Mail error costs students phone service
by Sam Cole

A misplaced bag of Lovett College resident's checks was worth thousands of dollars. The sign on the freshman hall's phone service was cut off, said Lovett Secretary Marilyn Weatherford. These students must pay $15 fee to have their service reinstated.

The mail bag was mistakenly placed in a box in the Lovett elevator lobby. There were hundreds of other items, she said. According to Weatherford, the person who delivered the mail didn't know where to leave it, she guessed.

"We shouldn't have to pay. It's not our responsibility [to watch over] where the mail goes," said Lauren Enck, whose phone service was disconnected.

"It's inconvenient. My parents are calling my friends," said student Sara Maurer, who shares a line with Lauren Enck. "I don't want to make a long distance call every time.

"We don't want to pay. It's not our responsibility [to watch] over where the mail goes," said Enck.

'-' Lauren Enck

At least two students lost airline tickets in the mail bag and had to replace them. "I had to have my ticket replaced, and I had to pay an extra $50. We also got our phone turned off," said Lovett senior Caroline Conin.

Weatherford said she called Southwestern Bell at the end of the examination period when she realized that the phone bills were not going to arrive before break. "They said there was nothing they could do unless everybody phoned individually," she said. "Those people who phoned didn't have a problem.

Mail Service Supervisor James Dibble said the campus police contacted him when Lovett residents reported some checks missing in the mail. "They didn't tell me a bag of mail was lost," he said. "I just said some checks were missing.

One student had to have a tuition check canceled. The missing check "caused a great deal of angst...since it was a very large check," said junior Michael Woodbury. "Worse yet is that it was my only one for covering the check."

The university bears some responsibility, Dibble said.

"We do not investigate the mail bag on a regular basis," he said. "I think it's a student's responsibility to take care of their mail.

"We're not the super Kmart. Either you pay or you can't have it." Dibble said the campus police conducted a thorough investigation, a rare occurrence.

"We didn't think it would be an issue before," she said. "The problem is that we are here one day and gone the next." She added that she was disappointed with the service.

"I just want to know when I will be able to call someone," she said.

"I'm sorry that someone will walk in here and be very glad we have a bathroom they can use," said senior Carolyn Brelsford.

"It's an awful of questions," said senior Sara Maurer, who shares a line with Lauren Enck. "I don't want to make a long distance call every time.

"I'm not ready to be kicked off. I just want to know when I will be able to use the phone." Maurer added that she was disappointed with the service.

"I'm just glad someone will walk in here and be very glad we have a bathroom they can use," said senior Carolyn Brelsford.
Letter, articles 'denounce' multiculturalism; society should celebrate variety, diversity

Search committee desires student input into process

To the students of Rice University,

The Rice University Presidential Search Committee has completed its organizational phase and is now beginning the active process of considering candidates for the next president of Rice University. The legal postings for this position have been made, announcements have been placed in national publications, and some prospects have already been approached.

The Committee wishes to encourage you to express any ideas, suggestions, or names of appropriate candidates that you might have. We intend to proceed in an expeditious but thorough manner, and expect a broad range of interesting candidates. Your assistance can benefit us in this process, if you have thoughts about matters we should consider, please write the Search Committee at the following address:

D. Kent Anderson, Chair
Rice University Presidential Search Committee
P.O. Box 2717
Houston, TX 77227-2717

or, as an alternative, you may contact your representative directly at the following address or phone number:

Stephen Hackney
President of College #12
403415

Our deliberations are absolutely confidential. We will endeavor to give periodic progress reports, but we must protect the names of individual candidates. We look forward to your understanding in this matter.

D. Kent Anderson, Chair
Patricia Bixel, Graduate Student Representative
Stephen Hackney, Undergraduate Student Representative

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Family values need thorough examination
by Bradley Monson

I was definitely disappointed in the performance of the faculty during their most recent exam period. At this university, we all have our rules we must obey; we students have the Honor Code, which we agree to abide by. Self-scrutiny of the students-written rules is expected, and every violation is dealt with by an (ostensibly) impartial student panel.

The faculty also has certain university regulations they must obey, which are monitored carefully through the Faculty Council. Two such rules are spelled out in the General Announcements: Under "circumstance of extreme hardship," an instructor may give an extended final exam; also, the due date for all take-home examinations is the end of the exam period.

These two rules were blatantly violated. In a number of classes last semester, for example, in my Quantum Physics course, we had an eight-hour final which was due two days before the end of exams, and in my Intermediate Mechanics course, we had a twenty-four-hour final. The twenty-four-hour exam was "designed" to take four and a half hours, though I think the thought of being buried under a mountain of computer science courses in which the students were given days to complete a final is probably similar to knowing you of all the examples of which I am not aware. Thus, the rules governing final exams period should be enforced—there is no reason for them not to be. But that is only a start. New rules should be added clarifying what professors are allowed to give during exam period. For example, is a professor allowed to give a take-home exam during exams, instead of a final? The rules in the General Announcements do not touch on this issue. In the sociology course Death and Dying, a final paper was due approximately eight days before the end of exams. Should a paper like this be acceptable as a "take-home exam?" It seems to me to be inherently more like a take-home, and thus should be due at the end of exams. But the rules are not clear on this.

I have one friend who had a major project due and a final exam in a number of her classes last semester. This seems overly burdensome; I propose that professors require a final paper or project due during exam period, they should not be allowed to give a final. I do not overly mind taking an hour and a half of my time, and I can understand that professors sometimes have legitimate reasons to make finals due before the end of the exam period. What bothers me about all this is the apparent lack of guidelines. Some students have the rules for the university in the way they are expected to be applied. As a student, I try hard to obey the rules, but some professors almost seem to ignore them. I often attempt to remind them in their noble quests for the pursuit of truth and the dissemination of knowledge. Even if they do not let their imposed rules stand in their way, they do not take into account the rules governing examinations that I have fully followed since I took my first midterm at Rice.

Brendon Monson is a senior at Rice College.

