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THE SOU'WESTER

Vol. XCIV. NO. 17

April 2, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

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Girl Talk and more come to Rhodes.

Diversifying Rhodes: The changes of the last nine years

By Daniel Jacobs and Matt McCulloch

In the past nine years the stance towards diversity at Rhodes has changed significantly. In 1998 the college administration considered diversity a relatively low priority. Today, while the college still faces challenges, the administration has a number of initiatives to increase diversity and engage the Memphis community.

A major factor in the change is President William Troutt, who became president of the college in 1999.

"I would say the administration before Troutt didn't pay much attention to issues of diversity," said History Professor Michael Drompp. "I think faculty and students had cared about diversity but I don't think there was any directive from the higher administration."

One of Troutt's first major initiatives was improving diversity

at Rhodes.

"When I talked to people one thing that came up was diversity and the lack thereof," said Troutt. "If you listened to people they were saying that we want to be a stronger college, and it was clear to me that we needed to make diversity a college imperative."

To investigate the situation, Troutt created the Diversity Task Force. The task force, which was headed by Drompp, consisted of faculty, staff and students.

"Our charge was really to investigate the barriers to diversity, especially in terms of race," said Professor Anita Davis, who is the head of the African-American studies department and served as a member of the task force. "Part of our approach was to really talk to different groups of people. It allowed us to begin a campus-wide conversation, and it uncovered a lot of concerns."

In June 2000 the Diversity

Task Force released their executive summary. The report focused specifically on increasing racial and ethnic diversity among students, faculty and administrative staff, and in particular increasing the number of African Americans at the school. At the time of the report only 4% of the student body was African American and the faculty only had four African Americans, while the housekeeping and grounds keeping staff was 100% African American.

One of the findings of the report was that Rhodes' problems with diversity were based on the image of the college as an "elitist institution" and the inertia created by "years of inactivity" which prevented serious change.

Finally, the report made a series of recommendations, several of which have been implemented, including the creation a full-time position in the Office of Admissions that focused on recruiting minority students, hiring a chair

Diversity, continued on Page 4

BSA attendance lacking

By Avery Pribila and Daniel Jacobs

At the 2007 Kwanzaa celebration sponsored by the Black Student Association (BSA) there was a spread of catered soul food, jugs of sweet tea, and a band that led students in singing Kwanzaa songs. Students filled the room, eating and learning about a unique culture.

But, besides two exceptions, the students in attendance were entirely black.

According to Cord McLean, the president of BSA, the group consistently works to have a more diverse crowd at their events, but the Kwanzaa celebration is typical of most BSA events.

"We publicize them just like any other group," said McLean, who is a junior. "We have just as little connection with the Kwanzaa celebration as other students on campus, and we're learning just like they would be."

McLean said that of the BSA events he has attended, the 2006 Fall Ball was the most diverse in terms of attendance by white students. He estimated that there were ten white students and about 100 black students at the event. White students make up 86% of the student population, while black students make up only 6%.

"Nobody comes," said Diana

Villa, President of HOLA, said of the BSA events. "They're really well planned events but nobody comes. I don't know if Rhodes students think it's exclusive to BSA but it's not."

This sentiment is echoed by Tevari Butler, former President of BSA.

"I feel like at Rhodes we have a lot of discussions about diversity," said Butler. "But when it comes to action everything falls off."

The lack of diverse attendance at BSA events is especially stark because the other three multicultural groups (All Students Interested in Asia (ASIA), The Hispanic Organization for Language and Activities (HOLA), and the Rhodes Indian Cultural Exchange (RICE)) tend to have a proportionate representation of the campus at most of their events.

"I would say turnout is rather diverse," said Susan Wang, the President of ASIA. "Our executive board is more than just Asian. The majority of the officers are Asian but we do invite students who are interested in Asian culture. It's inclusive rather than exclusive."

Wang also described how ASIA tends to "Americanize" their events, because she thinks delving deeper into

Events, continued on Page 4

Sexuality and the Church

By William Bruce
Executive Assistant

On March 31, Tim Meadows, an openly gay preacher in the Memphis area, recently visited campus to deliver a lecture in which he discussed his life and relationship with the Christian church. Many Christians believe the bible condemns homosexuality and as a result many gay people have a poor relationship with church. Meadows discussed that over time he began to realize that the Bible is a complex work and that the texts weren't necessarily by God, but rather by ancients that had cultural influences. In addition, he delivered his conclusion that Jesus was a man that did not discriminate against people based on who they were, but rather showed love to all the people that he spent his life trying to save.

Following the lecture an intense discussion ensued. Some members of the audience supported Meadows while others expressed contempt at the idea of being a devout homosexual.

"This was a difficult discussion but I felt it was handled well," said Joe Renteria, a senior. "Difficult discussions are what Rhodes is all about."

"I felt it was healthy dialogue between two opposing groups on campus," said Mikkel Quam, the co-president of Gay Straight Alliance. "There were conflicts but it was progressive and respectful."



William Bruce, The Sou'wester
Tim Meadow

Racial diversity in the classroom

By Daniel Jacobs
Editor-in-Chief

The students of the political science course were discussing welfare when the professor turned to the class and asked what image comes to mind when they think of a welfare recipient.

That's when the silence started.

"It could have been because they wanted to be politically correct or maybe they were thinking about their grocery list at the moment," said Diana Villa, a sophomore who is Hispanic, who was in the class at the time. "Looking back, I suppose I felt a bit responsible, as a minority, to answer 'seventeen year old minority girl' to show that it was alright to acknowledge the perceptions."

"I said it because I didn't want anyone to not say it because I was in that class," said Villa, who is also the president of HOLA.

This incident illustrates one of the many difficulties students face in discussing race in the class-

room at Rhodes. Minority members of classes often feel a pressure to speak up, while many white students are afraid of saying the wrong thing.

Religious Studies Professor Luther Ivory, who teaches a number of classes on African-American issues, including African-American Theology and a class on modern civil rights, leads discussions on race in most of his classes.

"The comfort zones of the students is very narrow when they walk in there," said Ivory. "And when the buzzword of race is introduced the comfort zones narrow even further."

Jim Kingman, a junior English major who is white, also thinks that students have trouble discussing race.

"I think people feel uncomfortable talking about race in racially mixed company. At least students at this college do," said Kingman.

Other students mirror this opinion.

Classroom, continued on Page 4

Letter to the Editor

Earlier this week I wrote a letter to the administration regarding the lack of programming and administrative recognition toward honoring Dr. Martin Luther King on the 40th anniversary of his assassination this Friday.

While I was pleased to learn that Congressman Steve Cohen will be holding a "Town Hall Meeting" to honor King in the Barret Library on Saturday, I feel that Rhodes College needs to do more. Providing a venue for an event that has not been adequately advertised, an event that I feel will not be well attended by students given its awkward timing on Saturday morning, is not sufficient.

To buttress this claim, I offer the University of Memphis as an example. The University of Memphis is engaging in a week-long series of discussions, awards ceremonies, and celebrity appearances to honor King. I am not asking for celebrity appearances, discussions, or award ceremonies. I am however asking that the administration make the student body aware of this date of memorial, as well as issue a statement honoring King.

Furthermore, in a region still plagued by racism, institutional segregation, and pronounced and disproportionate African-American poverty, I feel that a predominantly white Southern institution needs (perhaps more than other colleges and universities) to make its student body aware of matters pertaining to civil rights and race. It is evident that in my four years as a student, students at Rhodes are at times insensitive to matters of race. Specifically, I cite the white student who wore blackface to two campus parties in 2006, and the Kappa Alpha Fraternity's continued willingness to hold their Old South campus party (newly renamed the Founders Day Party) the night before Martin Luther King Day in Memphis. Rhodes cannot continue to ignore the evident insensitivity of its student body. Rhodes must take a firm stance with regards to honoring Dr. King, and consequently cannot afford to leave our campus community ignorant to the pronounced sacrifice Dr. King made in this city. The lack of institutional recognition of Dr. King's tremendous humanitarian sacrifice is not only insensitive, but a detriment to the educational process and the Rhodes College community.

Philip A. Kovacic

Zimbabwe's leader should yield to opposition party

The Miami Student
Staff Editorial
Uwire

The results of last weekend's election in Zimbabwe could terminate the 28-year reign of President Robert Mugabe after facing critical opposition from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party. MDC leader and presidential hopeful Morgan Tsvangirai could bring hope and stability to the region, which could then revive the country's ailing economy. The MDC has already announced that it won enough votes Saturday to oust Mugabe. However, Mugabe refuses to cede defeat, and electoral fraud and vote rigging could slow the release of final results. The Miami Student editorial board encourages the continuation of elections, as it demonstrates that democracy can exist in Zimbabwe, particularly in light of country's economic instability.

Mugabe has governed Zimbabwe since 1980 after an extensive struggle against British colonial rule, which began in 1965. Infuriated by white minority rule, Mugabe led the Zimbabwean African National Union (ZANU) to victory by receiving the majority popular vote. Branding himself as a supporter of Marxism, Mugabe immediately began to implement a land reform policy by redistributing land previously owned by wealthy whites to blacks. The aggressive land distribution has virtually led to the collapse of Zimbabwe's main source of income: agricultural exports and commercial farms. Currently, Zimbabwe has the highest inflation in the world at more than 100,000 percent. As Zimbabwe continues in a fiscal downward spiral, a change in leadership could stimulate the country's economic policies. Under Mugabe, Zimbabweans are suffering from chronic shortages of food, water and elec-

tricity, and unemployment is running at 80 percent.

Tsvangirai represents a younger generation of Zimbabweans, interested in rectifying Mugabe's record of economic mismanagement. By working closely with industry leaders, who argue that market forces should be left to solve Zimbabwe's economic problems, Tsvangirai leans toward a more laissez-faire style. Whether or not Mugabe's opponents will successfully dethrone the 84-year-old ruler, the elections prove that democracy can survive in an African nation. As thousands poured into election booths to cast their vote, it's incredible to see how far Zimbabwe has come since 1980-and yet how much farther the country has to go. The international community must remain concerned over Zimbabwe's election in order to ensure fairness and equality.

THE SOU'WESTER

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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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Looking to get involved with *the Sou'wester* student Newspaper?

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A warning about an over-emphasis on diversity

By Dean Galaro
Opinion Columnist

There is no getting around the fact that Rhodes is not the most ethnically diverse college campus around. In that same vein, Rhodes is not a very diverse place in terms of many other categories of diversity either, including socioeconomics and geography. We are a big sea of white, upper-class kids from the Southeastern United States. In an effort to create a more diverse college campus, the College is constantly trying to pull in more students from different ethnic groups and geographic locations. Although getting a student body from many different states and countries is a clear goal, it seems to be second to the goal of creating a much more ethnically diverse campus. If this is a major goal of Rhodes—as it is clearly a goal of many college campuses around the country—then it make sense to ask why. If we take a step back from all the news hype and emotional appeals, why do we need to boost our school's diversity?

According to the Rhodes website, 17% of the freshman class this year are “students of color”, comprised of 35 Asian-Americans, 30

African-Americans, 6 Hispanics, and 4 other students whose races are not specified. Minority students comprise 15% of the entire student body. Just looking at these numbers by themselves, it is hard to easily understand their significance. To get a better understanding of the diversity issue at Rhodes, it is necessary to look at data from other comparable schools and compare their statistics to those of Rhodes. Depauw University, located in Illinois and tied in US News & World Report's Liberal Arts Colleges ranking with Rhodes, reports that 16.9% of their student body is “Multicultural”. The other school tied with Rhodes and Depauw is Pitzer College in California. Although they do not specify the minority makeup of the entire student body, students of color comprise 30% of the freshman class this year, doubling Rhodes' percentage. Looking at other top-ranked liberal arts colleges, most have a cultural breakdown of the student body that reports percentages of multicultural students hovering around 20%.

