Truck tears branch from tree

One of Rice's live oak trees lost a limb Thursday when it was hit by a delivery truck traveling along the inner Loop.

At 11:45 a.m., an Overnight Transportation Company truck tore a large branch from a 100-year-old oak tree which is on Rice's campus and adjacent to the School of Engineering.

The driver misjudges clearance; $10,000-15,000 in estimated damage

Byron Chen

Jack Spann is an underdog who wants to be Rice's waterfront pumper. In fact, he is. But he's still a student living in the student housing.

He has been in charge of the university's Waterfront since last fall. He has been in charge of the university's Waterfront since last fall.

The campus police emphasize that the new policy was instituted to give the campus police the power to issue and use traffic tickets to students.

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The campus police emphasize that the new policy was initiated only with the best interests of the students and employees of Rice in mind. Since revenues collected from moving violations have not been paid directly to the city of Houston, neither Rice University nor its police department stand to benefit financially from issuing HPD tickets.

"Folks come onto campus to cut through our property and we don't want to raise money, but to change [potentially dangerous traffic] habits and get people to feel comfortable about walking the streets," said Rice Police Officer Tom Bickers.

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EDITORIAL

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OPINION

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1997

The Rice Thresher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

This O-Week went much as any other. However, over it all is a dark pall that the freshmen are likely only dimly aware of the cancellation of O-Week.

Jacks have historically been one of the finer pleasures of college student everyday life. The experience is only heightened by Rice's college system: Jacks give upperclassmen an opportunity to express their sense of humor and creativity off-campus while also helping define our college's unique identity and sense of community. Staffing these Jacks are "too competitive ... to add to the true student experience." Absent is this very competition that helps mold in the new student his own college's character.

When I heard that Jacks had been cancelled, I was astonished. I was suspicious that the administration had acted yet again in its high-handed manner to further curtail the "wonderful immorality of the student body." When I later heard that the college O-Week coordinators had made the decision "with the full knowledge of a friend who is coordinating," her rather unsurprising conclusion was that yes, the coordinators had made the decision for themselves. It wasn't until reading the O-Week article that I understood the reason for her recalcitrance. She was merely abiding by the collective decision to not discuss the issue. However, the article also indicates that the decision was far from unanimous. Since the coordinators had chosen to have Jacks, and they were all approved by Camacho, it does not take much thought to realize that the decision was far from the administration.

And, since the vice president approved the Jacks, it is also rather absurd that there at work here is the prudence of Gills himself.

Gills justifies his wealth by stating that people were outraged, felt shame and incredulity and that none found it remotely amusing. However, the photos in the Thresher mocking Gills's words. It shows a naked male running through the proceedings. And it shows faculty, who do not have the appearance of unamused, outraged individuals.

This is not to say that there were no members of the audience who found them themselves. As members and students have differing views on moral issues. Baker 13 is not for everyone, much as not everyone drinks, or, for that matter, enjoys Jacking. However, college confronts students with many different, new lifestyles and forces them to challenge their own beliefs.

I'm not going to say that the majority was necessary. But, regardless, Gills's anger in this matter and his role whatever it was, in the cancellation of Jacks is unjustified. His position should not be that of censor, but to foster the free thought and speech that is so vital to a liberal education.

The big losers in all this are the freshmen, for the most difficult things is to convince someone that they should have something they have never had. This makes O-Week an ideal place to begin to cultivate students' freedoms. I exhort new students to make sure that they should have something they have never had. This makes O-Week an ideal place to begin to cultivate students' freedoms. I exhort new students to make sure that the tradition of jacking and they were all approved by Camacho, it does not take much thought to realize that the decision was far from unanimous.

The new students arrived two weeks ago and moved in, and the upperclassmen moved in this past weekend. We've barely been here a few weeks, and already the problems with the rooms have started to occur. Will Rice College alone, I've heard many complaints about the rooms not being ready to move into. We've heard complaints about extensive water damage on ceilings to torn up carpet, missing furniture, and no windows blinds or the windows. Some of the windows that do have blinds have broken ones. The room alone has a huge list with over 15 things wrong in our room. It's almost like an insert in Highlights magazine: "Find the fifteen things wrong with this picture."

I'm glad to be back on campus, but I wish that Food and Housing would make sure rooms are ready to move into when students return.

We get charged for damages at the end of the year, and yet those same damages aren't corrected when school begins. I know of one particular student at Will Rice that mentioned their missing fire extinguisher at the beginning of last year. When they moved out, it hadn't been replaced, and they were charged for it.

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To the editor:

Greetings from Aggieland!

College athletics is an outstanding sport, and in my opinion, baseball is the best. I love this game, and it is one of my favorite sports to watch. However, I am an Aggie baseball fan, and I have always had a special soft spot for Rice and its athletic program, mostly because of your spirited student body, which has supported your athletic program through half times and loud cheers. Your success on the baseball diamond in recent years is a credit to your base cover program and the players. They should all be commended.