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Senior year changes views on education

by Shaila K. Dewan

You may have noticed that holidays get easier the minute you get to college. Suddenly, our parents grew up. But by the time you're a senior, Christmas gets bleak again. The hoop-ecm of sudden adulthood is over, and you realize that it wasn't your parents after all, and there's more to it than getting a bank account or finding your own church.

Holidays are especially difficult because your relatives grow up in a time when a college degree guaranteed you a job, and when everybody knew what they wanted to do. They don't know that it's taboo to question us about our future plans. More include the annual rejection-letter Pub Night. At any rate, the conversation has shifted from "get into college" to "get a job," which is actually more difficult, except you don't have to request recommendations from teachers whose ward to after graduation is retirement. The only thing we'll have to look for-wards to is the annual rejection-letter Pub Night. As soon as I graduate, I'm going to get a new house she's building. My grandparents subscribe to several of them. Both Pat Buchanan and David Duke engaged in unabashed race-baiting. There are the types of injustices that created the civil rights movement experiencing a form of reconfiguration. The acquittal of the policemen who beat Rodney King but legalized the ember's backs. Rice pride itself in standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Ivy Premier universities? Unfortunately, this is where we stand today. The Black Student Union will continue to hold a memo-rial program in honor of Dr. King. All have benefited from the messen-ger, and we cordially invite all to attend Monday's noon program in the Rice Memorial Chapel reflect-ing on that message. We, however, believe that every-thing is obligated to work toward fill-ing his dream. Only perseverance turns dreams into realities. So, in a spirit recognizing that the Dream is yet to come, I feel president Ruby and the Board of Trustees to offi-cially recognize Dr. King's contribu-tions. We can realize a Dream or a Nightmare. The choice is up to us. Shawn L. Young, President, Black Student Union

MKL holiday would address continuing racial problems

To the editors,

The Rice Memorial Chapel, Jan. 18, the rest of the nation will celebrate the birth-day of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We here at Rice will not—at least offi-cially. Yet another year will pass without Rice officially recognizing the contributions of this great Ameri-can. But hopefully by this time next year the administration and the Board of Governors will have acted on the S.A.'s resolution supporting a university holiday in honor of Dr. King.

A glimmer beyond the headlines will quickly illustrate the importance of the King and the enduring timeless-ness of his message. In the last two years President Bush wrote a page in the history books by attacking minority scholarships and by becom-ing the first president to veto a civil rights bill (one expressly pro-moting black-white integration). In the 1992 Presi-dential primaries there was not a single Willie Horton Hacker; there were several of them. Both Pat Buchanan and David Duke engaged in unabashed race-baiting. There are the types of injustices that created the civil rights movement experiencing a form of reconfiguration. The acquittal of the policemen who beat Rodney King but legalized the ember's backs. Rice pride itself in standing

Family values

by Shaila K. Dewan, a senior at Baker College, is Arts and Entertainment edi-tor for the Thresher.

Dennis Shirley Master, Will Rice College

Grandma was born. Since she loves telling stories even more than she loves Scrabble, perhaps you can ask her about it. My grandparents subscribe to about 30 periodicals, ranging from Newsweek to Modern Maturity. The Progressive to female children. The whole idea of gay and lesbian people adopting and raising children rings alarm bells in conservatives' minds, but this aversion is based on prejudice and myth, not on actual facts. Thisigger about gay and lesbian parents is that they will molest or "pervert" children. Gay and lesbian people are no more likely to molest children than are straight parents. Ninety percent of child molestation is heterosexual, so ninety per-cent of the popu-lation is fact, is the most common form of child molestation is adult men to female children. Another argument against adop-tion suggests that homosexuals will convert their children. But studies of same-sex couples have found that their children are no more likely to be gay or lesbian than the general population. This finding stands to reason, since most gay and lesbian people come from heterosexual households. Parental example is obvious not the sole determinant of sexual orienta-tion. Indeed, I would argue that same-sex couples, knowing the oppression of growing up in a straight society, would be the last people to pressure their children's sexuality. Only bigotry prevents gays and lesbians from having the opportunity to form their own families. In a society where half of all marriages end in divorce, it is not surprising that any two people willing to commit to a lifelong relationship would be encouraged and supported.

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Family values

from page 3

The whole idea of gay and lesbian people adopting and raising children rings alarm bells in conservatives’ minds, but this aversion is based on prejudice and myth, not on actual facts.

Thisigger about gay and lesbian parents is that they will molest or "pervert" children. Gay and lesbian people are no more likely to molest children than are straight parents. Ninety percent of child molestation is heterosexual, so ninety percent of the population is fact, is the most common form of child molestation is adult men to female children. Another argument against adoption suggests that homosexuals will convert their children. But studies of same-sex couples have found that their children are no more likely to be gay or lesbian than the general population. This finding stands to reason, since most gay and lesbian people come from heterosexual households. Parental example is obvious not the sole determinant of sexual orientation. Indeed, I would argue that same-sex couples, knowing the oppression of growing up in a straight society, would be the last people to pressure their children's sexuality. Only bigotry prevents gays and lesbians from having the opportunity to form their own families. In a society where half of all marriages end in divorce, it is not surprising that any two people willing to commit to a lifelong relationship would be encouraged and supported.

Studies of same-sex couples have found that their children are no more likely to be gay or lesbian than the general population. This is possible, reasonable, and even beneficial to incorporate homosexu-ality into our notion of family values. Such an addition would be good because it reduces the social structure of our soci-ety as some would have us believe. Instead it would make people aware of the gay and lesbian people all around them and allow them to deal with an issue which is not going to simply go away.

John McCoy, a junior at Brown, is the Opinion section editor of the Thresher.
LISTEN TO THIS: "Dear Guys,
Do you ever cut away from an ongoing story to comment on a breaking news event? Sincerely, M.T., Long Beach."

Sorry to interrupt folks but me just got another fascinating letter in!

