English exam re-scaled; 84 more students pass

Charles Klein
Editor in Chief

The controversial English Composition Exam once again came under fire this year as Exam Administrator Linda Driskill was forced to change the exam's scale after the exams were graded.

The professor/graduate student teams originally graded the exams on the same scale as last year, but the number of freshmen who failed under last year's standards and would have been forced to take English 103 numbered 195, a substantial increase from the 62 failures on the exam in 1994.

The English Department did not have the resources to accommodate 195 students in the class, so they decided to lower the grading standards back to the mark used two years ago. That move dropped the number of failures to 111 out of 752 students, which equates to a 14.8 percent fail rate. The 1994 exam produced a 9.3 percent fail rate with 62 percent fail rate. The 1994 exam produced a 9.3 percent fail rate with 62 students failing out of 665 students taking the exam.

"The failure rate varies from between 8 to 11 percent each year with the highest I've seen at 12 percent and the lowest at 8 percent," Driskill said.

Driskill could not attribute this year's high failure rate to anything in particular.

"There wasn't any intent to make things more difficult," Driskill said. "Maybe one poem year is more difficult than another year. Quality of student writing has changed over time. There are fewer grammatical errors. The main problems are with argumentation."

The recent changes in the grading were facilitated by the change in student writing. When Driskill started administering the exam in 1988, she instituted a four-point scale in five different writing categories. In 1988, the scales were changed to five-point scales to create a midpoint for each category. This involved a total of 25 points. 25 points from each grader — where the fall cut-off was set at 24 points.

Three years ago, the graders agreed that there should be a category for "Mechanics." With the addition of the new category, the point total was raised to 30, but the fall cut-off stayed at 24. In order to return to the 50 percent fail cut-off, the standard was raised to 29 in 1994, but the high fail rate this year forced the standard back to 24.

The controversy over the grading continues a concern over a help session given to Hanszen College students by their master, Denis Huston, where sample questions were given that were considered too close to the real exam questions.

Driskill said the rumors were "unfounded."

"I prepared the exam, and it was only out of my possession for a few hours when it was at the copy place," she said.

Huston told Hanszen students about four types of essay topics that might appear on the exam: a poem, a painting, abortion and a nuclear holocaust, all of which appeared on the exam.

Huston said that he had not seen the exam before it was given. He said that he gave general advice about the types of essays that students should attempt.

Edna M. Huston
Staff Writer

The future of the Campanile has been dangling from uncertain threads for the past few months. During last spring's elections, one run for the position of Campanile editor. After 80 years of publication, the yearbook seemed in danger of extinction.

Due to some unusual restructuring and the collective efforts of students and administration, Rice students can rest assured that the Campanile legacy will continue.

Andy Burmeister, a '96 Rice graduate from Hanszen College, has been hired to be the acting 1996 Campanile editor. Burmeister was the art director of the 1994 Campanile. His current schedule leaves him with enough time to devote to the project.

Recently, interest in the Campanile seems to have swelled, as is evidenced by declining numbers of students volunteering for yearbook staff positions. Burmeister said, "All too often you get a book that's just a loose collection of disparate pieces." He wants to reverse this trend by making this 80-year anniversary issue a departure point from previous yearbooks.

"One of my goals is to really change the image of the book and to update it with current technology," he said. New ideas for presentation and format are being explored, which will hopefully spark student interest.

Director of Student Activities Sarah Nelson Crawford said that the most important part of Burmeister's job is to "put in place a system where we will automatically have people trained to step up to such positions as editor, assistant editor, photographer, etc."

Burmeister hopes to reorganize the editorial setup to ensure a more even distribution of responsibility and to come up with new ideas for raising funds. Some of the plans are: replacing the yearbook with a weekly newspaper and a paywall for digital access, incorporating T-shirts and stickers, and offering more sponsorships.

"There is an evident need for a student newspaper, and it's important for the university to pay a writer or editor to produce that," she said.

The Campanile has a tradition of honoring Rice's students, alumni, faculty, and staff, and provides a platform for student voices. Burmeister is determined to uphold this tradition and to use the Campanile as a tool to promote student engagement and expression.

Gabrielle Fransen
Staff Writer

The Rice London Program

31 Rice students traveled to London this summer as part of a pilot program organized by Career Services. This is a look at the highlights and pitfalls of a summer work-abroad program.

Chetan Kapoor and George H. Nelson
New Editors

Students who participated in the first-ever Rice-London program organized by Career Services had mixed feelings about their experiences.

Overall, students enjoyed the work-abroad opportunity, but many were dismayed by the quality of housing that they were offered, as well as the scarcity of well-paying jobs.

The program was co-organized by the Council for International Education Exchange, based in New York. The Council worked in collaboration with the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC).

The six-week program provided housing and assistance in locating jobs.

Career Services' Associate Director Cheryl Matherly said that this pilot program developed as a way to help students deal with the often overwhelming details of working abroad.

"A lot of times, all of the details you need to take care of when you get to London or wherever you're going to work abroad...everything from finding a job to finding housing to figuring out which way to find a grocery story...was intimidating," Matherly said.

However, some students were confused about the terms of the housing contract they had with Rice, which committed them to paying for 10 weeks of rent regardless of how long they stayed. A few students left the program early after not finding jobs in London.

