



Hats on or off to the Depp's
Mad Hatter?

See Page 6

March 31, 2010

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Memphis ranks number 1 in the national hunger poll

By NeNe Bafford
News Editor

A recent Gallop poll ranked the city of Memphis as No.1 for hunger in the country. The hunger poll indicated that 26 percent of people in Memphis reported that they could not afford to buy food for their families in the last twelve months due to the economy.

With the highest rate in the country, local food drive CEO's are concerned and are noticing that the conditions are worsening with the economy. President and CEO of the Mid-South Food Bank, Susan Sanford said in a Commercial Appeal article that Memphis ranked No.1 because the survey included eight counties, not just Memphis.

The eight-county area included Shelby, Crittenden, Fayette and five other counties of North Mississippi. Most of these counties have high poverty rates. In Tunica County, for example, about one-third of the population

lives below the poverty level.

Sanford does not expect the worsening conditions to turn around for at least another six years and during the last two years more and more middle class people are losing their jobs.

The Mid-South Food Bank serves over 180,000 clients and conducted a survey that found that 83 percent of people who come to the food bank had to choose between eating and paying bills.

Rhodes students share similar opinions about the hunger poll and want to find a way to help those in need.

Junior, Nate Ollie, said "I think that we are responsible, along with other non-profit organizations should organize food drives and other events to help feed the needy and those who can't afford to buy food."

The hunger poll indicated that Bakersfield, California ranked 2nd in the country.

Health care bill becomes law



Photo courtesy of United Press International

Nancy Pelosi with several democrats after the health care bill passed the House.

By Alex Yu
Staff Writer

Now that the Governmental Health Care Bill has become a law since passing in Congress, many people are wondering just what changes will be made. For starters, there is an estimated 32 million Americans, currently uninsured, who will be receiving coverage under the new law, which will cost a total of \$940 billion dollars over the next 10 years, with an estimated \$143 billion dollar reduction in the deficit from the bill in that same amount of time. \$53 billion dollars of that deficit will come from social security payroll taxes that will eventually be paid out in the form of retirement benefits, and another \$70 billion dollars of the deficit will come from premiums collected as part of a new government-run, long term program for the elderly, which will eventually be paid out in the form of benefits.

New health insurance subsidies will be provided to families of four which make up to \$88,000 annually, or around four hundred percent of the federal poverty level. All insurance companies will be prohibited from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions. Insurers will also

be required to provide coverage to non-dependent children up until the age of 26 years old. There will be a 40% tax imposed on insurance companies providing "Cadillac" health plans. A 3.8% surcharge will be imposed on investment income for individuals making over \$200,000 and couples making over \$250,000 dollars.

If an individual fails to purchase coverage, they will be fined \$695 dollars. Companies with more than fifty employees will be required to pay a fee of \$2,000 per worker if they are not provided with coverage. It will also be prohibited that federal funds be used toward abortion. Drug manufacturers will be required to pay the United States \$16 billion dollars between 2011 and 2019, and health insurers will pay \$47 billion dollars over the same period. A new Tannin Tax will be included which will establish a tax of 10% on indoor tanning services, which will raise \$2.7 billion dollars between the years of 2010 and 2019. Receiving a tan outside will not be taxed. Finally, Government payments to Medicare Advantage will be reduced by \$132 billion dollars over the next ten years.

How will the health care bill affect the future of Rhodes students? Junior Courtney Church says of the bill, "I don't really know too much about it, but in the case of my family, where one of my brothers is 23, but hasn't exactly started an income yet, it's comforting for him to know that he can stay on my parents' health insurance until he's 26, so I guess I'll say I'm for it." Freshman Claire Riley says, "I feel like it's a wonderful idea for everyone to be covered, but there are many ways it could go terribly wrong. I think its kind of going to be a wait-and-see issue." Freshman Sameer Warraich says, "From what I've heard, immigrants (legal and illegal) are supposed to get free health care, so that's kind of cool. However, if I were an American, I would be totally against the bill. More taxes etc.... not cool."

Information on Health Care reform is constantly changes due to repeated edits over the past week. To ensure that you have the most updated information, keep yourself updated by paying attention to news headlines, and by visiting www.whitehouse.gov for the government's description of what is to come.



Photo courtesy of Jim Weber

Betty Webb waits after collecting groceries at the Grace-St. Lukes Food Pantry. The non-profit said more seek food from them over past years.a

A much needed food revolution

By **Rekha Blackerby**
Opinion Editor

"Will our kids, if they know it's something hideous and disgusting, still eat it if it's in the shape and form of something that they love?" asks Jamie Oliver, host of Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution on ABC. Jamie Oliver, a British chef and fresh food aficionado, has come to the U.S. to revolutionize our way of eating and is starting in Huntington, West Virginia, currently the unhealthiest place in America.

Jamie's ambitious and optimistic attitude is endearing to watch but the people of Huntington could not be more annoyed at his meddling. At every turn, Jamie frustratingly finds someone who insists that they way they eat and live is just fine. Jamie started with a local radio station to garner support for his revolution. He was met with dirty looks and a very cross radio show host. Shaking his head, he tells the camera, "That is not how I imagined that would go." His next stop is a local elementary school where he is met with even more resistance from the school cooks. With shock and disbelief running across his face, Jamie watched as the ladies piled pizza for breakfast onto the trays of 6-year-old children. The few healthy items on their trays were eventually thrown in the garbage.