Hate packing... gotta put them in my office... left it right there in my office. Damn... I don't wanna leave without it... how about this — "Nov. 24, 1987. Went to meeting, cover-up thing digged, but wasn't paying attention. Same as if not really there..."

We need to develop a plausible rationale for why we've withheld key sections from the special prosecutor... but that doesn't put phone through nothing at Jan. 7 meeting when Reagan told us he favored arms for hostages, honors?... doesn't have enough say... Must have been out taking a walk or something..."

... must have been out taking a walk or something..."

Among the many questions that Mr. Bush's Christmas cover-up provokes are these: Did the president pardon Mr. Weinberger to avoid having him testify about his own role in Iran-Contra? And why did Mr. Bush wait years to produce notes he claimed he never had? Why do entire sections appear to be missing? Were the transcripts "edited" before they were turned over? Whether or not these questions are ever fully answered, one thing is certain: the scandal will be remembered as the president who ordered up the Iran-Contra scandal... long after his military adventures have been forgotten..."
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Open 24 hours—7 days a week
Rice's Coffeehouse under went dramatic expansion this week, adding a much needed 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. service of operation, and applying for official campus catering permits.

"The changes will put the RMC at the cutting edge," said Coffeehouse Librarian Kerry Keck. "It might even be the best humble for the Grand Hall, or even Sammy's. What we've got now is the best because we can use Sammy's, the RMC slouges, the courtyard, and the RMC will be the only place on campus to get fresh-baked cookies and coffee on a free afternoon," Sanborn said.

"There will be a lot of changes with the location that we're going to have "Still a long way to go to bring the students," said Coffeehouse Entertainment Coordinator Lara Bruckmann. "It might be the best thing for the location," she said Coffeehouse.

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High textbook prices not merely result of publishers’ greed

by Terzah Ewing

Mary Brown, textbook buyer for the Rice Campus Store, heaved a sigh that was both wintry and loud. "Yeah, I know how much textbooks cost. I have kids in college. And I know it doesn’t seem fair," she said.

Brown’s mood was shared by most American college students and their parents who, year after year, shell out hundreds of thousands of dollars for textbooks. The books themselves range in content and size from dictionaries to technical manuals, from paperback editions of Jane Eyre to bulky textbooks. But the complaints they provoke are always the same—the books cost far too much.

A paperback edition of Matthew Arnold’s Culture and Anarchy costs $14.95 at the Rice Campus Store, and prices seem to increase exponentially with book size. The two-volume set by Halliday and Resnick sells for a whopping $69.60.

Despite such high prices, most students’ to-do list is to buy the required textbooks and pay without much visible outrage, confounding themselves with the idea that they can reclaim a bit of their money at buy-back time, and, in turn, help seem to be failing, resignation thus driven up. The prices may not be a pretty one, and publishers are often seen as the villains of this story. Most textbooks are not profitable," said Brown. "It’s traditional to hate the bookstore, but we always work to save the students money."

It is the economy that determines the prices.

When other costs increase, book prices increase.

—Lynn Gomes

With this goal in mind, two years ago the bookstore began offering an alternative: used books.

"We offer used books whenever we can," said Brown. "We keep prices down. We sell wherever textbooks are involved, the same way that students would have to increase their prices. If we don’t know, we may buy in the warehouse of the wholesalers, Who set up shop outside universities, writing these basic books, so that we know who will opt for your book over a competitor’s. You have to increase the price somewhat to make up for what you will inevitably lose." Added Brown, "It is the economy that determines the prices. When other costs increase, book prices increase.

The fact is that most textbooks are not profitable."

—Ken Noble

"The fact of the matter is that most textbooks are not profitable," is that most textbooks are not profitable," stated Noble. "Because you never know who will pay for your book over a competitor’s, you have to increase the price somewhat to make up for what you will inevitably lose.

"The fact of the matter is that most textbooks are not profitable," said Ken Noble, a New York media consultant. "The publisher never is, he’s going to sell my books."

Along with production and marketing costs, the publishing industry must deal with a constantly fluctuating student body of 11 million American college students, only a minuscule proportion actually buys new textbooks.

Thirty percent of all textbooks sold consist of used books. In addition, the variety of different books on the market seems to increase the chances of any single one being used.

"Competition is very tough," stated Noble. "When you’re selling used books, you have to know in advance what books they will use next semester. Our secondhand business is rendered useless—glossiness of modern textbooks, which might be the only healthy attitude to take.

Perhaps high textbook prices, like death and taxes, will become another of life’s certainties.
Students must be 24 to get independent classification
Congress redefines independent student

by Shala Phillips

Congressional clarification of an independent student this sum-
mer; making it possible for some
students to receive financial aid.
Congress passed the Higher Ed-
ucation Reauthorization Amendment in July of 1992. The amend-
ment, which became effective July 1, 1993, provides that students may be

classified as independent only if they
are 24 years old before the year
for which they are applying for financial
aid, or if they are considered to be dis
abled, wards of the court, or have depend
ents other than a spouse. Under the
law, any student who relied solely
upon personal income was consid
ered independent.
Financial aid offices will be al
lowed to implement a dependency
override, but students may receive the override only in extreme cases.
Parents will not be allowed to refuse
to provide financial information on
financial aid forms next year. With
out parental input, admission officers
may not be able to help students.
"Students will be a heap of a
creek," said Texas Tech Financial Aid Director Rosny Barnett. "This is something students will have to work with out their parents.

The federal government is telling
parents that they have to be supple
mentary the responsibility of family and
is not the sole means of paying col
lege expenses. Congress passed the
law so many students who used to work are
coming right out of high school," Barnett said.

One student, on whom the panel
recommended that students will be able
to work out with their parents.

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The University Daily, Texas Tech University, Dec. 9, 1992
Timely loans payments earn
lower rates for students
The nation's largest provider of
consumer loans recently invi
tad a plan to reduce interest pay
ments for borrowers who pay their
loans on time.
The program, called Great Re
wards, offered to reward good
repayment habits, according to Lyd
Marshall, assistant vice president of
the Student Loan Marketing Asso
ciation. "Good borrowers" saw an
increase for their student loans, ac
cepted by the company, known as
Sallie Mae, since the association
collapsed.

