Countiss wins in low-turnout election

by Leslie Liu

Hanszen College junior Anne Countiss defeated Jones College junior Nick Zdeblick by a solid majority in the Student Association’s campus-wide General Elections, which ended Wednesday.

Students cast a total of 733 ballots in the SA presidential election, the position for which the greatest number of students voted, a significant decrease from the 1,149 votes cast for president in last year’s General Elections.

Write-in votes for current SA Secretary Susan Egeland, a Lovett College junior, totaled 87, almost 12 percent of the vote, while Countiss received 489 votes to Zdeblick’s 132.

"I’m excited. It’s great to have the support of the student body and have it support my visions,” Countiss said. "I really appreciate the support I’ve gotten from all over campus helping out on my campaign."

In the only other contested SA office, Sid Richardson College sophomore Daniel Attaway defeated Baker College freshman Thomas Camacho for Student Affairs Camacho President by a wide margin, receiving 398 votes to Zdeblick's 132.

"I’m excited. It’s great to have the support of the student body and to be involved and to move with the publicize SA events, possibly by announcing agendas prior to meetings," Countiss said.

To achieve these goals, Countiss said she wants to make sure people know they don’t have to be elected officers to be involved and to move with publicize SA events, possibly by announcing agendas prior to meetings.

SA President 1999

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<th>Nick Zdeblick</th>
<th>Anne Countiss</th>
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Counts before 1998 are approximate. Elections after 1996 (gray) were held on line.

ELECTION RESULTS

Student Association Officers

President — Anne Countiss
Internal affairs VP — Jaime Middleton
External affairs VP — Daniel Attaway
Secretary* — Jamie Lisker
Treasurer* — Chad Benedict

Rice Student Volunteer Program Officers

Chair* — Anna DiPerna, Shilpa Sarang
Internal vice chair — Craig Harrison
External vice chair — Vivek Mittal
Secretary — Vandana Gadhe
Treasurer — Laura Gardner

Rice Program Council Officers

President* — Lindsay Garman
Secretary* — Alexis Flunkett

Honour Council Representatives

Senior* — Amy Rees, Jen Michael Huber
Junior* — Claire Bocchini, Deanna Smith
Treasurer — Laura Derr, Steven Wilbur

University Court Representatives

Senior — Ja Reynolds, Dave Sha
Junior — Ellen Cheuowerth, Alisa De Luna
Secretary — Freeda Fotouh, Andrew Lin

Threaten Editor* — Mariel Tam, Jeff Mclnster

"Uncontested position"

SA PRESIDENT, 1989-’99

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EMT Reiter, Rice take home awards

by Eunice Song

Emergency Medical Services Captain and Jones College senior Noah Reiter was named Campus EMS Provider of the Year at the sixth annual National Collegiate EMS Foundation Conference at Syracuse University Feb. 12-14.

Reiter was chosen for the award, the highest individual honor, out of thousands of campus EMS providers.

"When Mark [Escott] told me that he nominated me, I was obviously flattered, but when I found out I won, I was very surprised,” Reiter said. "I do feel like I’ve done a lot, but not necessarily that I deserved this award."

Reiter said he began the EMS program with Escott (Jones ‘97), the

1996 EMS director, after realizing that the Rice community needed such services.

"Mark and I worked together to come up with a proposal to give the administration and convince them that it was necessary for Rice to have an EMS program," Reiter said. "I knew before I came here that Rice didn’t have such a program, so I was thinking of starting one up even before I entered as a freshman."

Rice EMS was also recognized at the conference. The Striving for Excellence in Campus EMS Award is given to campus-based EMS organizations for service to their communities as well as outstanding developments, community outreach programs and improvement in quality. Of about 150 campus-based EMS organizations, the seven programs include Rice EMS, Page 4

Health Services likely to remain in current location

by Esther Sung

Due to a boosted budget, the option to build a separate facility for Health Services and the Rice Counseling Center was cut from construction plans.

Plans to improve Health Services were previously added to the new South College project. Options included a new facility as part of the new college or a separate building dedicated solely to Health Services and the Counseling Center.

Many other ideas followed that of South College, however, including the common kitchen and servrey for South College, Hanszen College and the to-be-rebuilt Wiess College.

When the proposed budget for South College expanded to sustain the development of these plans, the actual budget set by the Board of Governors did not expand enough to accomplish everything.

At the board’s request, Vice President for Student Affairs Camacho and the New Colleges Committee made substantial cuts to the South College plans to bring the anticipated expenses closer to the original budget estimates. One of the ideal cuts was a new facility for Health Services.

"We feel that the new facility is necessary in order to continue high quality service in the future."

— Graduate Student Association letter to President Gillis

Despite his decision to take Health Services out of the building plans for South College, Camacho said, "It’s pretty well-documented that we need to improve [Health Services]."

Director of Health Services Dr. Hanssen said "When you compare Rice Health Services to what other schools have, you see HEALTH, Page 6

EMT Reiter, Rice take home awards

by Eunice Song

Emergency Medical Services Captain and Jones College senior Noah Reiter was named Campus EMS Provider of the Year by the National Collegiate EMS Foundation

SA PRESIDENT 1999

Nick Zdeblick

Susan Egeland (write-in)

Men’s basketball loses ground

The muddy waters that make up the race in the Western Athletic Conference Men’s Division became downright filthy last week.

