students like adults who are engaged in their own learning, and that makes the class significantly better.

"You cannot be a technophobe in this world. Technology is a great tool for getting your voice out there, engaging with other people, finding causes and issues that are important to you and doing something about them," said Johnson. Since starting her blog, she has developed two big projects: the "Why I Chose

Memphis" series and the American Values project. The latter is a recent project where Johnson asked people to send in photos of themselves naming something they valued. She turned the images into a photo collection and a video that she posted on her blog.

A curator for a museum in New York recently saw the video and wanted to exhibit it. Professor Johnson was invited in the past week to present the project as part of the Festival of Ideas for the New City. She is flying out to New York in early May to give a lecture and exhibit her project.

The "Why I Chose Memphis" series is just what the name implies. It is a collection of stories from Memphis residents discussing why they moved to this city, and it quickly became a huge hit that was featured in the *Memphis Flyer*.

Professor Johnson is a native Memphian, and she proudly states it. Though she does realize that it is a city that needs to be defended, hence why she started the "Why I Chose Memphis" series, she does all she can to promote the hometown that she loves. She encourages everyone to break out of their bubbles and discover that their prejudices might be wrong. She loves the areas of Memphis that are off the beaten path, run down, and a little dirty. "Those places are the best parts. They're the character of this city," she said.

It is stated on her blog that she is from Memphis, but her identity is not entirely revealed. She began writing on her blog under the pseudonym "Doctor J" as a way to maintain semi-anonymity, though she acknowledges that it would not take much effort to find out who she is. Still, there is nothing that she says on her blog that she would not say in "real life." She believes that, when discussing things that matter, anonymity is a bad thing. "It completely misrepresents what a deliberative conversation is supposed to be about, and it is supposed to be about being responsible to other people. If you're anonymous, you cannot be responsible," she said.

Johnson aims for topics that get people thinking, but she never runs out of things to write about. She has gotten into such a habit of writing that the blog has developed a life of its own. "It's sort of like my cat," Professor Johnson said of her blog. "I take care of it, it's there. It's part of my life, and it's weirdly important to me." She wanted her blog to have thematic content and initiate conversation, and that is exactly what she has done. She is amazed and honored by the positive reception it has received, and she looks forward to what is yet to come. Blogging has become a new avenue to think, explore, and connect with so many different people. "We should all feel lucky that technology allows us to have these opportunities to connect across distances. It's amazing what can happen," she said. "If you had told me five years ago that I'd have a blog with tens of thousands of readers, I would've said you were crazy."

To follow Professor Johnson's blog, go to <http://readmorewritemorethinkmorebemore.blogspot.com/>.



(Photo Courtesy of Dr. Johnson's blog)

CAMPUS SAFETY

April 5-12, 2011

04-05-2011

2345 Theft –BCLC- Cell phone missing from gym. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

04-08-2011

1600 Injury- Rhodes Tower. No medical transport. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

1953 AV -Mallory lot- Pertinent information gathered report filed.

2209 AV/injury -Refectory service drive- Transported to local hospital. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

2244 Medical/illness-Williford- Transported to local hospital. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

04-09-2011

0100 Theft –EV- Money missing from purse. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

1150 Medical/ Illness- White- No medical transport. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

1730 Theft-Fisher Garden- Items missing from wallet. Pertinent information gathered report filed.

2350 Battery- Fisher Garden- Pertinent information gathered report filed.

04-10-2011

0025 Medical Illness- No medical transport. Pertinent information gathered report filed

0100 DV-White- Pertinent information gathered report filed

0130 DV Stewart- Pertinent information gathered report filed

0220 DV Bellingrath- Pertinent information gathered report filed

0800 Theft- Fisher Garden-Lynx Cat golf cart is missing- Pertinent information gathered report filed

04-11-2011

0120 Medical/Illness – No medical transport. Pertinent information gathered report filed

Sabbatical Research

By Jacob Long
Staff Writer

Rhodes, like many colleges and universities, allows for its professors to go on sabbatical. While the term sabbatical is tossed around colloquially, most students only have a general idea of what a professor does when on sabbatical. Contrary to some other usages of the term, professors do not spend time on sabbatical simply relaxing and getting away from academia. Professors may do that if they wish, but they would instead take a leave of absence. Taking a sabbatical is more specific to one's profession and is intended to improve the professor's expertise in the field of study.