The savings will be passed back to
the good borrowers," Marshall
stated.

Under the program, 2 percent age
points would be shaved from the in
terest rate on a loan if payments arc
made on time for the first 48 months.
The program is limited to Stafford
loans, the most common type of stu
dent loan under the Federal Family
Education Loan Program.

Nearly 20 percent of borrowers of
Stafford loans pay on time in the first
four years. Once an eligible borrower
has paid on time for four years, the
reduced interest rate will remain
throughout the remainder of the life of the
loan, regardless of whether the
borrower becomes delinquent.
The program will be available to
students who get Stafford loans after

Source: The Texas Tech Univers
ity Daily and The Associated Press,
Dec. 2, 1992

one world, one human family

"We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations that all nations should become one in
faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection
and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened,
that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of
race be annulled... and all men as one
differentiated."

Source: Houston Chronicle, Dec. 9, 1992

*HEDGES* • *THE HEDGES*

Alumnus dies on hiking trip
A former Rice student died last
month while hiking in the Sandia
foothills of New Mexico, apparently
of hypothermia. Sandeep Jain, Baker
'90, became separated from his
hiking partners, and evidently fell from
250-foot ledge and died.
Jain's body was found Dec. 15 by
members of the New Mexico Search
and Rescue team, who had searched
for him later, he did not
com. back.

Jain, 25, was driving with friend
Shoab Sagarhahn, Baker '90, from
Austin to San Diego for a job inter
view. Goodman said. The two stopped in
Albuquerque, N.M., and Jain went hiking with Sagarhahn's par
ents the following morning.

Jain, who came to Rice in the fall
of 1986, received a bachelor's degree
in 1989 and a master's degree in 1990.
Both were in electrical engineering.
He was a member of Baker College.
Jain has a younger brother, Vivek, who also graduated from Rice last
December.

Programmers win contest
A team consisting of Will Reis
Junior Perry Cheng, Jones sopho
more and Vicki Patel, and WRC freshman
Shawn Smith won the Association for
Computing Machinery South
western Region Programming Con
test, qualifying for the national com
petition in February in Indianapolis.
Jones junior Vijay Pal, Wies jun
ior, Sagarhahn, Gupta, and Baker
Edwin Park together finished sec
ond overall in the all-undergraduate divi
tion of the second annual Computer
Programming Contest, run by Duke
University.

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Hitchhiker's fifth replaces outright lunacy with unfocused wit

BY MARC HIRSH

Every new Douglas Adams book seems to get more and more obscure, and Mostly Harmless is the fifth book in his celebrated Hitchhiker's trilogy, in which Arthur Dent of Cambridge University leaves Earth with Zaphod Beeblebrox. With more in common to his Dirk Gently books than to The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, it sticks out like a sore thumb among series of books that is supposed to update.

Adams' most famous books originated in an Austrian hospital while the author spent a drunken night capturing a copy of the Hitchhiker's Guide To Europe. The next Friday, Arthur's life in the universe as its domain, and The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy was a 1979 and a warm reception.

The book version met with even greater success, and when Adams followed up in 1980 with The Restaurant At The End Of The Universe, the New York Times public caught on. He assembled the trilogy two years later, with The Earth, The Universe, And Everything, and now it's time to let things die, unexpectedly did so again with his 1984 book, So Long, And Thanks For All The Fish, which received widespread popular and critical accolades. If you choose not to count "Young Zaphod Plays It Safe," a fairly pointless short story available as a part of The More Than Complete collection of the Hitchhiker books, most of the comedies go right through to their conclusion.

So there are more with varying degrees of success. While a film version remains in a creative limbo after last eight years, the Idol's very presence projects the hero's tell-tale signatures of jigger with Earth, Adams, the earthing hero of the trilogy who never got much of a chance to change out of the cloths he was wearing when his planet was destroyed.

Mostly Harmless is usually unrelatable without prior knowledge of previous books. It is the aforementioned Tricia McMillan. In Hitchhiker's, Tricia was an earthing who changed her name to Trillian and once she left the Earth with Zaphod. When the Earth was destroyed six months later, she ran into Arthur, the man she dated a year after the night they both

FINALLY CRUSADING

Few Good Men deserves all the honors

BY KRISTIAN LIN

A Few Good Men has been the box-office smash that everyone predicted it would be, and it's few wonder. This tall, swiftly moving courtroom drama directed by Rob Reiner had too much appeal to miss. When a Marine private at Guantanamo Naval Base accidentally dies, two other Marines are charged with his murder and three Navy lawyers are called to defense. Lt. Com. JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore) thinks the men are set up, but Lt. Sam Weinberg (Kevin Pollak) thinks they're really guilty. Lt. Dan Kaffee (Tom Cruise) doesn't know what to think until he begins to find evidence of wrongdoing by higher-ups like Lt. John Kimcked (Kiefer Sutherland).

Cruse has never had much range or depth—he seems to be all boyish bravado, and when he tries for more he comes across as silly. Fortunately, the role of a brash lawyer requires only a certain amount of charm and sartorial daring. Some have said he should have more authority to his character, but he has a great deal of authority that is more than enough. In the end, he is a great success.

As far as the high-powered actors and a script by Akira Arkon that gives them plenty of opportunity to cross swords with each other, what does Reiner have to do but stand back and admire? This is Rob Reiner's second film and it is as strong a directorial feature as it is a strong performance.

Another flaw in Mostly Harmless is that Adams seems to be having trouble abandoning the idea of his Dirk Gently books. The writing is still as clever as ever, but the jokes aren't quite as funny. The characters are still as witty as ever, but the plot is still as slow as ever. The only problem is that Adams doesn't seem to be as interested in the characters as he was in the first three books. He seems to have more interest in the universe as it is, and that is enough to recommend it.