As an Aggie baseball fan, I know there will be a tough region's tournament and a big tournament with high expectations and then going on to barbe- cue, as they say. Your team emerged on top from a tough region's tournament and was one of the Elite Eight in Omaha. That is all an honor for Rice baseball, and I was in the final analysis of your season.

I look forward to following the Owls, albeit a distance, to Seattle. As we say here in Aggieland, there's always next year, Aggieland.

With highest regards,

Jim Hines
Texas A&M '85

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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3. In person: Student Affairs, Zenaido Camacho's office

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RULES

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2. Letters over 500 words (a good guideline) have a better chance of being published than long ones.

3. Letters received via campus of U.S. mail must be signed. If you are not sure whether the institutional position on that subject letters submit a letter to a Macintosh or IBM formatted disk.

4. All letters, except for handwritten, must be typed and must be formatted with a soft spot for Rice and its athletic program, mostly because of your spirited student body, which has supported your athletic program through half times and loud cheers. Your success on the baseball diamond in recent years is a credit to your base cover program and the players. They should all be commended.

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Surgery and diet dangers continue to grow for the appearance conscious

Diet pills sound tempting. The idea is great—you pop in a little pill and are not hungry anymore. They seem like ultimate diet regulators with no consequences. Especially when you think that the pills are advertised in the Thresher office surrounded by pizza and Tacos. And not only does the concept have real appeal, it is sponsored by "surgery." Like most ideas that sound too good to be true, this one has continually progressed, all to the detriment of our health at best. Some of the pills work basically by reducing the "food" you've eaten so you become hungry and can't eat or relax normally. Some have side effects severe enough to cause painful muscle cramps and bladder infections. Others simply do not work (trust me: I tried one brand five years ago). The pill I took had a headache, nausea, and a severe flaw. It can cause heart valve damage and at least three people I know have died from this pill. As long as the demand for such inventions and procedures exists, the possibilities will continue to increase.

I would be the last person to say that I do not worry about my weight or my appearance. I do try to keep to a reasonable level, and it certainly influences what I eat and what sort of salad dressings I use. I have, however, learned a few things in the past two years which have helped me make the reality of the scale mirror a little more realistic and less frightening.

A key to remember is that I view other people. My friends are not my benchmark of how I feel or look. The people I respect are the same in all sizes and shapes. Focusing on these factors makes it easier to say that anyone else has the same problems I have and not worth the time and effort of dieting to improve.

Another key to appearance concerns is to remember that healthy, looking and healthy—longer and has a greater impact than a figure that looks perfect body. Just think about the number of people who die each year from starving themselves,overeating on diet pills or living with complications from surgery. In the end, they have accomplished nothing but shortening their lives. I'd rather be alive without the side effects. Admittedly, both would be good to have, but neither that ideal option is not always available for surgery.

I was both amazed and appalled by this summer by the number of people I had never heard of on one pill or another. At times, I feel like I need just to shake them and make it so they could possibly be so smart to live an extra few pounds. A physical impossibility should not be important enough to sacrifice your health.

I am going to write in detail about other surgeries, should be restricted for those who have a medical need. People who want to fit into this specialty outfit for a big date should either find the willpower to exercise more and eat a better diet. Or, I'm afraid that I have a life that it is too far from the end of the pill, on the other hand, could be just for anyone desperate enough to take them. A life in a hospital bed is not the life I want.

There is more out there than diet foods and health machines. It is time that more of us discovered that image is not the only thing we have. This is the reality. Kathleen Carver is a management editor and a former copy editor and a Rice College senior.
Department administrator dies in car accident; Frank DeSmyter, the department administrator of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, died in a car accident around midnight on Aug. 22.

DeSmyter worked for Schlumberger, a petroleum service company, before he joined the Rice staff in 1987. He handled the business affairs for the department, including bookkeeping, grants and financial budgets.

Department Chair Bob Jump remembered DeSmyter for his thoroughness and dedication to his job. "There are things he got done, and I'm just now figuring out that he did them," Jump said.

Services were held at the Callaway-Alle Funeral Home in Crockett, Texas last week.

Fondren Library now open 24 hours for private use

The library began a new 24-hour schedule Sept. 2. Since then, Rice ID card holders and Fondren patrons can enter any time from Sunday through Thursday.

"I think it's a great idea, because the students of Rice will benefit tremendously from the availability of the resources at Fondren Library," said sophomore Justin Fubs said.

Access will be denied to others between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

For information about specific departmental hours, call the Fondren Library reference desk at 865-1189 or go to the following Website: http://lib.rice.edu/fondren/fondren.html

Texas Commerce places new ATM in Fondren lobby

Texas Commerce Bank recently installed a 24-hour automatic teller machine in Fondren Library. Students can make deposits, withdrawals and deposits of $27 minimum at the new ATM machine.

"For people who hold a Texas Commerce Bank account, the new ATM does not charge extra for transactions while Texas Commerce charges its account holders a fee for using the ATM in the Student Center."

That ATM does not charge any fee, while the new ATM falls under Texas Commerce customers $1 per transaction.

