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# THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCIV. NO. 15

March 19, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Worried about the economy?

See Page 2-3

A profile of an up-and-coming Redbirds star.

See Page 8

## “Love Makes a Family” exhibit encourages acceptance

By Gordon Conaway  
Staff Writer

On the evening of Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the touring photo exhibit “Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families” opened on the Barrett Library Main Floor.

Presented by the Family Diversity Project, the exhibit featured pictures of gay and lesbian couples with their children.

“We hoped that students would respond to this exhibit by seeing it as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the diversity of family experiences,” said Dr. Detrie, Associate Director of Student Counseling, who helped organize the event. “Awareness of differences in families and life experiences is important.”

The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Rhodes Counseling and Student Development Center, the Department of Student Affairs, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Rhodes Gay-Straight Alliance.

“I think it is important that Rhodes students be sensitive to LGBT families – how they are different, but also how they are very much the same as any other family filled with love,” said Detrie.

Tara Daniel, President of Gay-Straight Alliance, has been planning the display along with her co-sponsoring organizations since this summer. She sees the exhibit as a celebration of love without prejudice, acceptance without qualification.

“GSA was thrilled to be asked by the Counseling

Center to co-sponsor this weeklong display, which has been planned since this summer,” said Daniel. “The opportunity for the visitors to the display to see love in all its forms, grow in their conceptions of family, and celebrate the GLBT community helps strengthen our campus community.”

According to the Diversity Project’s mission statement for the event, “‘Love Makes a Family’ combats homophobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By encouraging people of all ages – beginning in early childhood – to affirm and appreciate diversity, this traveling rental exhibit contributes to the process of dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance, thereby making the world a safer place for all families.”

Quotations by family members accompany the photographs, commenting on the experience of living in an unconventional family and experiencing the intolerance of those who do not understand their lifestyle.

“The exhibit allowed an enlightening glimpse into the lives of families with homosexual parents,” said Renee DeArmond, a member of the GSA who attended the opening. “It demonstrated that these families are just like any other, and perhaps will encourage Rhodes students to be more accepting of these individuals in the future.”

The basic concept of the family, and of accepting LGBT individuals as capable of existing within a fam-

Exhibit, continued on Page 4



Photo courtesy of Jessie Adair

Rhodes became the first school to win two regionals in the same year with wins by the first and second teams.

## College hosts Mock Trial tournament

By Matt McCulloch  
Staff Writer

This past Friday, Rhodes hosted the semi-final rounds of the National Collegiate Mock Trial Tournament. The competition was held Friday through Sunday on campus and at the Shelby County Courthouse.

The tournament this weekend was a super-regional tournament. Nationals are in April in Minneapolis, where Rhodes will be competing with about sixty-

four other teams.

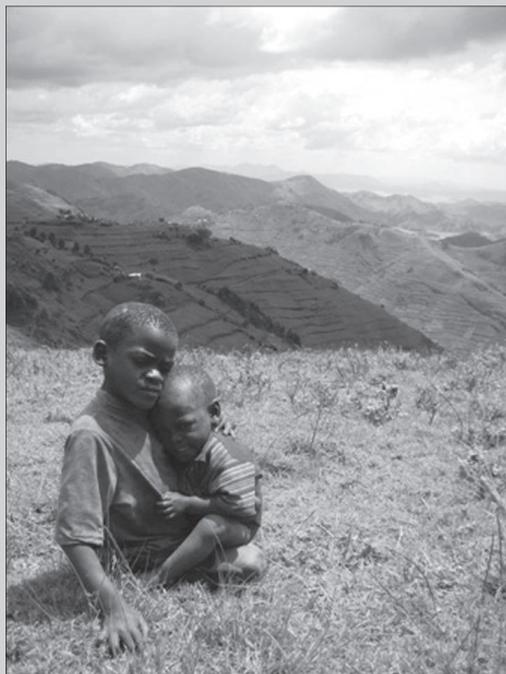
“I love mock trial because it gives me avenue to sharpen my speaking skills and helps me think on my feet,” said Liz Moak. “Nationals are coming up in April, and I think we’ll be a force to be reckoned with.”

Coach Pohlmann gave several comments on why the Rhodes team has been so successful.

“We start with the advantage

Mock Trial, continued on Page 5

## Photo contest brings a world of pictures to Rhodes



Heather Houser’s photo was voted the winner of the Modern Languages Department’s World of Photos contest. Over 100 student and faculty photos were on display on second floor Buckman. Houser spent the fall 2007 semester on a development studies program in Uganda. She spent the last half of the semester doing independent research and an internship with an office in Kisoro that works with the Batwa, a minority ethnic group living in southwest Uganda.

In 1991, with funding from international donors such as the World Bank, the process of eviction which began in the 1930s was completed. As a result, the Batwa were pushed out of the forests they had lived in for centuries. The effort, made in the name of conservation, has left the Batwa completely landless and destitute. The community of which these two children are a part has been given a small amount of land on the outskirts of the forest. They face a future with little access to education, health-care or nourishment.

## Rhodes honored for dedication to service

By Onalee Carson  
Staff Writer

The 83% of Rhodes students involved in community service were recognized recently when Rhodes College was named to the 2007 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. 528 colleges and universities in the United States were included on the honor roll. Of those 528 institutions only 125 were noted to have served with distinction.

“The President’s Community Service Honor Roll acknowledges what Rhodes has known for a number of years—that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom,” said Provost Charlotte Borst. “Indeed, the Foundations curriculum has em-

bedded community engagement and service into the very core of our curriculum. Our recognition as an Honor Roll with Distinction Member acknowledges our hard work and innovative approaches to a residential, liberal arts education.”

The award was presented on February 11, 2008 by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and was sponsored by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development.

The award is fairly new, launched in 2006. This is the

Service, continued on Page 5

# How Barack Obama can win

By Alex Mahoney

*There is no doubt that the upcoming election is shaping up to become perhaps the most unique and well-watched in American history. The Republican Party, which has become largely beholden to a coalition of Christian evangelicals, national security hawks, and fiscal conservatives since 1980, is going to nominate a man who has unabashedly bucked his party on several issues considered all but sacred. Although nothing is sure on the Democratic side, the Democratic seem likely to nominate a previously unknown black senator over a woman, who, along with her husband, is largely credited with re-energizing a broken Democratic coalition in the 1990s. What many people don't realize in the euphoria of a supposedly ground-breaking election is that both candidates will have to look to past campaigns for a guide to win the election. If the candidates both follow these basic guidelines, it should be a very close election.*

Right now, Barack Obama is riding a wave of euphoria in his party and among independent voters not seen since the Reagan candidacy in 1980. Unfortunately for him, it is becoming increasingly clear that his campaign, and even Obama himself, have come to see themselves as a Messianic movement, a trend that has proven fatal, namely to Republicans, in the last few years. Before Obama forms his platform, his campaign needs to stop not-so-subtly congratulating themselves over his historic candidacy. They need to recognize that much of their success has not come from Obama's "message," (which, dare I say, is not as unprecedented or original as the conventional wisdom would have it) but from a broad coalition of Democrats and independents who are extremely angry with Bush's presidency and wary of a couple that have continually, lied, excused, and grudgingly apologized their way into power for almost two decades. In other words, from the start, Obama needs to campaign as if he will win the presidency by a few hundred thousand votes, rather than turn the electoral map blue. This means telling high-profile politi-

cians and celebrities such as Ted Kennedy and Oprah "thanks, but we'll take it from here," and getting into specifics and pragmatic policy approaches rather vague rhetoric about unity and political transcendence.