With Zaphod. In Mostly Harmless, both Tricia and Trillian are present. Trillian has changed from the other books, but Tricia is from a different Earth, one which Zaphod had left while she went to get her fiancé. Trillian has become a successful television journalist but has always regretted that night.

Also introduced is Random Dent, Arthur's teenage daughter, who is struggling for a sense of identity because she hasn't met her father until now and because Trillian, her mother, missed Random's formative years while traveling through space and time as a broadcast journalist. Random's fears bring into contact with a ceramics, several editions of the Guide. Arthur and his friend Ford Prefect have to follow her to keep the new Guide under control.

For his part, Arthur has been searching the galaxy for a planet that will remind him of his long-gone Earth. He finally finds it, and he soon carves out his own niche as the chief sandwich-maker of his village. Meanwhile, Ford has been in conflict with his employers, the new management of the Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy.

Hitchhiker's, Restaurant, and So Long, Mostly Harmless is highly episodic, with a very loose plot structure. What, though a book, it works against this one, giving it almost no focus. When he comes to humor, Mostly Harmless most resembles So Long.

Unlike the first three books, which have humor in them, Mostly Harmless does not. Adams is really an author of a different taste and a different concept of parallel worlds is central. The idea is that there are really millions of universes, all basically alike, but certain events happen in one universe that don't happen in another. Adding to the confusion is the premise that all the different universes occupy the same space but vibrate at different frequencies or inhabit different dimensions. Although this is a vague concept, to enjoy Mostly Harmless at all, the reader will have to accept that the Earth on which Arthur lived with his girlfriend Tricia in So Long is actually a DIFFERENT Earth from on which Tricia McMillan lives, which is a different Earth from that of Arthur Dent and Trillian, who, on her own Earth, Tricia McMillan had an identity different. If the last sentence seems confusing, perhaps it would be best to skip this book for a while.

As in So Long, several familiar faces are missing. Zaphod Beeblebrox, the two-headed,rhinocerosmonetary, and even the Galaxy, is absent, as are Marvin, the terminally depressed robot, and Fenchurch, the love of Arthur's life. Fenchurch's demise is explained in the book. Marvin met his end in So Long and was very dead. Explanation of Zaphod's fate is nowhere to be found. The best Adams can do is to say that Trillian, his girlfriend, left him, and he doesn't know where she is at that.

So three characters are gone, but Adams adds more to keep up our own sense of disorientation as is the aforementioned Tricia McMillan. In Hitchhiker's, Tricia was an earthing who changed her name to Trillian and once she left the Earth with Zaphod. When the Earth was destroyed six months later, she ran into Arthur, the man she dated a year after the night they both
Work in progress

This week's Work in Progress is from Geoff Winningham's introductory photography class. Tran is a Brown senior and Shephard is a Jones senior.

Vi Tran
(top, center)

Greg Shephard
(bottom)

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Orbin Man

Next project to determine type-casting fate for Williams

By KRISTIAN LIN

Whither Robin Williams? In view of what this brilliant comedian has accomplished as an actor in the last five years, this is a pertinent question. Perhaps the role of Prince Miyuki in a movie version of Dostoevsky's "The Idiot" seems like the logical choice. Most people now recall him as the alien from the planet Ork in TV's "Mork and Mindy." Mork is a rather na"e creature who has assimilated bits and pieces of American pop culture and offers most commentary on the peculiar habits of Earthlings. Wisdom from the mouths of babes, as it were. It was a perfect role for him.

He became a full-fledged movie star in 1987 with "Good Morning, Vietnam." Since then, starring roles in "Dead Poets Society," "Awakenings," "The Fisher King," "Hook," and "Mimi" have followed in rapid succession. Notice that the roles he plays in all these movies are essentially the same as Mork. They're all relatively innocent men who have some rude encounters with the real world. At a time when our self-help gurus are telling us to get in touch with our "inner child" (whatever that means), he is an actor who, in his childlike innocence, represents our urge to be more innocent and idealistic. He doesn't seem to be of this earth. He may be in the gutter, but he is looking at the stars, or paraphrase Oscar Wilde. Perhaps this quality also presents problems for filmmakers who try to make him into a romantic figure.

There are few other actors who can get on Williams' peculiar wavelength. Even the warm and luminous Julia Roberts failed to connect with him in "Hook." One of the problems with Ork is the romance between Williams and Robin Wright's character. Wright convincingly tells us that there is anything special or remarkable about her character that would attract the notice of someone like Leslie Zvo (and it's not all her fault—her role is severely underwritten).

Williams can play romance, as some hearttired tokens with Amanda Plummer from "The Fisher King attest. They worked because Plummer is nearly as flaky and desexed as Williams. Indeed, Williams has always seemed to be curiously asexual, since he is so childlike. His manic energy is a child's energy, and his jokes about sex are only the drill of a preadolescent delighting in hearing himself saying dirty words.

What we should be concerned about is that one of the most unpredictable comedians in history is becoming a predictable actor. He has had six similar starring roles in less than six years, and it's beginning to wear out. It doesn't help that the directors of those movies (Barry Levinson, Peter Weir, Penny Marshall, Tony Gilliam, and Steven Spielberg) all have their sentimental streaks, and have all encouraged him in this direction. He has other capabilities, and a disturbing side that can be glimpsed in his supporting role in "Dead Again" (which was done by a somewhat less sentimental director, Kenneth Branagh). Williams himself has said that he would like to play a villain, and there is talk about him playing the Riddler in a third "Batman" movie. Surely if there is an actor who is smart enough to prevent himself from becoming predictable (and thus avoid the fate of Jack Lemmon), it is Robin Williams. Someone should save him from that fate, because he is eminently worth saving.
SPORTS

Moore hits final shot to put men’s basketball first in SWC
by Randy Block

On the heels of a rocky road trip but resting on a record of 7-4, 2-0 in the conference, the Rice men’s basketball team ousted Texas Christian University at Autry Court in its third Southwest Conference contest of the season.

The Owls were busy the entire holiday break, travelling as far away as Japan in a series of away games broken only twice to return home.