Sabbaticals at Rhodes are first granted after a professor completes twelve semesters teaching at Rhodes, then again after another twelve. The sabbatical is paid time off from teaching, so a degree of productivity is required. If the professor takes only a semester off, he or she will earn all of the pay that would have been earned teaching on campus. If a full year is taken off, 60% is paid of the total salary. Since many professors pursue other professional activities while on sabbatical, the college will reduce the pay from the college if the professor earns more than 144% of the pay he or she would have earned teaching at Rhodes. While on sabbatical, a professor may teach at other colleges and universities, perform research or other creative work, or a combination of the two. The fact that professors are paid during the time off requires that they produce some proof of their productivity, typically in the form of a write-up, for the administration.

A couple of professors were able to share their plans for sabbatical next semester with the Sou'wester. The first is Associate Professor Patrick Shade of the philosophy department. Professor Shade has been teaching at Rhodes since 1996 and will be taking the entire next year off. In addition to rethinking the courses he currently teaches at Rhodes, he will be publishing papers. The papers he plans to publish will concern both ethics and the philosophy of education. Both topics directly relate to courses he teaches for the philosophy department.

Assistant Professor Shadrack Nasong'o of the international studies department will be taking his sabbatical for the entire next year as well. He will be heading back to Kenya, where he earned his first degrees, for his time off. Professor Nasong'O will have much on his plate while there. He will be doing archival research on radical politics in Kenya, with a focus on the authoritarian period of the 1970s and 1980s. Also, he will be teaching in Kenyatta University's graduate program in political science. As a final objective of the time off, Professor Nasong'o plans to complete a manuscript for a book.

Several other professors in addition to those mentioned will be on sabbatical next year. Professor Terry Hill of Biology, Professors Jennifer Brady and Gordon Bigelow of English, Professor David McCarthy of the Art Department, and Professors Alex Novikoff and Ety Terem of the History Department will be on sabbatical next year as well. One may find it interesting to find out what their professors are researching and publishing on the side, whether on sabbatical or otherwise.

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Sudoku courtesy of dailysudoku.com

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The Sou'wester needs writers for every section, and a copy editor too!

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If you answered yes to any of these, PLEASE contact Anna Meyerrose (meyam@rhodes.edu) or any of our section editors!

Your Highness: A Frat-Boy Fantasy

by Shelby Lund
A&E Editor

What do you get when you mix lowbrow *American Pie*-esque comedy with an old-fashioned, highbrow fantasy film? You get *Your Highness*, the latest outing from *Pineapple Express* director David Gordon Green. While the concept of mixing R-rated humor with fantasy action-adventure doesn't seem like it would work, the director and his actors, especially star/screenwriter Danny McBride, have produced a very enjoyable film by finding just the right balance between the vulgar and the fantastical.

Your Highness tells the story of a lazy prince named Thadeous, played by McBride, who would rather smoke weed and bed beautiful women than attend to his duties as a prince. This is partially because he's stuck in the shadow of his heroic older brother Fabious, played by James Franco, who is always off defending the kingdom from the forces of the evil wizard Lazar, played by Justin Theroux. However, when Fabious' beautiful, virginal bride-to-be, Belladonna, played by Zoëy Deschanel, is kidnapped by Lazar, Thadeous must help Fabious on his quest to rescue her or get banished. The brothers set off on a quest filled with danger, betrayal, and much hilarity, accompanied by Thadeous' loyal manservant Courtney, played by Rasmus Hardiker. They are later joined by Isabel, a beautiful warrior woman played by Natalie Portman, who becomes Thadeous' love interest.