After a few failed attempts at getting the children to choose his healthier, fresh lunches, he dressed as a giant pea pod and sashayed into several classrooms to get the students excited about eating healthy. He was met with blank stares or confused chuckles. They had no idea what he was supposed to be. He tried a different tactic next by bringing in a cart of fresh fruits and vegetables. After the kids could not tell him what a tomato, eggplant, mushroom, or potato was, he realized that it was time to go bigger. He brought in the parents. A demonstration of how much fat was consumed by the school in a year (a dump truck was needed to carry it) helped shock the parents into protest.

Are we okay with this? When did we all become so lax in our standards that processed food with fifteen to twenty preservatives is acceptable to eat? We think that our bodies were made to handle something like that but it is not. A list of ingredients and preservatives

on the back of a box a mile long should scare us into not eating it but we do anyways. As a result, we are obese and this food (if you can call it that) is killing us. It will, as Jamie passionately insists, kill us, shortening our lives by ten or more years. Obesity is an epidemic in this country and the worst part is that it does not have to be.

When Jamie Oliver met with an individual family to show them the error of their ways, he cooked all of the food that they would consume in a week and piled it on the table. In the end, their kitchen table was covered in a various assortment of brown and beige colors. Of course, it is easier to grab a slice of pizza when you have mountains of work to do and very little time to do it, but eating it all of the time, week after week, is what will eventually harm your body and it will protest by packing on pounds and reward you with a myriad of health complications.

The health complications alone should be shocking enough. Diabetes, heart attacks, joint problems, arthritis, strokes, respiratory issues all only begin the long list of health problems you could expect to see. This stuff is quite literally killing us and it is getting so bad that we needed a Brit to tell us.

It is plain that Jamie Oliver means nothing but the best for the people of Huntington though their resistance is understandable. Who is this guy with a cheeky smile and a funny accent coming in and throwing out our food? No one likes to be told that his or her personal life (and weight) is wrong. But it is. Whether Jamie will be successful in his quest, however, is a matter of time. As entertaining as it all is to watch, he has a serious message. We need to eat better or we will die before our time.

This has nothing to do with following a pyramid or being as thin as someone from "The Hills". It has to do with being healthy. Incorporating healthier food in with your daily diet can make you and your body feel better. It is about taking care of your body now, so that it will take care of you in the future. Cheers, Jamie Oliver, and good luck to you.

Obama's order saved Healthcare

By **John Ayers**
Staff Writer

Last week marked the passage of our new Healthcare system. The vote was razor thin. Just three more "no" votes would have seen the death of healthcare. In fact, it was the last minute switching of about seven pro-life democrats that got the bill passed. This was due to a deft political move by Obama.

Abortion continues to be a key issue in today's politics. Not even a full two days before the final vote, President Obama sought to reassure the House pro-life Democrats that no money would be spent directly from taxes on funding abortion. He did so by drafting and signing an executive order forbidding it. Now,

this issue is very dear to many Americans. Many who are pro-choice do not wish to see Federal funded abortion, pro-life groups are absolutely opposed, and some religious organizations condemn it as state funded murder. Therefore, the implication that money out of a pro-life supporter's wallet might go to funding abortion caused quite a stir. Although the bill only allows for tax subsidies to plans that cover abortion, it is still a form of funding abortions, albeit indirectly. Obama effectively ended this debate with his executive order. However, how solid is this executive order?

The truth is, not very. Despite the Republican talk about Obama being able to renege on the order whenever, it is highly unlikely. He will not risk

going back on his word so directly, not only to Democrats, but also to the American people. The reality is that the executive order hardly opposes the wording of the law passed and is attempting to segregate funds so that none go to these insurance plans that fund abortions. This is simply not possible with bureaucracy. Money from the Baptist who opposes abortion will likely find its way into a Federally funded insurance provider that pays for abortions. Furthermore, the executive order concedes that it is acceptable for this money to be used in the cases of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is in danger. If that was not enough, the executive order has no force of law. If anyone, and there will be someone, challenges this executive order in the courts it will be overturned. The order itself states, "This Executive Order is not

intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person." It's not enforceable as law! It says so itself. If someone is unable to get a Federally funded plan that allows for abortions because they restrict funds in this bizarre and ill-defined "segregation" system they will sue the government and the order will be overturned. Obama will shrug and say, "Tried my best pro-lifers" and move on

because he is a strong supporter not only of abortion but also of it being Federally funded. The order was certainly a deft political move by Obama, but to those who pay attention to both the letter of law, the functioning of bureaucracy, and checks and balances in U.S. government knows this was merely a political ploy at the 11th hour that saved healthcare.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief
Anna Meyerrose

Layout Editor
Jake Groves

News Editor
NeNe Bafford

Opinion Editor
Rekha Blackerby

A&E Editor
Jasmine Gilstrap

Sports Editor
Andrew Mullins-Williams

Business Manager
Effie Du

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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

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

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

Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com
Address: Rhodes Box 3010
The Sou'wester
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690

AP
ASSOCIATED
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PRESS

Will the GOP be able to shrink in order to grow?