"I think an ATM machine in the library is a good idea, because it would be useful if you had to make a lot of copies and needed money," said sophomore Sarah Dale said.

The new machine is located in the elevator lobby to the left of the library entrance.

Get the new ID cards in exchange for an old one

Students can exchange old IDs and keycards for a new Rice ID at the Campus Police station at no charge if they return the old ID. Call the Campus Police at (713) 527-6000 for more information.

Air force game may cause parking problems

The Rice-Navy Air Force football game begins at 7 p.m. Saturday and features a number of pre-game activities such as tailgate parties and other scheduled events.

"The game is expected to draw around 50,000 fans. The Athletic Department encourages ticket holders to park at the Astrodome and take a bus to the game."

The Athletic Department also predicts that traffic will be extremely heavy starting at 3:30 North Parking Lot (Lot E) will be closed early in the day so that it can be used exclusively for event parking.

"The Campus Police recommend that people who make trips to campus in advance of the game and plan to return before the congestion begins."

Anyone with special needs should contact the Campus Police at 527-6000.

Tickets

PROM PAGE 1

Violators who do not belong to the Rice community will be denied access to the library.

If you have a Rice [parking] sticker, traffic laws are going to be enforced like they've always been. You get a Rice ticket. Hutchinson said. Cars not registered with the Campus Police will be issued HPS tickets if the driver violates Houston traffic laws.

"The new law is still in its infancy," Campus Police Chief Mary Bickers said. "The new law is still in its infancy."

Computing

PROM PAGE 1

With their computing problems. Each college has two associates.

Consulting Specialist Rick Russell told The Thresher last week that the network was disabled during O-Week so that maintenance on the computers would be done.

"With the many same-name connections, the network was down. The network was shut down due to the connections," Russell said.

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Assistant Leslie Holmes and two other Fondren staff were on duty. The new hours came at the request of returning students, and those hours required the university to hire three more full-time staff, run the shuttle bus throughout the nights, and pay more to keep the library's lights on all night, Holmes said. She expects that students will act to save extra hours once the semester moves into full swing.

Now open 24 hours

The entrance to Fondren Library looks completely deserted at 5 a.m. on Thursday morning, the second night that Fondren's new hours were in effect. Students could be found reading the library at that hour, but Circulation Associate Leslie Holmes and two other Fondren staff were on duty. The new hours came at the request of returning students, and those hours required the university to hire three more full-time staff, run the shuttle bus throughout the nights, and pay more to keep the library's lights on all night, Holmes said. She expects that students will act to save extra hours once the semester moves into full swing.

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Rice's own boys in blue, the Owls' football team, will play on a brighter green field this year. Rice Stadium has been resurfaced with new artificial turf for the first time in 11 years.

Last December, the Building and Grounds Committee, a subcommittee of the Rice Board of Governors, made the decision to resurface the football field.

"It's newness causes turf burns, player says. Last time, the Owls' boys in blue, the Owls' football team, will play on a brighter green field this year. Rice Stadium has been resurfaced with new artificial turf for the first time in 11 years."

According to Assistant Director of Athletics Steven Moniaci, "The life of any artificial surface is 8-10 years. We've had this last one for 11 years," over two years past its warranty.

The stadium resurfacing, which began in June, was completed in mid-July. The new turf brings with it other improvements under the field's surface. "The asphalt has been totally filled in, we completely patched it and made it much smoother, the drains were cleaned and the new pad [under the turf] is better and makes it a little firmer," Facilities and Engineering Staff Architect Bill Tomlinson said.

The whole project cost somewhere in the neighborhood of $700,000, according to Tomlinson. Moniaci said that the old turf was replaced because "it was old. It was a turf that was guaranteed for 8 years, but we had it for about 12 years. The seams were fraying and as the turf becomes older, it gets slicker."

One thing the new turf will not do, however, is change playing conditions.

Drew Cooper, a sophomore wide receiver with four years of playing eligibility left, agreed that the turf's main effect is aesthetic rather than practical.

"There's not too much of a difference, the look is what really changed. We've had a lot of problems with turf burns [because the turf is new] but other than that it's really the looks that changed," he said.

The new kind of Astroturf installed in the stadium, is one of the newest products in the stadium surface marketplace, Moniaci said. "The Jets and Giants Stadium in New York uses the surface, as does West Virginia; Rice University's stadium is the first west of the Mississippi to have this particular type of turf."

Rice Pre-Medical Society Presents an MCAT Preparation Course at Rice University

Beginning in September! $50 discount for Rice Pre-Medical Society Members

Contact Maria Arenas — President for more information: love@rice.edu

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Cosmonauts blamed for Mir space docking accident

The Russian space agency officially faulted cosmonauts Vasily Tsibl'yev and Alexander Lazutkin for a June 25 accident on the Mir space station in an announcement they made Sept. 1.

Mishan Control sources believe that while former Mir commander Tsibl'yev was running a manual docking maneuver, he failed to consider more than a ton of garbage loaded onto the cargo drone. The cargo, a module of fuel, oxygen and hydrazine, the supply capsule collided with the hull of the spacecraft and sent it moving towards the docking port too quickly.