Scope-wise, the film is very much a fantasy. The movie was shot on location in Northern Ireland, and the occasional landscape shots are absolutely beautiful. The sets and costumes evoke a very medieval feel, although the film is clearly not set in any historical time period, let alone any place that ever existed, on Earth, as is made abundantly clear by the wide variety of fantastical creatures that appear.

The heroes directly battle both a mystical hydra-like creature and a...anatomically correct Minotaur, the latter of which provides probably the longest-running penis gag I've ever seen in a film. The film contains numerous creatures besides, such as the perverted Great Wise Wizard and Simon, Fabious' mechanical bird, as well as mentions of many others.

Overall, the creatures are well-done and incredibly detailed, brought to life by a mix of CGI, real-life costuming, and animatronics. Furthermore, the film has all the action one would expect from a fantasy adventure, from a chase on horseback to a gladiatorial-esque arena fight, and ending in a climactic battle royale at the villain's lair. While the action is not the film's strongest point, it's well done and entertaining, although quite bloody and slightly graphic at times.

The script is chock-full of frat-boy jokes and innuendos, such as the aforemen-



courtesy of Wikipedia

Also known as the average guy's ideal fantasy film.

tioned Minotaur penis gag. However, what really makes the humor work is that it doesn't interfere with the fantasy story. Instead, it's seamlessly woven into the framework of the plot to the point where you genuinely believe that these characters would be saying and doing these outrageous, comically vulgar things. Both Green and McBride have repeatedly stated that their intention was to create a fantasy film where they could have cursing and nudity rather than a hard-R comedy spoof of the genre, and that is definitely the result they achieved.

“If you enjoy fantasy films and the hard-R comedy elements don't bother you, then *Your Highness* is nothing if not purely entertaining.”

Amidst the humor, the film never forgets that its emotional center is the relationship between Thadeous and Fabious. McBride's Thadeous is a selfish man-child, but he gets the audience to sympathize with his character by portraying him as wanting to be more than he actually is, but never really having the guts to do it until he's forced on the quest by his father.

Once Thadeous finds himself the only one who can save the day, he turns out to be a lot more heroic and noble than anyone thought he could be. Franco's Fabious is like-

ably heroic and dashing handsome, but at the same time as childlike as his brother, just in a different, more idealistic, sort of way, which is nevertheless very endearing. Fabious also clearly loves his brother and wants him to be happy, although for a lot of the film he seems oblivious to just how much of an idiot Thadeous can be. The brothers' very literal “bromance” grounds their characters and gives them probably the most complexity of any of the characters in the movie.

The supporting cast is a little more limited in terms of development, but the characters are nevertheless interesting and definitely hilarious. Hardiker's Courtney is a loveable sidekick who clearly cares about Thadeous as a friend as well as a master, and is braver and more capable than one would initially think. Theroux's Lazar is largely a comedic character as a traditionally over-the-top evil wizard, but he's established as a powerful threat from his first scene and for all the laughs he provides he never stops being a dangerous wizard who is ridiculously hard to kill.

Deschanel's sweet, virginal Belladonna gets kidnapped early in the film, so she has very little to no development as a character beyond the fact that she's the essence of goodness and purity, which is why Fabious loves her. Fortunately, Deschanel's likeable performance saves Belladonna from being more of a plot device than a character, especially by using the fact that Belladonna has spent most of her life stuck in a tower and is thus ignorant of regular civilized customs to create a couple of cute comedic moments for her character.

Portman's Isabel gets a little more development than Belladonna due to having more screentime, but she too is more of a one-dimensional character: the vengeful warrior woman out to destroy those who have harmed her family. Nevertheless, the character is once again saved by the performance, as Isabel is not only the most competent character in terms of fighting ability and brains, but also provides a number of laughs simply from being the comedic straight man.

Your Highness is not a great movie. The fantasy plot is clichéd, the humor is lowbrow, and there's at least one point where the implications in the script make one downright uncomfortable. The characters themselves could be considered walking clichés if one stripped them down to their barest essence.

However, if you enjoy fantasy films and the hard-R comedy elements don't bother you, then *Your Highness* is nothing if not purely entertaining. When it's funny, it's funny; when it's action-intensive, the action is good; when it's outrageous, it's hilarious. It's a screwed-up fairy tale, but somehow it works.