These numbers seem to indicate that Rhodes is a bit behind in the area of diversity as compared to other comparable schools. In the

face of this, Rhodes has had since 2002 a “Commitment to Diversity” in which the school notes that “A diverse learning community is a necessary element of a liberal arts education,” because “self-understanding is dependent upon the understanding of others.” This means that Rhodes is open “to learning about and experiencing cultural diversity,” because “our views and convictions will be challenged... [and] we expect this challenge to take place in a climate of open-mindedness and mutual respect.”

Goals such as these are lofty, and are the kinds of foundational principals needed at a school devoted to a true liberal arts education like Rhodes is. It is true that open-mindedness is central to the kind of learning that should be going on at Rhodes. It is also true that what one learns from others can greatly aid in helping understand and value oneself. But is all of this leading to a situation where students who are not white are being recruited with a pressure to bring their diversity into the academic foray instead of their unique experiences? Are we only seeing skin color and not the person?

A compelling warning regarding this problem came in the form of an article for Time magazine written by Perry Bacon Jr. in 2003. He is a journalist for Time, a Yale graduate. In the article “How Much Diversity Do You Want From Me?” he discusses the pressure he faced as a black student at Yale and a black writer at Time. He writes that there was an assumption that he possessed “a uniquely black viewpoint to contribute and that part of [his] responsibility as a student or worker [was] to do that.” This demand for his perspective traveled with him from college into the workplace. Bacon's issue with all of this is that there was an underlying assumption that he, as a black man, was the only one who could “articulate what it means to be black.” He was looked at as having a unique perspective not because of the distinctive pieces of his life experience, but simply because of his skin color.

Bacon suggests the idea that colleges are trying to create a multi-ethnic elite to combat the white-out of today's select schools and business, and herein lies the possible misuse and misconception of diversity. The fact is that there are

far more white students applying to upper level schools, and therefore more students at upper level schools end up being white. This has led schools to push for more “ethnicity” in their student body. Is it a college's fault that most of the applicants are white? No; the fault has to fall on parents, high schools, social and monetary situations, and on ethnic expectations. Colleges are here to educate those who have the willingness and ability to learn at a higher level than the law requires.

All of this is to caution that as a school dedicated to and looking for diversity, Rhodes must be wary of why diversity is so important. Of course, a diverse student body is a wonderful thing, but if the student body has become diverse for the wrong reasons then nothing has really been accomplished. When looking to create a diverse student body, Rhodes must remember to be looking past skin color or country of origin and take into account the entirety of the student that has gone in to creating a person who can truly bring something new to our campus.

Diversity: problem or problematized?

By Rami Abdoch
Opinion Columnist

Diversity, in most any setting, is a subject that may cause anxiety and relative discomfort. That is not to say that it should be that way. Rather, the issue has become increasingly problematized given its high placement in work and college settings, especially the latter. However, this seems counter-intuitive; how can placing the issue as a top concern lend itself to creating problems, some of which are larger than those that it solves? I seek to shed some light on how this issue has become problematized given current legislation and standardized methods of incorporating “the other” into the classroom and making sense of multiculturalism.

One facet of the issue is simply the way diversity is defined. The fact that all non-white persons are thought of as constituting a single “multicultural” entity poses a twofold dilemma. For one, this reduces the decidedly varied assortment of minority groups, perhaps causing feelings of displacement and misunderstanding. There is indeed more to the Black, Asian, Hispanic, and other communities than the fact that they are “different.” In addition, this difference is largely qualified in terms of race and race alone. What of religious difference? Political? Shouldn't these also be taken into account when attempting to measure the “diversity” of a group of people? However, let me make clear that no institution, be it a college or business, should take these factors into account when determining which students or employees to accept/decline.

“You can't be using race or ethnicity as a factor in admission,” said Richard Zansitis,

Rice University's general counsel. “On the other hand, if a student has shown leadership -- it may be in the black students association, it could be the chess club -- that's something to look for in assessing that student as an individual. Whether it's leadership in an ethnic or racial organization is irrelevant.”

In 1996, a federal appeals court in New Orleans ruled that the University of Texas Law School could not legally consider race in admitting students. Thereafter, lawyers at Rice University felt as though this was applicable to their school as well. Since the ruling, Rice has incorporated efforts towards recruiting diverse groups by catering to high schools with large minority populations. Is this a viable solution? Maybe, maybe not. Depending on the methods used to cater to these populations, it could fuel the fire. For instance, if such methods rely on pre-given stereotypes that don't account for individual differences, they will only make matters worse. Still, I feel as though these efforts are superior to utilizing affirmative action policies that give rise to applicants based on their (objectified) color as opposed to looking at what makes them unique as a person.

In my opinion, affirmative action only adds to the problem of diversity because students may feel as though using another scale for those of a different race is either unfair or disheartening, depending on what end of the spectrum they lie. The concept is rooted in the liberal notion of equality; yet does it really do justice to this supposed ideal? Rice has attempted to meet this need by taking into account their student's cultural heritage along with their extracurricular activities, grades,

etc. This goes hand-in-hand with Rice's attempts to distance themselves from mechanical, impersonal formulas that guarantee “diverse” class populations. Colleges should be prepared to pool funds into efforts concerned with diversity that will displace instrumentally rational “cop-out” means of recruitment with the hopes of garnering a student body that is truly diverse.

Another important thing to consider is the use of numerical figures in dictating how “diverse” a campus is. While there is nothing necessarily wrong about using numbers, there is perhaps a problem in how the numbers are perceived. Numbers are used for the sake of efficiency in detailing a school's progress with respect to diversity. Insofar as a college administration equates progress with numbers alone, they are doing a disservice to the issue. How much progress is a school really making if all it is doing is working to get “x” number of diverse students per year? Furthermore, the use of numbers might be construed as objectifying minority students. What people should realize is that the use of numbers is more or less unavoidable when detailing a class profile. This fact gives some leverage to administrations that are keen on actually promoting diversity through interaction and substantial, well-intentioned efforts.

Regardless, the number game is a two-sided coin: on the one hand, it is a tool to give some idea of the ethnic breakdown in terms that are quite understandable. On the other, it can paint the administration in a negative light, making students of color set apart from the majority. As long as an administration con-

cerns itself with just numbers, it can be seen as only admitting students for this difference in appearance, which is thought to translate into a difference in one's general perspective or mindset. The difference is meaningless if it is not incorporated into an overarching social discourse in class settings that will benefit from this cultural pluralism. A school might do well to incorporate some type of service for teachers in the form of a seminar that gives an in-depth overview of diversity so that they may approach the matter in a way that is driven by experience, as opposed to a set way in which to deal with a student of this or that color.

I believe it incumbent on the mainstream to recognize that it is not an institution's prerogative to search out diversity simply for the sake of fulfilling an unwritten rule. They should actively seek out students/employees with a genuine will to improve the social growth of the workplace or campus. Will this happen in every case? Absolutely not. In most cases? Probably not. At the very least, one should recognize the many variables in the equation before making a judgement call on either party involved in the process. The institution cannot make minority persons apply — they can only work to foster an appreciation for their institution that will move them to apply. It is not the case that an institution is entirely responsible for a lack of diversity; to posit this is downright foolish. That aside, it is clear that this issue is one that is complex in many respects and deserves significant attention.

2005-2006 Campus climate survey findings summary

Dear Campus Community:

As many of you know, we have worked with faculty, staff, and students to administer a campus climate survey to students for the past three years (2005, 2006, 2007). We presented the data to diverse groups/forums including a faculty meeting, a Division of Student Affairs staff meeting, the President's Staff, the Provost and Deans, the Black Student Association, the Gay Straight Alliance, and two presentations open to the entire campus community. We have also been asked to provide a summary of the results, and below we provide some of the major trends in the findings for 2005 and 2006. We also offer recommendations based on our findings and conversations with many people across campus.

We are encouraged by the positive trends in the 2006 data and are examining whether these trends continue in the 2007 data. In 2007, we were especially pleased that 55% of our student body participated in the survey and we hope that even more of you will complete the survey this spring.

In April 2008, we will again be administering the campus climate survey and we expect that this administration of the survey will include an assessment of our entire campus – students, faculty and staff. We hope you will take part in this process as we work toward building a campus community where all feel welcomed and valued.

Professors Anita Davis and Chris Wetzel

Brief Background and Demographic Data

1) In 2005 & 2006, 42-45% of our student body participated in the survey. The 2007 sample had a 55% participation rate.

2) The 2006 survey had only minor changes from the 2005 survey. In 2007, however, there were major changes including a significant shortening of the survey.

Major findings for the 2005 survey:

- Overall, students:
 - felt Rhodes was not very successful in dealing with diversity issues (esp. involving race and sexual orientation)
 - are not convinced that faculty treat students from different racial groups equitably
 - are not convinced that faculty deal effectively with insensitive classroom remarks
 - were not comfortable with having a GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered) roommate
- Views of the campus climate differed significantly between White American and African American students and between heterosexuals and GLBT students:
 - African American students held more positive views about the importance of diversity, but held more negative views about Rhodes' efforts to achieve diversity than did other racial/ethnic groups and were more likely to regret having attended Rhodes and more likely to consider transferring than White American students
 - In general, GLBT students' perspectives paralleled African American students' perspectives on most issues

NCBI Diversity program expanding

By Matt McCulloch
Staff Writer

The National Coalition Building Institute, or NCBI, is a prejudice reduction workshop that strives to promote respect for and understanding between people of every walk of life. Workshops are given in half-day and full-day sessions, which include activities that foster reconciliation and bonding between participants.

"Workshops are a safe, confidential atmosphere where we identify information and misinformation that we have grown up with and how others experience and deal with discrimination," said Professor Gail Streete, who co-directs the program alongside Associate Dean Dwaun Warmack. Workshops are designed to educate individuals on how to embrace diversity and how to react to prejudice in everyday situations.

"NCBI is my favorite diversity workshop," said Warmack.

The two co-directors represent a partnership between Student Affairs and academics, which they feel strengthens NCBI's influence. Streete and Warmack have conducted workshops with Peer Assistants, Resident Assistants, Service Over Self (SOS) mentors, and faculty and staff members.

Since 2006, all Peer and Resident Assistants have participated in a half-day workshop during their fall training. "NCBI was definitely beneficial because it brought to mind different prejudices that I wasn't even aware I held," said Peer Assistant Intern Haley Law.

R.A. John Hurd initially disagreed. Hurd took part in parts 1 and 2. He was disappointed with the first part, but felt part 2 was an improvement.

"It felt like it was demeaning rather than uplifting," said Hurd. "Part 2 was a lot better. It was really good this year. I thought it was informative."

In the past, workshops have been offered during or at the end of

fall, winter, and spring breaks. However, the program is planning to promote its presence on campus and extend its services to more people. Streete and Warmack are very aware that students have difficulty finding time to participate. They are working to implicate workshops in the future for all freshmen during fall orientation.

"We hope to involve all of the Rhodes community," said Streete.

One of their main goals is to train students to become workshop leaders, making it possible to train more people at once. Those interested participate in a three-day "train the trainer" workshop that certifies them to be NCBI trainers. Streete and Warmack hope to conduct a "train the trainer" during Senior Week this May.

Another strong appeal of the NCBI program on campus is its ability to offer customized workshops for student organizations. It can design workshops around an organization's needs. Streete and Warmack hope that the program can enhance student organizations' diversity education by offering these specialized events.

"Every person's issue counts," said Streete.

The co-directors have already presented an overview of the program to the Inter-Fraternity and Pan-Hellenic Councils. They have also attended a national conference to obtain ideas for further developing the program.

"I think it's a wonderful program and that it should be absolutely mandatory for all faculty, staff and students," said Katie Reggie, a Peer Assistant.

"I thought that most of the people in my group including myself were already aware of the main ideas of the program," said Alexa Weisman, also a Peer Assistant.

Over 200 students and 100 faculty and staff members have participated in NCBI. If you would like to schedule a workshop for your organization, contact Loretta Yarbrough at yarbroughl@rhodes.edu.