by Patrick Harris

Staff Writer

In the Old Testament, one reads the story of Gideon, who led the Israelite resistance against a huge force of invading Midianites. But rather than attacking with the full force of his army, God orders Gideon to impose a series of tests on his soldiers to prove their worthiness, which ultimately reduces his army to a mere three hundred men. That the Chosen People nonetheless triumph goes without saying. More ambiguous is the modern political lesson to be drawn from this Biblical episode. In the aftermath of the Republican electoral disaster of 2008, the evangelical writer Joel Belz approvingly compared the GOP's political situation to Gideon, opining that the party could "shrink to grow", just as the Israelites did, by regaining ideological coherence and commitment among its remaining members. A significant part of the Republican base seems to have taken this advice to heart, imposing ever more narrow definitions of true conservatism. One of the latest manifestations of this "shrink to grow" impulse was the attempt by factions within the Republican National Committee to impose a ten-point "purity test" of policy statements, of which potential candidates would have to agree with at least eight to be worthy of support. While conservative activists are doing a fine job emulating Gideon's methods, the analogy ultimately fails for a couple of reasons: God (as far as we know) is not a Republican, and no guarantee of divine intervention exists to save the GOP from its own circular firing squad.

A more modest view of Providence and a clear-eyed view of political reality show serious challenges for the future of the Republican Party. The 2006 and 2008 elections left the party seriously denuded of moderate voices, with a few high profile exceptions such as the Senators from Maine, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, who are widely loathed by the conservative base. While a dose of fiscal rectitude was sorely needed after the free-spending Bush years, the attempt by many prominent conservative pontificators to blame all the party's past misfortunes on insufficient ideological purity is disingenuous and counterproductive. The Republican Party cannot govern without significant support outside its Southern and Western strongholds. That support cannot be maintained without flexibility that allows GOP candidates to speak to the concerns of their constituents. This flexibility in promoting candidates suited for their electorates is precisely what resulted in the election of Scott Brown in Massachusetts. For all the involvement of the Tea Party movement in winning the seat for the GOP, Brown is the very model of a moderate Republican, diverging from party orthodoxy on abortion and other issues; any other kind of candidate could never have been elected in Massachusetts.

In accordance with the purification agenda, the ideological enforcers are mounting primary challenges against disfavored Republicans from sea to shining sea. Governor Charlie Christ is under severe pressure from Tea-Party-Approved Marco Rubio in the Florida Senate race and John McCain is defending his Senate seat against the bombastic talk radio host, J.D. Hayworth. The latter race reveals much about the GOP's internal troubles. The fact that one of the party's great standard-bearers and an ex-presidential candidate can be seriously threatened by a hard-right loudmouth (tainted with corruption charges from his service in the House) demonstrates the extent of the bitter division plaguing the American Right. Even if McCain retains his seat, his reputation for reaching across the aisle has been damaged by a sharp rightward lurch calculated to satisfy primary voters. Democratic strategists applaud, no doubt. Meanwhile David Frum, a noted conservative writer with an independent streak, has been ousted from his position at the American Enterprise Institute. It seems that fairly soon the only moderate conservative voices will be found in isolated preserves such as the New York Times editorial page, where liberal readers can gawk at them.

The canonization of Ronald Reagan is also reveals something of the party's state of mind. The resolution calling for the GOP "purity test" invoked Reagan's dictum that "Someone who agrees with me eight out of ten times, is my friend, not my opponent" as if it were Holy Scripture to be rigorously applied, never mind that Reagan surely didn't mean that adage to be applied in order to *narrow* the conservative coalition. Conservative activists have hollowed out Reagan's memory into a totem of ideological perfection, neglecting the real qualities of a great leader who had strong political convictions but wasn't hesitant to cut deals when necessary. Another Reagan gem, the so-called Eleventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican", would be anathema to today's conservative base. Reagan's political genius was to build a broad coalition around a center-right message that offered Americans a positive alternative to torpid statism. In that respect, his example is still relevant, but scarcely heeded.

The political difficulties of the Obama administration afford ample opportunity for Republican gains this fall and beyond. In the long term, however, Republicans will have to make choices about the future direction of the Right. They can build once again an inclusive, principled movement that offers the electorate a credible political program. On the other hand, they can continue to thin their own ranks, Gideon-like, while waiting for Divine Providence to smite the wicked Obamaites.



Calling all writers!

Do you enjoy writing? Do you have strong feelings that you'd like to share with the world? Have you seen a movie recently that you want to write a review about? Are you looking for a school activity to add to your resume? Well then the Rhodes Sou'wester newspaper is perfect for you! Here at the Sou'wester we are always looking for new and fresh writers that will help to overall improve our student publication. Writing for us is a low-stress commitment, and you can write for whichever section you would like. If you are at all interested, please do not hesitate to contact us either at thesouwester@gmail.com, or by directly emailing any of our editors.

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Rites of Spring

FRIDAY
April 9th:

COOLIO
THE BLACK KEYS
SUPER MASH BROS

SATURDAY
April 10th:

SAVING ABEL
BIG BOI

Calendar of Events

April 5th
Spring for Literacy
Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
Location: Refectory Lobby
Table 2

Student Production of the
Musical "The Last Five Years"
Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm
Location: Hardie

April 6th
Spring for Literacy
Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
Location: Refectory Lobby
Table 2

Student Production of the
Musical "The Last Five Years"
Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm
Location: Hardie

Mind Your Own Business
Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm
Location: Orgill

Panel: President Troutt and
other successful Memphians
Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm
Location: Blount/Buckman
Lobby

The Big Diehl: Memphis Griz-
zlies vs Houston Rockets
Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm
Location: Off Campus

April 7th
Spring for Literacy
Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
Location: Refectory Lobby
Table 2