After a 77-47 defeat at the University of Tulsa Saturday—the Owls worst loss of the season — the men’s basketball team sits in a tie for second place in the division with just two games remaining.

Two games, however, can turn everything.

See Story, Page 11
Too many secrets

We were glad to see that Student Association Secretary Susan Egeland posted the full results of the General Elections on a bulletin board. In the real world, imagine a basketball game in which the few privy to watch it cannot tell anyone else what happened, except for which team won. Newspapers and television news programs would only be allowed to announce winners, but not provide any supporting information. This would keep any defeated team from being embarrassed about, say, losing by a wide margin.

The response to conceal the results of the campus-wide elections, as expressed at the SA meeting, is to spare the feelings of those running for office and losing. The feelings of the candidates should not be an issue. Any candidate for public office should be prepared for public scrutiny and possibly public rejection.

And it's also important for the voters to know how close the elections were. As Egeland noted in the most recent election, sex is a very personal, private matter, and in Rice's most public forums those advertisements are uncalled for. Say, yes sex is equal, but don't pretend it's not important that we received the signatures of neighborhoods to protect students from being harmed. Unless, of course, someone has a profit motive.

Philip Blankl 
Baker junior

Debate stilled on NOD

I would like to respond to Charlie Robinson's "Wise's TIDE letter for the editor from Feb. 19: "NOD critics need to act their age"." I am absolutely appalled (to use his phrase) that Robinson believes this party has no problems and is somehow to be set apart from criticism. Granted, Robinson is one of the original organizers and has a certain bias, but why must he resort to attacking those who want to throw the party and be a "grown up" because I choose to express my right to voice my opinions and don't tell me I'm not "grown up" because I choose to exercise my right to voice my opinions about NOD.

Actually, that is the disturbing thing about the recent debate. Robinson said the party is "out of control," that Rice Colle 
and NOD are so far above re 
reach that they are shocked that someone would point out its limitations or problems. The masters of the party, like myself, would like to see these addressed.

I will say straight out that I would like NOD to be abolished, and of course, many people will have a problem with that. But, I would hope that if people truly claim to be "tolerant" and "open-minded," they could at least acknowledge and accept my right to hold this opinion whether they agree with it or not. I don't mind if you discuss the issue with me — engage in a dialogue — but do not tell me I should not voice this opinion and don't tell me I'm not "grown up" because I choose to exercise my right to voice my opinions about NOD.

Farewell, Mr. Hicks

Today Marion Hicks succeeds the helm of the Food and Housing operation as its original department head. Good for him. He has long deserved this retirement. He's a swell guy. Former Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire thought so. She proclaimed a day in his honor in 1986.

The Board of Trustees agreed. There is no longer a Central Kitchen or CK building on this campus — the board named it Marion Hicks Kitchen.

Unlike other recent renamings in which a familiar name like Physics Labs gives way to fund raising, Hicks purchased his naming grant with the untouchable currency of service to Rice that spanned the tenure of five different university presidents.

We think Hicks is a swell guy too. And we think so not because Food and Housing runs smoothly, but because it often doesn't. Imagine the oversight duty of the on-campus food needs for over 2,000 students. Then add Samuels' and Cohen House. Also consider the maintenance and management of aging structures with a sparse budget.

Finally, imagine the relief Hicks must have felt when he retired last week and realized that relief suspended by his position. That isn't an error. Hicks truly retired last year, but he agreed to stay on until a replacement could be found.

Rice may have a new Food and Housing manager today, but we will never have a replacement for Marion Hicks. Our best wishes for you and your family, Mr. Hicks, as you retire to your ranch in Oklahoma.

Brian Stoler
Editor in Chief

Joseph Blachter, Michael Sew Hoy
Opinion Editors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Thresher' ad tasteless

To the editor:

I was offended by the condom advertisement in the most recent issue. Sex is a very personal, private matter, and in Rice's most public forums those advertisements are uncalled for. Say, yes sex is equal, but don't pretend it's not important that we received the signatures of neighborhoods to protect students from being harmed. Unless, of course, someone has a profit motive. 

Philip Blankl
Baker junior

RBT needs blanket tax

To the editor:

In the past two weeks, Rice Broadcast Television has been the subject of much debate and projection among the powers that be on campus. We feel a need to address our stance on these issues.

Our philosophy this year has been to use the resources we have to create a foundation for the future of television for Rice students. We have pioneered the successful "Owl's Eye News" that not only informs but also entertains students.

Students are beginning to realize the plethora of opportunities available through television. Currently in production are a talk show at Willy's Pub, a cooking show, a movie and a version of "Seattle Grace" called "Natural Selection." In addition, several student organizations have approached us to film their events, including the Lunar New Year Festival and the current Association presidential debate.

Clearly, there is a demand for television on campus. Our goal continues to be to produce television programs that fulfill the needs and interests of the Rice community.