- Females and older students had slightly more positive views about diversity
- There were social class and Greek status effects that indicated that lower social class and Independent students were less satisfied with the campus climate.

Major findings for the 2006 survey:

- Differences between racial groups and between heterosexual and GLBT students declined in size and in frequency
- Gender differences were more frequent
- Analyzing class cohorts (i.e., 4th, 3rd, and 2nd year students in 2005-2006) revealed eight changes including:
 - 4th & 3rd year students were more accepting of a GLBT roommate
 - 4th year students thought staff members were more skilled in working with diversity

Examples of changes that have been instituted that may help explain the above positive trends in student attitudes and experiences:

- Became a National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) campus affiliate which has resulted in numerous workshops for faculty, staff, students focusing on prejudice reduction
- Became a Safe Zone campus which has included trainings for numerous groups of faculty, staff, and students focusing on creating a more supportive campus environment for LGBT students
- The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) has changed its name change from FOSTER and is now included within the Office of Multicultural Affairs and has continued to provide programming geared toward increasing awareness and understanding of issues related to gender, sexuality, and the LGBT community
 - The launching of an African American Studies program and its subsequent programming and outreach to the campus and broader Memphis community
 - The inclusion of the F9 foundation requirement (cultural perspectives) in the new curriculum

Recommendations:

- More campus-wide conversations/programming about race, sexuality, and gender are needed
- Interventions addressing classroom climate are critical including:
 - Providing faculty with training and support in the area of diversity and pedagogy
 - Consider adding an assessment of classroom climate to faculty teaching evaluations
- Create a Strategic Planning Group representative of the campus community to:
 - Build a community around diversity issues
 - Identify and prioritize areas that need improvement
 - Develop an accountability plan and "point" people empowered to track progress
 - Institutionalize the campus climate survey to allow for longitudinal assessment/tracking

Events, continued from Page 1

Asian culture might discourage students from attending.

HOLA also receives relatively diverse turnout.

"I feel like we have more diverse attendance because we have the Spanish department and it is a language thing," said Villa. "It's not a cultural focus or about being Hispanic in America. Once we have more of a Hispanic population at Rhodes that's when we might have more about Hispanic Americans."

Many feel that students are uncomfortable attending some multicultural events, or simply don't want to make the effort.

"From what I understand people think BSA events are for black people only," said Jasmine Miller, a member of BSA. "It's just another instance where people are uncomfortable with something they don't know."

"It possibly has to do with the kind of campus we're on," suggested Butler. "You have those students who didn't come here for diversity and they don't want to try new things."

Members of other multi-cultural groups have noted the problems that BSA faces as a possible future for their own groups.

"It makes me nervous because if we have more Hispanic students, does that mean people will stop coming because they'll think, 'oh no, they'll be more exclusive now that they have more Hispanics,'" said Villa.

In order to encourage attendance the BSA

Events, continued on Page 5

of the African American Studies department, and allotting special financial aid for African American applicants and Memphis City Schools' valedictorians and salutatorians.

"What I think was important [about the task force] was getting people talking about it and showing them the college was serious," said Drompp.

The college had already begun to implement some of the changes recommended by the task when, in February 2002, a series of racially charged incidents shocked the college community into action. In the early part of that month two African-American students' cars were vandalized, and three other African-American students, including the president of the Black Student Association, received hate mail in their campus mailboxes.

"What I suspect happened was not only the conversations about diversity but the actions that were taken caused a lot of people to become fearful because they didn't know what would happen to the college," said Drompp. "From conversations I had with students I could sense a fearfulness and worry. I think what happened in that incident was a manifestation of that fear."

These incidents sparked a campus-wide struggle to reflect on the state of Rhodes' commitment to racial diversity and respect. On February 15, 2002, the faculty cancelled classes in order to hold programs addressing racism at Rhodes. The Black Student Association also hosted a "Make a Stand" rally in the amphitheatre to voice support for diversity. The majority of the student population attended the rally.

"After their report we did have a very disappointing incident on campus. But I think that it did create some positive conversations," said Troutt. "That was a good moment in that regard and that the college did resolve to do a better job of dealing with those issues."

"People point to the incidents of February 2002 as a benchmark but there were a lot of things in progress prior to that," said Russell Wigginton, the Vice-President for College Relations. "But the events shined the light on us more in that regard."

Since 2002 the college has continued to tackle issues of race in a number of different ways. These include academic and institutional, such as the Commitment to Diversity which the Dean's Council issued in June 2002 and is now part of the college handbook.

"There have been significant changes," said Professor Luther Ivory, who was a member of the Diversity Task Force. "Not quantum leaps but changes. I think this has been in part driven by curriculum changes and the faculty commitment to discuss issues of race, gender and multi-culturalism."

Another significant improvement is increased engagement with the Memphis community and higher levels of minority enrollment. In 1999 minority students were

**"From conversations I had with students I could sense a fearfulness and worry. I think what happened in that incident was a manifestation of that fear."
-Professor Drompp**

less than 8% of the student population, but they currently make up over 13% of the population.

"We are more appealing to minority prospective students than we used to be," said the Dean of Admissions, David Wottle. "I do very much believe there is more of a critical mass of minority students on campus."

Still, the college continues to face challenges.

"My sense is academically there's more interaction between different types of students because they're required to, and I think that helps outside the classroom," said Davis. "But what I hear is there's not real integration. Students aren't really sharing social spaces."

But despite the challenges Davis, and most of the other members of the Diversity Task Force, agree that Rhodes has gained ground in terms of encouraging diversity.

"I think it is on a positive track," said Drompp. "I think we have a long way to go, we're not at a perfect point. But I think

they will hold a Jazz night as well as encourage theme days, similar to a homecoming week.

"We really want to do something to open up and allow people to see that it's okay, the BSA is not a militant organization and we're not here to take over Rhodes, we want you to have fun and invite you to have fun with us," said McLain. "We want to make this campus more aware of what we have going on. It's not a thing about us trying to separate ourselves. It doesn't have to be another diversity workshop we just want to have something different to pull people in."

assistant director for multi-cultural affairs. "And that pressure may just be perceived, and no one else is really putting it on them. But your perception is your reality and that pressure becomes very real."

But some minority students also say they have to speak up because of misconceptions other students have.

"It's not really a pressure," said Jasmine Medley, a Junior Religious studies major who is black. "Sometimes I feel like I need to because what people are saying about black people is totally wrong and I want to speak up. You want people to understand what it's like coming from a different background."

In terms of the perspective of professors, leading discussions about race pose a number of difficulties.

"When there are people of color in the classroom, in some instances it's more difficult to have difficult conversations because people don't want to offend other people," said History Professor Charles McKinney, who teaches a number of classes on African-American history. "That is a sentiment that runs high on campus. People don't want to seem outside of the mainstream by offending someone."

What some students see as politeness can also irritate other students.

"Our white students are concerned about offending students of color and are terrified that someone might think they are a racist," said African American Studies Professor Anita Davis. "And I think students of color are just exhausted from having to do it always and very frustrated when they don't feel like their peers are putting themselves out there. And so it makes for a very potentially volatile situation in the classroom."

When leading discussions on race, Political Science Professor Marcus Pohlmann, who teaches a class on black politics, creates certain ground rules at the beginning of the semester. Students are not allowed to personalize their argument and they cannot talk outside the class about anything said by a particular person in the class. Pohlmann also works to create a level of familiarity in the classroom by having students introduce themselves, their background and their experiences with racial issues.

"You have to try to get into the mindset of both white and black students and handle discussions in a way that is sensitive to their sensibilities without squelching conversation," said Pohlmann. "It's something you have to develop over time."

While students describe the difficulties of discussion in diverse classrooms, many also acknowledge the benefits.

"In my southern literature class it was entirely white. Which I think may have made people more comfortable because they wouldn't be judged," said Whitney Faust, a sophomore who is white. "But at the same time you can't really have a conversation about race with just one race present. I think overall it would have been a better thing to have a more diverse class."

Diversity in the classroom also increases some student's ability to discuss their opinions.

"Diversity definitely affects your con-

fidence level or willingness to speak," said Watson.

But this diversity is not specifically racial diversity.

"There have been times when I have identified more with whites in the classroom than blacks," said Watson. "If you did have a rougher childhood you would definitely feel more comfortable in a classroom with people who have shared that type of upbringing. That shared common ground gives you more of a chance to speak."

All-white classrooms also present challenges for professors.

"If you have homogenous classroom that is all white, there can be an openness in discussing race but it's difficult to prevent a group of people that are all white from seeing people of color as radically different from them," said English Professor Leslie Petty, who teaches two English courses that involve discussions of race. "But you do want them to acknowledge the difference so it's tricky."

According to Pohlmann, if the students in a class are all white it may also lead to more racially insensitive remarks.

"Having one black student in the class changes the tone of the discussion. It doesn't change the point of view," said Pohlmann of the discussions of race in his black politics class. "I rarely ever have anything surface that could be considered quasi-racist. But the year it was all-white students those views did occasionally leak through."

For many professors the key problem is student's lack of experience discussing and dealing with race.

"I think because we are a southern school and we get a lot of people from the South and the Southeast the continued legacy of separation of races means they come without experience interacting with diverse groups," said Davis. "And it's a challenge to push them out of that."

Petty also said that she sees a sincere effort from students to discuss race, but their knowledge about race makes that difficult.

"I feel like many student's backgrounds, whether their high school or their cultural knowledge, is extremely thin," said Petty. "There are just all kinds of things about the history of race in America that my students have never heard of. It's very hard to discuss if my students have never learned the truth of that history."

But this problem may apply more to underclassman than students who have participated in a number of classes on race.

"I think my English majors, by the time they're that age they are more comfortable because discussing race is something they've gotten more comfortable with," said Petty.

Students and professors both face difficulty in discussing race, but most students are positive about the guidance provided by their professors.

"My professors are pretty objective and they don't put their own opinions in there. It's a comfortable and open environment," said Medley. "I just think that people don't know, they're unfamiliar with black people or anyone different from themselves, so they just don't know about it and they feel uncomfortable."

has tried a number of different strategies. Last year they encouraged members to bring a friend and even went so far as to stop writing BSA on some signs.

"I really feel like we made an honest effort to reach out to students," said Butler.

But, according to Butler, it didn't cause a significant increase in the number of non-black students who attended BSA events.

BSA currently plans to hold a "BSA Week" during the last week of the semester, during which

Cajunabonics

by Gabe Keller

Diversity is one of the foundational cornerstones that makes America, as well as Rhodes College, great. America is a diverse place with all sorts of distinct cultural differences, from dress to traditions and even to voice. Of the most noticeable differences are the languages and dialects. Ebonics is a good example of this dialect distinction, where some in the African-American community have adopted a slightly altered version of English to reflect their unique heritage.

However, there are other cultures feeling left out of the loop and are beginning to take progressive steps to recognize their lineage through their language: Cajuns. The Cajuns have been neglected for far too long and have united to make certain that their cheeky vernacular is spread beyond the murky bayous of the darkest parts of uncharted Louisiana. The dialect is known as *Cajunabonics* and is already highly observed and respected by the academic community. "Cajuns are a particularly neat section of the American public," says Professor of Linguistics Dr. Phillip McKrevis. "They are an amazing culture in that they are able to communicate with people who have absolutely no idea what they are saying. No one outside of the Cajun lines has any idea what a Cajun is saying when he/she/it is speaking. I mean, even foreign immigrants have some standard language for everyone to understand. Cajunabonics has virtually no discernable pattern or any hint of linguistic logic. Truly remarkable."

Remarkable is right. With a relatively close proximity to the swamps, you no doubt have come across a Cajun or two or eleven (they tend to travel in packs). Especially since Hurricane Katrina, many Cajun folk have been seen in previously uncharted territories for their kind, including Houston, Kansas, and anywhere else that isn't the bowels of Louisiana. This has forced many businesses and public arenas to become more sensitive to the needs of their Cajun brethren (remember; Cajuns are Americans too).