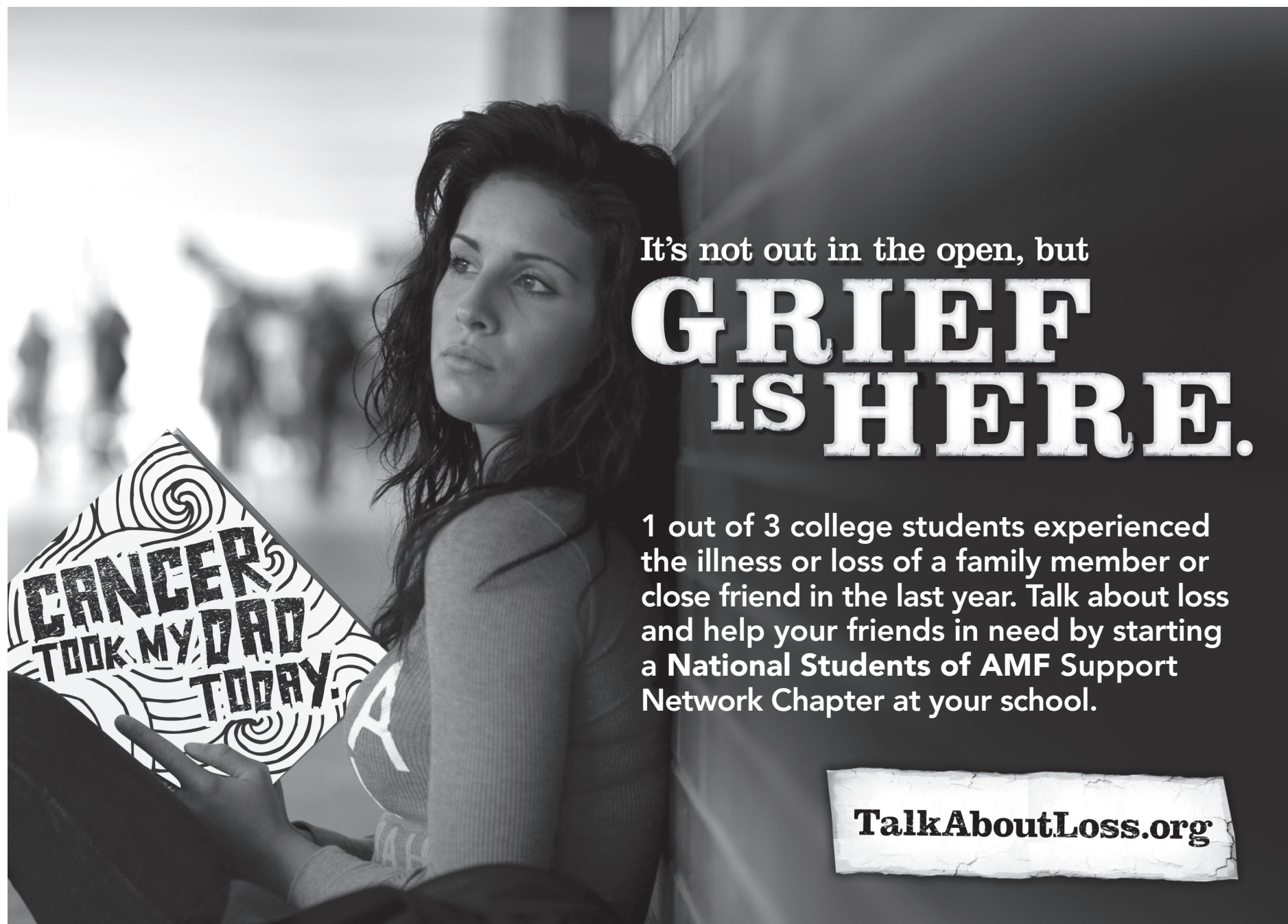
Student Production of the
Musical "The Last Five Years"
Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm
Location: Hardie

Jazz Night: Rhodes Student
Jazz Ensemble
Time: 7:30-7:45
Location: Off Campus

April 8th
Annua Employee Health Fair
Time: 10:00am-2:00pm
Location: Hyde Hall

Film Studies Lecture
Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm
Location: Blount/Buckman
Lobby

April 9th -10th
Rites of Spring



It's not out in the open, but
GRIEF IS HERE.

1 out of 3 college students experienced the illness or loss of a family member or close friend in the last year. Talk about loss and help your friends in need by starting a National Students of AMF Support Network Chapter at your school.

TalkAboutLoss.org

CAMPUS SAFETY

March 21-27

03/21
5:50 am: Campus Safety accessed MFD to the fire control panel at Evergreen church; system showing false alarm; church re-secured and the pastor was notified by phone.

03/22
10:00 am: Parent of a student called to report the theft of her daughter's bicycle on other property from her dorm's laundry room.
6:40 pm: Voorhies RA reported an active fire alarm on the 1st floor; officers dispatched; false alarm.

03/23
9:14 am: Campus Safety accepted delivery of a student's vehicle; student notified.

03/24
Nothing unusual to report.

03/25
12:08 pm: Resident reported a possible home burglary to a Campus Safety officer; resident stated that he had followed an individual carrying what he described and an air compressor; MPD notified.

03/27
12:50 am: MPD returned a student to campus; subject had their ID stolen; MPD filed report.
8:38 pm: RA reported possible marijuana use outside of a residence hall; officers responded; incident documented.