Once Obama has established that he is ready to be president rather than just campaign for president, he needs to rethink some of his policy positions. The first is his position on Iraq. He needs to continue to emphasize that he had questions about Iraq from the beginning, but he cannot continue to advocate a sixteen-month withdrawal while failing to recognize that any withdrawal plans will have to be tempered by success in Iraq. There are two main reasons Obama should nuance his position on Iraq: the first is that, should progress continue in Iraq, there is real chance of a politically stable coalition government that rejects Islamist extremism on one hand and Baathist-style tyranny on the other hand. The second reason is much more visceral; if there is a chance of success, Americans hate to lose. If progress continues to be made in Iraq, a war hero and POW will probably sound better on this issue than a Harvard law grad.

The second issue Obama needs to reconsider is his position towards trade and unions. Obama has a team of economic advisers as good as any candidate, but once again, seems smug in his assurance this his ideas will bring equity to an economy that has supposedly not worked for everybody. Obama impressed in the early days of his candidacy, telling an audience in Chicago that included many teacher union members that he believed a system of merit pay, in which teachers are partially paid according to their performance (in other words the same way everybody else outside a union is paid), would help to improve the education system. He also said that manufacturing workers could not count on jobs coming back, but would rather have to adapt to our economy's transition to a service economy. Now that Obama is fighting tooth and nail for the support of these voters though, he has backpedaled on merit pay and has be-

come a demagogue on trade agreements such as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has brought jobs as well as lower prices as more choices for consumers to the United States. If Obama wants to retain his message of hope and progress, he should instead develop policy positions that invest in education and job retraining and encourage unions to begin to do the same if they truly care about their workers. Bill Clinton largely did this in 1992; it is a winning strategy.

Finally, as much as Democrats may hate doing so, Obama needs to develop positions on guns and abortion that are acceptable to the blue-collar Democrats who have voted for Republican presidents since 1980. These voters make up crucial constituencies in must-win states for the Democrats such as Pennsylvania and Ohio. This does not mean Obama has to wield a shotgun every time he goes to these states a la John Kerry, but that he needs to show that he just wants to enforce the many existing laws on gun control rather than make new restrictions. On abortion, Obama is particularly vulnerable; as an Illinois state senator, Obama voted against a relatively uncontroversial measure that would have required doctors to provide medical attention to babies that survived late-term abortions. Obama should take the Roe v. Wade position, without actually mentioning the name of the case, which protects abortion rights in the first trimester, but allowed states to decide on the legality of abortion after then.

If Obama moves towards these positions, he will be able to muster a winning coalition of independents, liberals, and working-class Democrats without losing the core of his message. Indeed, since he has built his campaign around a message of unity and bipartisanship, if anything, these moderations will strengthen the premise of his candidacy. Obama has a real shot at becoming the first black president if he just engages in some self-reflection despite the seemingly endless masses of fawning supporters.

# Bernanke the right man for the job

By Nate Maxwell

Associate and Opinion Editor

It's a tough time to be the Chairman of the Fed. With the recent chaos and uncertainty in America's financial markets, recession fears are growing and everyone is looking to the Fed for answers. As Ben Bernanke enters his third year as Alan Greenspan's successor, he faces many tough choices and an almost certain guarantee of criticism no matter what he does. Despite the cacophony of voices that are certain they know what the Fed is doing wrong, Bernanke is the right man for the job, and has handled the weakness in the financial sector about as well as anyone could.

With the massive uncertainty generated by the losses from the sub-prime mortgage crisis, and the resulting loss of liquidity for financial firms across the country, the American financial markets are teetering on the edge of disaster. Bernanke correctly realizes that the Federal

Reserve's first necessity is to ensure the continued stability of these markets. The so-called "real economy" is still strong - the weakness is still confined to the financial and housing markets. However, if the confidence in the financial economy is not restored, the supply of loanable funds will dry up, leading to a deep and severe recession. All of the actions the Fed has taken thus far have been aimed at preventing such a disaster from occurring.

As Dr. Randall Parker pointed out in his lecture last Wednesday, this is a direct contrast to the actions that the Federal Reserve took in the face of the Great Depression. Then, with a financial sector in even more trouble than it is today, the Fed pursued a contractionary monetary policy out of a fear of out of control inflation. Instead, the economy underwent serious deflation and banks around the country collapsed. The economy did not recover for nearly a decade. Despite this, inflation

hawks continue to call for Chairman Bernanke to cease his attempts to pour liquidity into the markets to support teetering investment banks, as inflation has crept up to around 4%. Fortunately, Chairman Bernanke realizes that it is better to risk mildly higher inflation than risk the unraveling of America's money markets. The time to play inflation hawk is when the economy is not at risk of disaster, which Bernanke has indicated he understands.

It is certainly an interesting time to be running the nation's monetary policy. When time has passed, we may be able to look back in hindsight and see a few moves that the Fed Chair misplayed, possibly including the recent encouragement of JP Morgan Chase's acquisition of struggling Bear Sterns. Chairman Bernanke does not have that luxury, but so far he seems to be calling a pretty game under challenging conditions.

## THE SOU'WESTER

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## How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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

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

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

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ASSOCIATED  
COLLEGIATE  
PRESS

Letter to the Editor

15 March 2008

It's always encouraging to see students engaged in political debate, but one or two sentences in Mr. Joe Cody's Opinion essay in the Feb 20, 2008 edition of *The Sou'wester* caught my attention as irresponsible, and tied to the world of fantasy literature rather than truthful journalistic reality. Mr. Cody suggests that Iraq has been pushed off the radar of the U.S. presidential campaign because, "...we are finally winning. The surge has been a success." Nothing could be further from reality. Let me make five points:

a. The escalation in Iraq (the so-called "surge") has failed in its stated objectives, i.e. to allow the Iraqi government to take control of the country while the military/police "stand up" to the bad guys. More than one year post-surge, neither objective has been met. A recent military report suggests that the Iraqi police and/or army "might" be ready to "stand up" by about 2018! Insecurity is rampant in Iraq, especially in Basra to the south. As for the Iraqi government one year post-surge, there has been no political or social reconciliation in the country, and no agreement on anything important, such as allocation of oil revenues, to give one example.