So what happens in the event that you come across a Cajun in the light of day, or (more

likely) after-hours outside your local pub and/or bar? Fear not! While most of their Cajunabonics are as indistinguishable as they are humorously garbled, there are some common phrases as well as the names of common items you may find in your very own swamp hut/shanty.

Vehicle: Weepity Bop

Arm Chair: Lippa Dong

Television: Dabble Rah

Water: Whiskey

Family: Pum Skmmity

"Do you know where the restroom is?": "Flim WOP Rebben Deez?"

"I'm ready to have fun!": "Whiskey"

"Hark! Look out for the alligator!": "Joggity rim rim WAH ret!"

"I have a dilemma!": "Whereada Whiskey!"

"Looking good, Mom.": "Hagger RUPP"

"Clean the mousetraps!": "Dinner is ready."

"My overalls are torn.": "Blegh Tuxedo Lopaló"

"Scott Baio is 46 and Pregnant": "Uggir re-swa ONG Shakespeare"

"The Other Boleyn Girl was wonderful.": "Aunt Tammy's on Cops...again."

"They found Dad in the swamp.": "Whiskey"

And these are only a few of the charted slogans, creeds, and mottos most often cited by Cajuns. The actual colloquial speech is and untranslated and frankly, untranslatable. Cajunabonics is catching on like wildfire, and headed north. Remember to be friendly to those Cajuns you see walking the streets, peeing in public places or hunting their dinners outside office buildings (with or without muskets). Understand that just because their "English" is garbled and hardly close to anything considered proper, that this is merely their extension of their unique culture and be appreciative of the newfound diversity that stirs in your heart, soul, and loins. Maybe you can even say "hello" as you pass their hut/shanty: Just say *ragginmarter*. Or if that doesn't work, just yell *Whiskey*. That's bound to make you a Cajun friend or two.

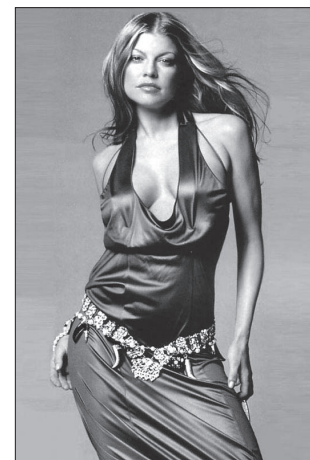
Pop is new Indie/Emo

By: Ex-Indie Lover Joe Thompson

Boy/Girl are the times a changin'. Over the past 5 years, the emo/indie trend has exploded and garnered so much attention that it had to shed its label as non-conformists, underground ballers and now has become the nothing but a bunch of whiny, money-grubbing, conforming sensations. All their music sounds the exact same now and the lyrics and demeanor couldn't be any worse. How many times do I need to see and hear about how underground Band of Horses or The Decemberists are? Newsflash assholes, I don't need to hear their shitty, grinded up, "we are natural born losers" music anymore. It was once cool to listen to Radiohead and now every one of you douche bags have ruined that. Ben Folds? Wasn't any good to begin with. (I know I ended that sentence with a preposition and I think English majors fall directly into this entire category of douche baggery.) Jack Johnson? I can play two chords on a guitar and eat turd sandwiches all day too. And could someone please wake Damien Rice up? Whispering does not ensure that you make quality music. He's a chotch anyway.



So what happened to all the talent that made Indie and emo music cool? It left and it's now bringing back the best in Pop music. Yeah that's right. Pop is now a really awesome trend wagon that I can't wait to jump on and leave all you raging indie boners in the dust. There are no written love songs here (thanks to Sara Bareilles) but there is better music with more talent and less conformity. Rihanna gave me an umbrella because she took an oath and for that I won't ever have to get the DJ to stop the music. Has Indie done that for me in the past year? No. It absolutely hasn't. They have just bitched and moaned about not getting a record deal from a big company. Well those big company talent guys are pretty good and they know it when they see it. Ya'll ain't it. You're too big for those companies anyway so leave it alone. So yeah, I guess I should say its too late to apologize because ya'll have left the real talent in the dark. But I'm here to let you know it's on. That's a fact. Fergie was clumsy for a bit but we know how G-L-A-M-O-R-O-U-S-ly talented she is and I can only thank pop music for allowing an under privileged artist as Fergie to get noticed and allow me to enjoy her music without missing it like a child misses a blanket. I'm glad no one else listens to her and she is so pop underground its badass. I'm putting her in this article so she will get the pub that she rightfully deserves. You're right. I did just Sean Kingston you by taking you dere.



Ben Folds: Crap.

Fergie: Good enough to necessitate new superlatives like "Fergalicious."

Should I grow a mustache?: Prudently weighing your options

by Dusty French

Image is everything. Everyone knows that out there in the world, it is dog eat dog and people would rather spit on you than look at you. No one knows this fact more than men. Eligible bachelors are tossed into the gauntlet of fire trying to maintain their aesthetics and mediocre looks in the hopes of landing that one true beauty somewhere, someday. But for some, desperate times call for desperate measures.

So you think you're looks might need a pick-me-up, so you're calling in the pinch hitter to seal the deal with the grand-slam of male aesthetic enhancements: the Mustache. It's an important decision. The mustache is a heralded facial symbol that says, "If you couldn't tell by the broad shoulders and slacks, I'm a man. And I'm a *manly* man." But beware, young squire. This decision is not one to be taken lightly or haphazardly. One must prudently weigh his options before making such a monumental decision so fool-heartedly.

Benefits:

There's no doubt, sweet pea: The flavor savor has had its share of fine victories. Mustaches took the likes of a gawky and awkward boy named Farrokh Bulsara and turned him into the hardest rocking lover of all time: Freddie Mercury of the best band of all time, *Queen*. Mustaches have the ability to invoke a tremendous amount of adoring laughter but also have the ability to maintain a gripping awe and reverence over those who eyes gaze upon them. Why do you think police officers are only allowed to grow mustaches or

nothing at all? They're better able to mesmerize and "shock and awe" those they are prosecuting, so that they may be more effective on the streets. If Officer Whatshisface looked like the Dad on *Family Ties* or something, the streets would be a much deadlier place. When a woman asks for a modern-day Knight in Shining Armor, you know she isn't looking for Screech, Steve Urkel, or any number of men whose facial pallets were not blessed with this natural work of art; no, she's looking for a sturdy and reliable chap who's able to get the job done. And nothing says "I am willing to do your job," than a healthy mustache.

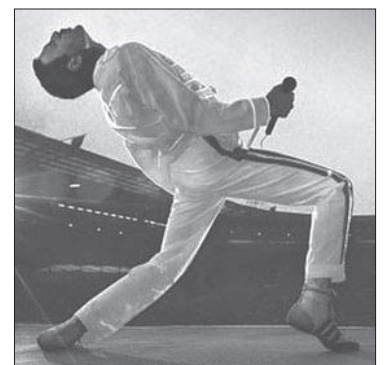
Costs:

But be careful, butterscotch! The mustache is a double-edged sword that while magnificently effective, it may also be devastating to those who wield its power willy nilly (if you use words like "willy nilly" regularly, the mustache may not be for you). One must consider which *type* of mustache is best suited for the facial canvas. While the fu man chu is righteous, confident, ballsy even, the Hitler-stache is appalling and just classless. Tom Selleck made the mustache magnificent in *Magnum P.I.*, but Scott Baio made it infuriatingly repugnant in *Whatever It Was Scott Baio Acted In Other Than Happy Days*. Also, remember that 72% of all men nabbed in *To Catch A Predator* on NBC don mustaches of some sort (all of which go under the category of "molest-ache"). In that same vein, 48% of all sexual harassment cases worldwide are mustache related. It is a powerful device, the mustache, but for some its power may be too great.

So the advice is simple: Be cautious. The mustache you own could be a game-saver in the end. But wielded inappropriately, and the 'stache becomes a tremendously terrible weapon with devastating results. The best thing to do is just be reverently aware of whether or not your frame is sturdy enough to support the facial mystique that is the mustache. Or the fu man chu. Or the Burnside (connecting the side burns to the mustache). Or the Handlebars. If not, maybe the lesser forms are for you; the goatee and the (shudder) Soul Patch.



BAD: Probably child molester from the latest *To Catch A Predator*.



GOOD: Freddie Mercury owning faces with most of his power coming from his handsome handlebars.

Who will the running mates be?

By Richard Geech

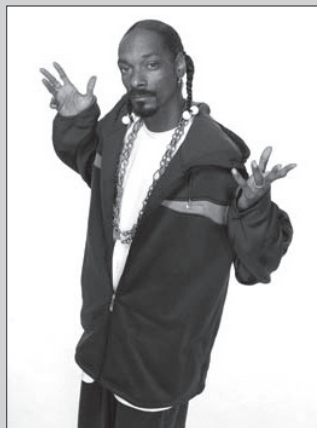
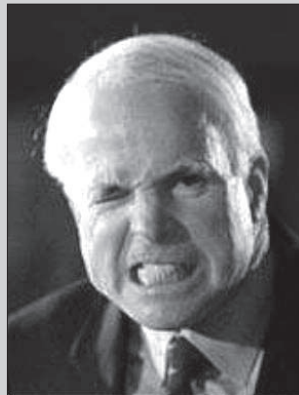
The political climate is white hot right now. The primary season is all but over, with Super Tuesday being a few weeks behind us now, but the torrent roars when discussing who the candidates for the next President will be. But who will run *with* the candidates, should they get the nomination? The question may be more important than we realize. According to famed political analyst Charlie Cook of *The Cook Report*, a candidate's running mate should only "strengthen the weak places on the candidate's platform. They should complement each other, and the vice-presidential candidate should never harm the presidential candidate's chances." With this in mind, we here at the Sou'Wester have created a list of potential candidates that would complement the four front-runners and strengthen the weak spots on their platforms.

John McCain and Snoop Dogg:

The Republican presumed nominee is, you guessed it, a crusty, old white guy who may or may not carry a gun on his person at all times. While the country is looking for a time of fresh ideas and change, McCain might not be what the people are looking for right now. Speaking of "fresh" in comes Snoop Dog, fresh off the set of "Father Hood," keeping it quite real on the McCain campaign trail. While McCain is elbowing with fellow wealthy veterans trying to accumulate donations, Snoop-a-loop can be rallying votes with all of those veterans' grass-smoking grandkids. And think about the debates! Snoop is well known for his free-styling rap offs, and if, say, Mos Def, were to collaborate, there would be no end to the pumeling the Democrat would take.

Negative Effects: There are none, unless being too awesome is a negative.

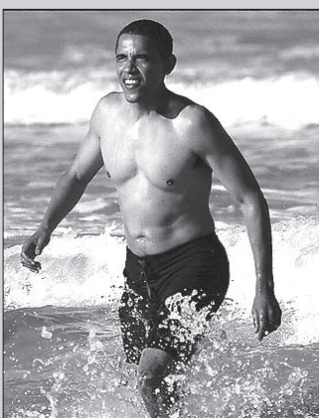
Other Possibilities: Kim Jong Il, Jesus, or Dr. Dre.



Hillary Clinton and Emperor Palpatine, of Star Wars: Clinton will need someone to counter her undue stereotypical soft and feminine demeanor with someone who is hardnosed, unrelenting, and possibly better looking than her. The evil Emperor from Star Wars is the perfect candidate. He will be able to create the unity she so desires with her "We're all in this together," routine, but he will be able to do so by force (no pun intended) rather than feminine "democracy." Plus, Hillary will finally get a theme song to march into packed houses while on the campaign trail (Imperial Death March, anyone?).

Negative Effects: Might be too much evil, with both Clinton and Palpatine. Lightsabers aren't allowed at the White House either.

