Fondren plans reorganization of library holdings
$21.4 million donation from Hobby Foundation funds initial stages of strategic plan

by Susan Egnew (The Rice Thresher)

Possible improvements to Fondren Library under the strategic plan "Rice: The Next Century" include remodeling the fifth and sixth floors and building an addition to the 50-year-old structure. With administration support and university funding, renovation could begin in five years.

The December donation of $21.4 million by the Hobby Foundation will fund the first of the strategic plan's initiatives to improve Fondren. The Library Planning Committee proposed a three-phase improvement plan for the library. Phase I freed 8,270 square feet of space previously occupied by the Computer and Information Technology Institute and the James A. Baker III Institute of Public Policy.

Phase II calls for the remodeling of the fifth and sixth floors of Fondren at a cost of $1.5 million, and is contingent upon the reestablishment of the History Department and many offices of the School of Humanities. Even after the implementation of Phase I and Phase II, however, Fondren will reach maximum capacity within an estimated six years.

Then, Fondren will need to be expanded or a new library building constructed.

"It is likely that a new addition will be built contiguous to Fondren rather than a separate building elsewhere on campus," Librarian and Vice Provost Charles Bailey said.

Phase III calls for an additional 55,000 square feet with no internal walls to allow for easy future expansion. The committee intends to develop a master plan of library needs over 1998, create an architectural design in 1999 and then start construction with an opening in the spring of 2001, undergraduate representative on the Library committee and Student Association External Vice President Travis Hopgsaid. Chair of the Library Planning Committee and Provost David Austin said Rice is working to expand the library because the current collection of resources does not adequately meet the needs of undergraduates. Fondren has decided to put $1 million into strengthening the collection of books for undergraduates over the next four to five years.

Fondren currently houses 1,904,300 volumes and the library typically acquires 50,000 new volumes each year.

For space reasons, Fondren has reduced the size of its collection in recent years. The library withdrew 11,000 volumes in 1994 and 13,000 volumes in 1995—well below levels projected for the year 2000.

"The committee hopes to increase the number of books, electronic data and other sources that can be brought together for mixed media research and use," he said. "Fondren will require more room for this type of research."
A brand-new track for Beer-Bike

It lies virtually ignored for most of the year, for the Rice University Cycling Team and the handful of recreational bikers who prefer to ride on campus. Rice's block track also harks the ignominious burden of providing overpriced parking for important football games and various non-university events.

For most of us, though, the track's raison d'être is to provide a place to release pent-up, pent-up energy every once in a while.

But university administrators have decided to excavate the block track for a new purpose: it's going to be the site of a beer-and-drinking bicycle race known as the Beer-Bike.

Two of Rice's best-known administrators recently announced their plans to retire at the end of the academic year: Marion Hicks, for 28 years the only leader Food and Housing has ever had, and Patricia Martin, now Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of International Education, under whose leadership the number of students studying abroad increased from 3 to 120.

Hicks, who presided over a virtual revolution in food service, spent her career trying to improve the on-campus lives of rice students. Martin will be best remembered for helping to make it possible for students to spend time far away from campus. While the university almost certainly has no plans to discontinue the parking lot behind Rice Stadium, it will end all other plans have been announced to build two more colleges and rebuild Wijes College, the last of the colleges to be renovated.

In recent years, the colleges have added cable and computer networking. Food has markedly improved since the early 1990s. The network of paraole, festival and sporting event centered on humanity's universal longing to celebrate the near-instantaneous consumption of warm alcohol and to tie it to some kind of bike-race role.

The track's schizophrenic role as parking lot leaves it battered by cracks and potholes, conditions which are hardly good for cycling. Beer-Bike, despite its promise, is serious business, and in many years a rider is rushed to the hospital after taking a hard fall. Nothing so much as a single event as seeing a collegiate student seriously hurt.

We welcome the opportunity to rebuild the track at a cost of $70,000. Their work means that Beer-Bike '98 will be as safe as it can be.

In the past, the administration has repaired the bike track and even resurfaced it in an effort to increase safety, but such superficial repair never left the track entirely free of problems. This time, F&F has gutted and restabilized the track's groundwork, at significant cost.

The university almost certainly has no plans to discontinues its use of the block track. We hope that F&F will continue its vigilance and maintain the brand new track in top condition. At least until two more lanes have to be added.

Bidding farewell to Hicks and Martin

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Wu presented only one side of China situation

To the editor:

We are used to looking at history as if it were a book, cold and objective. We know what happened. Or do we?

We all read and heard about the atrocities committed in China in the 1960s and 1970s against the Cultural Revolution. The Chinese people have learned that it is impossible for any Communist Party to get away with political power, but they are more or less free to carry on their lives without concern about the stability of their country and their own personal well-being.

"This freedom from uncertainty" is a freedom that we in America take for granted but which much of the world—especially China—has not known for decades. Jung Chang, the new poet of China, argues that freedom of speech and other freedoms that have been taken for granted in the West are trivial compared to the freedom she says is now enjoyed by all Chinese people.