b. Senator Barack Obama is beating the more established Democratic candidate (Senator Hillary Clinton) because she irresponsibly voted to grant authorization to President Bush to go to war in Iraq even though there was not, in 2002 (nor since) a shred of evidence linking Saddam Hussein to weapons of mass destruction. Obama, of course, was not a U.S. Senator in late 2002, but that hardly matters: Americans are fed up with the war and the Democratic candidate most likely to win the nomination in Denver this summer is the one who didn't vote for war in 2002.

c. The United States spends about 12 billion dollars *per month* on this illegal war, we are approaching 4,000 Americans killed and more than 30,000 wounded. Forty three Americans have been killed in Iraq in February and March of this year (as of 12 March). We're winning? If we're winning, why did Senator John McCain recently announce that we might have to stay in Iraq for "100 years..." Mr. Cody: "we are finally winning."

d. The assassination of Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan this past December demonstrates how utterly disastrous and irrational (and, lest we forget, illegal and immoral) our obsessively focused foray into Iraq has been. The Pakistani's do, in fact, *have* weapons of mass destruction, the country is spiraling out of control under the hapless leadership of a cruel military dictator who is strongly supported by the U.S. but nearly universally despised by the Pakistani people.

e. President Bush's most ardent defenders of the disastrous Iraq policy, Britain's Tony Blair and Australia's John Howard, were driven out of power by overwhelming outrage from sensible citizens in those countries who oppose the war. Additionally, pro-American governments in Spain and Italy were decisively swept out of power. So not only have we lost in Iraq—we're alone in Iraq. "Win" is not possible: It never was. I hope those who think we're wining in Iraq will return from magical fairytale-land to the world of sober reality.

Michael J. LaRosa  
Associate Prof., History

Student Voice

How do you think the current economic troubles will affect you and college students across America?



"I think I'm going to move to France."  
-Kayla Miller ('11)



"An unstable market can make entry level jobs more competitive. This can cause more qualified people to slip through the cracks."  
-Jim Kingman ('09)

Fed should limit involvement in the economy

UWIRE  
By Sam Shirazi  
Source: The Cavalier Daily

Overshadowed by the near panic over the specter of a possible recession, the principle of limited government intervention in the economy has gone out the window. The recent actions of the Federal Reserve such as interest rate cuts and the increase of nearly \$200 billion in the American money supply have done little to improve the economy and instead have led to the grim prospect of high inflation which has many negative effects on the economy.

While these actions led by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke are meant to keep the country out of a recession, in reality they will probably lead to the disastrous combination of both a recession and high rates of inflation, known as stagflation. Ironically, the policies of a supposedly conservative administration have increased government intervention in the economy over the last seven years and have led to the current crisis.

Many of the recent actions of the Federal government are little more than panicked intervention in the deteriorating economic situation which will make the inflation problem worse. Realistically, the Federal government can do little to soften a recession and instead should go back to its traditional role of fighting inflation and staying out of the economy.

This pattern began after the September 11th attacks when there were widespread concerns over the economy. As a result, then-Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan lowered the Fed funds rate, which largely governs the interest rates, to historically low levels. This led to a sustained period of very low interest rates that caused people to borrow large amounts of money.

This led to fairly strong economic growth for a while, but problems arose when too many people borrowed too much money including those who should not have gotten loans under so-called sub prime mortgages. This would not have happened if the Federal Reserve had left the market to its own forces. Instead, Greenspan kept interest rates artificially low for an excessive period of time and this caused an imbalance which led to too much borrowing.

We are now experiencing the consequences of that irresponsible intervention in the economy that has led to widespread defaults on loans made during the period of low interest rates. These loan defaults have led to a significant economic slow-down and the prospect of a recession.

Recently, the Federal government has done several things to address the economic problem, but realistically does little more than increase inflation. As mentioned earlier, Bernanke has continued to lower interest rates and pumped billions of dollars into the economy. In addition, the Congress has passed and the president has signed a nearly \$200 billion economic stimulus package that will give tax breaks to the population.

Many leading economic analysts such as David Rosenberg, chief North American economist at Merrill Lynch, agree that the recent actions will do little to improve the situation. As Rosenberg wrote this week, "this latest experiment, as with the others undertaken thus far, does not address underlying credit problems, does not materially improve the solvency of the institutions exposed to assets under stress."

The net effect of all these actions by the Federal government is to significantly increase the amount of money in the economy. While this might sound like a good idea because it gives people more money to buy things and grow the economy, this money is not backed by anything and can only lead to higher prices. The problem with inflation is that it gives people a pessimistic feeling about the economy and prices of goods increase dramatically while wages are much slower to keep pace.

The idea that the federal government can keep the nation out of a recession has been discredited over the course of the last century. During the 1990s, the Federal Reserve proved effective in controlling inflation and this led to increased growth not direct intervention. Hitting the panic button on the economy will do little to help solve the current problem and may make it worse. Instead the Federal government should recognize its past mistakes and move in a responsible manner to curb inflation and help improve the economy.



"I think it will be hard to find a job. These issues will motivate students to be more careful and pay more attention to economic changes"  
-Michael Moore ('08)



"Well, the money in my savings won't go so far, and right now food off campus is becoming more expensive."  
-Chris Williams ('11)



"It's a loss of current jobs as well as job growth in the future."  
-Colin Johnson ('10)

# Middle Eastern expert and motorcycle rider

By Allyson Pellissier

Dr. David Romano has served as an assistant professor of International Studies at Rhodes since 2006. Hailing from Canada, he earned his B.A. and M.A. from McGill University (in Montreal, Quebec) and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. After teaching for a few years in Canada, he moved to Memphis to continue his academic career at Rhodes.

"I liked the college, the people who are now my colleagues, the low congestion, and the low cost of living," said Romano of his decision to move to Memphis.

He and his wife now live on a farm not too far outside of Memphis, and Romano claims that he doesn't mind the daily 15-minute commute, which he makes via motorcycle.

Although Romano has studied many cultures, he is particular interested in those of the Middle East, and especially the Kurdish. This ethnic group first caught Romano's attention during the Iraq-Iran War, when Saddam Hussein initiated a massive poisonous gas attack on the Kurdish town Halabja.

"Since the Iranians had control of the town at that time, we saw the effects in the media the next day," said Romano. "This allowed the event to reach consciousness in international political thought."

Romano maintains that "enclosed regimes" present a considerable threat to human rights, and that one of the key factors in developing human rights involves "universal access to journalism."

Romano also considers field research integral to his professional experience. He has made extensive



Gwen Weil/The Sou'wester

**Dr. David Romano**

visits to Jerusalem, Turkey, and Iraq, and briefer visits to Iran and Syria. Already fluent in four languages, including Turkish and Hebrew, he hopes to learn Arabic and Kurdish to facilitate even more interaction with the people of the Middle East.

"When traveling," Romano says, "I really like to interact with the typical locals. Speaking to them in their native languages is such an enriching experience."

He has already written one book about his research, *The Kurdish Nationalist Movement*, and published several articles; additionally, he has two forthcoming texts (both of which he coauthored with his wife), and plans to write another book over the next few years.