Jennifer Hellburn
Brown senior

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters

• Letters to the editor should be sent to the Thresher by mail, fax, e-mail to the thresherrice.edu or be delivered in person. We prefer that letters be submitted in disk or by e-mail. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.

• All letters must be signed and include a phone number. Rice students and alumini must include their college and year.

We will withhold names upon request.

• Letters should be no longer than 500 words in length. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

News Tips

• Tips for possible news stories should be phoned in to the Thresher at (713) 527-4801.

Subscribing

• Annual subscriptions are available for $90 domestic and $100 international by first class mail.

Advertising

• We accept both display and classified advertisements. Contact the Thresher for more information.
Opinions, arguments thrive on-line

Zach Bing

The Rice Thrasher

Behind the scenes of Angelique's column

Angelique Siy is a production manager and a Sid Richardson College senior. She can be reached at asic@rice.edu.

I am an odd sort of information junkie. I'm sitting here in front of my computer trying to pour out some-thing that resembles a coherent thought for this column. But I also keep myself drifting away.

You know, it's just too easy. I have a high-speed desktop connection and, as I sit here typing away, I continually glance over at the open window of the nine open networks of CNN, ESPN, The New York Times, Slate, Fox (the Web seems to have a great infatuation with single-word Web magazine titles starting with "The"). The best Net boxes — well, the list could go on and on and on.

I think I don't really care about the facts because, in this day and age, there are so many facts they've become something like Legos. Everybody has the testimony of an expert, experimental-test data, and legal precedents to prove his point.

Facts are little color blocks that don't have much value per se, but they can be built up. We collect them today with the same passion as we did with Legos as kids because, the more of them you have, the bigger the argument you can make. So I sit and look for opinions. I pore over arguments. I love nothing more than ripping off a poorly built argument, even if it's rapping up a well-built argument. It's not simple that I want to be right, but that the best way to understand an argument is to try and prove it wrong.

I find it a truly fun thing to read along and finally see how this or that person has used his facts to build his opinion. The data glut of information Age has defuelled facts, but in my opinion, opinions are still quite valuable, no matter how many of them you hear.

I think that I don't really care about the facts because, in this day and age, there are so many facts they've become something like Legos.

It's one of the best ways to connect to people. It's charming to find out what people think, to find out how they think. There is something electric about having people disagree with each other, even if it's rapping up a well-built argument. It's not simple that I want to be right, but that the best way to understand an argument is to try and prove it wrong.

The answer is that I don't want to say more than anyone else is doing, and I want to do so well, it's much better than having them agree with you out of hand. Opinions should be valued more than highly any other information we are given, so it all Dismissed with little thought or consideration.

But that's just my opinion.

These are play-pretend sticks and stones; Alia

But the comments still affect me. Even now, I'm trying to write something that manages to be neither complicated nor simple. Do you have any idea how hard that is?

Many people have expressed sentiment that I didn't want to make a baby picture. Here's a list of reasons: I didn't want to make a baby picture, I didn't want to make a baby picture, I didn't want to make a baby picture, and finally: I didn't want to make a baby picture. My column often nar- rates experiences from growing up, and using a child's picture reflects a backward looking, anti-political inclination. I wanted to show that I am not a fragile girl — inexperienced, ignorant and sometimes-overwhelmed — relative to how much I have left that I want to do and leave. Finally and importantly, I'm not sure.

I don't enjoy having another thing to do every week. I don't enjoy reading or anything close thinking. I'm a writer — what's something meaningful people would be inter-ested in?

Word is that I'm writing for myself, not for other people. No, that's not completely true — You're obviously writing this while con-sidering what I'll be published to the masses. Come on. Just commit to something. What about some sort of simple, un-Alia reminiscence? But that's crazy — Nobody needs to know about my Alia-like experiences. Like, even. There are too many of you out there already, and what I'd love to do is to show how much I'm interested. I'm not that I'm interested. I'm interested. Yeah, sure — And chickens have lips.

I do enjoy writing, and being pub-

These play-pretend sticks and stones

The Rice Thrasher, the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1916, is published each Friday during the school year, except during examination periods and holidays, by the students of Rice University.

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**History should vindicate House of Representatives**

**Notin for Al**

**History should vindicate House of Representatives**

Now that the trial of President Bill Clinton has ended and we no longer have to discuss his behavior, it could be worthwhile to discuss the behavior of Congress in handling this matter. Until now, the American people have been judging Congress largely on the basis of whether or not they support Clinton. Those who felt he was guilty praised Congress and those who felt he was innocent condemned it.

According to conventional wisdom, there is a clear dichotomy between the two chambers of Congress. The House of Representatives supposedly acted in a rash and partisan manner, and the Senate was conciliatory and bipartisan. Presented in the conventional way, Congress carried out its duties more responsibly than the House. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

The Senate... chose bipartisanship over propriety in conducting the trial.

The House performed its duties well. Akin to a grand jury in the criminal justice system, its role was to decide whether there was enough evidence to merit a trial. Impeachment, which was thus similar to an indictment, was a chance to have a fair and unbiased jury. In early January, senators from both parties asked the president to forego his right to have the United States Supreme Court to submit it in writing instead, saying it would be wholly inappropriate during the trial. The president refused and said he would not be intimidated by the senators. The Senate was thus a situation in which senators were isolated from the case against Clinton during the day and attending a pep rally for him in the evening.