Rhodes Fine Arts Club Annual Spring Festival

by Joanie Williams
Staff Writer



The main arts club on campus is aptly named the Rhodes Fine Arts club, or RFAC. Formerly called GNOMES, the Rhodes Fine Arts club promotes the arts on campus, and is open to anyone who has a passion for the arts, visual or performing. Every year for the past five to six years, RFAC presents their main event, a spring arts festival. In previous years, RFAC has asked for visual art submissions as well as performances. I recently sat down with the current president of the RFAC to talk about the festival. She did not want to be named in the article.

As of now, RFAC is planning to have their Fine Arts Festival in conjunction with the BCLC bash, preparing arts and crafts activities along with the other activities at the bash. The BCLC bash is run by CHEERS and will have a lot of inflatable jump houses, food, crafts, massage chairs, and board games, among other things in both the gym areas, the ballroom, and in the lawn areas around the BCLC and the Lair. The president of RFAC is also involved in CHEERS.

She says, “It's a nice break from the life of a college student. Taking a break from the partying and studying, and just having fun.” The BCLC bash is planned to happen on the twenty-ninth of April.

In our discussion, I hate to say that I found out this club is in danger of being discontinued. The president is graduating this year, and those who have offices in the club have other obligations.

From the president: “either no one is interested enough or has the time to take over the club”. Shall we just let the club die until a student or two sees the need for a Rhodes art enthusiast community?

I'm just wondering, where does this leave the arts on campus? How did the club get created if there was not a need? Did the need disappear within six years? Do the students just have to have a class to create, or do we have to make our own time to create? I don't have an answer to this, but it is sad to see a club go, unless someone takes an interest to pick it back up. If so, please contact me and I can point you in the right direction.

TV: What's Hot This Summer

by Annika Wuerfel
Staff Writer

Summer is a busy time for theaters due to many high profile movies being released between May and August. Though the movies are great, they are not always cheap. If you find yourself low on dough this summer these highly anticipated television series should do just the trick to fix your silver screen blues.

- **Switched at Birth:** premieres Monday, June 6 9 PM ET/PT on ABC Family. In this hour-long series, two teenage girls from very different backgrounds discover that they were accidentally switched as newborns in the hospital. The two girls and their families meet and struggle to try to live together. Stars Vanessa Marano, D.W. Moffett, Lea Thompson, and Lucas Grabeel.
- **The Nine Lives of Chloe King:** premieres Tuesday, June 14 at 9 PM ET on ABC Family. In this hour-long drama series based off of the book series *The Nine Lives of Chloe King* by Celia Thomson, Chloe King starts to develop heightened abilities and discovers that she is a part of an ancient race that has been hunted by assassins for millennia. Stars Skyler Samuels, Amy Pietz, Grey Damon, Benjamin Stone, and Ki Hong Lee.
- **Falling Skies:** premieres Sunday, June 19 at 9 PM ET (moves to 10 PM after the premier) on TNT. This highly anticipated series was written and produced by Robert Rodat and Steven Spielberg, and focuses on the survivors of an alien attack banning together outside major cities to begin the difficult task of fighting the aliens. Stars Moon Bloodgood, Will Patton, Drew Roy, Seychelle Gabriel, and Sarah Carter.
- **The Hot Zone:** premieres Tuesday, June 21 at 10 PM ET on ABC. This new drama takes place in 2006 in the only military hospital located in Southern Afghanistan. This show displays the frantic lives of the hospital's resident doctors and nurses from Canada, America, the U.K. and other countries. Stars Elias Koteas and Michelle Borth.
- **Great State of Georgia:** premieres Wednesday, June 29 at 8:30 PM ET (moves to 10 PM after premiere) on ABC

Family. This half hour long comedy series features Raven-Symoné as Georgia, an aspiring actress who has one big personality, as she and her geeky best friend try to make it big in New York City. Also stars Majandra Delfino and Loretta Devine.