Other students could not afford to cover their rent and other expenses from the money they earned.

"A lot of people were really in serious financial trouble," Std Richardson College junior Christo Spiers said. "Basically, you couldn't really survive earning $120 a week, a typical wage for unskilled jobs in London."

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Is it time to end an 80-year tradition?

Do you want a yearbook?

That is the most important question on the minds of the people who put together the Campanile. A major trend has swept the country at the university level—yearbooks are disappearing off the face of the earth. Tulane University is the most recent and prominent university to stop publication of its yearbook for financial and staffing reasons. Both of these problems hit very close to home. While the Campanile has dodged the financial bullet for the time being, the staffing problem still looms. The 1996 yearbook will be the 80th year for the Rice Campanile, and I’m sure as hell wasn’t going to let the yearbook die on such an anniversary, but the important question is:

Do you want a yearbook?

At the New Orleans College Media Advisers Convention last year, I sat and listened to editors from across the country gripe about the staffing problem still looms. The 1996 yearbook will be the 80th year for the Rice Campanile, and I’m sure as hell wasn’t going to let the yearbook die on such an anniversary, but the important question is:

Do you want a yearbook?

To the editor:

There has been a lot of talk in the first two issues of the Thresher regarding O-Week, and little of it has been positive. I was at Will Rice’s Peace Is Now O-Week ’95 and thought that, since I’ve skipped 8 O-Weeks, I am hereby relaying what I think.

I’d rather be referred to as someone’s freshman than as, for example, “Hey you.”

Sure, it did get a bit tiresome being referred to as someone’s freshman, mostly, especially for me since I am not a freshman but a transfer in my junior year.

I was older than some of the coordinators and many of the advisors, and at first, I was annoyed when I was approached with the “condescending, almost Victorian attitude” to which David Rhodes refers in his Sept. 1, Thresher letter.

However, after I got to know more people and to understand the positive and welcoming attitude with which the coordinators and advisors approached O-Week, the term “freshman” began to seem one of either friendliness or an friendly ask rather than one of condescension.

Besides, giving the fact that most of the people at Rice— at least the ones I’ve met — are generally friendly and accepting, do these things really matter? I am not referring to as someone’s freshman than as, for example, “Hey you.”

Regarding orientation things like the alcohol policy and the honor code, yes, many of the things they covered did seem like common sense to me, but nevertheless, it is important to make sure there are no questions in these important issues.

Most new Rice students, including those with college experience, have not encountered an alcohol policy as liberal as that at Rice and may not know exactly how to deal with it. Same goes for the Honor Code.

Despite my two years’ college experience, I cannot explain all of these present policies.

— John Crandall

Chants violated First Amendment right

To the editor:

In response to the letter from Bolivia Williams IV (Thresher, Sept. 1), if Rice University claims not to discriminate on the basis of religious background, then students who believe in free speech should be treated equally as those who, like Williams, may not consider it an inalienable human right.

However, one might expect advocates of First Amendment rights and freedoms to show the same respect for “the right of the people peaceably to assemble” by refraining from speech that would deliberately cause a breach of the peace and disrupt a public assembly.

— Emily Nighem Baker ’96

LETTER POLICY

TO SUBMIT — Letters may be sent in by email or regular mail.

Campus mail: Letter to the Editor, c/o The Rice Thresher, 6100 Main St., MS 524, Houston, TX 77005-1892

E-mail: thresher@owlnet.rice.edu

U.S. Mail: Letter to the Editor, The Rice Thresher, 6100 Main St., MS 524, Houston, TX 77005-1892

Deadline — Deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. on Monday. Letters received after the deadline are generally not considered for publication until the following week.

Rules

1. All letters must include your name, college, year and major.

2. Letters must be 200 words or less.

3. Letters must be typed and double-spaced.

4. Letters submitted via email must be signed.

5. Letters cannot be copyrighted.

6. The setting is intended to be one of acceptance, confidentiality and support.

7. Last year there was concern that the business-like and public nature of Pride news was prohibiting truly personal discussions of sensitive issues.

In response, a number of students including myself organized a peer discussion and support group. The group met weekly last semester and we, in my mind, a success. This year we are continuing the group and would like to invite those interested to attend.

The aim of this group is to provide a semi-private setting where the personal aspects of one’s sexuality can be talked about in a safer, more intellectual setting than a continued, more “social” speech that would be considered equally as those who, like Williams, may not consider it an inalienable human right.

Pride offers chance to discuss sexuality

To the editor:

This letter is intended as an open invitation to the Rice community with regard to a continuing aspect of Pride, the campus organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends.

In response, a number of students including myself organized a peer discussion and support group. The group met weekly last semester and was, in my mind, a success. This year we are continuing the group and would like to invite those interested to attend.