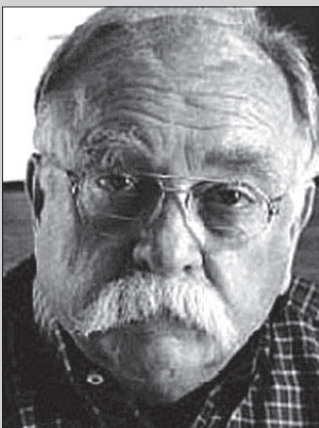
Other Possibilities: Popeye the Sailor Man, Monica Lewinsky, or an orange.



Barack Obama and Wilford Brimley: Just like everybody else, Obama's ticket will need a little balance. Who better to do that for the charismatic African-American than the tiring and smarmy Diabetes spokesman Wilford Brimley? He has a famous face (he's the old horse riding diabetic you see when you're channel surfing), and he's quite well spoken as a B-list actor (much better than Schwarzenegger). He might be the sedative that keeps Obama's campaign from getting too super-excited with all of the celebrity endorsements and keep it from spiraling out of control. Plus, Brimley secures the heavily coveted Mustache vote.

Negative Effects: Could fall asleep on the saddle. Might feel inclined to ride his horse to various meetings around the Oval Office.

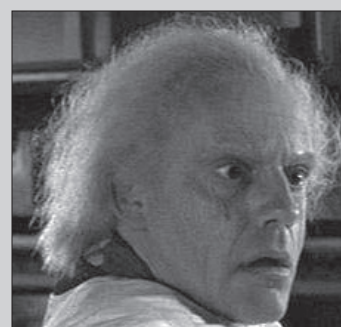
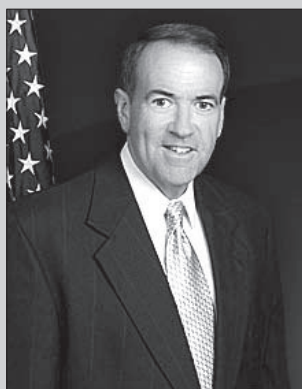
Other Possibilities: Bill Troutt, Rick Moranis, or Oprah (however, were Winfrey to join the ticket, Obama would step aside and be her Vice-President (duh)).



Mike Huckabee and Marilyn Manson: Talk about having some balance on your ticket, could you imagine a ticket that included a Southern Baptist minister and a Minister of Satan's Army? It might be unstoppable. Huckabee secures the evangelical right while Manson secures every death metal voter in the country (all eleven of them). Plus, Manson looks enough like a woman to secure the female vote. This Felix-and-Oscar Odd Couple might just be the juxtaposition this country needs.

Negative Effects: Manson has been banned from Huckabee's home state of Arkansas for biting the head off of puppies at a concert; which might pose a problem.

Other Possibilities: David Copperfield (because this guy needed a miracle), and a flux capacitor and/or Dr. Emmet Brown from *Back to the Future*, because he already lost, and quite soundly at that.



Ask An Alumnus

by Terry Gaither

Ask An Alumnus is an annual advice column sponsored by the Sou'Wester. It features a prominent alumnus, Terry Gaither ('81), in which he lends his own advice and wisdom from his twenty years of working on Wall Street and his last six years working from his cell in a maximum security, 24-hour watch mental facility.

"Dear Terry,

I'm on the yearbook staff; I'm treasurer of my sorority, I'm in Rhodes Singers and I have a really important internship, not to mention I'm a Bio major. What do I need to do to keep everything organized?"

Stressed,

Hard Working Harriet

Oh, what do you know? An overachiever! At Rhodes?! You make me sick, kid. I suggest you take whatever it is they give me whenever I get antsy (I think it's called a "nightstick"). That'll calm you down. If that isn't your cup of tea, maybe try this proverb on for size: Quitters never win, but they certainly don't look like an idiot loser, either.

Quitting may be the best thing for you. Think of it this way, if you are (as I assume you are) a stubborn lady of the night; overachieve at quitting. Make sure you don't just quit one thing. Make sure you quit them all. Really burn some bridges too. This means storm into your next meeting wielding a letter opener and making violent threats. That way, they won't think you're a quitter and lazy, they'll just know you're bat shit crazy and you *needed* to quit. Problem solved.

"Dear Terry,

Graduation is coming up, but me and my bros are strapped for cash. Got any good and affordable vacation locales for the summer break?"

I LOVE Jack Johnson Records,

Drury Morris

Yeah, here at Pleasant Oaks, for "Summer Break" they let us roam around in the yard, but not too close to the trees (otherwise the lady who thinks she's a dog will attempt to mark her territory- yikes), and our wet-tee-shirt contest consists of orderlies hosing down those of us that get out of hand (and by "out of hand" I mean "start biting others"). But thanks for reminding me about how much fun I won't be having again this year.

Since you're asking a newspaper columnist, and a legally insane one at that, you must not have any friends or plans. My suggestion to you is to drive somewhere where you know people cooler than you will be having a party, crash it, and hope they don't throw up on you. Remember, if there aren't any airborne STD's in the area, it's not a good summer vacation, and therefore, you are not having a good time. I hope you get lost at sea.

"Dear Terry,

Boxers? Or briefs? Tee hee..."

Pillowfighting,

Annoying Anita

Neither. These bad boys are sterilized government plastic to ensure that nothing goes in and nothing comes out without the hospital knowing about it. But don't worry; it's cut bikini style or something even more exotic, which would make your head explode if I decided to spell out the physics behind it. Put that under your pillow, Anita. You're welcome.

Rites of Spring roundup 2008

The Welfare State (Friday at 8 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

Members: David Six '08 (rhythm guitar, vocals), Luke Archer '08 (bass), Paul Burmenko '08 (lead guitar), and Anthony Siracusa '09 (drums).

Six, Archer, and Burmenko started playing together in the fall of 2005. When Anthony Siracusa '09, veteran of Memphis bands Pezz and Bury the Living, joined in January of '07, that's when they began to sound like what they had been envisioning. Something about Six's folk and indie influences on rhythm guitar and vocals (Deathcab for Cutie, Modest Mouse) and Siracusa's intricate rhythms on drums gel beautifully. Archer's melodic bass lines (influenced by Radiohead, Dave Matthews Band) beef up the sound. All of this is topped off with Burmenko's guitar style based in his blues lead and electric slide background (Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes). The conglomeration of all of this instrumentation melds with Six's superior songwriting. On the Friday of Rites weekend, The Welfare State will be playing three new songs and five other original songs they played during Battle of the Bands. They will be playing their first cover song as well. Burmenko describes their sound as "the best way to describe us is Johnny Cash meets Modest Mouse with a little bit of Deathcab." There is a reason they were the judge's favorites and winners of Battle of the Bands.

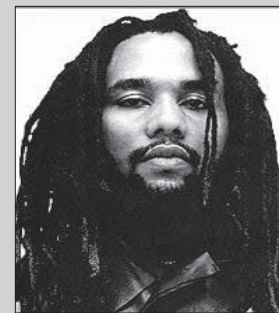


Al Kapone (Friday at 9 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

Al Kapone may not be a household name regarding rap music, but odds are that you have heard one of his songs. Kapone shot to national attention with the release of *Hustle & Flow*. Kapone wrote "Whoop That Trick" which was the catchiest song in the entire movie. On the soundtrack and in the movie, Terrence Howard performed it, but it was all written by Al Kapone. Kapone was an excellent choice for writing the song because he is one of the biggest names in rap in Memphis, the city where the film takes place. Kapone is one of the rappers that melded Southern crunk into what it is today, the other most notably being Lil Jon, who Kapone helped co-write "Snap Yo Fingas". Like most rappers, Kapone came from the bottom up: cleaning dishes at the local Red Lobster. He sold his records out of the trunk of his car. Al Kapone has not sold a whole lot of albums like Lil' Jon but he has done well enough to get by and focus on his rapping, leaving the Red Lobster days behind. He is currently touring with a six piece band, The Untouchablez, so there will not just be a DJ playing the track in the background like most rap performances. Kapone tries to keep true to the sound of Memphis music. His rap is unmistakably Southern over heavy crunk beats that will have Rhodes students moving the entire night.

Ky-Mani Marley (Friday at 10 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

With a last name that is Marley, you can pretty much take it to the bank that Ky-Mani would follow his father, Bob Marley's, footsteps and become a reggae artist, like several of his brothers. While Ky-Mani might not be as well-known as his brothers Ziggy and Damian, he is still a critically acclaimed artist. He jumped into the music scene in 1997 with his album *Like Father Like Son*, which was a compilation of covers of his father's songs. His third album, released in 2001, was nominated for best reggae album, but he lost to his brother Damian's *Halfway Tree*. Ky-Mani had taken a six year musical hiatus that ended with the release of his latest album *Radio* in 2007. He has worked with Pras from The Fugees and rappers such as Young Buck. Ky-Mani is not just riding on his father's name. He does things his own way. He draws inspiration from world music, hip hop, blues, rock, and grass roots that results in an end product that is hard to classify into one genre. You do not forget, however, that it is Ky-Mani Marley you are listening to. His style is raw and genuinely him. He crosses the line between reggae and hip-hop/rap, but not in a gimmicky way like Sean Paul. Marley is not a traditional reggae artist as one would expect from his name. He grew up in Miami, and does not have the Jamaican accent like his brothers do when they perform.



Girl Talk (Friday at midnight in the BCLC Ballroom)

Girl Talk is not a Bay Area band that plays exotic bluesy latin-feel world jazz (which may come up if you search Girl Talk on google). Girl Talk, however, is the stage name for producer/mashup DJ Gregg Gillis. Gregg's specialty is sample-based remixes, which translates into something like Kanye West's beats. You take someone else's music and then change all the background instrumentation, or a large majority of it. There are familiar elements that one might pick up, but, in essence, it is a completely different song. Gregg uses dozens of elements from different songs to create a completely new song. He also does mashups which is combining multiple tracks together to make one song. An example of this is Danger Mouse's *Grey Album* (which is a mashup of Jay-Z's *Black Album* and the Beatles' *White Album*) or Linkin Park and Jay-Z's *Collision Course* album. We may get to hear some of Gregg's upcoming album *Feed the Animals* when he performs during Rites of Spring. Gillis' show is pretty much going to be a dance party. Unlike most DJ's, who stay in their booths, Gillis likes to be next to the fans and will more than likely join in the party. It is also a safe bet that he will be shirtless or mostly naked by the end of the night.

The Vagtastic Voyage (Saturday at 8 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

Members: Jessica Lotz (guitar, vocals), Erin Hebert (guitar, vocals, harmonica), Caroline Sellars (guitar, mandolin), and Cord McLean (vocals)

Caroline Sellars and Jessica Lotz began playing music together about two years ago, mostly for Rhodes events such as V-Week and Parents' Weekend. In the fall of 2007, Erin Hebert joined the team, and by Pubpalooza of this year, they started using the name Vagtastic Voyage, taken from *Superbad*, in honor of V-Week, which has obviously stuck. Cord McLean, who frequently guest spots for the girl group has become an honorary member. They are a very versatile group that can play classic folk music and quickly switch to a glorious montage of hip-hop/R&B songs. Their ability to adapt songs of different genres to their traditional bluegrass/folk instrumentation shows how innovative and creative the group is. The Vagtastic Voyage will perform some torch-song sing-a-long favorites, folk and blues, and lots of new songs. Some of the new material will be written by Cord McLean. They will only be playing two songs they played at Battle of the Bands. The Vagtastic Voyage will also have some first time travelers join them for a couple of songs including Molly Bombardi-Mount (Ukulele), Kelie Montalvo (Banjo) and Casey Mohan (Percussion).