The incident punctured and depressurized the Spektr module, disabling almost 30 percent of the station's power generating capacity. It also triggered the Russian space program's biggest payout in dollars.

Russian Space Agency officials implied that the two cosmonauts would be fired. Portfolios of this sort have preceded punishment of government workers.

Tsibl'yev and Lazutkin believe that they are being targeted as scapegoats "for a deteriorating manned space program that reflects this country's general decline."

Source: Houston Chronicle, Sept. 3.

Persian government orders journalist to leave

Giancarlo Garelli, a journalist for Panama's leading newspaper, is now living under the threat of forceful expulsion for reporting deemed controversial by public officials.

The 18-year-old reporter is a critic of the Panamanian government, which has been censoring the press over the last 25 years to pay legal suits to state sponsored newspapers. The government has also suspended and all pledge holders in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, a group that ranked 19th in the nation's 10th biggest party schools.

Campus Life: University is used to receiving unannounced inspections. It has a history of receiving 45 percent of its annual salaries at the university, located 56 miles north of Grand Rapids, will continue during the strike, Avritt said.

On Monday, striking faculty set up picket lines in front of several academic buildings but caused minimal disruption, Avritt said.

The two sides are divided over salary and retirement benefits, as well as hiring and promotions issues.

The strike comes after the Princeton Review published a guide that ranked the university in the nation's top 10th biggest party schools.


Tobacco settlement could eager in Congress

Congressional leaders have no immediate plans to act on the proposed tobacco settlement of last June, a delay that may mean the tobacco industry and progressive lobbyists are still in talks, which is, in turn, will impede any progress toward congressional action.

The tobacco agreement, initially announced in June by state legislators, cigarette companies, and a slew of lawyers, must get congressional and presidential approval before they can take effect.

Clinton will announce support for the pact, but he must likely also address the government's regulatory powers and increase the price of cigarettes under the congression action could require months of debate and could well certainly change the plan.

"This is a very unusual process where a few attorneys general and litigators, representing companies, sit down here with big proposals and dump it on our laps, saying, 'Here is what we want to do, now pass it,'" Sen. Don Nickles of Okla., the assistant majority leader said.

The initial deal, reached in June with the state legislators, calls for the tobacco companies $15 billion over the next 25 years to pay legal and medical claims to states with the lowest per capita income and the most severe public health problems.

The deal also calls for the industry to fund anti-smoking campaigns and pay $1.5 billion for direct and marketing.

In exchange, the tobacco companies would be protected from any additional lawsuits.

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Get Connected.
Baker freshmen go to HELL and back
O-Week coordinators change theme to 'Hell-O-Week' over summer

Amongst pitchforks, devil horns and red capes, Baker College welcomes its freshmen to both Rice and to hell. In the Baker tradition of all things gratuitous and evil, this year's 'Hell-O-Week' incorporated Baker's 90-year-old hellish theme into new Baker students' first experience of their college.

According to an article in the Baker Orientation Book sent out to freshmen, Baker has had the tongue-in-cheek link to hell since 1907. Despite historical evidence to the contrary, the legend goes, a Baker student bought an oil, partially destroyed car to drive in the River Bike parade of 1907 — the car was painted black with red racing stripes on the side. Students from Jones College, Baker's rival, joined in the night, throwing orange and purple paint on it. To salvage the car, Baker students turned the orange paint into flames, and thus was born the car from hell. The Baker River Bike theme from that year was 'Hell on Wheels,' the first hell related theme linked to Baker. Another theory claims that Baker's association with hell began when a student from another college yelled, "you guys are from hell!" after an impression Baker jack.

Revealing their informal association with hell, Baker students chant, 'we're from hell... we're from Baker' and invent hell-related themes for college activities, such as last year's River Bike theme, 'Route 666... Highway to Hell.'

In the beginning
The recurring hell theme met with some resistance last spring when the original 1997 Baker O-Week theme, 'Sell Your Soul Week,' was changed to 'Hell-O-Week.' Baker advisor and sophomore Jenny Lai said recently, "I felt that some of the students coming in would be bothered by the theme. It is something that is offensive and is just for Christians, but for many people.

Lai, Baker senior Paul Jung, sophomore Ekkenh Ehnen and Loyett College junior Eric Wheeler brought their concerns about the 'Sell Your Soul Week' theme to the Baker O-Week coordinators in a dinner meeting last spring. Their biggest concern was that 'Sell Your Soul Week' was aimed at new students. "You have no choice which college you are assigned and what your O-Week theme is," Lai said. 'The hell thing at Baker is not something that the coordinators came up with — it is tradition — but I think that Sell Your Soul Week just took it too far.'

The Baker coordinators decided to keep the original theme at the end of last year because, as coordinator and Baker senior Bill Van Vooren said, they wanted to concentrate on 'continuing the Baker hell tradition.' The coordinators planned to send letters to freshmen and other students during the summer to explain the history and reason behind the O-Week theme.