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The Peabody Rooftop Parties

April 15 . Lord T & Eloise *with opening act* Ryan Peel & a special guest appearance

April 22 . Rhoney G

April 29 . Party Planet

May 6 . Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster

May 13 . Kevin & Bethany Paige

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\$10 Cover charge (includes your first drink)

Ladies free till 7:00 pm . Must be 21

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THE SOU'WESTER

Burton brings the madness of Wonderland to life

By Marjorie Demaria

Staff Writer

Troubled by a strange recurring dream, nineteen-year-old Alice Kingsleigh, played by actress Mia Wasikowska, attends a party that she learns is an engagement party to wed her into the Ascot family, who now own her deceased father's trading firm. Unsure of how to reply to Hamish Ascot's, Leo Bill, proposal, Alice runs away and begins chasing after a white rabbit, which leads to her falling into a rabbit hole. The hole transports her to a world called Underland, which Alice mishears as Wonderland, where she is going to discover a whole new world, as well as her destiny.

Being a fan of anything made by Tim Burton, I was looking forward to the release of this 2010 version. However, if you're expecting a faithful rendering of the book by Lewis Carroll, I'm sorry to say you'll be disappointed. The novel, written in 1865, was about the self-discovery of a girl in a fantastic world, as well as a criticism of the Victorian society. Alice meandered in Wonderland, going from one crazy character to the other, all the while going through various physical and mental changes.

Tim Burton sacrificed the book's minimal sense of narrative, and much of its heart, in the process of making a Disney movie, something many viewers forget until the title screen. Burton explained in a press release that he "tried to make it an engaging movie



Photo courtesy of Lyricis Interactive

The stars in Tim Burton's production of *Alice in Wonderland* in their characters, from left to right, Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, and Helena Bonham Carter.

where you get some of the psychology and kind of bring some freshness, but also keep the classic nature of *Alice*." Burton set out with the goal to give the story "some framework of emotional grounding" and "to try and make it feel more like a story as opposed to a series of events" which in doing so, Burton focused on the Jabberwocky poem as part of his structure. This focus became the source of my disappointment.

Despite this, the beginning of the movie consists of an exploration of that world, brilliantly leaving enough room for the actors and characters to unfold in front of our bewildered eyes. However, the unnecessary third act makes it a little too generic for me.

This version is still a visual treat

with the virtual landscape definitely making Alice's new adventures wondrous. It looks like an adult hallucination of a CGI movie gone apocalyptically wrong. Add to that Burton's aesthetics, Johnny Depp's incredible performance as the Mad Hatter, Helena Bonham Carter as the hilarious Red Queen, and some clever references to previous Burton's movies and you still get a witty, fun, original movie worth seeing. The film may not be a gem, but definitely a pearl.

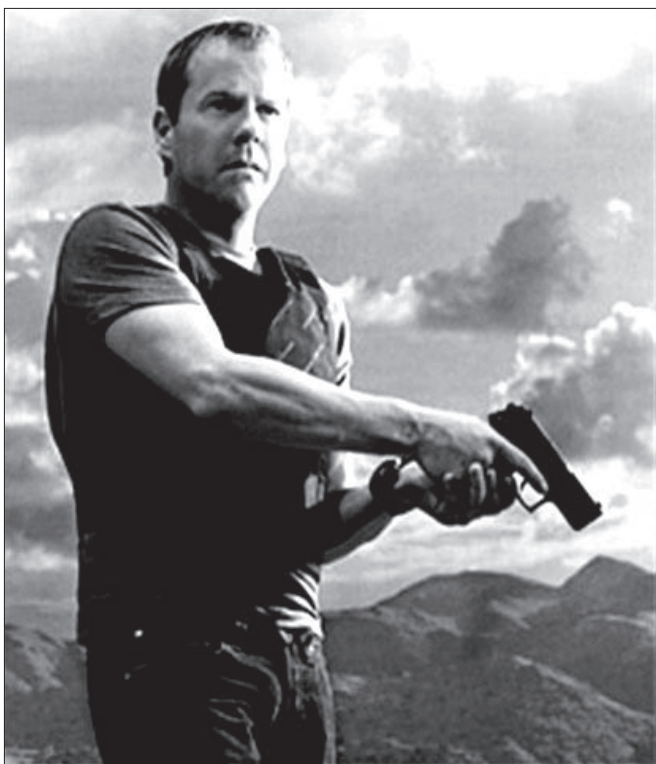


Photo courtesy of Google

Jack Bauer, portrayed by Kiefer Sutherland, has inspired *24: The Game* and numerous action figures and comic books.

Popular TV series *24* comes to close after nine years and eight seasons

By Jasmine Gilstrap
A&E Editor

The adventures of Jack Bauer on the television series *24* will soon be over as Fox confirmed Friday, March 26 that the present season would be the show's last one. Talks of the series switching networks were denied at the press conference as well since both the show's executive producer Howard Gordon and Mr. Bauer himself, Kiefer Sutherland, were ready to call it quits.

Since the show's debut in 2001, *24* has been nominated for over 30 Golden Globes, winning 10 awards including Best Drama Series, Best Lead Actor in a Drama, and Best Directing. At the end of the eighth season, the series will also become the longest running espionage themed television drama ever, surpassing both *Mission: Impossible* and *The Avengers*.