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**Drinking can hurt your social life**

**Myth:** In order to obtain alcohol, you must be 21 years of age with a valid Texas ID.

By now most freshmen have been to a party or two. Ego, quite a few of us have Physical Education path so aptly designed will prove to be the most important education...everything from aerobics to children's program on television? toys not associated with a television bed sheets from advertisers in any" the pushiest advertisements. We had to take an externally driven speech, which made me very uncomfortable because she floated her way to our end of the pool. As my friends and I talked, I watched the toddler's short flapping arms..indians are the most honest race. I heard her name. Her name is Sawaiko. She just came from Japan, so she doesn't understand English.
came to Rice; less destruction, and those would letters to all incoming students that Rice is not all about work and studying and grades, but that (myself included) that does not have parts of it. I've yet to meet the Rice student that Rice is supposed to be for, had a great test, automatically placing them and valuable time.. was supposed to be for, had a great part of it. Really, when I encounter a group of people that are as friendly, supportive, accepting and fun as the Rice students I met at O-Week, I am not just going to be concerned about a few little things that really don't matter, and I think the criticisms should mellow out and realize that most of the new students, the ones O-Week was supposed to be for, had a great and valuable time.

COMPETENCY
FROM PAGE 3

functions, but the results made the questions bubble over.
About 110 Rice freshmen failed the test, automatically placing them in English 103. I know of at least five of those who failed who received AP English hours from Rice, and we have not been looking for such students. In retrospect, I really had no right for the elite, those that received a test somewhat, diluting and turning two students with such an incredible score, a score that would have given the test an "average" or the letter "C." While the elite of the freshman class achieved a "satisfactory," the overwhelming majority of freshmen achieved a "lowpass." This lowers the median score anywhere to the administration that allowed the bombs to be dropped.

A-BOMBS
FROM PAGE 3

now. What did they do to deserve it? How are the Americans civilians were killed in that war? At Pearl Harbor.

"Vulnerable too."

A long debate ensued in which many students convinced me that the A-bombings had to occur in order to make Japan surrender.
Meanwhile, the contented Japanese-Americans whose lives were left whole, unaware of the relevance of our heated discussion.

Before the discussion had a chance to veer into the brilliance and simplicity of Hitler, we had argued about such issues as justifying the Holocaust with the Japanese atrocities in Asia and about the bombs' implications for a just peacetime solution compared to Japan's inhuman treatment of its prisoners.

Increasingly, I realized I had no right to criticize America the way I did, not had I experienced some of the sides must have suffered then. Nor had I the right to criticize Japan or even for little Sawada.

However, I adamantly maintain that the bombing of the A-bomb and would just as soon deny their behavior.

In many class discussions, I've had to listen without the benefit of cartoons due to being a person of color. As he stated, "Considering the indiscriminate nature of nuclear weapons and the cruelty of radiations that passes on negative effects to following generations, I believe that nuclear weapons are in clear violation of international law. No excuse exists for the nuclear tests now being defiantly planned by North Korea and China (atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Aug. 6, 1945, was dropped on Nagasaki, an even more horrible day that the second bomb was dropped."

The deaths — to appease vindictive advocates of the Atom bomb — included Koreans, ex-change students from China and other areas in Southeast Asia and, yes, even valiant U.S. prisoners of war.

Was this the justice we wanted? Two wrongs didn't make a right in this case. I readily reject any patri-otic connection to the use of the A-bomb in 1945.

On the same vein, I would like to echo the mayor of Hiroshima Takahiro Hinata's speech declaration and plea last August for the abrogation of nuclear weapons, particularly in light of the atrocities of the A-bombings and of the recent French and China nuclear tests.

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Houston area career fair

The Houston Chronicle will sponsor a Miss Classified's Employment Hotline Career Fair at the Houston Astrodome.

Approximately 100 local and national corporations will be represented, offering participants a wide variety of careers and jobs. All interviews are arranged from professional to clerical. New College of the University of Florida and the University of South Florida will attend the previous fair in June.

We are very excited about presenting this event, because those attending a career fair the Houston's leading source for employment ads should be prepared to offer information to companies.

Applicants should dress as they would for a job interview in their field of interest.

Admission is free to the public.

The Astronauta parking is $4 with a discount through the Astrodome's Space Center entrance off the 610 Loop South and Fannin.

Rice stays second best buy

Money magazine ranked Rice second for the third consecutive year in annual best buys of Rice colleges and universities.

We are very pleased to be in such good company and appreciate being ranked this way," President Malcolm Gillis said.

The financial magazine analyzed the measures of academic quality and compared this index to the total cost of tuition and fees to come up with the final value rankings.

The article praised Rice for offering an education comparable in quality to that of the Ivy League schools for a much lower price.

The magazine notes that while tuition and fees totaled approximately $12,000, almost 84 percent of Rice students receive financial aid averaging over half their total costs.

The magazine also mentioned the beauty of the campus but issued a warning about the "intolerable" weather.

The College of the University of Texas maintained its number one status for the third consecutive year. Northeast Missouri State University, Towner State and California Institute of Technology rounded out the top five spots.

University of Texas-Austin, Texas A&M University and Trinity University were ranked 13th, 22nd and 39th, respectively.

Rice will be hosting the next International Police Olympics. Both officers expect to compete.

A Rice tradition for 49 years

WE'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Motorola is Coming To Campus

CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FOR Engineering Graduates

Motorola is a world leader in paging. And Motorola's Paging Products Group continues to expand, both nationally and internationally. At our ultra-modern, high-tech manufacturing facilities located in Byron, Georgia, we're looking for engineers. We provide a challenging environment to meet the needs of engineers who are interested in advancing their careers.