- **It's Worth What?:** a new NBC game show hosted by Cedric the Entertainer that has contestants guess the price of items in multiple rounds in order to win up to \$1 million. NBC has not released the premiere date.
- **Still Standing:** NBC's other game show will have contestants try to out-guess each other in ten trivia battles. The contestants could win between \$1 and \$50,000. There is also no premiere date set.
- **Love in the Wild:** Another NBC reality show, a dating series that will feature ten single men and women in pairs as they explore the jungles of Costa Rica. No premiere date has been set.
- **Masterchef:** starring FOX's own Chef Gordon Ramsay, premieres on Monday, June 6 at 8 PM.

Returning series to watch for include:

- **Pretty Little Liars:** the second season premieres on ABC Family this Summer at 8 PM ET/PT on Tuesday, June 14.
- **So You Think You Can Dance:** premieres on FOX Thursday, May 26 at 8/7c for its eighth season.
- **Hell's Kitchen:** premieres on FOX Tuesday, July 19.
- **America's Got Talent:** premieres Tuesday, May 31, at 9 PM on NBC with a two-hour broadcast.
- **The Marriage Ref:** season two premieres on Sunday, June 26, at 10 PM on NBC.

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

New Movie Releases:

4/15/11

Scream 4

Rio

Henry's Crime
The Conspirator

Television Highlights (4/13-4/19)

American Idol, Wednesday, 8 pm, Fox. The eight remaining contestants perform songs from movies.

Criminal Minds, Wednesday, 9 pm, CBS. A stalker in San Diego targets college students; Strauss scrutinizes the team.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, Wednesday, 10 pm, NBC. Stabler notices that Benson is bonding with Calvin, the young boy left in her care.

Community, Thursday, 8 pm, NBC. Jeff is suspicious when a mysterious woman sweeps Pierce off his feet.

The Mentalist, Thursday, 10 pm, CBS. Patrick and the team investigate the murder of a convict who was released due to DNA evidence.

The Bourne Supremacy, Friday, 9 pm, TNT. Movie. Jason Bourne fights back when the CIA tries to kill him. Based on a book by Robert Ludlum.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Saturday, 8 pm, ABC. Movie. Capt. Jack Sparrow must find a way to save his soul from ghostly pirate Davy Jones.

Chuck, Monday, 8 pm, NBC. Chuck and Sarah turn to Sarah's father for help when they are conned out of their wedding money.

House, Monday, 8 pm, Fox. Masters must decide if she wants to be a surgeon or officially join House's team.

Glee, Tuesday, 8 pm, Fox. The glee club agrees to help raise funds for another under-the-radar group.

Parenthood, Tuesday, 10 pm, NBC. Amber is in an accident; Adam finds Max's behavior troubling; Julia helps a woman deliver a baby.

Staff Experiences at Rites

We know you all had a great time at Rites of Spring this past weekend. In case you don't remember your Rites experience, the Sou'wester staff would like to share some of our favorite memories from Rites of Spring.



courtesy of JD Hondlenk

"This year's Rites of Spring was one of the better one's I've been to at Rhodes. I enjoyed my last Rites of Spring as a Rhodes student. I will miss the atmosphere at Rites next year."

-Andrew Mullins-Williams,
Sports Editor



courtesy of Rob Semmes



courtesy of Brittany Looney

"I always enjoy Miner 49ers' performances and the one Saturday night was no exception. From having 'Chasing Pavements' dedicated to me by lead singer Rue Tsoka to Ben Walsh's bass playing while smoking a cigarette, I think seeing them was by far the highlight of my weekend."

-Jasmine Gilstap, Co-Editor-In-Chief

"Before this weekend, pretty much all I knew about Matt & Kim was that they have a song called 'Daylight' (so I didn't know much of anything). I'm so glad I went to see them though; they were so much fun live and they ended up being my favorite act of the weekend."