Gin Blossoms (Saturday at 9 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

The Gin Blossoms is a name that probably rings some bells. They had a few hits back in the nineties including "Hey Jealousy", "Found Out About You", and "Follow Me Down". The Gin Blossoms hail from Tempe, AZ, and have had a long and tumultuous past. Plagued by many departures of band members and shuffling around of replacement musicians, The Gin Blossoms are still making music today. Original guitarist Doug Hopkins left the band and committed suicide in 1993, which hampered the initial success of The Gin Blossoms' first string of hits. The band broke up in 1997 due to serious creative differences and general conflict between band members. All of this was set aside when the band officially regrouped in 2002. Just because you have not heard their stuff in about 10 years, does not mean they have lost their touch. Since the reunion, they released an album in 2006. *Major Lodge Victory* put them back on the Billboard charts after a decade-long absence. The Gin Blossoms are a traditional alternative rock band, much like the ones you see in the TV ads for alt rock compilations like *Buzz Cuts*. Their music will bring back a lot of nostalgia and warm feelings from the fond memories of your middle-school days. Also, front man Wilson is very interactive with the crowd. He often passes audience members his tambourine to play or he will sing into people's cell phones.



Of Montreal (Saturday at 10:20 p.m. on the BCLC Lawn)

Of Montreal is technically categorized as an indie band but they have also been labeled as electronic, experimental, and psychedelic pop. The band's lineup has gone through some extensive changes over the years, as have their style of music. Every album they have released as Of Montreal has been with a different roster and different genre of focus. The band keeps trying to reinvent itself over the years, and decided to stick with their electronica/psychedelic pop genre because of their growing popularity due to exposure in several commercials. Their biggest hit is "Wraith Pinned To The Mist And Other Games". You will not recognize this song by name, but by its incessant repetition of the mind-numbing line "Let's pretend we don't exist, let's pretend we're in Antarctica". Like most of their promotional material (their website and their Myspace page), the band does not seem to take anything seriously. On Myspace their list of influences includes, and I quote "hope chest handjob at dorm room fargos, 68 straight/gay days of glacial life, theosis and hydromancy using a sword's blade (preferably dong fang)". I looked and it is just nonsensical mumbo-jumbo; none of those are bands. Of Montreal attempts to gain popularity using a somewhat of a shock factor including wearing Technicolor makeup, dressing like *Velvet Goldmine* costplayers, and having frontman Barnes appear nude on stage. Of Montreal will be releasing their ninth album in October of this year.



What you should listen to Bravery and Phantom Planet rock Newby's

By Cristina Iskander
Staff Writer

You know that commercial for the MacBook Air? The one that talks about “thinnovation”? Well that ad has been on my mind for weeks, and not just because it makes me feel technologically inferior. The song playing in the background is called “New Soul” and it’s off of new artist Yael Naïm’s self titled debut album. The French born-Israeli singer is a strange combination of Feist and Regina Spektor, and her music has an equal amount of soul and quirkiness. Her album, featuring lyrics in Hebrew, French, and English, is deeply intimate and rich with culture. Apple commercialization aside, she is one of the most interesting voices I have heard in awhile. Plus, she does a wonderful cover of Britney Spears’s “Toxic.”

Another artist has also caught my attention recently. Featured on *Grey’s Anatomy* a couple of times, Irish born Foy Vance has a moving voice and eloquent lyrics. His music is the kind of music you can just get lost in, and I suggest that if you like Damien Rice, you look into some of Vance’s music.

Kate Voegele, who appears as Mia on *One Tree Hill*, and whose empowering song “It’s Only Life” is heard in the *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* trailer, has one of the most promising and exciting debut albums I’ve heard in awhile. Her pop-rock sound, a little bit Avril Lavigne, a little bit Tori Amos, is extremely listener friendly and shows her range. An extremely dynamic performer, she excels when it comes to emotional, evocative lyrics and interesting arrangements (some of her songs feature the mandolin). While the album is the kind that you can listen straight through, “Chicago” about escapism, the aforementioned “It’s Only Life”, and the melancholy “Kindly Unspoken” and “Only Fooling Myself” are highlights.

Joy Division’s “Love Will Tear Us Apart” is one of my favorite songs and I’m hesitant to embrace covers of it, but Susanna and the Magical Orchestra’s rendition of it is...well, magical. The duo, while not new to the scene, is relatively unknown, and their beautiful re-imagining of the song is haunting. Their newest album features all covers and every song is so deconstructed that you feel like you’re hearing the songs for the first time.

By Charlotte Watson

The Bravery, Phantom Planet and Your Vegas played at Newby’s this past Monday, March 23, and it was surprisingly enjoyable. Unfortunately I was late to the show and therefore am unable to comment on how Your Vegas performed or contributed to the overall experience. Regardless, it was fun, but not because the music was good. It was mediocre at best. Not because I am a fan of any of those bands, as I actually entered the experience with a relatively high level of contempt for The Bravery. The combination of an awkwardly heterogeneous environment, a largely vacant room and two unimpressive bands, Phantom Planet and The Bravery, seemed to both contrast each other, yet oddly occupy a similar station in the arena of popular music.

Phantom Planet was adorable. A group of fun-loving boys wearing their own T-shirts, with a circular illustration of piano keys form a shirt sleeve with a hand emerging from the cuff, Phantom Planet doesn’t take themselves too seriously. The lead singer Alex Greenwald consistently interacted with the crowd asking them to sing along.

He playfully thanked the “merch attendant” quickly contending, “I don’t want to call her ‘merch girl.’ I feel like that’s belittling or sexist or something.”

Phantom Planet played varied mix, from their most recent single “Do The Panic” to their older hits like “Nobody’s Fault.” Greenwald, along with the rest of the band members, were genuinely surprised that so many people at the show even knew who they were; constantly drawing attention to the few kids, very few, who were singing along. Proof of their humble and playful nature, when the group of rowdiest fans suggested the band play their newest song “Leader,” Greenwald invited them onstage to sing along with them. But quickly conditioned his invitation with a mischievous “Don’t worry if you don’t know it all yet, I’m not trying to call you out or anything.”

Phantom Planet’s performance was entertaining, but somehow terribly forgettable. They are a pop-rock band that has built their following on the base of catchy hooks. More prominently, their former drummer Jason Schwartzman, who left the band 5 years ago to pursue his acting career, is no longer a part of the band’s success. It seems as if no one really cares about Phantom Planet anymore. Try as they might to write another catchy song and build their fan base, it seems as if they’re doomed to be the band that plays the theme for *The O.C.*, “California.” Phantom Planet’s newest album *Raise the Dead* could be better than I expect, but even if it is, I doubt that many will care.

Strangely enough, The Bravery and Phantom Planet seem to have this fated lack of future in common, despite their obvious differences in style. The Bravery marched out on stage trying their best to portray an image of a hip rock band. The lead singer,

Sam Endicott, was dressed in the tightly fitted black rock star uniform. Their performance was decent, and didn’t lack energy by any means. But their presence was contrived; as each member in the band seemed to be performing for himself, like they were practicing in the mirror rather than performing for an audience. Lead singer Endicott was especially unnatural as he flapped on stage like a convulsing duck and would sometimes strain and lean back in Brandon Boyd style exasperation. The whole time, The Bravery seemed to be faking their performance, with a routine as stylized as their synthesizers.

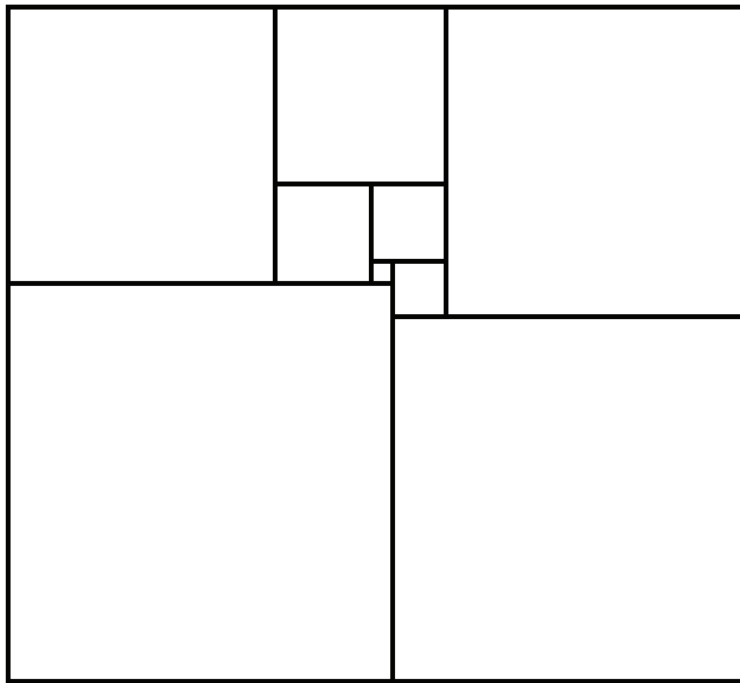
Endicott even had the audacity to dedicate their song “Swollen Summer,” about his self-deprecating struggle with fame, that was soon followed by an obscene hand gesture implying masturbation. He also dedicated the single “Time Won’t Let Me Go,” a wretched song about his pathetic youth, off their newest album *The Sun and the Moon* to Frankie Valley, Tom Cruise and Ralph Maccio. What made the dedication funnier is how The Bravery can never be washed-up because they will never make a substantial impact. The Bravery makes a futile attempt at Robert Smith style depravity and charging synth hooks, making them rather unoriginal and forgettable. The only redeeming quality of The Bravery’s show was the lefty guitarist Michael Zakarin. Donning a pink button down and a pleasant, even sincere, demeanor, Zakarin kept me interested; he would jokingly pose for people in the audience and seemed to be having the most fun of anyone in the show.

The crowd itself was as odd as the show, as none of the people there seemed to know what was going on and were not an identifiable crowd. It was as if everyone just kind of ended up there, but then again, it was a Monday night.

The whole time the Bravery was playing, I began to wonder why these guys were famous, and if they were really serious about what they were performing. Sure, we could just assume that they are that bad, but it seemed as if this may be an ostensible identity, meant to create a hoax on the people who are dim enough to enjoy listening to more than one Bravery song. Maybe this absurd identity has been pushed upon them, trying to make as much money out of this neo- new-wave trend that is already dead. Maybe The Bravery is just a reflection of our culture, every song packed with as much depth as slice of pizza. Most likely, the pace of the music industry has swallowed up the likes of both The Bravery and Phantom Planet. Trends come and go so quickly that the difficulty of producing music without losing a fan base or a record deal becomes fatal.

Fatal or not, both bands are still around, continuing to tour, produce lack luster albums and have performances that are more memorable for their oddities than their substance.

The Puzzler



The rectangle in the figure is made up by nine squares. If the area of the smallest square is four square centimeters, what is the total area of the rectangle?

Hint: let s represent the side length of the square immediately to the right of the smallest square.

If you think you know the answer, e-mail the answer to rinsl@rhodes.edu for a chance to win two movie tickets.

Lysistrata at McCoy The buzz on pop culture: The good, the bad, and the awkward

By Alicia Buxton
Staff Writer

Rhodes' own McCoy Theatre is privileged to be the site for the world premier of a new play: "Lysistrata and the Death of Cupid", an adaptation of the classical Aristophanes play by Kyle Hatley ('02). In the Aristophanes tale, Lysistrata leads the wives of Athens in a barricade of the public funds building to protest the Peloponnesian War. Even worse, they decide to withhold sex from their husbands until they agree to end the war. Although the play handles serious subjects like war, peace, and sexism, the end product is a bawdy comedy famous for its scenes of the men's massive erections.

The new production maintains many of these same themes (and the erections), but builds upon them, by including the gods and issues of fate and free will. Athena, Apollo, Hades, Aphrodite—and of course, Cupid—all create a world where the gods are confronted by the threat of free will. Despite the serious and sometimes difficult subject matter, Hatley maintains the bawdy quality that helped give Aristophanes' play such longevity. This excellent and thoughtful show is not for the faint of heart: with false erections, sex, curses, and flying arrows, this ain't the play to bring along Grandma.