Baker Master Arthur Few said that his only concerns about the theme had involved how the coordinators would deal with questions from parents, but the masters resolved to stand behind the coordinators final decision and deal with any consequences.

Seeing red
Since the O-Week began, the coordinators reconsidered and opted for the less suggestive, 'Hell O-Week.' Baker coordinator and senior Crist Torres said the Baker freshmen and their revealing roommates impacted significantly upon the change in themes. Many of the incoming freshmen practiced religion on their applications and the coordinators decided that it would be in the best interest of the freshmen to tone down the O-Week theme by changing the title to something less offensive.

Many of the Baker advisors agreed with the change in theme names. "I was glad that the change was made," Baker advisor and sophomore Colby McLaurin said. "Seeing the freshman class that we had, I thought that [Sell Your Soul Week] wasn't a very appropriate theme. From the roommate questionnaires, we saw that we had a lot of Christian and conservative-minded freshmen. Some parents would definitely have been offended," Advisor and Baker senior Megan Strait put it plainly; "the freshman class looked pretty conservative on paper.

Even with the new theme, the coordinators retained much of their original O-Week plans. The group name ideas — such as Uncle In- ferno, Hell's Angels and Diablos — survived the title change. Flames decorated the Baker Commons, and the car from hell survived as a Baker symbol for freshmen to admire.

The change in theme names pleased Lai. "I was happy with the change, although I didn't have a sense of 'I won.' However, it was a nice surprise," she said.

After the alarm
According to several college members, tradition was the strongest factor involved in sticking with a hell-themed O-Week. Baker Resident Associate Ingrid Haskell pointed out that the 'Hell-O-Week' theme had previously been used in 1991 and said that she understood the theme as 'to be a tradition that was not meant to be offensive.'

"The O-Week itself was not about hell, it was about Baker history," Baker advisor and junior Matt Simon said. "Strait thought that changing the theme to a more direct reference to hell focused it more on Baker tradition than Sell Your Soul Week." Strait said. "It's the real Baker." Few said of the O-Week theme.

Van Vooren said that the coordinators did not opt to abandon the hell motif when the theme name was changed, because he felt that one of the important aspects of O-Week for Baker freshmen was the emphasis on their college's traditions and past.

"As upperclassmen, the advisors have been around the hell theme at Baker for awhile, and we realize that it is still in good fun," McLaurin added. "But I could understand how some freshmen could be offended," he said.

McLaurin said that the advisors would have been sensitive to freshmen concerns over the Baker hell tradition, had they arisen, but none did. The only responses Baker received were in the form of a couple of letters to the Few's from university staff and one alumna in regards to the original theme.

Laid to rest
The majority of Baker freshmen, despite the controversy, said that their O-Week experience was fun. Many agreed with Lai that 'Sell Your Soul Week' would have been inappropriate.

"Hell-O-Week was definitely better than the original theme. Sell Your Soul could have been taken the wrong way by some people, even though I would have been fine with it," Baker freshman Nate Van deZelf said.

Freshman Whitney Smith said, "I think that the original theme would have been a little risky. I know a lot of freshmen wouldn't be OK with it." Even with the change in themes, 'Hell-O-Week' still irked some new students. "At first, I was a little offended by our theme," freshman Sarah Rodgersen said, "but then I kind of got used to the whole hell culture, and it was fine.

Rodgersen adds that "it was kind of weird telling my friends at home that I was going to hell."

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Welcome back, Graduating Seniors!

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McKinsey & Company, Inc., is an international strategic management consulting firm with 67 offices in 35 countries around the world. We serve mostly Fortune and International 500 company executives on issues of strategic importance. Our mission is twofold: to help clients make substantial and lasting impact in their performance, and to build a firm that is able to attract, develop, excite, and retain exceptional people.
This weekend, Sid Richardson College will unveil a state-of-the-art movie theater in its commons, the culmination of two years of planning and several intense weeks of construction. The theater will be used to show weekly films, occasional theme night movie marathons and blockbuster TV programming, like the Super Bowl or the World Series. The project is the brainchild of Sid junior Kyle Cranner, who suggested the idea and has overseen the theater’s construction along with Sid junior Doug Ramsey. A Cranner’s supervision came from a similar project that he ran at his high school at Arkansas. “Some kids and I used our own equipment to show movies on the week end,” Cranner stated. “I ran it at his high school at Arkansas. “Some kids and I used our own equipment to show movies on the weekends,” Cranner stated. “It was tough to assemble and disassemble the equipment every week. When I came to Rice and saw the movies available to each of the colleges, I thought it would be great to make a really nice theater.”

After the Sid Executive Council accepted his proposal to build a permanent theater for the college, Cranner began planning the specifications for the theater.

His first concern was for quality of the equipment and image. “I’ve been a movie buff for a while. For people who really enjoy the sound in movies, many movie theaters are a disaster. They charge four to seven dollars for a movie, and many times the theater is either in monotone or sometimes they are bleeding from the screen. The theater will be about as good as it gets. I’m going to digital, with a 12-foot screen,” he said.