Three senators in particular took the oath to be impartial under the most dubious of circumstances. Newly elected Sens. Jim Bunning, Michael Crapo, and Chuck Schumer refused to recuse themselves even though they had already voted on the case in December as members of the House. In particular, Schumer behaved disgracefully, speaking publicly about the lack of merits of the case nearly every day while continuing to claim impartiality. One question often raised was whether any senator could truly claim to be objective in light of his party affiliation. Perhaps there is some truth to this, but some senators crusaded for one position or the other while maintaining a veneer of impartiality. For example, Sen. Tom Harkin described the case against the president as "a pile of dung." All senators who had already come to a decision should have excused themselves instead of taking a false oath, even if that meant only 10 or 20 senators would have remained. Despite the common opinion, I believe there were some senators who truly had not made up their minds when the trial began. Those should have been the only senators making the decision of whether to remove Clinton.

Furthermore, being human, they may only care about the House's vote and the Senate's verdict, but the history books will care about proceedings. Both houses set precedents for future impeachment cases with their actions, some of which were less than admirable. I hope history will vindicate the House's actions by valuing integrity above bipartisanship in the hierarchy of ideals.

Todd Makse is a Sid Richardson College sophomore.
Baker picks Copelandas as masters

by Eniice Song
THE RICE THRESHER NEWS

Baker assembled an 11-member Masters Search Committee in mid-September to find replacements for current Masters Arthur and Joan Free. "We were looking for energy and enthusiasm and initiative. We were looking for a leader that had Baker written all over them — class, tradition, fun — and the Copelandas literally had Baker written all over them," committee member and sophomore Tullika Garg said. "Jim was an RA at Baker since 1980 and has continued on as an associate — so he has lots of experience with college life — especially at Baker. Chris is just all-around cool. She taught a great course on investment at Baker a couple years ago — a great female role model." Garg said the committee member's final decision was tough. "It was a very close process. We eventually narrowed down our field to three candidates, and they all would have been great masters for Baker," she said. "We felt that the Copelandas combined a great mix of ability to keep Baker traditions going strong and to breathe new life into Baker and its members."

The Copelandas are eager and excited to begin this new journey at Baker. "I admire and respect the traditions of the college, and I will try my best to uphold those," Jim Copeland said. "I would like to see a significant role for academic as well as with social activities and will emphasize active participation in college matters by the faculty, university and community association." Jim Copeland has been teaching linguistics at Rice since 1986. He and his wife, Christiane, a certi-

Jones RAs chosen as Lovett masters

by Eniice Song
THE RICE THRESHER NEWS

Lovett College has announced that Linguistics Professor Spike Gildea and Bonny Tibbitts will take over as masters starting next year. After the 11-member Lovett Masters Search Committee, headed by senior Beck Sears, narrowed its candidates down to six couples, they decided Gildea and Tibbitts were the right replacements for current Masters Bill Leeman and Connie Burke.

"With Spike's energy and enthusiasm and Bonny's more laid-back demeanor, they appeal to all sorts of Lovett College members," committee member and sophomore Blake Barker said. "Both have also spent time with the Peace Corps and can share their worldly experience with us. Another good thing is that they were RAs at Jones College for four years, so they understand campus life, know what students think and are already comfortable with Rice's campus and life."

Barker said the new masters faced stiff competition. "It was a very close process. All the candidates were awesome," he said. "The decision no longer was based on who would make a good master, because everyone was great." Gildea said he and Tibbitts are enthusiastic about becoming masters. "We like how the college system supports the students, and we like living with students," Gildea said. "We see mastership as a way to contribute even more to a good thing, and we have thought for a long time that we would like to become masters. When we started the interview process at Lovett, we realized it would be a really good place to be."

Gildea said they intend to prepare by talking to Lovett members and to other masters. "We need to get to know more people at Lovett and what they want before we can talk about plans — we are not arriving with an agenda for what we want to do at Lovett," he said. "We have an inclusive style, and we expect to spend a lot of our time as masters talking to people."

Gildea has been a professor since 1995 and Tibbitts teaches English as a Second Language classes as a language consultant at the School of Continuing Studies. They have two children, 7-year-old Phoebe and 6-month-old Julian.

Although festival organizer and Lovett senior Walter Li said their problems should not be extrapolated towards the Media Center at the time of the festival, he said he and the other organizers understand the center is not to blame. "The Media Center is in a tough position and I don't want to be critical of it," Li said. "I want to gain experience for all involved."

A meeting between Jenkins and all four festival organizers "cleared the air," Li said. "I don't want to discourage future groups from putting on shows," she said.

Jenkins strongly agreed with this sentiment, saying the Media Center is there to "work with students in any capacity." She said she is very confident Rice students should be able to manage events on campus, but that it can be difficult for Rice since students don't really know the Media Center enough to handle it.

Jenkins attributes this relative anonymity to its location, which is "across the street from the Rice Police station, and the fact that the diverse film offerings by the Media Center might not appeal to every student."