As a Paging Systems Engineer, you will work closely with other engineers to develop new products...not just describe them. You will be challenged to provide the best products possible. You will work in a dynamic, state-of-the-art environment, located close to beautiful mountains and lakes.

We offer a comprehensive compensation package that includes a competitive salary, attainable family benefits, a 'growth-on-demand' management career path, and a variety of 'quality-of-life' perks. Also, we offer an excellent opportunity to engage in community outreach activities.

As a Pace University student you have the opportunity to be part of this exciting company! If you're interested in engineering, we invite you to contact us for more information.

To get an application and interview schedule, see your Placement Office.

Motorola Paging Products Group
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Piscataway, NJ 08854

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The Rice Special: Men's and Women's Haircuts $1 off.

Call 524-4708 for an appointment, or just drop in.

We offer a wide range of services including: Men's and Women's Haircuts, Shave, Gray Lining and Styling. For a complete listing of our services, visit us at 2522 Amherst.

In the Village next to Peggy's

Reynolds Barber Shop

...welcomes Lorena Blanco to our staff.

A Rice tradition for 49 years
Test

remarkable.

I've done it for 15 years at Hanover," she said. "The two controversies added to a long-standing criticism of the exam as an inappropriate judge of student writing abilities. Critics of the exam in recent years cite few praises and failures of students who score high or low on the English Advanced Placement exam in school. I wouldn't tell you that this is a perfect exam," Driskill said. "We try to have a set of questions that would allow a student a chance to demonstrate whatever type of academic writing they do best.

Driskill said that high school writing styles and standards are one of the biggest traps that students fall into. The five-paragraph structure and the personal statement are no longer a criterion.

Instead, the graders look for a "higher" organizational ability and a fluid argumentation that marks a successful Rice student. "Argumentation matters to critical thinking," Driskill said. "I would like to make student scholarship important to students so that they can choose what they want to do and do it well."

Driskill is most concerned with the seriousness of the students toward scholarship. For this reason, she would like to change the exam in the future. "I'm hoping we can move to a portfolio system. The portfolio system would minimize the need for the exam. Instead, advisers would look over a collection of papers by the student and guide them in their writing. As a precursor to a possible portfolio system, Driskill and her staff have created an Online Writing Lab (OWL) where students can show their papers to a consultant and then get help through a dialogue box. They are currently trying to train the consultants for the job and hope to have the system up by October. Writing consultants are also being made available in the colleges and are being coordinated by Graduate Student Anjie Anderson."

Even with the change in the grading standard, the number of failures forced the need for more English 103 sections. The Provost's Office provided the funds for these sections. "We always allow for unexpected needs as they arise," Provost David Austin said. "We always provide for that flexibility in our budgeting."

Auston could not provide specific numbers for the cost of opening three new sections, but he did say that the new sections are being taught by visiting professors and lecturers since it was a last minute decision. "This is an emergency solution to the crisis last spring and is not intended to be a precedent. If a Rice student steps forward with interest in editing this year, and if Burmeister finds additional employment, he will relinquish his position as editor. However, since decisions are already being made about next year's Campus and Burmeister's thesis work, the consultant would work closely on the project, and Burmeister would continue in his position as consultant and facilitator for restructuring the Campus and organization for at least the next nine months."

Burmeister said, "What I'm valuable in doing is restructuring the book, and to continue in that capacity of consultant and facilitator until things fall into place in a logical way."

"The whole idea is that we are dedicated to the fact that students want to continue to have a yearbook." — Sarah Nelson Crawford

Director of Student Activities

The main goals this year link to the past as well as the future. Among them are the goals to increase the Campus staff and to get the Campus magazine back to the way students were useful. The students working on the staff were paid, as they used to be. The organizers are also looking to set up a system where students feel comfortable coming forward to take positions in subsequent years so that last year's situation doesn't repeat itself. Crawford said that Rice students feel they can't make the time commitment to the Campus if they are not going to be paid and tend to be more interested in the "instant gratification" of being paid weekly for editing jobs at the Thresher and other organizations.

Mainly, Burmeister will be trying to respond to what the students really want. There has been a trend to respond to what the students really want. There has been a trend to respond to what the students really want. There has been a trend to respond to what the students really want. There has been a trend to respond to what the students really want. Crawford said did an "outstanding job." "It is important that students want to continue to have a yearbook. We decided early this year that this is a significant piece of history for Rice."

Details have not been finalized as of yet, but tentative plans for the 1996 Campus have already been put in motion. Iskander said that she hoped this would serve as "a call for anybody at Rice who wants to see the yearbook tradition to continue, to stop forward."

Crawford said, "In order for this to work, we have to have the participation of all Rice students." The Campus is set as an award from the Printing Industry of America in 1991. Burmeister said that the 1991 yearbook team, one of the largest in several years, worked really well together to put out a "pretty cohesive book that reflected the input and decisions of the entire team." A return to that sort of teamwork and friendship is anticipated.

Hey Owls!

Ernst & Young LLP

RICE

A GREAT COMBINATION!

Come Find Out What We’re All About!