In the majority of his research to date, Romano has explored the circumstances of insurgencies, asking, "What makes someone risk *everything*—life, land, and family—to defy a state?" Romano explains that organization and opportunity must supplement motive before any group revolts. He adds that the emergence of a Kurdish state is not outside the realm of possibility, although governments have defeated every previous Kurdish uprising through state power and assistance from other Kurdish groups.

Romano's cites the "synergy between teaching and researching" as his favorite aspect of his profession: "My research provides me with information and questions for my students, and my students' questions in turn provide me with future research projects."

He explains that as a professor, he enjoys the unique privilege of choosing to explore and report the topics he finds most interesting. In only three semesters, Professor Romano has already has already developed quite a following among the students, and his classes fill up quickly.

*Exhibit, continued from Page 1*

ily unit, is fundamental to the exhibit.

"We actually formed our family close to sixteen years ago," reads one of the quotations, by Lillian Gonzales; "there was no formal ceremony or public acknowledgement. But within our hearts, we knew we were forming a family as I felt that we were going to be together for a long time."

The exhibit seeks to encourage acceptance by a society that is traditionally intolerant of diverse lifestyles in the family: "My parents are always there for me, and as far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter what your family is like as long as they love you and you love them," reads another quote, by Sarah Zashin-Jacobson, a sixth-grader with homosexual parents.

The "Love Makes a Family" photo exhibit was on display in Barrett for the week of March 11-14 and is touring across the country. Those interested in learning about additional tour locations or about the Family Diversity project may visit <http://www.familydiv.org/lovemakesafamily.php>.

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# CAMPUS SAFETY

March 9-15, 2008

03/09

Nothing unusual to report.

03/10

7:41 pm: Report of a stolen debit card by a student; information documented.

03/11

11:46 am: Student reported that he struck another vehicle in the parking lot. All information has been taken.

4:38 pm: Call from a concerned individual that a dog was possible stuck in a sewer pipe near the southwest Mallory gym gates. Officers dispatched; no dog found.

03/12

9:00 am: Tow service on campus to remove a student's vehicle from the freshman lot.

4:32 pm: Fire drills being conducted by Resident's Life in Robinson, Blount and Glassell Halls.

03/13

10:30 pm: Fire department dispatched to campus to investigate a lightning strike in the East Village area.

Both East Village A and B have been evacuated until investigation is complete.

10:35 pm: Fire department allowing students to return to their dorms.

03/14

Nothing unusual to report.

03/15

12:46 am: Call from a student reporting heavy smoke coming from Blount. Campus Safety officers and MFD in route.

12:50 am: Smoke was the result of a student placing items in the microwave, causing an explosion. Building checked by MFD; report has been filed.

*Mock Trial, continued from Page 1*

of having really strong students," he said. "The entire team understands you have to be here as long as it takes to get the work done."

Pohlmann also noted that coaching for twenty-two years has given the program a strong consistency on which to build the success of "the most continually successful program in the country" without having to backtrack for new coaches.

Rhodes' Mock Trial program has three teams this year, each composed of seven to nine members. The second team performed very well at their Iowa City tournament. They also won their regional tournament in Louisville.

The first team also won their regional, and performed well at tournaments in D.C., Minneapolis, and Los Angeles as well.

"Rhodes is the first school ever to have won two regionals in same year," said participant Noah Pittman.

These two teams did not compete in this previous weekend's tournament. Because each won their regional tournament, they are both advancing straight to the national tournament.

The third team, the developmental

team consisting of new members, has five wins and three loses this academic year.

"The developmental team made great progress this year," said Pohlmann.

There were very few members this year that had previously participated in Mock Trial. Three people on this year's teams had been to the national tournament before.

"Everyone was very pleased with the results, especially considering how young our teams are this year," said Pittman.

The Rhodes Mock Trial team has a long tradition of success. It has won four national championships, produced 36 All-Americans, placed among the top 15 teams for twenty consecutive years (more times than any other program in the country), and has appeared at the national championship tournament for 21 years. In addition, the Department of Justice has given the team research grants.

Students interested in participating in Mock Trial usually take Political Science 304: Trial Procedure, and also participate in the in-class practice rounds. At tournaments, students debate over mock cases that were written and submitted by students themselves.

## Modern business cycles: learning from mistakes

By William Bruce  
Executive Assistant

On Wednesday, March 12, in Tuthill Hall, Professor Randall E. Parker of East Carolina University delivered a charismatic lecture about the Great Depression and its influence on modern business cycles. By carrying the lecture through a series of questions, Dr. Parker helped to identify both the details of the United States' historical economic low point as well as how the Government has worked to better stabilize the economy as a result.

Dr. Parker received his B.S. in Economics in 1982 from Northern Illinois University and pursued his M.S. and Ph.D from University of Kentucky in 1986. He has taught at East Carolina University since 1986 and his research includes Macroeconomics, the study of the national economy as a whole, and Economic History. In addition to teaching, he has written *Reflections on the Great Depression* and *The Economics of the Great Depression: A Twenty-First Century Look Back at the Economics of the Interwar Era*, and is currently working on a third book titled *Interwar Historical Antecedents of Modern Inflation*. Dr. Parker has also written dozens of essays that discuss the Great Depression as an economic influence.

The Great Depression was a time of economic downfall that was largely exacerbated through the economic policies of the Federal Reserve. In the wake of the Roaring Twenties, a time of economic expansion, the economy was at a highpoint and began to plunge into what Dr. Parker described as a "deflationary vortex."

Although inflation, a national increase of prices, would have remedied the situation, the Federal Reserve made the mistake of fighting the inflation and, as a result, a series of economic disasters plagued the nation for nearly a decade.

When the economy hit rock bottom in 1933, some of the economic misfortunes included a massive series of bank failures, unemployment for a quarter of the nation, and a loss of 55% of industrial America. This disaster was eventually resolved due to the U.S. entry into World War II and the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Not only did FDR introduce new economic policies, but he also stopped the policies set by the Federal Reserve that perpetuated the calamity of the Great Depression.

Dr. Parker commented that "all the old fundamentals" still play a role in modern day business and through the faults of the Great Depression, the Government has worked to better the economy. The Federal Reserve has new policies to act on and Dr. Parker states "I don't think we'll have another Great Depression" and later commented on how the American economy is "incredibly resilient". In addition, Dr. Parker informed the listening students of the mechanism that is the American economy and that "you can be anything you want to be through hard work."

The lecture was made possible through the joint efforts of several different organizations that include: The Charles G. Koch foundation, Omicron Delta Epsilon (the history honor society), the department of History, and the Department of Economics and Business.

*Service, continued from Page 1*

first year Rhodes received the award. Two other Memphis schools, LeMoyné Owen College and Crichton College, also received the award.

The award is given based on a number of different criteria that measure the emphasis students and the administration place on community service. In order for schools to be honored "with distinction," the school must be in the top tier of all applicants.

There is no doubt that community service is a big part of the student experience on campus. The College's location provides many opportunities for service; because it is housed in the heart of Mem-



photo courtesy of William Bruce

Professor Randall E. Parker

phis, many students can find service opportunities within blocks of the school.