"We offer a well-balanced, eclectic program," Jenkins said. "We want the university to know what we're doing. We have a good program that students should take advantage of, and we're willing to work with students."

Jenkins also said she wants to know "what Rice students want." Rice Media exists not only to appeal to the Houston community but also to students. "The more they come, the more they will understand what we're trying to do," she said.

Film festival hit snags

by Donna Baker
THE RICE THRESHER NEWS

Despite facing some technical and administrative difficulties with this year's Asian-American Film Festival, held in the Rice Media Center Jan. 29-31, festival organizer and Will Rice College senior Jennifer Lin said she was pleased with the end result.

"Our main concerns were audit, participation, satisfaction, and generating discussion," she said. "Overall, the festival was a success."

Unfortunately for participants and organizers, however, things did not run so smoothly on the festival's most popular day, when a VHS tape player malfunctioned, causing a film cancellation.

Organizers were unable to find anyone with the technical know-how to solve the problem and had to show the festival's streaming films on VHS format.

Another major concern for festival-organizers was that there wasn't someone at the box office selling tickets at all times.

Media Center film programming coordinator Liz Emplotten-Jenkins said traditional policy had been that during a feature film showing, the box office closes 30 to 45 minutes after the film starts. She said this makes sense since someone probably wouldn't watch a film after missing the first 45 minutes of it.

During the festival, however, many short films were shown sequentially, and with the box office closed, some people were unable to get tickets.

The Media Center policy is the most efficient policy for a one-film event," Lin said. "But for a festival, you need someone there the whole time, and it's detrimental to the Media Center because they aren't getting funds."

Jenkins agreed. "It hurts us (the Media Center, not them)," she said. "This is being corrected — we just have to change-old habits, and we're in the process of doing that."

Jenkins also said that at the time of the festival there wasn't anyone on staff hired to handle only technical difficulties who could have been on call. She said the position is still vacant, but even if it were filled, there would be no guarantee everything will run smoothly.

"Having a technical person isn't always the answer. It doesn't guarantee that the situation will be handled properly. But we will give people the education in the future," Jenkins said.

Jenkins also said the festival's main problems were logistical, as all are part of the risk that come with running a show. "Sometimes equipment can take on a life of its own. When something happens, you have to take the good with the bad," she said.

Although festival organizer and Lovett senior Walter Li said their problems should not be extrapolated towards the Media Center at the time of the festival, he said he and the other organizers understand the center is not to blame. "The Media Center is in a tough position and I don't want to be critical of it," Li said. "I want to gain experience for all involved."

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were reported by the Campus Police for the period Feb. 19-23:

Residential College

Lovett College

Feb. 23

Four non-Rice subjects soliciting without permission. One subject had a knife, one for assault, arrested and booked into Harris County Jail.

Other Buildings

Student Center

Feb. 22

Unknown person or personsTalk sassy to Sammy's loading dock.

Other Area

6400 Main

Feb. 20

Two non-Rice subjects arrested for minor in possession and for causing a disturbance on the jogging trail next to the bus stop between entrances 4 and 6. Both issued summonses and released.

RSVP

The Rice Student Volunteer Program meeting was Monday. The following were discussed:

■ The Make-a-Wish Foundation will hold a special orientation for Rice Students Wednesday 9 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion. The foundation grants the wishes of children from the ages of 2 and 18. With a terminal illness. If you are interested in getting involved, contact your college representative or send e-mail to Amy Achor (acher@rice.edu).

■ March of Dimes donation campaign is under way in every residential college. The March of Dimes Walk will be April 25.

■ The Rice Community Garden will have a groundbreaking ceremony the weekend of March 19. If you want to come to the organizational meetings each Thursday at noon in the courtyard across from the Insull Center or contact Pam Foote at pfoote@rice.edu or Amanda Bamut at abamut@rice.edu.

Next meeting: Monday at 9 p.m. in Miner Lounge in the Student Center.
Two for Honor Council post

However, others think the SA presently is doing very well, and that it is often seen too much as a body for students. "The SA is in fact a dynamic organization that is looking for ways to improve its services," said Alena Watts, a junior at Rice. "Being on the Rice Honor Council is a great opportunity to learn new skills, and to be a leader in the community," said another student. "The SA works to provide services that are needed by students." At the same time, the SA needs to work to improve the way it delivers its services. "The SA has to be more transparent in its decision making," said one student. "We need to have more input from the student body, and to make our decisions more accountable to the student body."
Money for doing nothing:

Just about nothing, anyway.

The Thresher is now seeking a Production Manager and a Distribution Manager. Or one person to do both. Big titles, less than two hours of work per week for each job. Call Louren at (713) 527-4801 or e-mail thresher@rice.edu.

THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST SEPARATED FROM THE EXPLANATION OF CHRIST

a lecture by

EPISCOPAL BISHOP JOHN S. SPONG

RICE UNIVERSITY – Hamman Hall
Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. Admission - $10 Students - $5

JOHN SHELBY SPONG IS A REVOLUTIONARY BISHOP. He challenges the church’s theological defiance, institutional aggrandizement and self-serving moralism.