I am not denying the truth of Wu's allegations. What he said really happened.uffering he went through was real, and, most likely, labor camps still exist in China. But the Chinese graduate students have an equally true, and the benefits that the current regime has brought to their country are undeniable. We observers need to learn to see both sides of the situation.

Until now, the Chinese people have been able to care for their families and to maintain a certain level of living. But it is dubious if people like Wu will ever have the freedom of thought and the right to live as they wish in the People's Republic of China.

Harry Wu's integrity, cited several times in the letter, has never been a question. But the question is whether his story is relevant to the current Chinese situation.

There is certainly no reason to deny that the Chinese people have known the hardships of their regime. But given the possible consequences of discussing the issue, we should be cautious in our actions.

Harry Wu's story of his suffering during the Cultural Revolution is certainly neither isolated nor unique. The horrible atrocities the Communist government inflicted were all the more terrible because they were committed against their own countrymen and "the people" for whom their republic had been conceived.

Even when the events at Tiananmen Square transpired, the new generation held faith in its government. What the Chinese people have learned that it is impossible for any Communist Party to get away with political power, but they are more or less free to carry on their lives without concern about the stability of their country and their own personal well-being.

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A delicate balance of bitterness
Kaczynski pleads guilty, justice system fails

When I heard that Theodore Kaczynski had pled guilty, at first I was surprised. As far as I knew, the case was finally over and justice had been served. After all, had not the most well-publicized mass murder of 2005000 Bosnian Muslims and Croats, as well as the recent massacre of 200000 Serbian and Albanian Muslims, made us all look away from the Kaczynski saga? I mean, was there anything left of the public interest? I was disappointed. By the time we were done with Kaczynski, I didn't realize how much work would be involved in the real world.

Kaczynski had been crying out for weeks before he pled guilty. His lawyer, Judge Garland Barrett Jr., who had earlier told Kaczynski that he would not accept Kaczynski's guilty plea and a sentence of life in prison, came to the courtroom knowing that Kaczynski would plead guilty. The judge either didn't listen or simply couldn't bear to hear the truth.

Based on the above conclusion, the question of whether to control our right to self-defense against criminals is answered. There have been many cases throughout history where the right to self-defense has been questioned by an attorney, if desired. In all states except Kansas, the attorney has the right to appear in court even though he may have the right to appear in court. However, the attorney has the right to appear in court even though he may have the right to appear in court. The judge's decision was based on the belief that if Kaczynski was, as the court-appointed psychiatrist said, competent to stand trial, then he was also competent to make a mixed decision, including the nature of his sentence.

Admittedly, it seems like a crime to put a man on death row, but that is the real world. In all states of the United States — you have the right to make bad decisions. The same goes for all attorneys. If you can always speak up, it is your right. See Kaczynski v. Rice, 119 S. Ct. 2241.
Defendants have the right to be foolish

KACZYNSKI. From Page 3

4 even though it may be detrimental in how to allow them to do so. Kaczynski represented himself, hired a couple of smart lawyers for a fraction of what he once paid them, but that's for another column — but he is the one who is trying to do it now. No where in the Constitution or in federal law is it written that your right to defend yourself can be removed for bad judgment. Insanity, you understand, is not a defense.

Burrell acted in opposition to everything this country stands for when he let his Kaczynski's call for self-representation, calling it a "deliberate attempt to manipulate the trial process." That is the very sort of manipulation that the judicial system is supposedly set up to allow and res- spect. Lawyers, after all, are hired precisely for their abilities to dissect and understand the depth of Kaczynski's work. Here, the public—under the guise of the law—should strike a guilty plea, leaves more questions than answers.

Did Kaczynski plead guilty for fear of real guilt or out of a desperate attempt to avoid being labeled insane in court? Was Burrell predisposed against Kaczynski, or did he just not understand the depth of Kaczynski's psychology and perhaps think these lawyers should be sanctioned for for- getting that in America, the public is for- ever, so that passion may be a bit over- or understatements.

There are questions not being asked by the public, the media, or even Kaczynski's lawyers. If in this case's resolution comes to be seen as a common currency of the European community, this treaty will likely be the result of the fact that communism is not uncommon to Western nations. Physical limits of space and political rhetoric make it impossible for people in the community to understand this is anything but an annual Aryan Conference.

Four years with 'Thresher'

PUBLICATION. From Page 3

Jung was more into the down-to-earth-gal of Danish men. Quite simply, they are the epitome of male materialists. Living in a country in- fected by universal socialism, the state seems to handle many of their problems, leaving the people plenty of time to appreciate life. Although a small nation, the Danes were responsible for the leading current currency of the European never really nationals...
Of the MJ 96 Asian Tour reaches "Ain Saigon, he's coming to the region. I don't know if he's on his itinerary.

Michael Jordan coming out.

What are you, Michael Jordan coming out? Michael Jordan coming out?

Sometimes next summer. Hmm, that doesn't give me much time to improve.