The writing, an important aspect of the show that went unnoticed until the Writer's Guild of America strike in 2007, caused most of the exhaustion felt by those involved on the show as the writers, according to Sutherland "are producing the equivalent of 12 films a year, which is unheard of, and Howard felt to do a ninth would be potentially damaging."

However, *24* fans will see more from the writers on

Jack Bauer's adventures as the *24* finale will tee up the *24* movie that's in the works at 20th Century Fox.

Originally planned to be shot during the hiatus between the sixth and seventh seasons, the revived idea that is the *24* movie will begin production in February 2011 and is said to create a definitive end for Jack Bauer. Sutherland is signed on to continue his role as the *24* protagonist due to the freedom the film adaptation will give the writers and the additional complexity to his character.

"Something we've dealt with in the series is how the crisis always has to come to us because we don't have time to move anywhere in a real time world," Sutherland said at the Fox press release. "In a two-hour movie representation of the *24* world, planes, trains, and automobiles all of a sudden become a factor because you are not required to go scene by scene in real time."

Though controversy surrounded the show in its earlier years due to various techniques employed by Jack Bauer in apprehending terrorists, *24* has remained on the top of television critics and viewers lists since the first season. The series finale will air on Fox at the ironic date of Monday, May 24, leaving behind the television legacy of the indestructible Jack Bauer.

The sound of sampling saves lives

By Chidimma Martha Emelue
Staff Writer

This past Sunday, Pretty Lights lit up Minglewood Hall with their sampled sounds and flashing lights. The performance sported a unique fusion of digitally sampled tracks that DJ Derek Vincent Smith created by utilizing songs from numerous musical genres and decades. This fusion of sounds, accompanied by the lively, emphatic drumming of Cory Eberhard, culminated in a memorable listening experience.

The listening experience was further

heightened by a medley of lights that perforated the dimly light hall and seemed to dance to the drumbeats. The performance was enjoyable, but the most noteworthy aspect of the night was the cause. With tickets priced at five dollars for Rhodes students and ten dollars for all other attendees, patrons of the concert swayed to sounds, while simultaneously saving lives. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Rhodes student Kory Kilpatrick, proceeds from the concert were donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital here in Memphis.

What exactly does Pretty Lights sound like? One can describe their sound as Zero 7 meets MGMT, or any other preferable contrived comparison. However, the best way to experience Pretty Lights if you missed the show is to download an album or two. The music is available free of charge on the Pretty Lights website, prettylightsmusic.com, which also contains tour and show information as well as pictures of Pretty Lights.

Swept up in fine dining at Currents

By Carolina Sánchez

Just a short drive from Rhodes you will find a real Memphis jewel nestled in the cozy neighborhood of Harbor Town. Part of Memphis' newest boutique hotel, the River Inn Currents opened two years ago and has already made a splash. The restaurant was featured in Delta Sky Magazine alongside some of Memphis' best venues.

Humble Executive Chef David Schrier is the architect of the finely crafted dishes you will find at Currents Restaurant. I was fortunate enough to meet him and get the scoop on his inspiration. That inspiration he says is found in comfort foods which he updates and gives them his own spin. Chef Schrier also takes pride in making everything from scratch. "There are no cans back in the kitchen," he said proudly. The cooks make their own stocks, pastries, ice cream, and even butcher their own meat. Chef Schrier wouldn't have it any other way. "If you're going to cook, cook," he says, and cooking at its best is in fact what he delivers.

Before you begin your meal, you will be presented with the chef's nightly creation, which for me was a perfectly seared morsel of tuna accompanied by an aioli. The subtleness of the aioli brought out the smokiness of the tuna. The server will also offer a selection of freshly baked breads. We chose the ciabatta, caraway seed, and mini baguette. All were tender with just the right amount of crunch from the crust.

To start, we had the simple greens salad, priced at \$7 with field greens, vine ripe tomato, and Creole mustard vinaigrette.

The greens were elegantly stacked on a generous slice of vine ripe tomato and delicately drizzled with vinaigrette. We also ordered the Pan Seared Maine Diver Scallops, costing \$27, with roasted Mississippi shiitake mushrooms and crispy fingerling potatoes and the Olive Oil Poached Wild

dishes were cooked perfectly.

Ordering three courses can get pretty pricy, but if you want to indulge in a three-course dinner without breaking the bank, Currents offers a three-course weekly tasting menu for just \$29. This week's menu included selections such as Butter Poached Gulf Shrimp accompanied by a Sweet Corn Flan, Tasso Ham, and Crabmeat as a first course, a Breaded Organic Chicken Breast Napoleon served with Fresh Mozzarella, Ripe Tomato, Basil, and Creamed Spinach Puree as a second course, and a Banana-Peanut Torte to finish.

Deciding among the array of exquisite desserts was the biggest dilemma of the night. We finished with a Blueberry Bread Pudding, \$7, with Caramel-Whiskey Sauce and made-in-house Brown Butter Ice Cream. The bread pudding was just the right warmth so it didn't melt the ice cream right away and was melt-in-your-mouth good. We also indulged the Granny Smith Apple Tart Tatin, another \$7 item, served with Sweet Apple Caramel and made-in-house Cinnamon Ice Cream. Even if your budget doesn't allow you to splurge on a full meal at Currents, it is worth the drive to just have desert.

Chef Schrier's passion is certainly displayed through his food and makes Currents a fine addition to the Memphis restaurant scene. Whether you are looking for a romantic venue or just a fine dining experience to share with friends or family, Currents will not disappoint.