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APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT HTTP://WWW.RICE.EDU/LEADERSHIP/

Houston
INTERNATIONAL
WASHINGTON DC
Gravity’ surprises with fun, quirky musings

Aaron Marx

For The Thresher

Like most people, I have a high opinion of gravity. Like most people, I do not generally have a high opinion of the average college theater production. By the end of How Much Of It Is Only Gravity?, put on by Lovett College Theater, both of my opinions were reversed.

The program for the performance — which took place in the Lovett College basement — advertised in all bold capital letters that it was a “caution: mature themes” show. With past experience of acting in similar productions, I was prepared for the worst, with horrid acting, a cardboard set and a pair of speakers that did not work. I was first wronged, and after a few comments on the acting, I was watching a man in his home — I was watching a man in his home.

The play is, in the end, about gravity. Gravity appears briefly (in the form of Lovett’s senior Adam Clarke) to apologize for its tendency to make us fall.

Like the play that attempts to explore the idea of life in both light and heart-heavy. It is a simple fact of nature, and an incredible force that keeps us on this planet.

How Much Of It Is Only Gravity? has its flaws, but it is overall a thought-provoking and funny work. The cast and crew perform their duties well and bring out the best in the play. Kudos to Lovett for putting out another quality theater production.

How Much of It Is Only Gravity? Rating: ••• (out of five)

On Monday, March 4, the Rice Thresher arts and entertainment writer Jesse Groh reviewed the musical ‘How Much of It is Only Gravity?’ performed by Lovett College Theater.

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Theater: How Much Of It Is Only Gravity?

Performers: Mary McBeth, Macy McBeth, and Max McBeth

Venue: Lovett College Theater

Rating: ••• (out of five)
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Moore means less for Owls by Jose Luis Cubria

A baseball team can run into a slump and still win a game 1.0. A baseball team can also forget how to throw strikes and still win a 13-12 victory. But put both bad pitching and bad hitting together and you often get a nationally ranked opponent — and bad things happen.

The University of Houston ranked No. 29 in the nation, got strong relief work from Bryan Moore and put together two big innings to beat the No. 15 Owls 8-3 Friday night at Cameron Field.

With the win, the Owls have been knocked out of the 1999 Silver Glove Series at 1-1 and snapped a five-game losing streak against the Owls dating back to last year. The next matchup between the cross-town rivals comes Mar. 16 at Cougar Field.

For the fifth game in a row, Rice's offense did not put up big numbers. But this time, the pitching was un

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Women's track runs fifth at Clarke

by Alex Higbee

The Terrier women's track team finished fifth at the 1999 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship.

The Owls' day was filled with personal bests. Anderson set a personal best in the 800-meter run instead of Rice's 8-3 loss to UH Tuesday. The Cougars' win evened the Silver Glove Series at 1-1. The Owls won the Silver Glove Series for the first time last season.

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Three runners scored one run each for the Owls. The loss further magnified the slump that Rice has recently been in.

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Sunidh Jani is a Sid Richardson College sophomore.
The University of Nevada at Las Vegas would be 3-1, Wyoming 2-2.

Two games, however, can mean everything in the crowded division. The University of Nevada at Las Vegas, which looked to be in control of the Mountain Division, sits in a tie for second place in the division with just two games remaining.

Two games, however, can mean everything in the crowded division. The University of Nevada at Las Vegas, which looked to be in control of the Mountain Division, sits in a tie for second place in the division with just two games remaining.

The Owls stand at 7-5 and have a solid division champion, as UNLV faces tough road games at Wyoming and Colorado State University. But two losses could send the Owls plummeting all the way to seventh place and watching the WAC tournament on television.

"We're in a dogfight, and it's anyone's guess who'll win the title," Head Coach Willis Wilson said. "We have a great shot. The task is tough but not insurmountable."

The Tulsa game provided an excellent opportunity for the Owls to emerge from the pack and gain some solid footing with a win, but it was clear early on that would not be the case. Tulsa's smothering defense completely shut down Rice's offense, holding the Owls to a woeful four-of-10 shooting performance in the first half on its way to a 44-15 halftime lead. The 15 points were Rice's lowest output in a half all season.

"We can't really worry about what everyone else is doing," Johnson said. "We have no control over what anybody else does, and the only way it ever matters is if we lose."
Men's track struggles to 10th-place finish at WAC

by Alex Highre

Appropriately, the Air Force Academy is located in the thin air of the Colorado plateau. But unfortunately for the Owls, the track team is situated in the thicker air just above sea level, a factor that led to the track team's disappointing but expected 10th-place finish in the three-day Western Athletic Conference Indoor Championships in Colorado Springs.

Senior Dave Stigant agreed. "We had an opportunity to do better in the distance medley relay team that finished fifth in 3:30.96. Freshman Keith Pierce ran some good times of 1:20 meters on the relay, followed by senior Jason Price in the 800 and McArthur in the 1,500."