What?
Ernst & Young LLP Reception

Where?
The Farnsworth Pavilion,
Rice Memorial Center

When?
September 14, 7:00 pm
If artists feed their creativity on storm-washed pain, then Jim Carroll has enough fodder set aside to last even the most stormy days.

I don't know why, but almost everything that I pick up to review also happens to be really disconcerting, and I'm not even prudish. Last week it was Brett Easton Ellis' The Informers. This week it's The Basketball Diaries, newly out on PolyGram Video.

oscar-nominated actor Leonardo DiCaprio (What's Eating Gilbert Grape). The Quick and the Dead's director is the New York City folkie, musician, painter and writer Jim Carroll, who, in the beginning of this movie, starts out as the star in a Catholic boys' school's basketball team.

The Basketball Diaries is a vivid biographical view based on Jim Carroll's diaristic columns, which he wrote when he was only 17. At first, the blond and handsome Jim seems like an ordinary enough high schooler: he plays basketball and plays it well, he bags himself a girlfriend, Jim, and he fights a lot with his mother (Lorraine Bracco), he chases (and gets) girls, he gets angrier with his stepfather, Bobby, (Michael Imperioli) dies of a heroin overdose, Jim, and he finds so harder and harder into drugs, being the case in 1960s America. Predictably enough, Jim's life falls apart when he tries heroin.

"When you do dope, at first you do it on Saturday nights and you feel cool, like a gaseous object on a rock. But it's so good that then you do it on Tuesdays, and then Thursdays, and then you die."

Jim Carroll writes of his life falling apart because of heroin addiction. And it's not pretty. One positive aspect about this movie is that with the help of his friend Reggie (Erich Anderson) — the only faithful figure in the movie — Jim cleans up and goes on.

Leonardo DiCaprio's portrayal of Jim Carroll is not the only talent that appears in The Basketball Diaries. Mark Wahlberg, a.k.a. Marky Mark, does a believable turn in the film as Mickey, one of Jim's cohorts. Elizabeth Hurley appears here, too, in the small but significantly significant role of a prostitute. A diagnose is that this movie may have a great soundtrack with songs like the Doob's "Riders on the Storm," and P.J. Harvey's "Down By the Water," but the well-known songs are some of the only places where any uptetness lurks in this film. As Jim ages, he becomes more of a junkie, his body becomes more and more of a junkie, his body becomes more and more. But it's so good that then you do it on Tuesdays, and then Thursdays, and then you die.

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Hilarious ‘Unzipped’ just might arouse your creativity

Isaac Mizrahi and Sandra Bernhard strike since they’re Unzipped.

TWO OUT OF THREE Ain’t Bad

New bands range in talent, sound from middling to truly dynamite

HEATHER SMITH ASS. A&E EDITOR

Amidst all the pop-alternative bands comes a fun four-piece group called Klover. Although at times they sound like Green Day, Klover does have its own distinctive sound that permeates the Green Day overtures. Lyrically they are trying to find their way in a pop-alternative world of confusion and rebellion. Reminiscent of Sid Vicious’ style, “Our Way” and “I Wanna Be” rebels against parental units and other institutions. The rest of the songs on the album deal with the normal variety of twenty-something angst fueled topics like drug addiction, vices of other sorts, society’s ailments and finding one’s own path. In a generation of lost souls (they term it “Radiation Generation”) Klover searches for their own path to happiness.

The album and cover look and sound like a punk band, but aren’t exactly. The fast rhythms and heavy yet melodic guitar prove punk influences, but the amazing harmonies come from left field.

Singer Mark Stone has captured the art of hollering so it sounds like a capitulated scream.

As far as pop bands are concerned, Dishwalla does not stand out against the crowd. In fact they sound a little too much like the aisle Angels on the first song, Pearl Jam on a couple others and U2 on yet another.

Their songs tend to blend in with other bands on the radio.

Along with other alternative bands, Dishwalla is vying for airplay on the radio, but not doing so well. When they are played, their songs tend to blend in with other bands on the radio and do not catch a listener’s attention.

Though not original, these guys are definitely not boring. Their first album, Pet Your Friends, sounds fun with simple guitar riffs that can be fun to dance to.

In the world of wussy alternative bands, Scared stiff rocks hard. They are a quartet of normal-looking guys with short, short haircuts and Converse sneakers, and they play hard enough to rival bands like Bush or Jesus Lizard. Their first album, Sparking, sounds heavy, yet very well assembled and rehearsed. The instrumentation creates a harmonious yet lead sound. Their first release, titled “Defender,” has the catchy and off repeated lyrics, “Where I’ll wait for hours and hours.” My favorite is “Not Saying Anything” because of the melodic qualities of the chorus. I would like to see Scared stiff just find out where the energy in their music comes from.

A quick update from last week: Little Sister will be playing at Party on the Plaza on Thursday, Sept. 14. Have fun seeing a great live band from Texas!

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Open ‘til 2 a.m. seven days a week!

Questions? Comments?

E-mail us at martha@ph and marred@ or just call us at 527-4901. Always open to suggestions.
Rice routes UNLV in opener

John Fredland  Staff Writer

Entering the season, Rice Head Coach Ken Hatfield wanted his team to create turnovers with a more aggressive defense, to establish a ball control offense and to utilize improved defensive depth.