"The original was a straightforward Greek comedy, taking the complex subject of citizen dissent toward government and making the dramatic action comic through sexual puns and imagery," explains Kevin Collier, Theatre faculty and a cast member. "Kyle's adaptation draws from several Aristophanes plays while remaining framed by "Lysistrata," and focuses on human potential. Is fate irreversible? Are we mere playthings for the gods or can we take control of our own lives? Can one person really make a difference?"

Dealing with a conflict older than Ancient Greece, yet as fresh as the war in Iraq, this production has a timelessness to it. The greatest feat of all, though, is the set. Not only is it unusually large for a McCoy production, but the center of the set is a pit containing five tons of sand. The actors use the sand as a form of expression: clutching it, burying their faces in it, throwing it and, yes, even humping it. The sand makes the audience connect to the dirt and grit of the show's plot, while simultaneously providing great visual effects.

A further addition to the unique quality of this production is its inclusion of music. All of the melodies are taken from classic folk songs like "Erie Canal", "John Henry", and "Oh Mary, Don't You Weep". The words have been rewritten for the show, but the raw, wailing quality remains intact. Accompanied by Apollo, music takes the celebratory moments and shares them with the audience in familiar tunes.

While the cast includes many Rhodes favorites—Katie Preston ('08) as Lysistrata, Shannon King ('07), Michael Towle ('08), Dylan Hunter ('08) and Zack Stovall ('08)—also joining the huge ensemble are actors from the community. Local actors Bill Andrews, Julia Hinson, and Kendall Karcher ('05) among others perform in various roles. This casting has not only allowed the students of the McCoy Theater the opportunity to work with professional actors, but it has given the Rhodes community the chance to watch local performers display their talent in our own arena.

"I hope the audience leaves with a stronger sense that although each person is responsible for his or her own life, we are stronger when we work together. The right thing to do is almost never the easy thing to do," says Collier.

"Lysistrata and the Death of Cupid" runs in the McCoy Theatre April 3, 4, 5 and 11, 12, 13 at 7:30 nightly and 2:00 on Sunday. Tickets are \$2 for Rhodes Students.

By Cristina Iskander
Staff Writer

The Good

Broadway is thriving with new projects. In *the Heights*, about the Latino community of Washington Heights, made a triumphant, well received debut; a revival of the classic *Gypsy* officially opened; and John Waters' (best known for *Hairspray*) new musical *Cry Baby* began previews. In the coming months, the musical version of *Billy Elliot*, a revival of Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell*, and Harvey Fierstein's *A Catered Affair* are set to open.

In other Broadway news, *Rent*, originally slated to close June 7, has extended through the beginning of September. Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp, who created the roles of Roger and Mark and also returned to the New York production last fall, are set to begin their stint in the national tour of *Rent* this fall as well.

The irreverent, wacky comedy *Scrubs* is most likely moving from NBC to ABC next season. The show, originally set to end this season, has changed gears and altered storylines because of the writer's strike. The show has five original episodes left to air and show runners felt that an abbreviated season would not allow them to present the ending they feel they owe their fans. NBC has offered producing several direct to DVD episodes or one final episode to be aired while ABC supposedly wants to order 18 new episodes. In other *Scrubs* news, a fairy tale themed episode inspired by the *Princess Bride*, featuring the Janitor as The Giant.

A Juno soundtrack sequel, called *Juno B Sides: Almost Adopted Songs* is set to be released on iTunes April 8. The album features Ellen Page, Belle and Sebastian, Buddy Holly, and Yo La Tengo, among others. If the first soundtrack is any indication, this looks to be a

good addition to any music collection.

The Tudors on Showtime returns on Sunday. I know we don't get Showtime on campus, but in honor of this artful show, I encourage you to go rent the first season. After all, Jonathan Rhys Myers is playing Henry VIII—it can't hurt.

REM's new album *Accelerate* hits stores this week. Here's hoping Michael Stipe and Co. can kick Danity Kane's *Welcome to the Dollhouse* out of the top spot in the charts. I mean really, what kind of world do we live in that the group from *Making the Band 3* has the top selling album?

Jamie Lynn Spears is engaged, y'all! (And just for fun, you can search Babies R Us for her registry...it's there and surprisingly easy to find).

Former *Dawson's Creek* star James Van Der Beek has a job! Van der Beek will have a guest stint on CBS's *How I Met Your Mother*, which recently featured the "talents" of Britney Spears in an episode. I know it's just a small part, Van der Beek, and far from your comfort zone of waxing poetic about life's complexities as Paula Cole croons in the background, but it's something.

The Bad

Best known for her role as *Dawson* paramour Joey Potter, Katie Holmes is in talks to make her Broadway debut alongside John Lithgow and Dianne Wiest in a revival of Arthur Miller's Tony winning play, *All My Sons*. While I'm all for getting Katie Holmes out of the house and away from her couch jumping husband, I'm not sure the stage is the best place for her. After all, she's a bad television and film actress, and in those, she gets to do multiple takes. I can't imagine her live.

Kathie Lee Gifford is joining the Today Show. Finally...some-

one even more annoying than Willard Scott will be on there. Though I'm not a fan of Gifford's, I take comfort that she'll only be appearing on the fourth hour of the show, which is usually just fluff.

Vh1, always the forerunner in quality entertainment, premiered a new show,

I Know My Kid's a Star. The reality show features pairs of parent-child teams working to win a management contract. To say this show is disturbing would be a gross understatement. The goal of the show is supposedly to find the child with the "It factor" and the parent most capable of managing a career. Instead, the show seems more like a documentary on dysfunction. Perhaps the most ridiculous part of the show is the intense rivalry between mothers Pam, a clean cut woman who quit her job and has poured \$35,000 into her daughter's burgeoning "career", and Rocky, a former actress who has appeared in "hits" like *The Wasp Woman*, *Cyborg 3: The Recycler*, and *Thy Neighbor's Wife*, whose daughter painfully stumbled through the lyrics of "Son of a Preacher Man." Worst still? The show is hosted by the King of Self Destruction and former child star himself, Danny Bonaduce. Do these parents really want their kids to be getting advice from Bonaduce? The guy has had every drinking and drug problem under the sun.

The Awkward

Princess Bride: The Videogame? Inconceivable! Not exactly. The game is set to feature characters like Buttercup, Wesley, Inigo, and Fezzik. Players will advance through levels inspired by the movie including: As You Wish, Battle of the Wits, the Fire Swamp, Miracle Max, and Storming the Castle. I love *Princess Bride*—it was one of my favorite movies as a child, but does this game really need to exist?

This week on *Flavor of Love 3*, Flavor Flav invited four new girls to join the final four original girls in his mansion. One of the new women is approximately seven feet tall. Flav, not being one to remember names well, aptly named her Tree. Flav stands at 5'7". Needless to say, Tree was not thrilled with her new title. She also had to bend over quite a bit to receive her clock and hug Flavor Flav. The most awkward part of this was Flav's comment that he enjoys climbing trees



A Diamond in the Rough in the Emerald City

By Willie Leibner
Staff Writer

As pitchers and catchers head down to Florida and Arizona for spring training this week, there is a clear consensus on who should be playing and who will be hitting the links in October for the American League. The Red Sox, Yankees, Indians and Angels have received much of the off-season attention with good reason, as each are loaded going into 2008. Yet, with the completion of a major trade this off-season, a new team has placed themselves in prime position to succeed this season in the American League.

The Seattle Mariners had a solid 2007 campaign, finishing with an 88-74 record, good for second in the American League West. Yet, with the recent acquisition of left-handed flamethrower Erik Bedard, Seattle may have found the missing piece to the puzzle and could very well be a part of baseball playoffs for the first time since 2001. Bedard leaves Baltimore and joins a starting rotation that already boasts one of the top young pitchers in the game, Felix Hernandez. After battling adversity his rookie season, Hernandez emerged last year, posting a 14-7 record with a 3.92 ERA. This year, he figures to build on that performance and establish himself as a perennial Cy Young candidate. He possesses an electric fastball that consistently sits in the mid-nineties, coupled with a knee-buckling curveball. At just 22, Hernandez has learned more over the last two years in the big leagues, and is now armed with a full repertoire of pitches and the experience to handle major league hitters. In addition to his explosive qualities, Hernandez has the makeup of a true ace. Last season, in the much-hyped debut of Daisuke Matsuzaka, Hernandez stole the show in Fenway Park, spinning a complete game one-hitter in front of a national (and international) TV audience. "King Felix" is poised to put himself among the elite pitchers in the American League, but his new counterpart Erik Bedard is already in that class. Bedard flew under the radar in the last two seasons, but performances speak for themselves. During that two year span, Bedard posted 28 wins and a 3.46 ERA as well as 221 strikeouts last season, good for third in the American League. Bedard is battle-tested as well, having pitched in numerous games against former division rivals Boston and New York during his career. A young left-handed power pitcher, Bedard complements his right-handed colleague Hernandez quite well and gives the Mariners a deadly 1-2 punch at the top of their rotation for years to come.

The rest of the Seattle staff is rock solid, with a veteran-heavy back end of the rotations that features right-handers Carlos Silva and

Miguel Batista, along with lefty Jarrod Washburn. The three combined to post 39 wins last season. The trio possesses good experience and will provide stability and depth to the M's starting pitching. The bullpen boasts one of the top closers in all of baseball, J.J. Putz, who burst onto the scene a year ago recording 40 saves, and a 6-1 record with a 1.38 ERA. The bridge to Putz may prove to be a problem area for Seattle this season, as their setup men and middle relievers are largely unproven. However, youngsters Brandon Morrow, Cesar Jimenez and Eric O' Flaherty all show promise. The Mariners may be smart to shop for an experienced middle reliever or two if they do find themselves in striking position down the stretch.

Seattle's offense was strong in 2007, posting a .287 team batting average, tied for second in the American League. This season, the Mariners will look for more of the same, as eight starts return including Ichiro Suzuki, one of the top leadoff men in the Major Leagues. Last season, Ichiro led the Major Leagues in hits with 238, was second in batting average with a .351 mark and stole 37 bases. Ichiro's outfield-mate Raul Ibanez continues to be one of the most underrated players in the game, after, yet again, driving in over 100 runs last season. Kenji Johjima is one of the top offensive catchers in the American League, behind the dish and Designated Hitter Jose Vidro, and is a welcome member of any potent offense when healthy. Last year, he was, and hit .314. The missing pieces on offense lie at the corner infield spots. If Adrian Beltre and Richie Sexson can perform to their full potential, the Mariners' offense could be downright scary this season. Each has the ability to hit forty home runs and drive in 120. With such production, it is no stretch to project that this offense could put up over 900 runs this season.

Seattle now is armed with the top-tier pitching to compete for a pennant. Possibly one bat away, the Mariners also have the offensive firepower to complement the staff quite nicely. They have a nice mix of youngsters and veterans and, despite the strength of the American League overall, they play in the most winnable division. Both Oakland and Texas figure to struggle this season and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are strong, but by no means invincible. The Mariners have a balanced offensive attack, they play solid defense (5th in the AL last year) and have a dangerous pitching staff, laden with three stars (Hernandez, Bedard and Putz). If they can stay healthy, acquire a setup man and stay unified under inexperienced skipper John McLaren, look for Bedard, Hernandez and Putz to pitch the Mariners into the postseason.

Memphis hosts second annual Civil Rights Game

By Ralph MacDonald
Sports Editor

As we approach the fortieth anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination at the Lorraine Motel, AutoZone Park played host again to the second annual Civil Rights game between the New York Mets and the Chicago White Sox. Memphis has a history with sports and civil rights, having been a prominent stop for barnstorming Negro League teams with the attractions of Beale Street and sizeable crowds that appreciated the legendary players' abilities.

Today it seems only appropriate that we have sports event dedicated to civil rights. Sports have been a place where race matters little compared to the skills that one brings to the table. Sports teams have been an equal opportunity employer long before a lot of companies and sports are capable of bringing normally racist people to appreciate the work of all athletes.