Sophomore Scott Byer ran a respectable time of 4:00 meters running, finishing in 48.83 for eighth place. He was also a leg in the distance medley relay team that finished fifth in 3:30.96. Freshman Keith Pierce ran some good times of 1:20 meters on the relay, followed by senior Jason Price in the 800 and McArthur in the 1,500.

Sophomore Reed Ballis scored for the Owls in his first meet, finishing seventh in the high jump (6-7). Rice had expected to run the 4x400 relay but had canceled its plans after Stafford's hamstring injury and the illness of another team member.

"It was disappointing, but we knew it would be before we went up there," - Raymond Davidson, Head coach

Stafford excelled in the first three events of the pentathlon, winning the 60-meter hurdles in 8.02 seconds and placing second in both the long jump (22 feet, 9 inches) and the high jump (6 feet, 9 inches). But the deciding event was the 1,500 meter race in which Stafford finished just fifth out of nine in 5:00.11.

Stafford continued to score points for Rice throughout the meet, placing fifth in the long jump (59-3.75). He also placed third in the 800-meter run, but the event he was expected to win. But coming over the last hurdle, he hurt himself and was unable to gain a spot in finishing in 8:05 seconds.

"It hurt well, but not great," Davidson said. "I just went out there to get some points. So we didn't do very well.

Also scoring for Rice was sophomore Lachlan McArthur with a sixth-place finish in the 800-meter run, an event he normally doesn't run. His time of 1:55.05 was only a few seconds ahead of fellow sophomore Justin Burrow, who came in to fill his injury to his Achilles' tendon for a surprise eighth-place finish in 1:57.45.

"We're really prepared well," junior Jason Ahuero said. "We've had good days and bad days. But we should all be in peak performance for next weekend."

The Owls depart Tuesday for the championship this weekend in Colorado. But despite the loss, the Owls are without a team championship this weekend. •«

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TAKING OUT ONLY. NOT VALID WITH DELIVERY.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. EXPIRES 2/24/99.
Junior Robert Collins prepares to hit a backhand against the University of Arizona Saturday. The Owls beat No. 45 Wildcats 4-3.

Owls head West again after defeating Arizona, UTPA

Two weeks ago, the men's tennis team lost two of three matches on a road trip to California. The losses came against top-20 squads, but any loss is tough to take.

After two wins this Saturday, however, the Owls regained their confidence as they prepared for three more road matches as they headed West again after coming against top-20 squads, but any home victory over 45th-ranked University of Texas-Pan American soon after the big win. The Owls came in expecting a sweep — and they got it. Rice played the University of Texas-Pan American soon after the big win. The Owls came in expecting a sweep — and they got it. Rice won the dual match 6-1, 6-0 at the second spot.

The pair of seniors Efe Ustundag and Shane Stone, ranked No. 18 in doubles point. The pair of seniors Efe Ustundag and Shane Stone, ranked No. 18 in doubles point. They had already won the match by virtue of their other singles wins by the time they finished.

"She didn't play as well as she can... She was just dead tired," Blankenship said. "But [Uhlirova] was a solid player."

The freshmen continued their dominance in doubles as the pair of Hagedorn and Kylie Wallstone blazed their opponents 6-0. At No. 2, Waters and Gadzewska had some trouble at the outset but gained momentum and cruised in for a 6-4 win. Briaud and Feasby played at the top spot but could not prevent Uhlirova from taking her second match of the day, losing 8-5 to the top SHSU pair.

At the halfway point of the spring season, the Owls are in a pretty good position. Their 7-2 overall record is a testament to the consistent good health of the players and the amount of work they have put in.

"We are doing really well this year, and we're really clicking as a team," Feasby said. "We could match up really well with TCU," Blankenship said. "Rankings, one year a year on the court, don't really matter."

Rice stays hot, improves record to 7-2

It's easy to get complacent. A season can curl up, and it's easy to lose focus and drop a few matches.

But the women's tennis team seems immune to any kind of mid-season slump. They swept the University of Texas at San Antonio 6-0 Saturday and then dominated Sun Belt Conference foe Louisiana Monroe University 7-2 Wednesday afternoon.

Rice had little trouble with the Roadrunners as none of the singles matches went to three sets. Junior Elise Lewis swept her way with her 6-4, 7-5 win at No. 1, and junior Charlotte Feasby smoked her opponent 6-1, 6-0 at the second spot.

"We got a good win off," Head Coach Paul Blankenship said. "They were a little bit tougher, particularly at the top, than we had expected."

Wednesday's match had a lot of high points, particularly from the newcomers, but the 7-2 victory wasn't the prettiest of wins.

The match started well as freshmen Judith Hagedorn and Natalie Briaud, playing at Nos. 5 and 6, took down their opponents 6-0, 60. The older players were squared off, but senior Justyna Gadzewska and sophomore Erin Waters won 6-1, 6-2 at Nos. 3 and 4 and junior Charlotte Feasby came away with a 6-2, 2 win in the second spot.

Lewis started a strong afternoon, losing 6-1, 7-6 to Vladka Uhlirova, but the Owls had already won the match by virtue of their other singles wins by the time they finished.

"She didn't play as well as she can... She was just dead tired," Blankenship said. "But [Uhlirova] was a solid player."