Talk about sticking with the script. The Owls accomplished all three in opening the season with a 28-0 victory over Nevada-Las Vegas last Saturday at Rice Stadium.

Starting with Warrick Franklin’s interception return for a touchdowns six seconds into the game, Rice fans were treated to a defensive show. Offensively, the Owls used their spread option offense to gain 333 yards on the ground.

Because of defensive depth, Rice was able to compensate for losing star linebacker Joe Davis to a foot injury, and the Owls seemed to find enough depth to avoid a poor performance.

Now we move southwest to discuss the struggling grounds of the Rice basketball team, which finished ranked 12th in the nation last season but which has struggled recently.

In Tulane in 1993, the Owls lost 81-63. That same body of students will cover the arena behind home plate — maybe even less. It simply is not worthy of supporting one of the nation’s best 15 teams.

Finally, I’d like to see some changes that affect the facilities — not just for the athletes but also for the student body. This means better equipment in the weight rooms at Aestry Court.

While the new weight room has been impressive and a welcome sight, there could definitely be more weights, more staircases and better lighting. The Owls need to have a fine facility to be the best they can be.

With Rice heading to the WAC next year, the university jumps from a conference based solely in the state of Texas to a superconference of huge and rich programs stretching as far west as Hawaii and as far north as Wyoming.

While the Owls have always been well-regarded in academic circles nationally, it now holds a place at the top where it belongs.

However, before Rice can take its step forward, it must upgrade its facilities from the Rice Stadium, whose field has been replaced in 10 years, to the small, cramped gymnasium which many teams claim as their home.
Tony Tran vs. Hanszen 173

Daneg Bronclos at Dallas Cowboys

While I don't necessarily share the enthusiasm toward the quarterback as my opponent this week do, I don't see the Bronclos being able to stop the Cowboys defense, which walked all over the Giants last week. And though I hate Dallas, it's their better team. Ewey's getting old, Emmitt scores another four TDs, Cowboys crush 'em 35-7.

No. 25 Notre Dame at Purdue

After four weeks of spots in the polls, the Irish are back for blood against Purdue, who shocked West Virginia. Lou Holtz pulls out all the stops to win, even to the point of selling his soul to the devil. The NCAA gets word of this though, and promptly gets Notre Dame to fire Holtz. Without him Purdue crushes ND 48-10.

Southern at Rice (volleyball)

There really isn't much point for Southern to play Rice except maybe to get away from the swamps of Louisiana. Sammy rolls up 40 kills, Tiffany rejects 10 spikes, Carolyn rings up 50 assists and Darcy and Becs collect 1.5 digs apiece. Rice crushes in three 15-0, 15-1, 15-2.

Sports

Touchdown in Baton Rouge.

If you're going to the Rice vs. LSU Football Game, Crown Sterling Suites is the place to touchdown for the weekend. After the game, kick off your evening with a delicious meal at your very own Branberry's Restaurant.

$119
Per Suite Per Night
Up to 4 Adults

A big obstacle the women's team faces this year is the graduation of last year's champion Caudace. Madigan will try to overcome this by relying on its overall depth and improvement over last year.

We still have another two months until the conference meet, and we should be ready.

— Jeff Lewis on the men's title hopes

"Caudace was a very driven, motivated person," Madigan said. "Scoring-wise, it might affect us a little bit, but everyone has come into this season a lot stronger than they were last year. It's hard to say, but we're not so bad a team now. I'd say that as a group we can move up and make a good go of it.

Madigan believes that the team stands a good chance of defending its title.

"Don't normally like to talk about this because I'm superstitious, but I think that if everyone runs the way they're capable of running, we'll be fine," she said.

"We have a lot of talent and a good work ethic. The fact that it's at Baton Rouge, and that they're chasing us will make us work even harder."

— Sheila Madigan on defending the SWC title

The runners did not officially represent their schools at the meet. Fifty-three runners started the men's race, and just four of them survived the field. Ewey claimed first place by just under 30 seconds.

The very first day, the first thing that Coach Jim Howard said was that the conference meet was in eight weeks, so it's on our minds.

The first official meet of the year takes place by just under 30 seconds. However, Troy's recent breakup with Nancy leaves them with only 32-24.

Although Purdue will be powered by just under 30 seconds. However, Troy's recent breakup with Nancy leaves them with only 32-24.
Volleyball hosts three after first win

David Gordon
Sports Editor

The volleyball team opened its home schedule Tuesday night with a 15-9, 15-4, 15-12 defeat of Lamar University.

The Owls opened their season last weekend at the Florida Invitational in Gainesville, Fla.

Senior Sammy Waldron, the team's offensive leader, sat out the matches with a sore shoulder.

The team got the season started with one of the top teams in the country, number-three ranked University of Florida. Without Waldron's offensive punch, the team dropped the match 2-15, 15-10, 4-15. Sophomore Tiffany Mimics and junior quick hitter Jennifer Sloan jumped to a quick lead, taking the first game 15-8.

However, several errors, including many on the serve, allowed Lamar to pull within three points.

A time-out by Head Coach Henry Chen cooled the team down, and the Owls put Lamar away 15-9 in game one.

Unlike their previous matches, the Owls didn't slump in the second game. The team boated to a 8-4 lead and never looked back, easily winning the game 15-4.