Not only is being named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll a great honor for Rhodes, but it also will help in carrying on the community service legacy. "I think it means that others now recognize what Rhodes students have known for years – civic engagement matters" said Dean of Students Carol Casey. "From Kinney to All-Sing, the F11 requirement and the Bonner Scholar Program, civic engagement and service are woven through all facets of student life."

As a member, Rhodes will be able to assist more students interested in community service, as well as form additional community partnerships.

# Why January and February movies suck so much

By Adam Teer  
A&E Editor

I am in a state of joy. The month of February has ended and we are quickly ticking off the days in March. This means one thing: goodbye crappy post-Christmas movies, hello spring movie season. March and April mark the time of year where the studios start to release better movies (although several bad ones slip through the cracks as well). The way that the studios decide when to release movies is a somewhat complex system, and when you understand it, then you will realize why January and February are terrible months for movies.

There are two big periods of the year that studios focus on: Thanksgiving and Christmas in the winter and May through July in the summer. It makes sense that they want to release movies at this time that are big blockbusters, highly-anticipated, or genuinely good because people have extra free time to see them. Also, during the holidays, families are getting together. And what better way is there to shut everyone up for two hours than to go see a movie at the theatres? So why do good movies get recognized at other times of the year?

Studios do not like to have too much competition when they release their film. For example, when *The DaVinci Code* release date was unveiled two summers ago, *MI:III* decided to shift their release date a week or two earlier. *Over the Hedge* still kept the same date as *DaVinci Code* because it targets a different audience. So, studios watch for competition, but that does not always mean that several movies are released on the same date. It is typical to see movies of different genres or target audiences released on the same date. For example, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, *Be Kind Rewind*, *Vantage Point*, *U2:3D*, *Witless Protection*, and *Charlie Bartlett* all opened. Two movies of the same genre that target the same audience are very rarely released on the same day. This summer you are not going to see *Indiana Jones* and *Chronicles of Narnia* released on the same day. So *Narnia* is released a week before *Indiana Jones*, which solves the studios' problems.

After movie studios start claiming dates, and switching some around, possible dates of release start ticking off the calendar. You want to put your big dogs on dates where people will go to the theatre, like the Fourth of July or during spring break. During the

months right after the big two (Thanksgiving/Christmas and the summer) the studios dump crappy movies because everyone just spent their money on the good ones.

Studios sometimes get lucky in the box-office by dumping terrible films in the "crap months" (yes it is an industry term) like *Norbit* last February. The "crap months" besides January and February, are August, September, and part of October. June usually dips a little in the middle of the summer, but May and July are always jam-packed with goodies.

So after all of that, it should make some sense why January and February usually suck movie-wise. If you look back and don't remember all that came out in the last couple of months, I'll give you some of the highlights. January was plagued by Ice Cube and Tracy Morgan's *First Sunday*, the absolutely dreadful *In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*, *One Missed Call*, *Mad Money*, *How She Move*, and *Meet the Spartans*. January also offered *27 Dresses*, *Rambo*, and *Cloverfield*, which can be seen as the "winners" of the month. February was an ultimate suck-fest with *The Eye*, *Over Her Dead Body*, *Strange Wilderness*, *Fool's Gold*, *Welcome*

*Home* *Roscoe Jenkins*, *Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show*, *Jumper*, *Step Up 2: The Streets*, *Witless Protection*, *Be Kind Rewind*, and *Semi-Pro*, which was terribly received by both critics and audiences. (See my article in the last issue about Will Ferrell being a one-trick pony) The upside of February was the surprisingly good *Definitely, Maybe* and the kid's film *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. If you do not recognize any of the movies mentioned above, there is probably a reason.

March and, more importantly, spring break starts to bring out better movies, like *Horton Hears a Who*, which was well received by both critics and audiences. But you still get the stragglers from February, which include *10,000 B.C.*, *College Road Trip*, *Doomsday*, and *Never Back Down*. There are a few more bad ones peppered out in the rest of the month, but things are starting to look up. A few decent looking films on the horizon are *Drillbit Taylor*, *21*, *Leatherheads*, *88 Minutes*, and *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. April is where things kick into high gear, but now we are at least in March and out of Crapsville. I am elated that we are that much closer to the summer because there are meant to be some really great movie line ups this year.

## Interview with acclaimed vocal coach Andrew Wade

By Alicia Q. Buxton

Rhodes' Theatre Department was privileged to receive world-renowned vocal coach, Andrew Wade, teach a recent series of workshops. Wade trained at the Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, going on to serve as Head of Voice at England's Royal Shakespeare Company for thirteen years. Since his work at the RSC, Andrew has pursued his particular interest in exploring language with students, teachers and academics. He has become a freelance vocal trainer, traveling to give lectures and lead Master Classes.

Wade has also had the opportunity to work as a coach with theatre and film companies. He was Verse Consultant on the film *Shakespeare in Love*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes. Wade has also helped record "Working with Shakespeare", a series of work on voice and text with Helen Hunt, Jeremy Irons, and Samuel L. Jackson.

"Andrew Wade came and gave workshops for British Studies at Oxford for a number of years," says BSAO Dean Professor Michael Leslie. "His involvement with Rhodes came when, having failed to find Andrew for several years, I literally bumped into him as I rounded the corner from St Giles on to Broad Street. I suggested to Cookie Ewing that we should try to get him to come and do some voice work here at Rhodes."

Since that fortunate run in, Rhodes has had Andrew Wade come and work with its theatre students twice now; he recently came to Memphis to lend his expertise to the students in a three-day series of workshops. Below is an interview with vocalism superstar, Andrew Wade:

Q: Why do you enjoy working with students?

Andrew Wade: I've always thought as a teacher that I only want to continue teaching while I'm still learning. I feel [working with students is] the best way to keep discovering, refreshing, reminding oneself of what the world's about. It's good to know that you're working with people who are going to make the work theirs and work with the next generation.

Q: What is your general impression of Rhodes and Rhodes students?

AW: I first met Rhodes College students in Oxford, England on study abroad. From that first meeting I felt they were extremely focused, interested in what they were doing and it seemed that the place they came from was a very caring institution. And now having been here, that's how it feels. Generally, everyone seems to be very happy here, so it can't be bad.

Q: What do you have the students do in your workshops?

AW: Voice work has to be about working on language, on texts. What really interests me is how we connect with classical texts today. So it is working in two ways: working on the actor's voice to help them find vocal stamina, power, range, and the ability of articulation they will be required to work within a given theatre space. But also, what does that language crave of the actor? Therefore, to work with the actors on their voice is also to work on the voice of the text. What does the language itself crave to be realized? So I think it's those two areas: the voice of the actor and the voice of the text.

Q: What do you want students to ultimately learn in the workshops?

AW: To be excited by speaking. To enjoy a desire for verbal communication. The whole area is so important; to want to communicate, to verbally relate to one another.