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The Rice baseball team ran to a major cold front last weekend—the kind that freezes aluminum bats and renders them useless. But thanks to very strong pitching, the Owls overcame their run-scoring deficiencies to sweep the Marriott West Invitational at Cameron Field.

Rice won all three of its games, including a 4-0 win over Jacksonville Invitational at Cameron Field. No. 2 in both the Collegiate Baseball and Baseball Weekly ESPN Coaches polls, all of which were released Monday.

But if the pitching staff hadn’t bailed them out last weekend, the Owls probably would not have been looking at a No. 2 ranking in the

Although Rice’s offense was significantly worse last weekend than the rest of the time, its pitching was notably better. Through the first 12 games of the season, last was scored an average of 8.8 runs per game, compared to just six runs per game in the tournament. Rice’s pitching staff gave up a very respectable 4.9 runs per game, but was even better last weekend, going just three per game.

Before the season started, the Owls knew their pitching staff would be a great job helping us win games,” Head Coach Wayne Graham said. “If there’s a bright side, that’s to our pitching because they did a great job helping us win many games. We've got to get him straightened out. He’ll help us a lot and we’ve got to have him.”

“Of course, we’re going to get the bats going,” said senior closer Stephen Bess, who got two saves last weekend, throws a pitch in Rice’s 5-3 win over Nebraska Saturday.

Senior closer Stephen Bess, who got two saves last weekend, throws a pitch in Rice’s 5-3 win over Nebraska Saturday.
friday  FEB 26

Lowett College presents the one-act play HOW MUCH OF IT IS ONLY GRAVITY? at 8 p.m. in Lyle's in the Lovett basement. Tickets are $3 with Rice ID and $4 without. For reservations, call (713) 521-PLAY.

"Money makes the world go around." Sid Richardson College presents the musical CABARET at 8 p.m. in the Sid Commons. Tickets are $4 with Rice ID and $6 without. For reservations, call (713) 521-PLAY.

The Rice Media Center presents TWO MOVIES directed by Ken Loach. The first, Raining Stones, begins at 7:30 p.m. and addresses the issues of a married couple's working-class spirit in Britain. The second film, Kes, is set in York, a mining town. The plot, about a young schoolboy and his kestrel, concerns the options open to people with little means. Admission for each film is $5.

Today is MAJORS DAY - Freshmen and sophomores - visit your department of interest in its office or in the Grand Hall in the Student Center. Check your college office for times, locations and additional information.

The BASEBALL team plays Fresno State University at 7 p.m. at Camden Field.

The Shepherd School BRASS ENSEMBLE presents a concert featuring the music of Bruckner, Gabrieli, and Verdi at 8 p.m. in Stude Concert Hall. Admission is free.

Jones College presents Tom Stoppard's ROSECRANZT AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD at 7:30 p.m. in the Jones Commons. Tickets are $4. For reservations, call Jen at (713) 630-8331.

Rice Players presents WHAT THE BUTLER SAW at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. Tickets are $4 for students and $8 for the general public. For reservations, call (713) 521-PLAY.

Who is your hero? Come to QI-ARCHISTS from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dress as your favorite hero, and pay $10 in advance or $13 at the door. The location is El Mercado del Sol, a furniture factory-turned-abandoned shopping mall north of the downtown area at 2115 Ruters.

The crew team hosts the RICE INVITATIONAL REGATA from 9:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. in Clear Lake. Teams from Rice, Tulane University, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas will compete. For directions, send an e-mail to crew@rice.edu.

Rice Players presents a final performance of the farce WHAT THE BUTLER SAW at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. Tickets are $4 for students and senior citizens and $8 for the general public. For reservations, call (713) 521-PLAY.

Jones College presents a final performance of ROSECRANZT AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD at 7:30 p.m. in the Jones Commons. Tickets are $4. For reservations, call Jen at (713) 630-8331.

The WOMEN'S TENNIS team plays Texas Christian University at noon in Jake Hess Tennis Stadium.

The WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team plays Southern Methodist University at 2 p.m. in Autry Court.

The Rice Media Center presents TWO KEN LOACH MOVIES at Kes beginning at 7:30 p.m., and Raining Stones begins at 9:30 p.m. Admission to each film is $5.

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### Dale Sawyer drinks his Shiner fully clothed misclass

"I'm really a nice guy." — Will Rice Master Dale Sawyer.

"A CD, as you know, has a substantial penalty for early withdrawal—that's what my girlfriend always tells me." — Dr. Williams, ECON 212.

"I may be an ass, but at least I'm an ass that gets lots and lots of play." — J.T.

"You wouldn't think that I would screw up a relationship with an inanimate object." — Baker junior.

"I would like to bury Hansen in a huge pile of ostrich poop." — Brown Beer-Bike coordinator.

"I would like to practice S&M on myself." — Jones senior/Wiess sophomore.

"Give me a rubber band. ... I would like to practice S&M on myself." — Same Wiess sophomore.

"The 'D' key is nowhere near the 'K\' like I would to practice S&M on myself." — Brown Beer-Bike coordinator.

"Just my eternal gratification." — Jones senior/Wiess sophomore.

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