Michael Jordan coming out. Michael Jordan coming out.

They're of course, of course.

No, no, my golf game, nor where it needs him.

Don's going to be okay, when Michael gets here, I'm not declaring a plant holiday when things happen to plants.

They're of course, of course.

I believe it now, Perfect. Book him.

Hey, Michael, get your hands out where I can see them!

Okay, dog meat! Put your hands out where I can see you!

Aiee! Oh, brake kid.


Down the hall to the right, watch out for the step. Thanks, kid, go back to sleep.

a lecture by
Dr. Richard Wolin
Professor of History
Rice University
February 5, 1998
4 P.M.
Hamman Hall
Rice University Campus
Reception following
For more information, call (713) 527-6093
or e-mail sjd@rice.edu

Fifty years after its occurrence, the Holocaust is still topical in part because of films such as Schindler's List and Museums in Washington, D.C., and Houston, and in part because of the controversies that continue to surround it. At this same time, though, historians remain at a loss to make sense of the tragic events of the Holocaust. Despite the controversies and lack of understanding, one idea remains clear: The Holocaust has become a potent force in our cultural consciousness—not simply a powerful image of a harrowing decade but a vital part of human mind's efforts to fashion itself.
Administrators resign

MARTIN, from Page 1

ment," Martin said. Martin has also seen the rise in the number of inter-
national students at the university and believes that they have made a 
positive impact.

"I really want to thank [former 
President of Student Affairs] Dr. [Ronald] Stebbings and [curr 
ent President of Student Af-
fairs] Dr. [Zenaido] Carambo for 
hiring me and allowing me to serve in so many capacities," she said.

"I'll miss the daily interactions 
with the students and with my col-
lleagues, some of whom I have 
known for over 15 years... They are 
really close friends. I'll also miss the wonderful staff at Student Affairs," Martin said.

Hicks retires F&H position after 28 years

Hicks will also retire at the end of the 1996 spring semester. Rice has not had a new F&H director since 1970, a tribute to Hicks' longevity. A committee charged with the responsi-
bility of finding a new director has not announced a replacement.

Under Hicks' 28-year reign as di-
crector, F&H has attempted to 
accomplish the different tastes of the Rice population by changing and adjusting services. Hicks also oversaw the revitalization of the resi-
dential colleges.

"Our goal has been to provide 
the best food and service to the Rice 
Community that we could," Hicks 
said, "and we'll do that have done 
that.

Residential Colleges Manager 
Bob Trentson said, "Mr. Hicks has 
always put an emphasis on providing 
food and housing which has been a 
delay towards service for the stu-
dents, guests and everyone else.

"The food has improved tremen-
dously in terms of what the students 
like and what we provide for them... although obviously not as much as the 
students would like," he said.

As a resident of the student 
community, Hicks has had the oppor-
tunity to work with students and 
their families.

"The employees have been the people 
that helped us through all of the 
changes," he said. "And all of the 
students have been extremely sup-
portive and helpful... [they] have 
ever been patient with us, knowing 
that there are changes and things that 
we both would like to see." 

"I'll miss the fellowship and op-
portunity to work with students and 
meeting their constantly changing 
desires. Every four years, there's 
really a complete student I turn 
over. Hicks said. "It's been a chal-
lenge, an experience and a pleasure." 

Library adds to holdings

FONDREN State Page 1

shelving space for the new books 
that the committee hopes to gain.
The shelves are now neatly packed that it is difficult to find a book out, and whole ranges of books 
have to be reshelved in order to gain 
shelves for new books," Boles said.

Now, the shelves are at 100 per-
cent capacity on two floors of 
Fondren and 95 percent capacity on 
the other floors.

Students agreed that the library needs improvement. "Each time I 
go to the library, I can never find a 
place to sit... and I also have a hard time 
finding books on my level," said current 
junior Joe Potvin.

Hicks said the committee is not 
sure of the budget for the expan-
sion. "Architecture Freeman 
and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson 
and Abbott is working with the university 
to help determine the priorities at 
Rice and how best to lay a new library cat 
meet those needs," Henry said.

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SA to vote on adding publications director

The Student Association Senate will vote Monday on whether to approve a plan that would eliminate the executive vice president and redistribute some of the duties of the internal and external vice presidents to a new director of publications.

"We came up with this proposal because the current system is inefficient," SA President Hopp said. As the number of permanent SA projects has grown in recent years, some of the duties of the internal and external vice presidents have become redundant and often untracked, Hopp said. "Las summer, Anne [Compton], SA internal vice president, would visit one advertiser for the freshman guide, and then he'd approach the same advertiser a month later for the Silver Savor Card."

The proposed change transfers responsibility for SA publications, including the Newsprint Guide, the Silver Savor Card, and the Off-Campus Housing Guide, to the publica-
tions director. It also divides the remaining non-park duties among internal and external vice presidents.