Q: Do we, as a society, speak correctly?

A: Are you being effective in your way of communicating? Each culture has its own relationship to words and how we relate to each other through words. That's to do with education, societal resources. So Rhodes College students, being intelligent people, are on the whole very articulate, but often intelligent people are very sensitive people. And sensitive people often have less confidence in their ability to verbalize, and may mumble slightly because they do not wish to seem arrogant. The bottom line is whether people are being as effective as they could be.

Q: What are some of your favorite words/why?

AW: 'Pother'. It's great to say. And we don't know what it really means. I worked on a production of *Coriolanus* and the director said, 'pother? That's the most alien word I've ever heard. Nobody will get it. Cut that line.' So ever since then, I've been a champion of 'pother'. We get the meaning of words not from the 'dictionary meaning' of words. Meanings involve many other things than just literal meaning. I'm fond of 'piltch'. It's very hard to say that word and not grimace and screw your face up. It lends itself to that physicality of language.

Q: Why are curse words interesting/good to work with?

AW: A familiar characteristic of many curse words is that they start out with a release of sound and often end on a fairly hard sound. It's something very satisfying. I often cheaply ask

people to use swear words because it's something we feel a bit naughty about, and yet somehow we are more likely to invest it with an emotion. It makes us aware of the connection of sound, meaning, and feeling.

Q: What is one thing about Shakespearean language you want people to know?

AW: I wish more people would just listen to it and not worry about what it means intellectually. I wish people would trust their ears and not rush to their eyes and worry that it's alien because I don't think it's anywhere near as alien as we seem to make it appear. Many of those words were probably heard by the audience for the first time then as well as now. And that didn't stop people from feeling excited about them.

Q: Like Dr. Seuss?

AW: Exactly.

Q: What's the greatest myth about Shakespearean theatre?

AW: It was clearly for everybody, not just for the educated. I think we get the perception that it's very elitist. I don't think Shakespeare at any time was elitist.

Q: What are your favorite Shakespearean quotations or plays?

AW: My favorite phrase is, 'There is a world elsewhere', from *Coriolanus*. I like that phrase a lot. It's from a silly personal point of view, but it has resonance. As for my favorite play, it changes for where I'm at or what's happening socially; suddenly a play will speak to us more than it did a few years ago. That's why you can come back to plays in several years and they never feel stale.

Q: How did you get interested in speech?

AW: Well, I was a very quiet, inarticulate child. My mother died when I was nine, and I was sent away to school. At the school I went to, there turned out to be an inspirational drama teacher who happened to be passionate about Shakespeare, and she excited me through words. I think I discovered, without realizing it, the political importance of a human being to have language in order to express yourself. In the end, where one really works from, one believes that if we communicated more effectively, more caringly, with more curiosity, there might be less violence in the world.

Q: And finally, when working with Samuel L. Jackson, did you teach him how to say "motherfucker" correctly?

AW: He seemed to do it rather correctly without my help.

# Dark comedy abounds *In Bruges*

By Jonathan Cashon  
Staff Writer

I think it's fair to say that writer/director Martin McDonagh's debut feature-length film, *In Bruges*, is among my favorite movies of the year. Even in the face of the many Oscar-grade films that premiered last semester. It is certainly the best movie I've seen this semester (which is an admittedly small pool), edging out *The Bank Job* in raw entertainment quotient. McDonagh started his career as a playwright, which should be readily apparent in the quality of dialogue between his main and peripheral characters.

The movie follows Irish hitmen Ray (played perfectly by Colin Farrell) and his mentor/handler, Ken (portrayed equally well by Brendan Gleeson) as they hide out in Bruges following a botched murder-for-hire in London. The opening acts of the film are something of an odd-couple scenario. Ken relishes the visit to the "best preserved medieval city in Europe," while Rays mopes about and makes repeated comparisons between the Belgian city and feces. At one point, Ray notes that "[i]f I grew up on a farm, and was *retarded*, Bruges might impress me. But I wasn't, so it doesn't." The thing that finally catches Ray's interest is a film crew at work in the medieval town. At first enthralled with the presence of a dwarf (*Station Agent's* Peter Dinklage) in the cast, before long a pretty local, Chloe (Clemence Poesy, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire's* Fleur Delacour) catches Ray's eye. Delighted with the presence of something worthwhile about the crap town, he quickly tries to win her over. At the same time, Ken gets a call from the boss (Ralph Fiennes) which, to say the least, complicates the situation.

That is only the barest of synopses, of course, with as few spoilers as possible (less than the trailers, even). However, I need to stress the fact that the movie may not be what you think. It's not a mad-cap romp. It's not a romantic comedy. For those of you who have seen the trailer, you may fallen victim to Mis-Marketing™. Don't get me wrong, the movie is very funny – and very crude. As mentioned earlier, the dialogue in this film is absolutely fantastic. Some of it skews off toward silliness...but it never gets to Tarantino-levels of wankery. All of it seems natural and sounds right coming out of the characters' mouths. But Ray and Ken *kill people* for money. This creates the films fundamental conflict, both internal and external, for the characters. The third act becomes quite dark, and the ending is far from uplifting. There's still humor in that last act, but we're not talking "ha ha" funny, necessarily. But this only serves to make the movie better, in my opinion. A "fish-out-of-water" comedy is all fine and good, but one with actual heart and developed characters is an absolute gem.

You owe it to yourself to see this movie. It's a smaller release, and at present it's only showing at Studio on the Square. I don't expect it to be in theaters much longer. That's not that big of a deal, however. This movie doesn't need the big screen to be successful. For those of you who love medieval architecture, though, there are a number of nice vistas you might want to catch it in theaters.

As much as I enjoy this movie, I understand that some people may have some problems with the content. In the interest of ensuring a pleasant movie-going experience for everyone, I have compiled a list of possibly disturbing content.

- Gun-violence
- Physical violence
- Snooty restaurant patrons
- Teasing of obese Americans
- Contemplated suicide (with a pistol).
- Realized suicide (leap from a bell tower).
- Drug use
- Male-on-female self-defense.
- F-carpet-bombing
- The presence of a dwarf
- Prostitution
- Cocaine-fueled racist screeds delivered by aforementioned dwarf in the presence of prostitutes.
- Severe angst
- Non-explicit sexual encounter
- Belgians who are sticklers for correct change
- Irishmen
- Bad jokes at the expense of Belgians
- Illegal arms sales
- An Englishman
- The most uses of the "c-word" since V-week
- A delightful fairy-tale town featuring fine architecture and pleasant canals.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film and Broadcasting rates *In Bruges* "L" for "limited adult audience, film whose problematic content many adults would find troubling."

# Bravery, Phantom Planet come to town

By Charlotte Watson

With the release of *Hot Fuss* in 2004, The Killers ushered in an array of new-wave revival rock groups like The Bravery who will be playing at Newby's on Monday, March 24. Yes, I know it's a Monday, but for all those who just stand in the corners nodding along, or like to dance in circles, this show is for you.