Despite the empowerment that minority athletes have received through sports, there is still much work to do in the sports world as well as society. Professional sports are still predominately owned and operated by the white majority, and leadership positions such as coach and general manager are being performed by a disproportionate number of minorities when considering the ethnic break-up of the players. The teams represented in the Civil Rights Game were success stories for minority leaders, as the White Sox won the 2005 World Series with a team put together by African-American general manager, Ken Williams, and Hispanic manager, Ozzie Guillen. The Mets ended the Atlanta Braves' fourteen year hold on the National League East in 2006 with a vice-versa relationship: manager Willie Randolph is African-American, while general manager Omar Minaya is Hispanic.

A fair number of fans braved the light rain to watch the game, which was each team's last game of the spring training exhibition season. ESPN telecast the game and had an opportunity to bring in a bright, articulate minority voice to properly explain the significance of baseball and race, but instead decided to use Joe Morgan. Questionable announcing decisions aside, ESPN did a very good job highlighting the game's significance on racial issues and cast the city of Memphis in a positive light. It should also be noted that the game was sponsored by AutoZone, which has contributed to the city of Memphis with jobs, the sponsorship of the stadium, and by sponsoring the Civil Rights Game. The participation with the Civil Rights Game is especially important as it shows the company's commitment to promoting awareness and dialogue for race in Memphis and the nation.

Champion's League Preview

By: Tyler Ponder
Staff Writer

For those of you who keep up with soccer, you know that it's that time of year again. After many months, the quarterfinals have finally been set.

The semi-finals will be held on April 22nd and 23rd and then again on the 29th and 30th. The winner of the Arsenal/Liverpool match will meet the winner of the Fenerbahce/Chelsea match. Then, the winner of the Roma/Manchester United match will meet the winner of the FC Schalke/Barcelona match. The final match will be held on May 21st at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia.

T.V. listings-
Tuesday, April 1st,
1:30 P.M. Central, Roma vs. Manchester United on ESPN2.

Wednesday, April 2nd,
1:30 P.M. Central, Arsenal vs. Liverpool on ESPN2.

Final Four Thoughts: A historic event

By Ralph MacDonald
Sports Editor

Memphis was on the right side of history Saturday as it became the third of four number one seeds to win their regional bracket. The Tigers will advance to play the UCLA Bruins on Saturday April 5th after dominating their way through their side of the bracket. Memphis won their games by an average of over 16 points a game with the only scare coming during a three point win over Mississippi St. On the other side of the bracket, the North Carolina Tar Heels will play the Kansas Jayhawks in their first match-up since former Jayhawk coach, Roy Williams, left to take over the UNC program. The emotional Williams has stated his distaste for playing his former school long before the tournament started and is no doubt upset about the additional drama that will played into an already intense game.

Kansas had the most difficult time advancing past the Elite Eight of all the remaining teams, as seen in knocking out ten seed Davidson, who stood as the last David amongst the four Goliaths. Diminutive tournament hero Stephen Curry, who had been averaging a whopping 35 points per game over the first three games,

hit a late three to bring the game within two before Kansas missed on their opportunity. With eleven seconds left, the Jayhawks smothered Curry and point guard Jason Richards was forced to heave a desperate three from well behind the arc that clanked off the backboard, well left of the target.

Possibly the most interesting part about four number one schools making the Final Four is the unusually large number of upsets in the early rounds this year: twelve seed Villanova over five seed Clemson; thirteen seed Sienna over four seed Vanderbilt; ten seed Davidson beat seven seed Gonzaga, two seed Georgetown, and three seed Wisconsin; twelve seed Western Kentucky took down five seed Drake; thirteen seed San Diego over four seed Connecticut; and seven seed West Virginia stunned two seed Duke. People who decided to pick an "upset bracket" have gone from first to last in their office pools. But given the first and second rounds, it should be less surprising that the number one seeds have advanced so far since their fiercest competition was knocked out by Cinderella teams that came back to earth.

Rhodes Softball turning things around

By Peter Zanca
Staff Writer

The Rhodes softball team ended a ten-game slide last week with a pair of victories over Rust College and then carried the momentum into the weekend to split two games with Hendrix.

In the first game of Wednesday's double-header, the Lynx dominated the overmatched Bearcats of Rust by a score of 20-0. Senior pitcher Dana Bartolomei threw the second perfect game of her career as she struck out each of the fifteen batters she faced. Bartolomei also had an outstanding game at the plate, going 3-3 with three runs and three RBIs. Senior shortstop Amanda Lutzy hit 3-4 for three runs and three RBIs. Sophomore catcher Jennifer Whatley went 2-3 with three runs and two RBIs, and freshman first baseman Olivia Ryan was 2-2 for four RBIs. The team scored seventeen runs in the second inning as they put Rust away early.

The second game of the doubleheader was much of the same as freshman pitcher Sara Bowen earned her first career no-hitter in a 21-0 victory. Like Bartolomei in the first game, Bowen also had an outstanding game at the plate, finishing 4-4 with three runs and four RBIs. Senior outfielder Savannah Deaton went 2-3 and scored four runs while Whatley and sophomore third baseman Armanda Venezia each had three hits.

The Lynx carried their momentum into a weekend series on the road against Hendrix. In the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, Bartolomei had another

excellent performance as she pitched the full seven innings and struck out eleven batters on the way to an 11-4 win. Ryan again performed well at the plate, going 3-4 and scoring three runs, including her first career homer. Freshman shortstop Allison Conn went 3-5 for a run and an RBI. The Lynx held a slim 5-3 advantage at the top of the fifth inning but put together a strong closing effort, including a three-run seventh inning.

In the second game, the Lynx continued rolling as Bartolomei and Lutzy both scored off of Rebekah Moore's double in the first inning. After that, however, Hendrix began to find its rhythm, culminating with a four-run third inning that included two home runs. Rhodes made a run at reclaiming the lead in the seventh inning with two runners on base with one out remaining, but Bartolomei's grounded out to third and the rally attempt ended.

Despite falling short in the second Hendrix game, all four of last week's games were positive steps for the Lynx. They put a definite end to the ten-game losing streak that had plagued the team. Hopefully, the Lynx can now finish strong in conference play with one more game against Hendrix and two other conference series remaining. The team currently sits at 6-12 overall and 1-5 in conference play, but Rhodes can definitely make a run at the division title in the wide open SCAC West Division. The Lynx make a home stand this weekend with a game against CBU on Tuesday and games against Austin College this weekend.

Rhodes Tennis looking strong

By Hal Flowers
Staff Writer

As a dreadful winter slowly and spastically yields to spring, at least a few minds are on tennis. After an outstanding season last year, the men's team has struggled to realize previous success but has recently found their rhythm in important conference matches. The women's team, which lost only one player from last year, has maintained momentum to jump to a 9-2 season start.

The Lynx men traveled to Hendrix College in late February for their opening regular season matches, earning a decisive victory over the Tigers of Colorado College 8-1. The following day the men dropped a close match over Birmingham-Southern College 2-5, with only #5 singles junior Matt Westbrook and the #3 doubles team of Westbrook and senior Matt Ricke bringing home victories. The women's team enjoyed slightly more success, defeating both Colorado College and Birmingham-Southern and only giving up 2 matches in the process. The Lynx teams hosted their next two matches and reaped the rewards of a home court advantage, with both men's and women's teams winning against LeTour-

neau University and Christian Brother University (a Division II school, mind you). The men's team lost two of their singles matches but rallied to come back and win a close 5-4 victory over LeTourneau. Freshman Rob Koehler and sophomore Tyler Snedden provided singles wins and the Lynx showed their solid depth with Ricke and Westbrook winning their respective singles matches to win the match. The women's team effortlessly glided past both teams, with an immaculate 18-0 match record and dropping only 25 of 192 games in the two match-ups.

While some were enjoying a sunny sand-laden Spring Break 08, the tennis team traveled to Texas to face University of Texas at Tyler, University of Texas at Dallas, and Hardin-Simmons University. The men struggled against nationally ranked Hardin-Simmons (30) and UT Tyler (22), dropping disparaging 0-9 matches against both. However, the men fared better against UT Dallas, with Snedden and freshman Grayson Lucas winning tight matches to lead the Lynx to a 6-3 victory. The women went 2-1 over the week, serving out a hearty heap of victory over UT Dallas 9-0 and pulling out a close

Lynx Look to build on record breaking season

By Rebekah Keller
Staff Writer

Rhodes Baseball, coming off one of the best seasons in school history in '07, had high expectations heading into this year's season. Although this season might not have started out as strongly as they might have hoped, the Rhodes Baseball team still has plenty of which to be proud. Following this past weekend's games at Sewanee, Rhodes now stands with an overall record of 19-8 and a SCAC East record of 5-2, placing them at 2nd place in the conference. In addition, as of last week, the team was ranked 23rd in the country.

After winning the series versus Sewanee, claiming the victory in two out of the three games this weekend, senior Matt Jack expressed his feelings on the weekend.

"We were hoping for a sweep, but two out of three isn't bad. It wasn't an ideal weekend, but it was a good weekend."

It's obvious that this team has set the bar high for themselves, yet it is not as though they're without reason to boast. When asked about his thoughts on the season thus far, Head Coach Jeff Cleanthes responded, "It definitely hasn't gone as well as expected. We've had some setbacks, but we've also definitely had some guys really step up."

Senior Richard Hurd leads the team with a batting average of .388, while freshman Brent Lindsey is close behind with an average of .382 and also leads the team in RBI's with 34.

"Pitching has really been our strength this year," said Cleanthes.

Junior Andy Holt leads the team with an ERA of 2.35 and a winning record of 5-3. Freshman Taylor Babich has been another stronghold in the pitching rotation with an ERA of 2.57, going 2-0 so far on the season. Senior Chris Catalanotto also contributes a substantial record of 3-0. Collectively, the team leads the SCAC with a team ERA of 3.35.

"We've been really pleased with our rotation's performance."

The Lynx show a clear refusal to be



Gwen Weil/The Sou'wester

On March 25 the Lynx won 6-5 over Mississippi College.

satisfied with anything less than perfection and, as a result, they have experienced many highlights that come pretty close at times. On March 21, Rhodes defeated Emory 8-4, the #5 ranked team in the country at the time. Individually, both Hurd and fellow senior Daniel Vanaman achieved career milestones this season, picking up their 200th hit, an accomplishment only about 17 other players in SCAC history have been able to reach. Furthermore, pitcher senior Robert Flanagan set the career record for wins at Rhodes with 28. In any case, their desire for success certainly seems to be paying off.

Despite any frustrations with past games, however, Rhodes looks forward to two big upcoming weekends. Specifically, next weekend's series against DePauw is especially important, as Coach Cleanthes believes the outcome will determine who wins the SCAC Eastern Division. The Lynx host their next home series this weekend against Birmingham Southern, including a double-header on Saturday.

5-4 victory over Hardin-Simmons, which was helped along by the three set singles win of junior Kelsey Mansman. The women dropped a 4-5 match to UT Tyler.

Last week, the Lynx hosted the Rhodes Invitational, facing Oglethorpe University, Centre College, and Hendrix College. Both men and women went 3-0 against these teams, which due to rain were ended on decision. Neither team struggled, winning all matches by a large margin.

These matches moved the men up to 2-2 in the Southern Collegiate Athletics Conference and 6-5 overall. This puts them at a hesitant 6th ranking in SCAC, with four teams having playing no conference games thus far and most only hav-

ing played 1 or 2. A few more matches are needed to see where the Lynx really stack up in the conference. The women are now an impressive 4-0 in the conference, and 9-2 overall. Coach Hatgas said she was impressed with the men's team's ability to provide depth, especially after the loss of four of their top six from last year. She anticipates that for both teams, the upcoming match against Sewanee will be crucial in deciding how the Lynx will go into conference tournament play. She also cited doubles matches as key to winning match-ups. The Lynx will face Lambuth College and Mississippi College at home in the upcoming week.