Now that the construction is almost complete, Cranner and the Sid Council are setting out questions of interest and use of the theater. The plan is to have the theater serve primarily as a source for cheap and free weekend entertainment for those who don’t want to venture beyond thehedges.

According to Cranner, “The staple of the theater will probably be big sound, big action. Blockbusters that need to be presented in a state of theater setting to be completely appreciated.” He added that the theater will also show dramas and comedies, as that genre will be adequately represented.

The Sid Executive Council will be in charge of deciding which movies will be shown each weekend. Any student may recommend a specific movie to be shown, and other colleges or organizations may request use of the area during Sid’s Thursday night or college meetings. Already, Cranner has laid out some future plans for the theater, including Martin Brando, Humphrey Bogart and Harrison Ford theme weeks, movie sequels marathons and Super Bowl and Final Four showings.

The council will also shortly be developing a permanent pricing plan. Initially, the movies will be free to all Rice students, but at some point the college might begin charging a nominal fee to non-SRIs, residents (probably around 25 cents per person). Cranner was also responsible for the “Dancing Sid” advertisement for last year’s Superbowl that really only ran on the Prevue channel. He is working on a similar promotion for the debut (a snapshot of which is shown above), which will run on one of the Rice channels later this week in two hour looping segments during the lunch hour and dinner breaks.

The theater’s debut is scheduled for 9 p.m. tonight and will feature a special edition of Atoms in Dolby digital surround sound.

MOVIE

Sly Stallone gives weighty performance in ‘Copland’

Christine Laskowski

This weekend’s film, ‘Copland,’ features Sylvester Stallone as an ex-cop who must confront his past and seek revenge for the death of his partner. The film has received mixed reviews, with some critics praising Stallone’s performance and others criticizing the writing and direction.

Stallone plays Fredy Heifin, who is running for sheriff in his hometown of Garrison, N.C., a town in the path of a drug lord who has been evading police for years. When the drug lord is caught, Heifin is offered a second chance at a new life by his old partner, Detective Joe Carlin (Ray Liotta). However, Heifin becomes disillusioned with the police department and decides to take matters into his own hands.

Heifin’s mission is to bring down the drug lord, but he soon realizes that the situation is more complex than he thought. As he delves deeper into the investigation, Heifin must confront his own demons and come to terms with his past.

The film’s script, written by Richard Donner and Michael Mann, is praised for its gritty realism and attention to detail. However, some critics feel that the story is too predictable and the characters lack depth.

The film was directed by Mann, who is also known for his work on ‘Heat’ and ‘In The Valley of Elah.’ The cast includes Ray Liotta, Ed Harris, and Richard Gere.

The film received mixed reviews from critics and audiences, with some praising the performances and others criticizing the pacing and direction. The film was nominated for several awards, including Best Actor for Stallone and Best Supporting Actor for Ray Liotta.

Mason’s beautiful voice is well accentuated by the electronic atmosphere in the background. The unusual sounds of the supernatural are the real stars of the show, as they blend seamlessly with the rock sounds on the album. Relics newcomer to the Christian music world, ‘The Ones’, brings hard rock and Christian ethics with blaring horns and a rocking beat. They prove to be the most “alternative” of the bands on the CD. Somewhat, though, they sound a bit too gimmicky, as if playing ska is actually an attention-getting device rather than a conscious choice.

‘Cup of Tea’ off the Newsboys’ ‘Take Me To Your Leader’ album is another highlight. It consists of five tracks, the first two of which are rock songs on the album. One of the songs on the album, ‘Cup of Tea’, features ska rhythms and horns, and is titled “Take Me To Your Leader.”

The CD shows off the band’s unique style and sound. Still, all the upbeat energy of the band’s earlier style is preserved, and listeners are treated to an album that is both energetic and driving.

The band has been described as a dance-pop band with ska influences, and their music has been compared to bands like ‘The Brummies’ and ‘The’Bawns’. The CD showcases the band’s ability to blend ska and pop rock elements to create a sound that is unique and captivating.

The CD also features a bonus track, ‘The Last Laugh’, which is a ska version of the band’s hit ‘Take Me To Your Leader’. The bonus track is a fun and energetic addition to the album, and shows the band’s versatility and creativity as artists.
Crown paints landscapes of sonic combine talents to tread through albutjj, three other seasoned musicians who originally of Rollerskate Skinny, and harmony with 12 songs of beauty. "Chokin' on the Jokes" Lotus Crown explores new territory that borders between the worlds of pop radio and cult phenomena. Their status as local Chicago favorites like "The Smashing Pumpkins places them in an opportunity position to become immediate pop culture icons."

What is better is that songs such as "Circus, Circus" and "Cynical Cleaver" are worthy of praise because they show true talent. Lotus Crown is unlike any other band, combining elements of both traditional and electronic music to weave their magical music. Prepare to be enchanted.