Another change is that the director's position will be paid full-time, receiving $1,000 from the Office of Student Media plus $1,000 in add-on. In addition, the SA will pay the director 10 percent of all profits over $2,000 that the SA receives from advertising in its publications.

Like the current executive vice president's position, the publications director will be a member of the executive board with voting privileges, but the new position will not hold the status of vice president.

The Senate must approve the proposed changes with a two-thirds majority to amend the SA constitu-
tion. If the Senate does, the new SA President will appoint an editor with the approval of the new Senate. The

Febr. 18 elections are also for the position of SA Vice Presidents, SA Program Council, Threerker and Company and University Court class representa-
tives, Constitution and Student Power Program, and University Council representati-
cives. Petitions for these positions are due Feb. 3.

Yellow bicycles provide clean transportation

The Environmental Club will distribute four yellow bicycles in Febr. 1 for students who wish to ride at their convenience. The bikes will be located at Baker, Lovett, Sid Richardson and Will Rice Colleges. The other four colleges and the Graduate House will get bikes in late February.

This initiative, led by Lovett College junior Michael Ford, seeks to promote environmental aware-
ness on campus by providing alter-
ate means of transportation. Simi-
lar environmentally friendly pro-
grams already exist in several cit-
es — including Austin and Portland, Ore. — but this is believed to be the first such program established on a college campus.

Each college will have a bicycle-
locked on a rack near the college.
Anyone wishing to use a bike must acquire the combination from the lock.ike a college-dedicated bicycle representa-

Although the Environmental Club is providing the bicycles for student and faculty transportation, the riders are responsible for any damages or traffic infractions. The fact that you are riding a Rice ve-

cicle does not allow you to escape the law from Rice regulations — you must still take responsibility for the bike, Ford said.

Ford received the money for the pro-

gram from the Emissions Grant pro-

gram, established by former Student Association President Maryana Iskander to support cre-
tative undergraduate projects.

The Campus Police and Food and Housing collected and donated bi-
cycles to the Environmental Club.

Petitions protest Wu's speech

Wu, former president of a long-gone labor camp in 1960, said that, while imprisoned, he once tried to kill himself, went through prolonged periods of physi-
cal and emotional torture, and witnessed Chinese officers use brainwash other internees.

He estimated that around one-
million other intellectual, counter-
revolutionaries shared his fate during the late 1950s. After his release in 1979, Wu came to America, but has continued to speak out against the regime and the Commu-

ist government.

He has repeatedly returned to China several times with camera crew to document Chinese human rights abuses.

Wu said Deng Xiaoping's (1907-1997) belief in capitalism and com-
munism in the 1980s is the "Farthest distance" that China has progressed to date.

China is taking small steps toward marketization, but many differences between Mao Zedong's (1929-1976) government and current leader Jiang Zemin. Both rely on economies of public owner-
ship, he said, and the current sys-
tem makes use of massive totalitarian control.

At the conclusion of his speech, we took questions from the audi-
ence, including some dissenting re-
marks from Rice students from the main
land.

Chinese history Professor Rich-
ard Engelstein, who attended the talks at Amnesty International, there are still several thousand political pris-

ons in China (including Tibet), and that some of them are treated har
dly. But he said the vast major-
ity of the million or so "class en-
mates" imprisoned from Mao to 1957 onward — people like Wu — were set free during the late 1970s.

He said the economic reforms and "open policy" inaugurated by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 have trans-
formed China to a remarkable de-
gree. Smith said, "Although in cer-
tain respects the People's Republic of China remains a harsh and re-
pressive regime, with a brutal penal system, the power of both the cen-
tral government and the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing is declin-
ing rapidly. Moreover, China's party-state coordinating apparatus is in-
nominously open — far more than anyone in pre-1978 China could have possibly predicted."

"China today is a far different place than it was when Mr. Wu was released in 1976," he said.

The Princeton Review took the MCA

Phelps didn't take The Princeton Review

\[Text automatically converted to plain text.\]
Remake of Dicken's tale fails to fulfill expectations

Susan Egeland
THREESER EDITORIAL STAFF

The new movie version of Great Expectations gives the Charles Dickens classic an edge. Some of the names are changed, but the story line is basically the same — a poor boy gets a lucky break. But by the film's end, after he's tortured by both money and love, he begins to wonder if the break was really all that lucky.

Although juicier than the novel, the movie fails to truly impress. Cutting out Dickens's melodramatic prose, the movie omits the book's explanations of the characters' back stories.

Ethan Hawke's Finn (that's Pip for all you Dickens geeks) respectively narrates the story, andrettles down to the dark heart of New York City with support from an unknown benefactor, to perfect his art. Unfortunately, Finn's art is terrible. Even his humble, earnestly opinionated Great Expectations - a mixture of cheap advertising, uneven coloring and Picasso musicalesque distortions.

Regardless, in New York City he reunites with Estella, who is very far from the little girl. His life comes full-circle. The acting in the movie is good, and it's all about childlike strokes, uneven coloring and Picasso musicalesque distortions.