In the third game, the Owls jumped out to a 10-6 lead, but several errors allowed Lamar to pull back into the match, 8-7.

Two kills by Sloan and several digs by junior Rebecca Case kept the match close.

Waldron and Carrethers led the team with 16 and 13 kills respectively. Waldron also had 15 digs, followed by Carrethers' 14 to lead the defensive attack.

"It was a big win," said Chen. "We had to kick our butts this week-end, but we played a well-executed match.

When asked about the service errors that allowed Lamar to get back in the match, Chen said, "We wanted to serve them hard, and that happened. This is a much better Lamar team than we faced last year."

Setter Carolyn Sarnecki said the team was glad to be back in Houston.

"We had the jitters," she said, "We weren't at 100 percent, but we had fun.

When asked about Waldron's return, Sarnecki said, "It was very nice to have Sammy back. She's an integral part of our offense."

The Owls hope to carry their momentum into three home matches this week.

On Friday the Utah State University Aggies visit Audrey Court. Last year, the Aggies finished a disappointing 2-8, finishing fifth in the Big West Conference.

On Saturday, the Southern University Jaguars will challenge Rice. Last year, Southern finished 15-18, finishing seventh in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Then, on Wednesday, Texas Southern University beats cross-town to face the Owls. The Lady Tigers finished with an 18-12 record last year, but has yet to beat Rice in six previous meetings.

All matches start at 7:30 p.m. The Southwest Conference opener will be Sept. 27 on the road against Texas A&M University at College Station.

The home-opener is a match against the University of Texas on Sept. 30.

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1995 Rice Volleyball Schedule

1 Florida Invitational Florida Gainesville, Fla.
2 Purdue University
3 Lamar Austin Audi Court
4 Utah State Audi Court
5 Southern Audi Court
6 Texas Southern Audi Court
7 Bobcat Classic Miami Self-Masons
8 Mississippi Louisana Tech
9 Texas-A&M Austin Self-Masons
10 Lamar Self-Masons
11 Southwestern Texas Arlington
12 Sam Houston State
13 Kansas State State Fair parchment
14 Creighton
15-16 Bobcat Classic
17 Mississippi Mississippia
18 Creighton Self-Masons
19 Wichita State
20 Kansas State
21 Texas A&M (SWC)
22-23 Texas A&M (SWC)
23 Texas A&M (SWC)
24-25 Long Beach Baden Blowout
26 Texas A&M (SWC)
27 College Station
28 Texas (SWC)
29 Texas (SWC)
30 Texas (SWC)

October
1 Houston (SWC)
2 Baylor (SWC)
3 Houston (SWC)
4 Houston (SWC)
5 Texas Tech (SWC)
6 Texas Tech (SWC)
7 Texas Tech (SWC)
8 Texas Tech (SWC)
9 Baylor (SWC)
10 Baylor (SWC)
11-12 Texas (SWC)
12-13 Texas (SWC)
14 Stephen F. Austin
15 Stephen F. Austin
16 Long Beach Baden Blowout
17 Long Beach Baden Blowout
18-19 Long Beach Baden Blowout
20-21 Long Beach Baden Blowout
22-23 Long Beach Baden Blowout
24-25 Long Beach Baden Blowout
26-27 Long Beach Baden Blowout
28-29 Long Beach Baden Blowout
30-31 Long Beach Baden Blowout

November
1 Houston (SWC)
2 Houston (SWC)
3 Texas Tech (SWC)
4 Texas Tech (SWC)
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The Athletic Department announced on Wednesday that Ray Davidson has been promoted to the position of men’s track and field head coach.

Davidson has been with the team for eight years, serving as an assistant coach. Prior to his start at Rice, Davidson served as the head coach of the track and cross-country programs at Wharton County Junior College.

While at Wharton, Davidson coached 50 all-America athletes. They include 16 national champions and two national record holders.

Davidson began his coaching career in the high school ranks, coaching at Humble High School and Klein High School.

Davidson is a 1982 graduate of Rice and a former letterwinner. He played two years of football and competed in four years of track and field.

He replaced another Rice graduate and former letterwinner, Steve Sturh, who resigned from the spot after a 20-year affiliation with the university in order to spend more time with his family.

'I have watched it blossom in my eight years that I’ve been here, and I hope to help it continue to bloom in the future.'

— Ray Davidson

new men’s track Head Coach

Athletic Director Bobby May said, "Coach Davidson has proven time and time again, both at Rice and in his previous coaching history, that he has the credentials and experience needed to keep our university among the nation’s elite track programs. "Ray has been a devoted assistant coach at Rice for nearly a decade, and we’re honored that he has agreed to carry on our tradition of outstanding track programs and standout all-American student-athletes!"

Davidson’s contributions to the team in the past have been instrumental in making it what it is today. He was the major recruiting and coaching force behind NCAA 400-meter hurdles champion Bryan Bronson.

Other top hurdlers under his guidance are Quinton Milner and Derras Wilmington.

Davidson also coaches Kodili Odimgbe, whose shot put at the 1995 Southwest Conference indoor track championships propelled Rice to its first track title in 14 years, as the Owls edged Baylor University by a single point. Davidson hopes to continue the program’s impressive growth.