Simply Beautiful

Eric Muñoz
Arc Art Editor

With the debut of their freshman album, Chokin' on the Jokes, Lotus Crown paints landscapes of sonic harmony with 12 songs of beauty..userService.getUserProfile

The quartet includes Jimi Shields, originally of Rollerskate Skinny, and three other seasoned musicians who combine talents to tread through psychotropic wonderlands.

Movie

Shallow 'Masterminds' suitable for children, torture for mature viewers

Katie Moreno and Angelique Sy

Right up front, we'll say that Masterminds is not a great movie, although it is amusing. Its Roald Dahlish characterizations of good and bad, and its teen hero's ingenuity make it appropriate for younger viewers, but they are too reminiscent of Home Alone to amuse the "mature university scholar.

Masterminds

Local Theaters

Ozzie Paxton (Vincent Kartheiser) plays a hacker with all of the arrogance, intelligence and capitalist spirit typical in movie hackers. His nemesis, Ralph Bentley (Patrick Stewart), is a mad-lib villain of the kind often found in cartoonish plots.

Stewart stars as Ralph Bentley, a computer genius who holds a private hacking school for teenagers, the world's only active, intelligent and face-to-face interaction between Ozzie and Bentley.

Once Ozzie looked stupid: He didn't let the bad guys catch him but then, Ozzie took stupid: He didn't let the bad guys catch him. twist of the plot, Ozzie is clever enough to work around the computer genius' schemes.
High expectations surround upcoming season
A user-friendly guide for Owls fans

Last season, the Rice Owls went 7-4, achieving their best record in a quarter-century. This year, they play Texas at home. They also received a vote in this year's preseason Associated Press top-25 poll. And there's even more you may not have realized.

Kathleen Corr

As the 1997 season opens against Air Force Academy, many Rice students and Owls fans may miss the bigger picture behind this year's football squad. What is it about this year's team that makes this season one of the most exciting ones in decades for Rice football?

The average Rice student probably doesn't know too much about the broken wishbone formation that Air Force uses for Rice football? In a nutshell, the following is a top-10 preview of the Owls.

1. Winning 7-4 last season, the Rice Owls went 7-4, achieving their best record in a quarter-century. This year, they play Texas at home. They also received a vote in this year's preseason Associated Press top-25 poll. And there's even more you may not have realized.

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SEASON PREVIEW - PAGE 14

Stadium nears capacity for first game

The Owls' offensive line progresses during Tuesday afternoon's practice. The team was preparing for its season opener against Air Force Academy. The game begins Saturday at 7 p.m. at Rice Stadium.
A former member of the Rice women's club rugby team, Heather Michelle Stewart, was recently awarded All-American status in women's rugby and was selected for the national under-23 team.

Nothing could have surprised Stewart last summer more than Assistant Director of Student Activities Sarah Nelson Crawford's call reporting that Stewart had been selected as an All-American collegiate women's rugby player. "I thought you had to play in the nationals or at least the regional competitions to be an All-American," she said.

Regardless of tradition, Stewart, a Sid Richardson '97 alumna, was chosen as an All-American by the All-American program's founder and selector for the Western Territory, Alan Osur.

"Heather is an aggressive player with a lot of skill, but she's also cool and clever in games," Osur said.

The All-American program, founded by Osur three years ago, consists of approximately 45 players selected from the 220 women's collegiate teams across the country. Typically, All-Americans are selected at the Collegiate National Championships in May and at the Collegiate Territorial Championship, conducted throughout the year. However, Osur decided to pick only two players from the Western Territorial Championships, leaving the third slot open for Stewart.

"I think he was trying to get people recognized from other parts of the country, not just from the teams that always win their region," Stewart said.

Rice Women's Rugby Coach Bridget Tannian said the All-American selectors noticed Stewart's exceptional level of play and also took into account that Rice had "qualified" for the Western Championships but didn't actually go.

Our first met Stewart in June of 1996 after getting good reports on Stewart's performance from a local rugby official. The reports were allways positive, according to Osur, so he had her in mind for his All-American program, in spite of the fact that Rice's team could not afford to participate in the Western Territorial Championships.

After honoring Stewart with All-American status, Osur nominated her to Rice's club rugby team. "Just meeting all of those people and participating in a free workshop covering the exam and the admissions process.

Rugger wins national honors

Rice alumna Michelle Stewart was named to the national under-23 rugby team and received All-American honors in her sport.

Although the U.S. team lost the match against Canada, Stewart said it was a great opportunity for growth. "Just meeting all of those people who love to play rugby was amazing," Stewart said.

"Heather has talent and potential. I used her as an example in practice to show techniques, because she has been exposed to better coaching than most of the other players," Tannian said. "I hope that playing for a select team will hone Heather's skills and help her rely on her teammates."

Stewart began playing rugby four years ago, when she joined Rice's women's rugby team. "Without Rice rugby, I would have never played," she said.

She has also played for the Houston Hurricanes, a local women's club, and for the New Orleans Hornets. In May of 1996, Stewart joined New Orleans to play in the club nationals in Chicago. Currently, Stewart plays for the Houston Hurricanes and works in Houston.