But nothing about this movie is great. Ethan Hawke's craniumistic role is just far too good. With the exception of Miss Havisham's cranium, there is just too much of Miss Havisham's cranium. Even his humble talent slides under the makeup and goes on a truly great drag queen. She plays the bizarre character (Miss Havisham in the book) with great energy. Unfortunately, DeNiro's craniumistic role doesn't come across enough.

The acting in the movie is good, even with the makeup and goes on a truly great drag queen. She plays the bizarre character (Miss Havisham in the book) with great energy. Unfortunately, DeNiro's craniumistic role doesn't come across enough.
Freaky in the Springtime

Magpie Large

I can't recall whether the much written about genre called 'alt-country' (think Wilco, Son Volt, The Jayhawks) is supposed to be cool or passe right now. I try not to pay too much attention to rock critic trends anyway.

Whatever the verdict, Freakwater (which started as a countrified side project for Janet Beveridge Bean and friends) on their fifth album, Springtime, still sounds as clear and true as they did when they released their first single (a brilliant cover of Black Sabbath's "War Pigs") eight years ago.

The two female vocalists, Bean and Catherine Lewis, specialize in and, close-up, have voices that just beg for sing-alongs during self-pity parties. The melodies are catchy but not clinging, the instrumentation, traditional (many a banjo is found), and the lyrics smart and funny. There is a good balance between heart-tugging ballads and wryly-looked rev-ups.

My favorite song is "Picture in my Mind," which features the lines: "Whiskey is not evil/When it's sitting on the shelf/It's as sweet as I can be/When I'm all by myself."

Freakwater treats the line between paying sincere tribute to country's pioneers (think Hank and Patsy) and slyly mocking the genre's stereotypes.

I'll compare this record to the homemade lemonade at the Hobbit Hole: flavorful and refreshing, with the perfect balance between lemony tartness and honey sweetness.

I'd rather have that than powdered Crystal Light any day.

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Martorell envisions recycled beauty

New Rice Art Gallery display turns cardboard into a garden of Eden

Mary Beard

EDITOR EMERITUS

Dona Provi's Garden (a cardboard fantasy), the Rice Art Gallery's current installation has bursting, weedlike, into the adjacent foyer in the form of a cardboard rainforest tree trying to break through the roof of Swall Hall.

"dona provi's garden"

Antonio Martorell

Rating: ★★★★ ★★★★

Rice University Art Gallery: Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Free.

Dona Provi's Garden (a cardboard garden) evokes the wonder of childhood forays into cardboard castles.

The outlandish yet beautiful space of Dona Provi's Garden evokes the wonder of childhood forays into cardboard castles.

The smell of cardboard engulfs the beholder and reminds him or her that these "plants" were once, in fact, living trees. Martorell named Dona Provi's Garden (a cardboard fantasy) for the spontaneity of his former mother-in-law.

The show runs until Feb. 15. Martorell's longtime friend and native Houstonian, Evelyn Lopez, will give a gallery talk Feb. 5.

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Tennis opens spring season 2-0

by Leslie Anne Carter

The Rice men's tennis team swung into action at the Jack Rice Tennis Stadium last weekend to defeat both the University of Texas at San Antonio and Southwest Texas State University. Rice pulled off a 5-2 win over UTSA Saturday and then came back Sunday to shutout SWT 7-0.

The Owls began play Saturday by winning all three doubles matches. Senior Shane Stone and junior Efe Ustundag teamed up to defeat UTSA's No. 1 pair, senior Michael Ratcliffe and sophomore Brian Le Cams, 8-5.

Rice also saw impressive play by its No. 3 doubles pair, juniors Sasha Silver and James Van Breslow, who defeated UTSA's seniors Victor Sanchez and Bryan Reshould 6-3.

The Owls continued their dominating doubles play on Sunday against SWT, when they swept all three matches.

In singles action on Saturday, Ustundag won his match against SWT, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1. Stone defeated his SWT opponent 6-4, 7-5, 6-0. Silver and junior Robert Collins turned in solid singles performances to help Rice to its 2-5 victory.

Summing up Saturday's match, Asst. Coach Matthew Lademann said, "It was a good performance for our first match. We were a bit overconfident because we've never lost to UTSA, but we got the job done."

Sunday, Rice controlled the show from the beginning, Lademann said. The Owls rolled to straight set wins in each of their singles matches against SWT.

Ustundag rebounded from Saturday's three-set loss to defeat the Bobcats' Brady Wells 6-1, 6-3. Stone, also coming off a defeat, beat Alex Lopez 6-3, 6-1.

"Saturday was a bit of a struggle, but on Sunday I found my game again. More importantly, everyone got a win which I think is what I was witnessing was "very, very exciting,"" Stone said. "Confidence and execution will be major factors when Rice faces San Diego State University in May." [Rice defeated Baylor by a margin of 38-0.

Lademann said, "But we're not without a few concerns." Stone agreed. "It comes down to going out and executing, getting points," Stone said. "We definitely want to win. Playing Baylor will give us an idea of where we are. If we do well, we'll know we're moving in the right direction.