Photo courtesy of Carolina Sanchez

The architecture of Currents Fine Dining Restaurant features high windows, giving guest a breath-taking view of the Mississippi River from its Downtown Memphis location.

Salmon, \$24, served with an Autumn Root Vegetable Confit, Wilted Spinach, and a Sherry-Dijon Beurre Blanc. The portions were satisfying, very elegantly plated both

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

New Movie Releases:

4/2/10

Clash of the Titans

The Last Song

Why Did I Get Married Too?

Television Highlights (3/31-4/6):

Human Target Wednesday, 7 pm, Fox. Chance travels to an Alaskan island in search of a missing doctor and to expose the involvement of an industrial giant in a mining foreman's death.

Modern Family Wednesday, 8 pm, Fox. The release of a new product Phil wants coincides with his birthday when Cameron gets involved in a neighbor's marital problems.

Ugly Betty Wednesday, 9 pm, ABC. Betty brings Hilda on an assignment to cover London Fashion Week.

In Plain Sight Wednesday, 9 pm, USA. Mary investigates whether one of her witnesses has returned to a life of crime while Marshall searches for the person who shot Mary.

FlashForward Thursday, 7 pm, ABC. Demetri, Janis, Simon and Vogel go to Somalia for clues while Olivia stays behind to get her daughter to tell her what she saw in her flashforward.

Grey's Anatomy Thursday, 8 pm, ABC. When Alex's brother shows up at the hospital with a hernia, Alex must get Bailey's approval for pro-bono surgery as Alex deals with parts of his past being revealed to his peers.

LA Ink Thursday, 9 pm, TLC. Kat takes her art to a new level by tattooing prosthetic limbs for amputees; Paulie's tattoo client invites him to work on a music video with Snoop Dogg.

Smallville Friday, 7 pm, CW. Clark and Lois head out of town for a romantic getaway but their plans are thwarted when they run into Chloe and Oliver at a bed and breakfast inn.

NCAA Tournament Final, Monday, 8 pm, CBS. The finale two teams face off for the title.

90210, Tuesday, 7 pm, CW. Annie tries to cope with Jasper's decision as driven by jealousy, Dixon and Ivy decide to go on a fake date and Adriana and Gia make their relationship official.

Overtime rules changing in the NFL

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

By voting that overtime rules should be changed, the NFL finally addressed one of the nagging problems that has plagued the NFL rule book for decades.

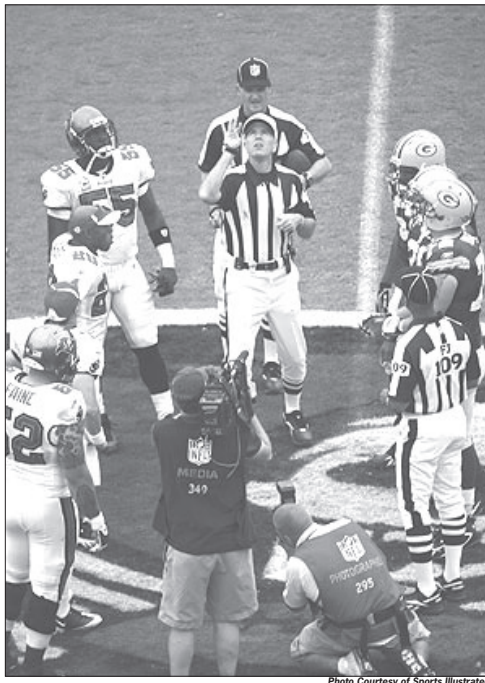
Prior to the decision to overhaul overtime, games that ended with both teams being tied at the end of regulation went into a fifteen minute, "sudden-death", extra period. On the surface, the old system does not sound terrible. Even so, others are not so easily convinced.

Some of the most prominent arguments against changing the overtime rules come from football purists who believe that modifying the game will impact it negatively. One of these arguments is that overtime is unnecessary and "real" football is decided in regulation. While most arguments along these lines come from football fans who can remember times before 1974, (when overtime was placed in the rules for good), the claim is a hard one to make. Take the 1968 Harvard-Yale game, when Yale was leading by 16 points with about a minute left in regulation. Harvard managed to score a touchdown and recover the onside kick only to score again with no time remaining. The final score ended 29-29 and technically both teams finished the season undefeated. Is this is how a "real" football game is meant to end?

Another argument against the rule change comes from those who believe that if you can't hold a team on defense you deserve to lose. However, in recent years, the NFL has made various rule changes that seem to favor an offensive minded game. The Indianapolis Colts have given 69 percent of its cap dollars towards its offense and this has shown in their record. On the flip side, the Miami Dolphins have given 66 percent of its cap dollars towards its defense. I understand that the two cannot really be

compared, but there is clear indication that while teams preach defense, they put their money in their offense. The reality of the NFL game today is that one can play good defense and still give up a field goal.

Even though the NFL has taken initiative by changing their overtime rules, they are addressing the problem the wrong way. For starters, the new rule only takes effect in overtime of playoff games. This makes the rule seem like a reaction to the aftermath of the New Orleans Saints victory of the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC Championship. However, the real problem does not lie in the playoffs, but in the regular season itself. Only Fourteen playoff games have gone into overtime in the past 16 years, and of those, the team that won the toss won the game only half the time.



NFL changes coin flip overtime rules.

Photo Courtesy of Sports Illustrated

In reality, the overtime rule change is simple—it will not change very many games at all.