-Anna Meyerrose, Editor-in-Chief

NBA Playoff Preview

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

While the season is still not technically over, all sixteen of the playoff bound teams know they are in—just not everyone knows who they are playing. In a relatively mild season, as far as a playoff race is concerned, there have still been a few surprises as far as teams exceeding (or falling below) perceived

Chicago Bulls vs. Indiana Pacers

The Bulls have won three out of four meetings with the Pacers this year, and their one loss was only by seven points in overtime. The Bulls are one of the great surprises this season and in large part they are much more than the 25 points and 8 assists that Derrick Rose brings in on an average nightly basis.

The Bulls Head Coach is currently Tom Thibodeau who is not particularly well known (yet) outside of the greater NBA circle. However, this is a guy who stresses defense before anything else, and was an assistant coach with the Boston Celtics back when they were training their Big-Three to buy into a “defense wins championships” mentality. The Bull’s 91.3 points given up per game average (second in the league) is a true testament to the direct influence that a coach has when his players buy into his system.

Perhaps what is most impressive about the Bulls is their versatility and their inability to take plays off or opponents lightly. Their front line consists of Carlos Boozer, Joakim Noah, and Kurt Thomas and they have a legit second scorer in Luol Deng. While compared to some of the other teams in the league the Bulls are a bit weak at shooting guard, but Rose more than makes up for that as the chemistry of the Bulls makes them both dangerous and fun to watch.

While Indiana lacks a lot of the star power that Chicago brings to the court, they still have a potent scorer in Danny Granger and currently are 5th in the league in rebounds with 43.7 per game. Even so, at the end of the day the Pacers need to be grateful that they are in the Eastern Conference as they will still finish below .500. It is plausible that Indiana might steal one at home, but this series is going to be over as soon as it starts.

Miami Heat vs. Philadelphia 76ers.

It does not seem that long ago when everyone was getting on the Heat for putting together a minor losing streak, but since then, they have started to show glimpses of that ever elusive “team chemistry” that is so vital to a championship run. It also helps to have three players, who on any given night, can light up the scorebook and take over a game.

On defense, the Heat are allowing 94.8 points per game while hauling in 42.2 rebounds and 6.6 steals. Wade and LeBron are averaging 25.5 and 26.7 points per game respectively and are slowly learning to share the ball to other role players. However, with that said we must put into perspective the other two starters and bench play of Miami. Zydrunas Ilgauskus and Mike Bibby accompany the big three in the starting lineup and are replaced by Mario Chalmers, Joel Anthony, and James Jones only for brief moments. Basically, that means that on any given night the fourth best player for the Heat is going to be an ancient veteran or a largely ineffective three-point shooter. If Miami want to continue out beyond the first round they will need some sort of consistent play from their bench.

Philadelphia is probably the definition of the anti-Big-Three. No scorer is averaging more than 15.1 points per game and their 97.4 points against is 12th in the league. However, despite the lack of superstardom on their team,

they do have six players in double figures, rebound relatively well with 41.8 a game, and currently rank 6th in overall assists with 22.6. Even so, the 76ers have four players starting under the age of 24 and while it’s certainly true that stars alone can’t win championships—they certainly can win first round matchups. Philadelphia will play the Heat tough at home but this series will end 4-2 in favor of Miami.

Boston Celtics vs. New York Knicks.

This is by far the most intriguing matchup of the Eastern Conference first round. Boston has its version of the Big Three in Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett, and Paul Pierce and the Celtics currently lead the league in defense giving up only 91 points per game. While their star players are certainly not getting any younger, Boston is currently 4th in assists per games dishing out 23.5. One of the glaring problems for this team is their center position. Glen Davis is by far their best producer at this position but since the trade of Kendrick Perkins they have not been able to battle with some of the bigger teams in the Conference. A further tale of this can be seen in their inability to rebound as they currently are 29th overall in the NBA.

The New York Knicks have struggled since their ac-

quiescence problem for the Hawks is consistent scoring and the ability to rebound against bigger teams. They only average 95 points per game and 39 rebounds. For a team that misses a lot of shots that is not a good sign. For as inconsistent as the Hawks can be, Orlando can often match the intensity of their opponents. This series will ultimately come down to who hits more shots, and the way these two teams have played the first team to 85 may win. Orlando wins 4-2.