On Jan. 9, the Owls beat the University of Mississippi 86-79. Center Brett Scott, now coming off the bench to provide an offensive spark, led scoring for Rice with 19 points.

Two days earlier the Owls defeated Fairfield University at Autry Court. The Owls went on to defeat its 12-0 record with its only single point in overtime.

Conference play opened much as it ended last year. On Jan. 5, Rice, playing on television in Austin, defeated the University of Texas. The Owls took advantage of a foot injury suffered by Texas guard R.J. Tyler in win 92-47.

In the process they set records for free throws, hitting 42 of 55, and point guard David Holmes posted a career high 19 points.

Texas coach Tom Penders was ejected from the game because of verbal complaints regarding officiating.

The in-home opener on Jan. 2, the Owls defeated Missouri University, averaging last year’s loss to the Hawks with a 87-67 whipping.

The string of wins came after a difficult road trip in December.

Colorado State University, now 7-3 at home, handed the Owls its 77-79 loss in Greeley on Dec. 30.

A trip to Japan in mid-December to compete in the NCAA Ball came to a disappointing close. Due to a long delay in California, the Owls suffered from fatigue and fell to their two opponents in the tournament, the University of Delaware, 67-74, and Xavier University, 60-75. The losses to these two teams, which are considered even matches for Rice, could have a negative effect on the Owls’ chances of receiving an invitation to the post-season tournament.

They had fares better in the U.S. West Tournament in Seattle. They beat Murray University 86-79, and the University of Washington, 66-60. Guard Marvin Moore averaged 25 points a game and was the top performer at the tournament.

Rice basketball first in SWC

The Owls hope to average their two losses last year against TCU when they face them in Autry Court tomorrow.

MEY’S BASKETBALL

Playoff Teams

Rice-Knut
1. Viscose Vipers
Lawrence Knuts
The Fat Seven
Batt Handlers
In Your Face
Where’s the Dog?
Lithuanian National Team
Easy Creasers
Sid Vicious
Now in Spice
Cookies & Cream
Reps

Where’s #2: 96, 90 (07)
In the Calzone: 27
Cookies 49, Lithuanian 41

MEY’S SOCCER

Playoff Teams

Carnes
The Censors
The Cronics
Tiny Elves Lives
The Hair Chant Men
Bad Draw
Moments Knock You Out
Yurta
Results
Bed, 6, Tiny O
Yurta 7, The Censors 2
Moments 5, Canners 4 (07)
The Business 5, Canners 4 (07)

Intramural Announcements

The finals of the three-point contest will be held at the halftime of the men’s varsity basketball game on Sun., Jan. 16.

A sports rep meeting will be held on Sun., Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. All reps must attend.

The finals of the free throw contest will be held on Wed., Jan. 20, at the halftime of the men’s varsity basketball game.

The entrance deadline for the men’s and women’s Schick Three on Three tournament and the slam dunk contest is Fri., Jan. 22.

Forfeit fees are still available.

Call 285-5398 for information.

Women’s hoops prepares for Texas Christian

Best start in four years with help from newcomers, return of injured players

by Riva Rahl

The women’s basketball team hopes to rebound from their Wednesday night 64-74 loss against Texas A&M University as they travel to face Texas Christian University tomorrow.

“We played really hard and really intense [in the A&M game],” Kevin LaLonde said after the game. “I just slipped away at the end.”

Still, the women’s basketball team is off to its best start in four years with a preseason record of 7-2. The Owls’ only losses came during a mid-December trip to California when Rice lost to Loyola-Marymount University 85-79 and St. Mary’s University of California by a score of 85-79 in overtime.

Most recently, the Owls have won the last three games by defeating Columbia University and the U.S. Military Academy to claim first place in the Rice/Marriott Medical Center Holiday Classic and then defeating hometown Texas Southern University 77-50 last Wednesday.

Last year’s games against A&M were both thrillers, Rice winning by two points in overtime at Autry Court and A&M prevailing by one point in College Station.

This 78 percent preseason win record is third best in the conference, behind only Southern Methodist University and 168-ranked Texas Tech University. This also marks Coach Mike Dunavan’s best start in his four years of coaching at Rice.

Four of the Owls’ next five games will be on the road, beginning tomorrow night against Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and then Wednesday against Tulane University in New Orleans.

The team has seen some ups and downs and surprises since the end of last season. While center Nicki Manzo’s stress fracture in her foot has improved enough to allow her to regain her form, small forward Stephanie Muncius has not indefinitely after injuring her knee at the end of the Columbia game.

Maran has come on strong, recording double-digits in scoring and rebounds in the last two games. Coming off the bench in both games, Manzo scored 16 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in just 17 minutes in the 54-48 victory over Army, the championship game of the Rice/Marriott Medical Center Holiday Classic.

Against Texas Southern, Manzo scored a career-high 24 points, 15 rebounds, and five blocked shots in just 25 minutes, earning her conference Player of the Week honors from the Houston Post.

Forward Yolanda Sinner also garnered Player of the Week honors for the week ending Dec. 5. In two games of the first Rice/Marriott Medical Center Classic, she scored 39 points, pulled down 30 rebounds and was named MVP of the tournament.

Sinner leads the Owls in seven statistical categories, including scoring (16.0) and rebounding (10.1). Stiner’s season high came against St Mary’s when she scored 26 points.

The Owls’ large group of freshmen is also chalking up impressive performances. Jessica Garcia and Tamara McCalden rank second and third in the team on scoring.

Garcia leads the team in minutes played, steals and three-point goals. She was named to the all-tournament team in Rice’s first tournament after scoring two points to the Owl’s overtime victory over El Paso in the championship game.