Backed by Phantom Planet, the famed artists of *The O.C.* theme song, this show invites those who aren't afraid to move around. Phantom Planet's newest single "Do the Panic," off their soon to be released album, *Raise the Dead*, is filled with the same toe-tapping, summertime groove that made Phantom Planet popular. Filled with plenty of snapping and playful lyrics, "Do the Panic" is the kind of song you would want to blast while driving around aimlessly. Phantom Planet is good fun and wickedly adorable.

The headliner of the show is The Bravery, who played at Rites of Spring in 2006. Their music is a mixture of indie rock and electronica, reaching the top of the pop charts in both the United States and the United Kingdom. The Bravery has sold out headlining shows all over the world and played some of the largest festivals including SXSW, Coachella, and Lollapalooza.

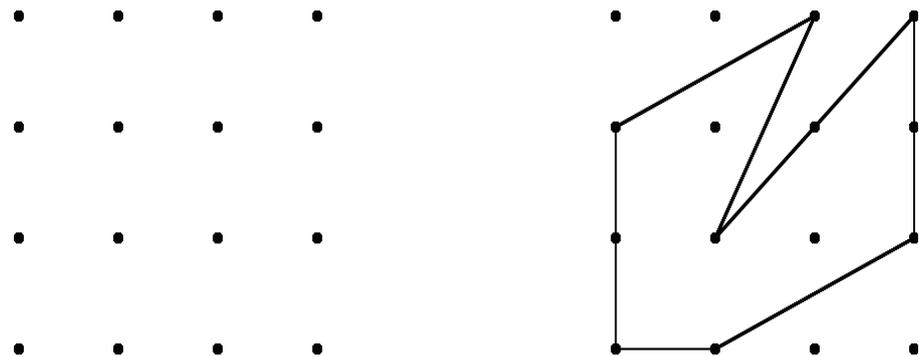
Bravery's newest album has been met with mixed reviews, but still delivers with stylized guitars, synthesizers, skinny ties, self-deploring lyrics and Robert Smith style crooning. Fans of bands like The Killers or Boy Kill Boy will enjoy seeing The Bravery. The Bravery and Phantom Planet will be playing Monday, March 24, at Newby's.



[www.100xr.com/100\\_XR/Artists/B/Bravery.htm](http://www.100xr.com/100_XR/Artists/B/Bravery.htm)

The Bravery visits Newby's on Mon.

## The Puzzler

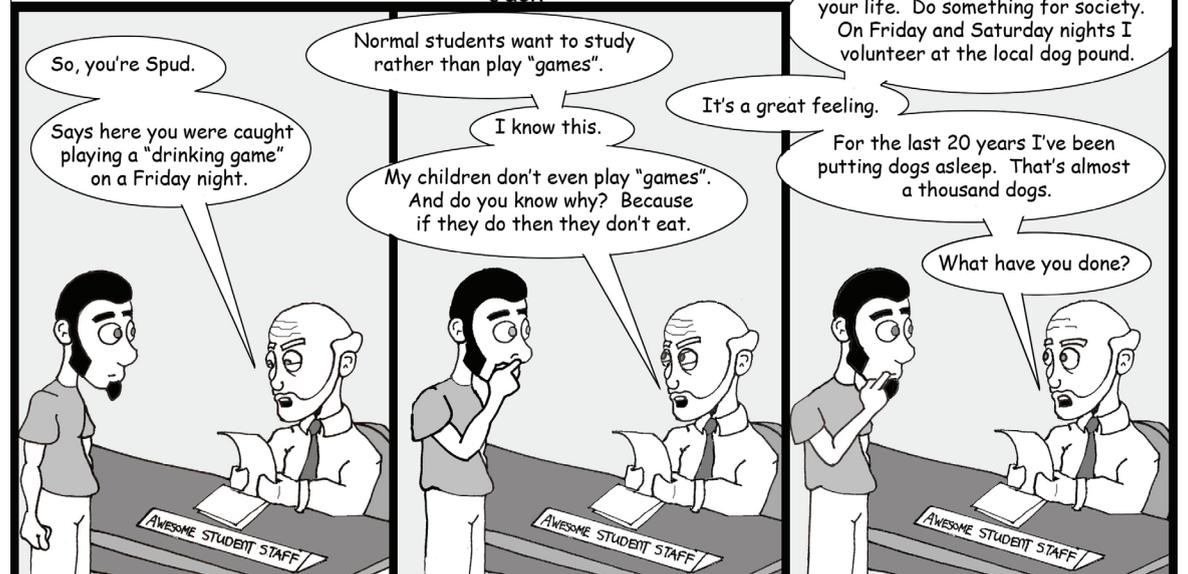


Of the two figures above, the left shows a  $4 \times 4$  grid and the right shows the same grid with a closed heptagon whose vertices lie on the gridpoints. No point on the grid is used more than once as part of the polygon, and none of the edges intersect. Is there such a polygon with 16 vertices?

If you think you know the answer, draw it and e-mail it to [rinsl@rhodes.edu](mailto:rinsl@rhodes.edu), or send it to Stephen Rintoul, Box 2331 via campus mail for a chance to win two movie tickets.

## Cheers to Liberty

By: Matt Jack



## Spring Training with the future of the Cardinals

By **Onalee Carson**  
Staff Writer

The minute I walked into the Cardinals complex in Jupiter, FL, I knew that I was unlike any of the other media members. Yes, I was a girl; yes, I was the youngest one by about 20 years; but the real reason: I was a fan.

For the week of spring break, I was able to be the ultimate baseball bum with an inside peek, watching workouts, batting practice and the odd down time between practice and the daily games. What more do fans want to know about their favorite players than what they do in their spare time during Spring Training? Or more interestingly, don't fans, especially Cardinals fans, want to know about the future of their team? Therefore, I bring you inside information on one of the most intriguing Cardinals names: Colby Rasmus.

Colby Rasmus is the number one prospect in the Cardinals organization, and is expected to be the next coming of Jimmy Ballgame. Many fans were hoping that Rasmus would make the rare jump from Double-A to the Majors this spring; however, Rasmus has recently been sent down to minor league camp, and is expected to be the starting centerfielder here in Memphis. For many Cardinals fans living in Memphis, the first half of the Redbirds

season (hopefully Rasmus will be here at least that long) with the myth of Rasmus patrolling the outfield will be more incredible than Rick Ankiel's stint here last season. While at Spring Training, I interviewed Colby Rasmus in the hopes of learning more about the one referred to as "Razzle Dazzle".

Rasmus is only 21 years old and is the oldest of baseball-fanatic family of four boys (his younger brother Cory is a pitcher in the Braves organization). He hails from Phenix City, AL, and was drafted in the first round by the Cardinals right out of high school. As a pitcher in high school as well as a centerfielder, Rasmus was once clocked throwing 90 mph from centerfield. As the story goes, the Yankees tried to pick up Rasmus as a pitcher, but he was determined to stop pitching; he turned down the Yankees and said that he was not going to be drafted as a pitcher, no matter what. Cardinals fans are now rejoicing over the then 18-year-old's boldness.