"I was very proud to be associated with Rice as an assistant coach," he said. "I now have an even greater sense of pride to lead the program. "I have watched it blossom in my eight years that I’ve been here, and I hope to help it continue to bloom in the future."

He faces the immediate task of rebuilding a team that lost four top athletes.

Graduating are NCAA long-jump champion Kareem Streete, Thompson, SWC triple-jump champion Ivory Argue, Bronson and top hurdler Cliff Alexander.

He also must deal with the transition of Chris Jones, one of the top 400-meter runners in the country.
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**Drama**

**Events**

**Symposiums**

**Talks**

**Calendar**

**THE RICE THRESHER**

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**FOR LEASE: **Spacious, well-maintained 1 BR apartment available immediately. Includes all utilities, internet, and cable. Pets welcome. Rent: $950/month. Contact 777-5555 for more information.

**HELP WANTED: **Seeking a self-motivated, detail-oriented person to assist with daily tasks in a busy office environment. Responsibilities include data entry, filing, and customer service. Must have excellent communication and organizational skills. Experience in a similar role preferred. APPLY IMMEDIATELY!!!

**TUTORS WANTED: **Learning Squared, a private tutorial service, is seeking tutors for all levels of math, science, and foreign language. A bachelor's degree is preferred, but experience in tutoring is also considered. Minimum commitment of 10-15 hours per week. Must be available evenings and weekends. Compensation is based on experience and subject matter. APPLY IMMEDIATELY!!!

**Academic Calendar**

**Sept. 14:** **First Day of Classes**

**Sept. 15:** **Drop/Add Deadline**

**Oct. 13:** **Midterm Exams**

**Nov. 20:** **Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Dec. 15:** **Final Exams**

**Dec. 18:** **Last Day of Classes**

**Notes & Notices**

1. **Free Soft Drinks:** Enjoy complimentary soft drinks at all campus events sponsored by Rice Life.

2. **Student Discounts:** Many local restaurants offer discounts to Rice students. Check with the Rice Thrasher for a list of participating establishments.

3. **Student Safety Tips:** Remember to lock your doors and windows, and always be aware of your surroundings. Use the Rice Dialer for assistance in an emergency.

4. **Rice Life:** Stay connected by following Rice Life on social media for updates on events, campus news, and more.

**Contact Us:** For more information or to inquire about an event, please contact the Rice Life Office at 777-3456 or visit our website at www.rice.edu/life.

**Rice Life Office:** 123 Main Building, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251. Tel: 777-3456, Fax: 777-3457. Email: rice-life@rice.edu
Gillis unveils sinister new plan for Rice Stadium

One of the BPEs was able to evade Gillis' anger. Gillis quickly forgave and appointed fired Backpage Editor Packet Saunders to a new university post. Student Director of Monkey Affairs. Responsibilities include reorganizing the defunct O-Week to be "Monkey Week," appointing fired Backpage Editor Packy Saunders to a new university post, Student Director of Monkey Affairs. Responsibilities include reorganizing the defunct O-Week to be "Monkey Week," and finding housing for monkeys transferring from other universities. "Monkey Week will be a success," Saunders said. "It's going to make you laugh by drawing attention and beer — not share it with a bunch of primates."

Space aliens have once again visited earth. Along with history professor Matt Taylor, the alien visited the Houston Oilers' Stage for a gala event honoring the legendary Houston Oilers. George H. Eatzon News Editor


"We're planning on buying 400 red monkeys with moneys from the general fund. Rice Stadium will now be used exclusively for training the monkeys. We'll convert the turf into a military-style training grounds. Ooh, it'll be crazy. The 'R' Room and stadium seating will be converted into dormitories for the monkeys. Also in the plans is a post office, cafeteria, hospital, and new shuttle stop. Rice Stadium will be come a self-contained monkey village."

Immediately after the public announcement, Student Association President Maryana Zekariah spoke on behalf of student concerns regarding the addition. "Although I am usually quite quick to kiss his [Gillis'] ass, this time it is different. There are where the monkeys-will go to jail? Do they get to vote? Are they part of the '84 Plaza, people. Let's talk about the real issues. Period." Todd Zekariah then rambled on about monkeys not being very clean; that they would occupy her personal space in the hedges, and that no blanket-tax funds should be used. "Me llawa once said, 'If owls can't get money for bluenosers, neither should the monkeys.'"

Another concern has been the safety of the monkeys. "The Police will train the monkeys-warriors to go. Do they get to vote? Are they part of the '84 Plaza, people. Let's talk about the real issues. Period." Todd Zekariah then rambled on about monkeys not being very clean; that they would occupy her personal space in the hedges, and that no blanket-tax funds should be used. "Me llawa once said, 'If owls can't get money for bluenosers, neither should the monkeys.'"

Where asked what the ultimate plan for the monkeys was, Gillis responded, "Don't worry about that. Be scared children."

Monkees to play N.O.D.

"The Monkees' clean image will be used exclusively for training the monkeys. We've converted the turf into a military-style training grounds. Ooh, it'll be crazy. The 'R' Room and stadium seating will be converted into dormitories for the monkeys. Also in the plans is a post office, cafeteria, hospital, and new shuttle stop. Rice Stadium will be come a self-contained monkey village."

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