Lalande has also been a contributor in the backcourt. She has started eight of Rice’s nine games and leads the team in assists.
Japanese TV: Rice basketball to 'win it all'

by Jun Ishii

In recent years, there has been much heated debate about the trade imbalance between the United States and Japan. While the flow of Toyota trucks into the United States and the lack of flow of Californian rice into Japan have been noted by government officials, media, and others involved in the trade debate, other forms of "transactions" have been ignored. During my recent trip to Japan over winter break, I recognized that there was one form of transaction between the United States and Japan that is hardly discussed here in the states. The United States exports a lot of "sports," both professional and amateur, to Japan. On the streets of Houston or any other major city in the United States it is common to see a Chicago Bulls cap or a San Francisco 49ers sweatshirt or an Atlanta Braves t-shirt. It is another matter when it is seen on the backs and heads of Japanese people who wear a Bulls cap without knowing what a Chicago Bull is, or apparently to be a lot of Japanese who follow America sports very closely. The major Japanese networks have caught on to this and regularly broadcast American sports events. Both NFL and NCAA basketball games were broadcast in Japan in December. The NFL games were just the CBS and NBC broadcasts of the respective game broadcast during prime time with two commentators voice over their American counterparts like John Madden.

The NCAA games from the tournament in which Rice participated, however, were original broadcasts by Japanese networks. The games were played in Japan as part of an NCAA promotional tournament, to which the Owls were invited. I was impressed with the commentators for the NCAA games. Unlike the commentators for the NFL games, they understood more than just the basics of the game. They were able to make constructive comments and give valuable insights to some individual players like Rice's own Marin Moore and Brent Scott. They even mentioned the Rice-Michigan game from last year and the Rice-Michigan game from just a while back. Still, after Rice easily defeated the Japanese All-star team in the NCA tournament, Japanese television, their win against the Japanese All-stars and their loss to Delaware. After the television broadcasts, Rice was probably better known to high school and college students in Japan than to their counterparts in the United States. Rice's own Marin Moore and Scott voiced over their American counterparts like John Madden.

Although there are many Japanese people who wear a Bulls cap without knowing what a Chicago Bull is, there also appears to be a lot of Japanese who follow American sports very closely. The major Japanese networks have caught on to this and regularly broadcast American sports events. Both NFL and NCAA basketball games were broadcast in Japan in December. The NFL games were just the CBS and NBC broadcasts of the respective game broadcast during prime time with two commentators voice over their American counterparts like John Madden. The NCAA games from the tournament in which Rice participated, however, were original broadcasts by Japanese networks. The games were played in Japan as part of an NCAA promotional tournament, to which the Owls were invited. I was impressed with the commentators for the NCAA games. Unlike the commentators for the NFL games, they understood more than just the basics of the game. They were able to make constructive comments and give valuable insights to some individual players like Rice's own Marin Moore and Brent Scott. They even mentioned the Rice-Michigan game from last year and the Rice-Michigan game from just a while back. Still, after Rice easily defeated the Japanese All-star team in the NCA tournament, Japanese television, their win against the Japanese All-stars and their loss to Delaware. After the television broadcasts, Rice was probably better known to high school and college students in Japan than to their counterparts in the United States. Rice's own Marin Moore and Scott voiced over their American counterparts like John Madden.

American professional and amateur sports are growing increasingly popular in Japan, so it is no wonder the United States has a growing export industry in its professional and amateur sports. It is a shame that the efforts of Michael Jordan, Jerry Rice, and Scott toward "being" the trade imbalance with Japan go mainly unrecognized in the United States.
Oilers' fourth quarter choke breaks devoted heart

by Stuart Krohn

I feel it is my duty to write some words in honor of our recently departed friends, the Houston Oilers. If anyone still remembers, after the opening loss to Pittsburgh, I wrote "Hope I am wrong," but I feel like they are going to break my heart again this year. "And, indeed, in Buffalo they used and abused my loyalty in unimaginable, unprecedented ways."

Writers and fans have called the game "the choke," but I don't think that word defines the Oilers' effort in the second half well enough. I think of a choke as a failure on one or more key plays that should be made. (cf. Al Del Greco) In this case, the whole team simply stopped playing. Fasten your seatbelts in the third quarter.

They stopped playing defense on orders of defensive coordinator Jim Eddy, who, unabashedly ordered his players to play the sort, two deep zone cover defense in the second half. Eddy apparently was not confident with the defense he had allowed his team to play, a defense which would not be in Buffalo in six points in the previous six quarters. Eddy was fired.

The offense couldn't hold the ball and run out the clock to coast through the second half, as Washington had the previous day against Minnesota. Offensive coordinator Kevin Giblode was unimpressed with the Redskins' easy win, as he called for only one running play in the second half. He hasn't been fired, although he was as ignorantly inflexible as Eddy.

Special teams coach Richard Smith did not prepare his group for Buffalo's onside kick and his orders to squib kick coupled with a terrible day by punter Greg Montgomeryoccoasionally started Buffalo at midfield. But Smith was not fired. Eddy and Montgomery were.

The deep zone coverage opens up the running game, and with the run and shoot won't score or keep a lead unless the Oilers run the ball. More importantly, this team needs patience and some competitive running back. More concentration will hopefully solve the special teams problems.

Our beloved team's record in big games that go to overtime: in the 1987 wildcard play-off game against Seattle, Moon threw what should have been called an interception to Oiler territory, but the referee missed the call. They were lucky to win the game.

In the 1989 wildcard against Pittsburgh, Lorenzo White fumbled near the goal line, giving the Steelers field goal position for the overtime win. Last year against Super Bowl champs Washington, Moon threw another interception around the Oilers' 23 yard line early in overtime, again giving the other team the immediate field goal.

I expected the Oilers to erase all those horrible memories this season, but repeated breakdowns throughout the season proved they still will mess up at the worst possible time. The second half against Buffalo was simply a seniors' thesis on a collapse, graduating those on the field at the end of the game should have sealed a 43-38 win; it forced overtime.

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The Backpage, Of Course.

The Calendar of 1993

Friday, Jan. 16
• 113 days 'til graduation!
• Brown College Rave. Live band. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Brown base-

Saturday, Jan. 17
• Men's basketball vs. TCU. 7:35 p.m. Athletic Court.
• Brown College Rave. Live band. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Brown base-

Sunday, Jan. 18
• Saveage Land Hon. 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19
• Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Ceremony at noon in the Rices Memorial Chapel.