Rasmus knows what he is capable of, and there is no denying the hint of an ego when talking to him; however, he does say that he is still having a difficult time talking about himself all of the time. He was more apt to talk about his parents and brothers than himself. Luckily, I was able to get some interesting tid-bits out of

him.

"I'm from Alabama, and I don't hunt," said Rasmus of something most people don't know about him. This was really funny because the day before I had had an extended conversation with pitcher Ryan Franklin about hunting. Rasmus says that he isn't a redneck at all, and rather than driving a truck like the typical Alabaman, he drives two BMWs. In his downtime, Rasmus likes to play Halo...doesn't sound much different than a lot of 21 year olds.

However, it is clear that Rasmus has always thought he was going to play professional baseball. "I'd probably be sitting on the couch right now," said Rasmus when asked what he would do if he wasn't playing baseball. I prodded him with questions of college and other careers, but baseball is undoubtedly his life: "I guess I'd be in school. I guess I would be a P.E. coach or something...coach baseball most likely."

The question of Colby's life outside of baseball is far beside the point for die-hard Cardinals fans...everyone is hoping that this confident baseball player turns out to be the real deal. The good thing is that those of us in Memphis will get an up-close look at this exciting prospect, who will likely be a mainstay in St. Louis for years to come.

## Roddick's Memphis Blues?

By **Tyler Ponder**  
Staff Writer

After only a year and a half, the player/coach duo of Andy Roddick and Jimmy Connors has officially come to an end. The move was announced on March 6th, just hours after Roddick's win over Rafael Nadal in Dubai. Initiated by Connors, Roddick said that the split occurred "about a week ago". One week before March 6th would place Andy Roddick in a very familiar city: Memphis.

The Regions Morgan Keegan Championships are held every February at the Racquet Club of Memphis. Roddick is no stranger to Memphis, winning in 2002 and finishing second in both 2003 and 2007. He was given the #1 seed and drew a qualifier for the first round of play this year. Roddick was able to defeat that qualifier, Gilles Muller, in straight sets. The next match was something that Americans both love and hate to see. Roddick was set to play another American, Mardy Fish. An upset was not in the making, however, and Roddick advanced again in straight sets.

Roddick's quarterfinal match is where things get interesting in relation to Connors. Roddick was set to face Robin Soderling, who, although a challenging opponent, was one that Roddick should have handled with ease. To the disappointment of many in attendance, Roddick lost in straight sets, ending any legitimate chance that an American would win the tournament. This loss came on February 29th. Fast forwarding six days to March 6th, Andy Roddick and Jimmy Connors were sitting in a press conference discussing their split.

There could be some sort of connection between Roddick's loss in Memphis and the departure of Connors, but without either of the two acknowledging an exact time line, we can only speculate. There are three distinct possibilities, two of which involve Memphis.

1. Connors made the decision to leave Roddick before his fateful quarterfinal match against Soderling. Roddick knew this and it had a negative impact on his performance.

2. Roddick lost the quarterfinal match, which angered Connors and led to his resignation.

3. Connors was planning on resigning even before the Memphis tournament began and simply waited until afterwards to inform Roddick.

Whatever the cause, Andy Roddick is only a few months away from both the French Open and Wimbledon and he has no coach. The question now arises: can he pull himself together before then and challenge for a title? The answer: after Roddick's win over Nadal in Dubai, he went on to upset the #3 seed Novak Djokovic and win the tournament. It looks like he'll be just fine.

## AL Central and AL West Preview

By **Ralph MacDonald**

*The AL Central appears to be the most stacked division in baseball heading into the 2008 season and is the focus of part 2 of 6 in our MLB preview.*

### AL Central

1. Detroit Tigers

2007 Record: 88-74

2008 Prediction: 101-61

Key Additions: Miguel Cabrera, Dontrelle Willis, Edgar Renteria

Key Subtractions: None

On the Rise: Miguel Cabrera, Curtis Granderson

Add 3 All-Stars for no major parts of a solid 2007 team and you get the juggernaut that the 2008 Detroit Tigers will be.

2. Cleveland Indians

2007 Record: 96-66

2008 Prediction: 92-70

Key Additions: None

Key Subtractions: None

On the Rise: Grady Sizemore, Fausto Carmona, Victor Martinez

On the Decline: Paul Byrd

Cleveland should be solid once again by returning a lot of talent entering the early prime of their careers.

3. Chicago White Sox

2007 Record 72-90

2008 Prediction 82-82

Key Additions: Nick Swisher, Orlando Cabrera, Scott Linebrink, Octavio Dotel, Carlos Quentin

Key Subtractions: Jon Garland, Scott Podsednik

On the Rise: Carlos Quentin

On the Decline: Javier Vazquez, Jose Contreras, Joe Crede

The White Sox made some impressive additions to a team that was much better than its 72 wins indicated last year, but playing in the brutal AL Central keep this team mediocre.

4. Minnesota Twins

2007 Record: 79-83

2008 Prediction: 70-92

Key Additions: Delmon Young

Key Subtractions: Matt Garza, Johan Santana, Jason Bartlett

On the Rise: Justin Morneau, Francisco Liriano, Joe Mauer, Delmon Young, Boof Bonser

On the Decline: Mike Lamb

Plenty of young talent, but young talent will not get it done in this division.

### AL West

1. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

2007 Record: 94-68

2008 Record: 98-64

Key Additions: Torii Hunter, John Garland

Key Subtraction: Orlando Cabrera

On the Rise: Howie Kendrick, Eric Aybar, Kasey Kutchman, Jered Weaver

On the Decline: Vlad Guerrero, Garrett Anderson

A very good team that gets much better and deeper with the addition of Torii Hunter.

2. Seattle Mariners

2007 Record: 88-74

2008 Prediction: 91-71

Key Addition: Erik Bedard, Carlos Silva

Key Subtractions: None

On the Rise: Erik Bedard, Felix Hernandez

On the Decline: Ichiro, Raul Ibanez, Richie Sexson, Adrian Beltre

Stud pitcher Bedard joins an 88 win team from last year, but I feel the Mariners probably over-achieved last year and will not reach much higher even with their new ace.

3. Texas Rangers

2007 Record: 75-87

2008 Prediction: 81-81

Key Additions: Milton Bradley, Josh Hamilton, Jason Jennings, Ben Broussard

Key Subtractions: None

On the Rise: Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler

On the Decline: Kevin Millwood

Very nice, solid additions for the Rangers this off-season, but a lack of pitching in a hitter's

park is going to limit their success.

4. Oakland Athletics

2007 Record: 76-86

2008 Prediction: 60-102

Key Additions: None

Key Subtractions: Dan Haren, Nick Swisher, Mark Kotsay

On the Rise: Joe Blanton, Huston Street, Kurt Suzuki

On the Decline: Eric Chavez

Budget constraints and an obvious need to rebuild leaves the Athletics with a roster full of unknowns.