Tomorrow, while the men's team hosts Baylor, the No. 5-ranked women's team, spearheaded by sophomore Charlotte Fridey and freshmen Erin Waters, has high performance goals.
The SCHEDULE: No walk in the park

Rice players and coaches agree that, if the baseball team remains focused and relatively healthy, it has as good a chance as anyone to win the Western Athletic Conference championship. With intriguing schedule, though, fulfilling such lofty expectations and returning to the College World Series will not be easy.

The Owls will play 36 games, which include 30 WAC games, two tournaments and three doubleheaders, beginning Feb. 2 at Southeast Texas State University. Five of Rice’s four are ranked in Baseball America’s preseason top 25, and at least two more are regarded as top-40 teams. Head Coach Wayne Graham cites such opponents as one of the deciding factors in the Owls chances for success this year.

“The 56-game schedule is definitely a campaign,” Graham said. “It’ll definitely be tough. Plus, we’ve got a great home schedule with some top teams coming in.”

Among those teams are the University of Michigan (ranked No. 9), Baylor University (No. 13), Oklahoma State University (No. 16) and the University of South Alabama (No. 23). The University of Texas and the University of Houston are two other strong teams that will be visiting Cameron Field this season.

The toughest part for Rice, though, may be its conference schedule. After catching many teams by surprise last year, their first season in the WAC, the Owls know that everyone will be ready for them this season.

Senior second baseman Jason Richards anticipates the added competition: “It’s definitely going to be difficult,” he said. “They know how we play now, so they’ll be gunning for us. We’re going to have a huge target on our backs.”

Junior pitcher Stephen Bess added, “We proved last year that everybody can be beat—by losing to lowly Grand Canyon University. They’ll be ready to put us in the losing column.”

Because of a scheduling quirk, Rice begins its conference schedule Feb. 26 at home against the University of New Mexico, only one game into the season. Last year its first conference game was Feb. 28. According to Graham, the early start shouldn’t pose a problem.

“It’s crazy to start so early,” he said. “We’ll be ready, though.”

The Owls’ strongest competition for the conference title will be 25th-ranked Fresno State University. In fact, Baseball America picked the Bulldogs to win the WAC, though no one at Rice seems to be too concerned. Junior center fielder Bubba Crosby feels confident about the team’s ability.

“We know they’re a national contender,” Crosby said. “Sure, the Baseball America rankings disappoint us, but we know who’ll be on top in the end.”

The Owls do not play Fresno State University during the regular season. All the same, Graham said he is wary of several other WAC opponents.

“The University of Nevada at Las Vegas and San Diego State are top teams,” he said. “Also, (Texas Christian University) is always tough on us and (the University of) Hawaii is very unpredictable.”

By the time the WAC Tournament rolls around on May 13, the Owls will have been playing ball for over three months. But the players said the long season could be a blessing in disguise.

“We’ll start feeling it in April and May when it really wears on you,” Bess said. “But that’s when everybody starts stepping up. The good teams stay strong. We’ll be ready for the challenge.”
You might guess that a team which lost four starters in the pros, graduation and injury cannot possibly come close to duplicating its best season in school history. You might guess that a team which returns with only one infield position intact and fills three others with junior college transfers cannot possibly return to the College World Series.

You might guess that a team whose pitching staff will most likely be led by a junior, two sophomores and the starting third baseman who possibly wins a third straight conference pitching award.

Guess again.

When 1997 was admittedly a storybook year for Rice, 1998 stands to be even better. With a more experienced pitching staff, the best team of junior college transfers in the country and a great balance of power and speed, the Owls will be in the running for the first time.

Mike Fraser, with the power that Curry brings, we pretty much back up our best ever," Graham said. "And Baker and Crosby just play hard. On the mound, Nichols is very intelligent and he throws a lot of strikes.

With all of these assets, it’s easy to see why Rice is ranked either ninth or 10th in every major preseason poll. The key to fulfilling these expectations is following through at the plate — where it counts the most — on the field.

"We need to remain focused. The talent is here... We don’t only want to make it back to Omaha. We want to win it all," Grimm said.}

### 1998 Rice Baseball Schedule

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  - First baseman
  - DH
  - Pitcher

- **Jason Richards**
  - Pitcher
  - Second baseman
  - Leadoff hitter

- **Jeff Nicholls**
  - Left field

- **Junie Williams**
  - Right field
  - Center field

- **Zane Curry**
  - Pitcher
  - Second baseman

- **Damon Thomas**
  - Pitcher
  - Shortstop

- **Kevin Hodge**
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  - Third baseman

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Women's basketball faces tough TCU, SMU teams  

GRAND OPENING  
WE HAVE ARRIVED  
Your on Campus Travel Experts are here...  
• Student Discounts for Domestic & International Tickets 
• Spring Break Trips & Easter & BCN rail passes 
• International Student, Youth & Teacher ID Cards 
• Travel & Leisure 
• Hosted Curve 
• Packages to Mexico, Caribbean & Hawaii 
• Student and Budget Tours to Europe, Australia & New Zealand 
• Discounts for Faculty & Staff too!