Stewart has higher ambitions than just the under-23 team. "It's a good jumping-off point to get on the USA's national team which represents the U.S. in international competitions," she said.
The Owls also lost defensive back to step up and help fill the large drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles turnout because we have sold Air Force game. "The kicking game was Warren Franklin, but inside line- in the sixth round of the NFL draft. chased instead of letting them go to shoes left by the departures. One week spot in the game plan is Rice's shaky special teams situation. Relatively inexperienced sophomore Scott Grimes is designated for punting and place-kicking for the Air Force game. "The kicking game is our main concern," Hatfield said.

Sellout of 1,000 to 2,000 tickets, Sterlekar said. "I think we are going to have a great turnout because we have sold hundreds of blocks of 25 tickets."

Because corporations bought tickets from Rice in lesser quantities than Houston, they will be more likely to use the tickets they purchased instead of letting them go to waste, according to Sterlekar. Rice officials expect that the promotional strategy will pay for itself through ticket sales.

The Rice festivities begin at 4 p.m. when the barbecues fire up at the BUZZ 907.3 FM-sponsored tail- out party. In addition to the food, drinks, music and contests available at the BUZZ events, other vendors, such as the Village Brewery, will offer food and beverages outside the game.

Parking will present potential problems for Rice attendees. To accommodate the unusual crowd, Parking encourages fans to arrive by 5 p.m. or park in the Astrodome lot and take the Metro Park and Ride bus. The Athletics Department also asks fans to bring one children's books to the game for a collection benefiting the Literacy Advance of Houston and The Houston Read Commission. In addition to selling out the stadium, Rice aims to collect over 50,000 children's books, which would break the world record. Other promotional events accompanying the football game include a flyer by Wings Over Houston, a paraschutist delivering the game ball and a post game fireworks display.

The stadium sellout should motivate the football team to play a great game. Head Coach Ken Hatfield said, "I think it will mean that much more to [the football team] knowing they have a great, friendly crowd pulling for them."

Rice's last capacity crowd was 73,000, when it played the University of Texas in 1984. The largest recent crowd at Rice Stadium was 56,047, against Texas A&M in 1984. Operation Sellout, if successful, will draw the largest crowd ever at Rice Stadium for a game not against Texas or Texas A&M.

Tickets are still available for the Rice game at the discounted $7 price point at all Rice Epicureans Markets and Whataburger. The Athletic Department will sell any remaining tickets at their ticket office and at the gate of the stadium for $10.

As usual, Rice students with IDs will enjoy free admission to the student section.

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

- Support the football team in their first game of the 1997 season. The team plays Air Force Academy at 7 p.m. in the Rice Stadium.

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

- April tired of CK? Yearning for some good, home-cooked food? Come support Rice Ultimate and eat your fill at the Ultimate Taste of Rice Banquet from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Sid Richardson College commons.

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**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

- The ever-helpful people at Career Services offer a workshop to assist students with "Resume Writing and Cover Letters" at 4 p.m. in the Career Services conference room in the Student Center. Go. It'll build character.

---

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

- If you can't drink it, then what could be better than learning to serve alcohol? The first alcohol server training session will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Space Sciences, Room 106. Only 30 people can train at a time. The next session will be held September 16.

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

- Brush up your "Resume Writing and Cover Letters" at the workshop in the Career Services conference room at 4 p.m.

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

- Explore your musical side and audition for the Hanszen College production of City of Angels from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Hanszen Commons. Prepare a song, and bring music.

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**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6**

- The Center for the Study of Cultures sponsors a lecture by Rice University CSC Fellow Michael Maas entitled "Urbanism, Identity and Law at the End of Classical Antiquity" in Sewall Hall, Room 303, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
TERRY AND PACEY BACKPAGE EDITORS

RICE TIPS... Most people don't know this, but the Rice student body is the oldest collegiate newspaper in the United States. In a statement released last Mon-

day, Rice University President Malcolm Gillis announced the historical discovery that the Rice Thresher has been in print since 1892.

A 128-year lifespan of a college newspaper would be an astonishing accomplishment at any institution. What makes the Rice achievement so accomplishable is the Rice Uni-

versity has no journalism department or class.

The Thresher has long been a source of pride on this campus. It provides a forum for student opinion and accuracy in journalism that are rarely found on college campuses.

To find out if that other university has a newspaper with a longevity even comparable to the Thresher is a dem-

onstratation of the uniqueness of this newspaper. Gillis said.

For decades, Rice University has suffered with the intrusion of ten thousand ill-trained gurus for the repa-

tration of Ivy League schools. With their larger enrollments, Rice's competitors are able to hire an army of jour-

nalists, and the fact that each of them is at least 120 years older than Rice, the lives have been able to command a level of respect that until now, Rice has not been able to match.

Provost, David Austin told the Thresher: Although the university was established in trust just over one hun-

dred years ago, we are confident that we may now be recognized at one of the oldest in academic institutions in the world.