SA Career Assessment Week starts. What's the SA careers these days?

Tuesday, Jan. 20
• Alcohol Server Training. 7-9 p.m., Geology 106.

Wednesday, Jan. 21
• Happy Birthday Luscip! Do any water-soluble art?
• Men's basketball vs. Texas Tech. 7:35 p.m. Athletic Court.

Thursday, Jan. 22
• Go directly to. Do not pass Go.

Friday, Jan. 23
• Deadline to add listings. No.
• Deadline for admissions into Career Services' summer resume con-

Saturday, Jan. 24
• Go by the new Chinese location on Richmond near the Galleria. Yumm!

I'm into magic and playing curse on you all Notes and Notices

GALOR will meet Sun., Jan. 17 at 4 p.m. in the Minus Lounge. Interested persons should contact 7039 or 630-8125.

WOMEN in NAFTA will sponsor a dinner and a talk on Wed., Jan. 20. Fame, fame, fame, fame, fame, fame, fame, fame. Talk, "Mexico and the Illuminati (Mathemati-

ically Illuminated Musical Instruments): MIMI and the Illuminati (Mathemati-

ically Illuminated Musical Instruments)." Sausage, Sounds, Numbers..." at 6 p.m. in the K.C. 427.

DYNWRETT now has 9-way coupons for sale for $1. Call Dan at 630-8929.

Housing: RICE Herrein College Group is forming a Houston Area Help College Group, con-
sidering a zone-wide student housing. Meet in the Medical Center on the third Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. in the No-

ility of Texas Health Science Center, Fifth Floor - 68, Houston (Information: call: 862-1179).

SUMMER JOB IN VENICE, ITALY: Everything you need to know about getting a job in Venice. Meet Mon., Jan. 19, 4 p.m. technical major. Tues., Jan. 19, 4 p.m. non-technical major. Wed., Jan. 20, 4 p.m. international summer jobs. Thurs., Jan. 21, 4 p.m. Offseason summer jobs.

RESUMANAS RETURNS! Have your resumes critiqued at Career Services, 3rd floor of Clock tower, 2-3 p.m., Mon., Jan. 18 and Thurs., Jan. 21, in the lobby of the RMC.

HELP WANTED
BABYSITTING: 4-year-old boy, most

 shifts at the Rice Coffeehouse during the hours of 8-9 p.m. (85.40/hr). Call 7039 or 630-8791 for more information.

CHILD CARE NEEDED, One child

2-4, for two children. Need car and valid driver's li-

ence. Call 415-0991. 

WORK STUDY: Students must want more than just sweetening positions available immediately. Call David at 527-4096. For-

merly Coolidge. In the Career Services, Career Services.

TUTORS WANTED: Students interested in wait ing or performing. Call for more information. Contact the Career Services. 

ATTENTION ROYAL ROYAL RUSHBURY: Royal Rushbursy is the new magazine for all Rice students. Contact the Career Services for subscriptions. 

NEED A job? Students interested in internships. Call Ira at 630-5811. 

FOR SALE/RENT
RICE UNIVERSITY/VILLAGE in

small 8 unit complex across from Rice. 800 per month. Call 8750.

FOR SALE/RENT
RICE AREA—1 bdr. Charming, af-


FURNISHED BEDROOM with bath for

minimum of one month. Call 422-7432.

FURNISHED APARTMENT with bath for

minimum of one month. Call 422-7432.

RE捏VIEWS

START SHAKING RIGHT NOW Classifieds

m 202 text, p. 259.

The Rice Kare Club

The Princeton Review

The Backpage, Of Course.

What's the deal? A month to be funny and no one gave me Missclass

something to be aware of. After a relaxing, food-filled, altogether

restful five weeks, to a less

winter holiday package for myself. Erica was deported from France for allegedly helping me to the delinquency of a minority! I re-

turned and was so fantastically

lucky as to find the jobs of the colleges to pack up the Missclass.

Since this is one of the few activities in which I am any mean-

ing in my life, you can all imagine the crushing pain in my ass (if you

really cared at all, don't) when I discovered that the Rice College had

contributed a grand total of few Missclass items.

One college submitted a muffin. 

Several of them are interesting. Selfish, nouveau riche people. 

I have no idea what you think I mean. Or if, for that matter, 

whether I do. But if the only way to live longer is to castrate

worm's life span.

"Sexual reproduction, however, is a painful and inefficient, since a 

sexual population wastes half its re-

productive capacity on producing 

male offspring."

—BIOS 282 text, p. 259.

From Sid:

"Some unfortunate males never even make it to the IT, and therefore never mate."

—BIO 331 film about territorial mating grounds. 

From Will Rice: 

"The melon is the eye of which the cheese of knowledge clucks/"

So there you have it, three biological anti-male quotes and one entirely in-

comprehensible sentence involving melons. Well, to be honest, there was 

also a poem using ti-o-fas as a meto-

hetty for Box. But we're almost thoughtlessly destroyed it. I go with-

out saying that I was greatly saddened.

If possible that nothing even remotely worth printing occurred during finals or over Christmas? Not a single dump out-of-context quote? Nothing funny to pirate off of a Usenet 

newsgroup? I mean, doesn't anyone have any funny stories or 

memories of last term? Not a single one? I beg you, I beg you to submit Missclass. It is too great a challenge for my feeble 

brain to fill this much space with a last-minute stream of consciousness ramble, even if it might look light-hearted, given that 

I have absolutely no shame. The procedure is simple. Write down anything that you find funny. Those should be placed in the bright happy Missclass envelopes consecutively labeled in your college. Fine choco-

late, alcohol, and write pho-

tographs should be sent di-

rectly to the Editor of the Missclass at the Thresher via campus mail. Lemon paper cut should be detached from the back of the 

freight which we actually print is deter-

mined by rolling dice, so I make no guarantees, but please please please...