BASKETBALL, from Page 11  
The action intensified with a little more than nine minutes to play as Crawford drained a three-pointer to tie the score at 62. On the ensuing possession, the OwlsISO led Rainbow forward Mike Robinson, and he converted both free throws to give Hawaii a 64-62 lead. After calling a timeout with 24 seconds to play in the game, Rice tied the score at 64, but Crawford, the scorer under, won the game. He drew a foul on a hard drive to the basket with only 6.6 seconds remaining.

Unfortunately, Crawford, who is one of the Owls best free throw shooters, was able to make only one of two shots, which left the Owls with a one-point lead. A final glimpse of hope when Hawaii forward Micah Krogner missed a free throw after a Rice foul, but Crawford's desperate last-second shot was blocked, handing the Owls a bitter 64-63 loss. 

Head Coach Willis Wilson said the Owls' free throw woes was not the deciding factor in the game. "I think our team just ran out of clock to play. I was proud of Bobby for his effort, and he and Robert Johnson did some great things to keep us in the game," he said.

The players' mood was one of heartbreak after another close loss to无缘进入NCAA tournament. "I wish the opportunity to be in the conference and we just didn't take advantage of it," lamented guard Robert Johnson.

After being selected to enter the NCAA tournament, the Owls had good reason to feel good about the way it played against Hawaii and previously against the University of Utah, Wilson reacted strongly. "You invest too much time and effort. He and Robert Johnson did a bitter 65-63 loss."

These kids deserve to win. They have worked their butts off and come back from the depths of darkness. I'd be letting my players down to feel good about losing. " -- Willis Wilson

head coach

Losers damage men's postseason hopes 

The next flight went a little smoother. The Owls arrived in Las Vegas Friday and began preparing to do battle with the University of Hawaii at the WAC Tournament.

The delay gave the Owls an extra day to regroup and prepare before taking on the Aztecs. The extra preparation turned out to be just what the Owls needed, and they came out of the game with a win for the Owls, but in the end, the Owls were too much for the Owls once again, with a 79-53 win.

The trip started poorly for the Owls, but the Owls were able to make it back to their hotel and get a good night's sleep. The next day, the Owls went to the Palace and started their practice for the game against the Owls.

The Owls were at home in the Pacific Division, and the Owls have a chance at winning the conference.

The Owls are looking for more wins and looking for a better performance in the NCAA tournament. "I think our team just ran out of clock to play. I was proud of Bobby for his effort, and he and Robert Johnson did some great things to keep us in the game," head coach Willis Wilson said.

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Losers damage men's postseason hopes
One afternoon this week, I made plans to go for a drive in front of Chem Lec and play the Shuttle Bus Drinking Game. The rules: Each time two shuttle buses pass Valhalla within sixty seconds of each other, you chug a beer. Before playing, I chose to investigate the frequency of this phenomenon with a pad, pencil, and a digital camera. That turned out to be a solid decision.

On the afternoon in question, I budgeted two full hours to observe the shuttle bus pattern. But what I saw in the first 13 minutes caused me to give up early. In order to protect the drivers of the shuttles, the day and time of my observations will be omitted.

Here's what happened:

The walk from the Theater office to Chem Lec is a short one. So was the wait for the shuttle. Usually, it takes at least a few minutes for one to arrive. On this day, though, the first one pulled up to the curb after I had waited only 18 seconds.

Just 35 seconds later, I noted the first shuttle bunch-up. The Grad House shuttle trailed close behind my bus. In defense of the system, though, this was only a technical bunch-up. It shouldn't matter what the frequency of the Grad House shuttle is relative to the other buses. As long as it runs consistently in its service to graduate students, it is best considered the "bonus shuttle" for those of us on campus destinations.

By the time we reached the stadium parking lot, the driver had realized exactly what I was doing. Apparently there have been enough complaints to warrant the timing of the buses and the consequent paranoia of the bus drivers. This particular driver was not pleased to be tapped by an undergrad with a watch and a camera.

As we pulled away from the lot, a second inner loop shuttle was tailing us within seconds. A legitimate bunch-up! Students and faculty have grown used to groupings of the shuttles. Talking to my driver, I found that little can be done about the inefficiency. Passengers are not constant variables. Each turn around the loop brings a different situation. When a leading shuttle is laden with passengers, the other follows it, and picks up few riders. Eventually the trailing shuttle catches up and the bunching problem begins. This practical realization is for the trailing shuttle to sit and wait a few minutes until the leading shuttle gets a sufficient headstart. While the majority of shuttle passengers desire the convenience of evenly-spaced service, nobody wants to be a passenger on the shuttle forced to wait. Then who gets an earful? Not the impatient riders, but the driver.