Since 1974, 365 NFL games have gone into overtime. Of those games, both teams had possession 261 times. That means the NFL rule change, as it stands right now, only changes about 30 percent of overtime games. That is the percentage of games where a team has won the coin toss and scored without ever giving the ball back to the other team. Even with that percentage, the team that wins the toss has won only about 52 percent of overtime games since 1974. That statistic in itself would show that no modifications to overtime are really needed.

Not true.

The real problem with overtime rules does not stem from the coin toss, but from a 1994 ruling that moved the kickoff back five yards to the 30 yard line. Since 1994, the team that has won the toss has won the game 59.8 percent of the time. A recent analysis by Professor Richard E. Hawkins at Pennsylvania State University, found that the outcome of the coin flip was statistically significant. "The analysis finds with 99.99 % certainty that the flip has made a difference in the outcome of the game over the last 10 years," he concludes. In the period prior to this rule change, the statistics were much closer to 50-50.

As it stands now (thanks to the 28-4 vote on March 23, 2010), both teams will get to have a possession unless the team that wins the toss scores a touchdown. If both teams fail to score, or if both teams score field goals, overtime will continue in its sudden death format. While the NFL does not have the rule perfect, the new rules will help make the outcome of overtime games less dependent of the coin flip.

It looks like the NFL finally made the right call—unfortunately it was for all the wrong reasons.

Women's track wins Rhodes Invitational

By William Hunt

Lynx Track and Field was rolling on all cylinders in the Rhodes Invitational on Saturday the 27th. The Women's Team won their competition, outscoring second-place Loras College 100.5 points to 86. Some outstanding athletes and performances included: Samantha Specht, who finished 2nd place in the 200 meter dash and seventh in the Triple Jump; Taylor Stephens won the 5K; Molly Buck, who finished 3rd in the 100 meter hurdles and second in the 800 meter dash, Cybil Covic's third-place and fifth place finishes in the 1500 and 800; Kelsey Dudziak (4th in the 1500, 7th in the 800); Melissa DeFabrizio (6th in the pole vault); Emma Fesperman (7th in the steeple chase); Julia Goss (5th in the High Jump); Alison Lang and Becky Atnip (2nd and 6th in the Javelin); the 3200 meter relay team (2nd) and the 1600 meter relay (1st).

The Men finished sixth of twenty teams; only a four-and-a-half point margin prevented them from being third overall. Their key performances included: Senior Greg Cook (2nd in the Triple Jump, 4th in the 400, 1st in the Javelin throw); Andrew Maryott (2nd in the Discus, 6th in the Hammer Throw, and 5th in the Shot); Jeremy Moye (5th in the Pole Vault); Chris Hardy (5th in the 800); two 1600 meter relay teams (2nd and 4th) and the 3200 meter relay 'A' Team (5th).

The Outdoor Track and Field Season is off to a strong start as Rhodes seeks to win both SCAC titles this year.

Winners and Losers of the NCAA tournament

By Andrew Mullins Williams
Sports Editor

How is everyone's bracket doing?

While the past few weeks have been exciting and have arguably produced one of the best NCAA tournaments ever, the brackets have been less kind to the average office pool.

On day one, I managed to avoid a heart attack from Villanova only to watch in horror as Georgetown lost to Ohio. Day two provided some needed relief, but it was short lived after Villanova actually *did* combust against upstart Saint Mary's. Perhaps it was my fault for putting too much hope on a team that lost 6 out of 10 games going into the tournament, but if it was not Villanova that did me in, it would have been Kansas.

Even after the 2nd round, I could not have predicted the final four teams now headed to Indianapolis.

Here are the winners/losers of the NCAA tournament thus far:

Winners:

Obviously all Final Four teams deserve some recognition. While Duke was expected to have the easiest road, they have won all their games very convincingly. Michigan State, Butler, and West Virginia all knocked of the elites in their region to make the Final Four. For Butler this is their first ever Final Four and for Michigan State it's their eighth. For West Virginia, it is their first appearance since 1959 and outside of Butler is the team with the longest title drought of the four.

Big 10: After expecting to have limited success due to injuries, the Big 10 delivered three teams into the Sweet 16. Purdue especially deserves some credit, playing valiantly without their

star Robbie Hummel. By the end of the first two rounds, the Big 10 had gone 7-2 while having more teams alive than the Big East or Big 12.

Pac 10 and WCC: While I use the word "winner" loosely, neither conference was supposed to have a team win a game (except maybe Gonzaga), let alone make it out of the first weekend. However, Saint Mary's upset Villanova and Washington moved past Marquette and New Mexico to both get spots in the sweet 16. While both teams proved to be overmatched, their accomplishments should not go understated.

Northern Iowa: Beating a #1 is always a rare and special occasion. However, Kansas was expected to win their region easily and nearly 50 percent of ESPN brackets had them winning the whole thing. Even though their shooting went cold against Michigan State, they became the first team in

Losers:

Big East (minus West Virginia)! So much for the best conference in college basketball. The Big East stunk this year. While they did manage to go 6-6 in the first weekend, they lost all but two teams. A special shout-out to Villanova and Georgetown, well done guys...well done.

Kansas (enough said)

Mountain West Conference: Even with four teams in the tournament, they could not get it done this year. Neither BYU nor New Mexico came close to winning their second round games.

Every bracket that had Kansas or Kentucky winning it all.