While the Western Conference playoffs still have seeding issues. All teams involved can plausibly win a first round matchup.

The San Antonio Spurs will play either New Orleans, Memphis, or Portland depending how the # 6, 7, 8 seeds play out in the last few games of the season. The best case scenario would be the Hornets who have been very inconsistent the last few weeks. The Spurs currently average 103.8 points per game, 41.8 rebounds and 22.5 assists. While not the usual defensive minded teams of the past, they still are giving up a modest 97.8 points a contest. All five starters average double figures and have currently won four in a row. While avoiding any serious injuries this year, the Spurs recently had a 6 game losing streak—five of which came against playoff teams.

The Dallas Mavericks are currently in the number 2 position and hoping to steal it from the Lakers. The Mavericks are currently using a nice combination of Jason Kidd, Dirk Nowitzki, and Tyson Chandler. While one of the most under-rated teams in baseball, the Mavericks have coasted to a 56-25 record and currently average 100 points per game. However, they are currently slated to play the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round and if the standings hold true, then they could be in for a tough matchup. Even so, regardless of who Dallas plays in the first round, they have a history of early exits that they will need to overcome to really be taken seriously.

The Los Angeles Lakers are one of the teams that has been surprising for all the wrong reasons. While starting out of the All Star break with good fashion, they currently have lost five in a row and slipped into the third seed. Do not take their seeding out of context, with Kobe and Gasol averaging 25.2 and 18.8 points per game and Andrew Bynum adding 11.5 points and 9.5 rebounds this team is extremely dangerous especially in the playoffs.

The Oklahoma City vs. Denver Nuggets matchup should be a fun, high scoring, intense affair. Led by Kevin Durant, the Thunder will take their 104 (4th in the NBA) points per game against a defense that has yielded about as much. Last year’s playoff run will really help the Thunder as they have experience on their side. Oklahoma City won the season series 3-1, but Denver has revamped their lineup since getting rid of Carmelo Anthony and with talented guards like Danilo Gallinari, Arron Afflalo and J.R. Smith this team will cause many problems for the Thunder. However, much like the Knicks not being able to stop anyone (102.6 points given up per game) will ultimately be their downfall.

The six, seven, and eight seeds will be occupied by Memphis, New Orleans and Portland. While the Memphis-Portland game should decide the fate’s of those teams, all three are more than capable of putting together a stretch of good games to knock off a higher seed. Memphis is led by Zach Randolph and their paint dominated big-men. New Orleans has the talented Chris Paul and his ability to create and score and Portland has seen the rise of LaMarcus Aldridge as a serious threat both inside and out. While none of these teams will be favored against the Spurs, Lakers, and Mavericks all three have the tools for a successful post season run.

WHERE WILL AMAZING HAPPEN THIS YEAR?



PLAYOFFS

quisition of Carmelo Anthony from Denver. While their scoring has continually been near the top of the league, their defense is still allowing 105.7 points against which is not going to get it done in the playoffs. While the strength of the Knicks offense is in the paint, it will have a very hard time trying to control Rondo. Boston currently leads the season series 3-0, but Anthony did not play in the first two meetings. I have a feeling the Knicks will hold in the Garden, but ultimately this series will go to Boston because of experience and home court advantage. Boston wins 4-3.

Orlando Magic vs. Atlanta Hawks

Usually the 4-5 matchup is one of the most intriguing matchups of the post season. This will continue to be the case but do not expect a high scoring series. Both these teams define themselves by mediocrity and I do not see either advancing beyond the first round. However, because the Magic have Dwight Howard who averages 23 points and 14 rebounds per game, if they can sneak by Atlanta they have the potential to upset the Bulls. However, for that to happen they need to be able to hit three pointers and have a consistent inside-out game to free up Howard down low.

The Hawks counter Orlando with solid defense and ball movement. They currently rank 9th and 11th in both categories. On the offensive end, they have a potential scoring threat with Joe Johnson (18.5 points per game), and a rebounding machine in Al Horford. The biggest