The Solution

My driver did get me around the inner loop in just under ten minutes, and I applaud the speed service. The existing system must cope with the uncertainty in each revolution of the loop that leaves our drivers in the hot seat. You might think twice before criticizing your driver for bunching up, for so long waits. And if you decide to play the Shuttle Bus Drinking Game at Valhalla, play with the revised rules. Instead of chugging, sip your beer each time you see two shuttles bunch-up. That way, you are safely playing the game for longer than 15 minutes.

— Patrick "Packy" Saunders
**friday**

**JAN 30**

Will Rice hosts a SWING PARTY featuring a big band from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Will Rice Commons. Free dancing for everyone, along with dancing in the commons at 9 p.m.

The Leon Wilson Opera Series presents

**OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATER** featuring excerpts from Don Giovanni, Assasins, Sunday in the Park with George, Into the Woods, The Marriage of Figaro, Mr Frog Lady and Other Novelties with Delirious director and Thomas Jansen musical director. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Wortham Opera Theatre in Alice Pratt Brown Hall. A few featured productions include into the Woods and Assasins. Admission is free.

**MEN'S TENNIS**

Baylor vs. Rice @ 11 a.m. in Jake Hess Tennis Stadium

The Owls try to crush the Mustangs as the WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team takes on the women of SMU. Top of the league in All Star Court.

**THE WOMEN'S TENNIS**

team battles Stephen F. Austin at 2 p.m. in Jake Hess Tennis Stadium.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE** plays TCU @ 1 p.m. on the lacrosse field.

**saturday**

**JAN 31**

The Leon Wilson Clark Opera Series presents THE LION KING at 7:30 p.m. in Wortham Opera Theatre in Alice Pratt Brown Hall. Admission is free.

**TODAY AT NOON**

In the Student Activities Office or on the Thresher office door.

**FOR ADDING COURSES**

Deadline: Monday by 5:30 p.m. prior to Friday publication. The Thresher will not accept late publishing. All requests must be accompanied by a completed override form.

**MONDAY**

The Shepherd School of Music presents PIERRE JATBERT, RICHARD LAVENDA and EDWARD APPLEBAUM performed by Shepherd Ellsworth Milburn performed by Shepherd University professor of English, and THOMAS JABER is musical director and Thomas Jansen is musical director.

Today at noon is the deadline for SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM REGISTRATION for janitors, seniors and great students.

**friday**

**FEB 6**

Time’s up! Today is the DEADLINE FOR ADDING COURSES to your schedule.

Take me out to the ball game. The BASEBALL TEAM hosts its first home game of the season against New Mexico at Cameron Field at 2 p.m.

The SHEPHERD SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM ORCHESTRA presents a concert of Brahms music at 8 p.m. in Sunset Concert Hall.

**friday**

**FEB 1**

Happy New Year! Lunar New Year, that is! Vancouver-themed ICS 4th Floor students hosts the 4th Lunar New Year Bash to kick off the year of the Tiger in the Grand Hall in the Student Center from 12 to 4 p.m. The celebration includes a variety of student dance and musical performances and plenty of free food. For more information, contact Valerie Liu (713) 610-8609.

**HELP WANTED**

**WINTER 2002**

**DATING TODAY**

$30—105 words: $10

36—70 words: $20

71—105 words: $30

**DEADLINE:**

Friday publication.

Attn: Classifieds

$2,99/min. Must be 18 years or older. Service 18 yrs. or older. 619) 645-8434.

$3,99/min. Must be 18 yrs. or older. Service 18 yrs. or older. 619) 645-8434.

**CLASSIFIED AD RATES**

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Paymen, in the form of cash, check or credit card.

must accompany your ad

**NEED A DATE?**

Congregate in the pub to play a hot and heavy game of Slinged Out at 10 p.m.

The Shepherd School of Music presents THE CHOIR OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH from Leipzig, Germany, under the direction of Georg Christoph Biller, from 3:30 p.m. in Duncan Recital hall.

The WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team upsets Tulsa @ 7 p.m. in All Star Court.

**wEDNESDAY**

The Shepherd School of Music presents a FACULTY COMPOSERS CONCERT featuring works by Edward Appoamoh, Arthur Gottschall, Pierre Jaubert, Richard Lavenda and Etsworth Milmann presented by Shepherd School faculty and students.

**friday**

**FEB 2**

**MONDAY, AN UNDENIABLE ATROCITY**

A Presentation about the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide and begins at 4 p.m. in Duncan Hall. Room 1670. For more information, contact Katie Wise at (713) 610-7921.

**SUNDAY**

**FEB 3**

**11 DAYS UNTIL VALENTINE'S DAY**

Just a warning.

**tUESDAY**

**FEB 4**

The Owls try to crush the Mustangs as the WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team takes on the women of SMU. Top of the league in All Star Court.

The Shepherd School of Music presents a picture of Brahms music at 8 p.m. in Stude Thresher, 11-21.

**PROGRAM**

**FEB 4**

**VALENTINE'S DAY PICTURES**

**FEB 5**

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