Beer-Bike parade changes approved

by Mark Benson

Large trucks are out and flatbed trailers are in for this year's Beer-Bike parade. The Beer-Bike coordinators unanimously approved changes to the Beer-Bike rules Sunday night.

Each college will be limited to one flatbed trailer pulled by a tractor and one decorative vehicle in the parade. Rules regarding water balloons were not changed.

Ten students will be allowed on each flatbed. Beer-Bike coordinators must submit the names of these students one week before the parade to the Beer-Bike cochairs, Sid Richards College senior Daniel Attaway and Houston College junior Merritt McAlister. Students who ride on the flatbed will not be allowed to drink alcohol on the morning of the parade.

Attaway said the primary responsibility of these students will be to hand out water balloons to members of their college.

“Every benefit of the tractor is that drivers will have much more stability than they had with the trucks,” he said.

Gym uniforms required

Kinesiology department to be reorganized

by Meghan Miller

Many students were surprised to walk into Autry Court last week and see signs telling them that purple and blue gym uniforms are still mandatory.

Last semester, the kinesiology department decided uniforms would no longer be required for people who are exercising or playing intramural sports in the gym. The decision stemmed from an idea proposed by the Student Association Sports and Health Committee.

But the reorganization of the kinesiology department has prevented those changes from happening.

The Office of Student Affairs will take over the management of physical activity programs and facility supervision duties, effective July 1. This will allow the kinesiology department, a division of the School of Humanities, to focus more on teaching and research, said a statement issued by interim Dean of Humanities Gale Stokes and Vice President for Student Affairs Zenarde Cameche.

Discussion on changing the uniform policy has been talked in favor of discussing more pressing issues.

“There are more important things going on in that restructuring than getting our uniform policy changed,” SA Senator Lindsay Cover said. “We’re going to try to get it done, but it’s not going be as soon as we had hoped.”

Cover, who heads the SA Sports and Health Committee, had previously announced that the uniforms would probably become optional by this semester at the Nov. 13 meeting. The committee also reported at the meeting that increased supervision at the gym will better ensure patrons’ safety. Also, it reported that some students do not/en UNIFORMS, Page 9

New bagels introduced in colleges

by Mark Benson

Ten students will be allowed on the flatbed in the middle, but plenty has changed with the new bagels that College Food Service is providing in the residential colleges.

New York Bagel Shop, a local bakery, now produces the bagels served in the colleges instead of Einstein Bros. Bagels, a national chain that has supplied the bagels since the beginning of the 1998-99 school year.

According to Resident Dining Manager Julie Bogar, billing problems with Einstein made the change necessary. “We just had ongoing billing problems with Einstein’s — the accuracy and the correctness,” she said.

However, Bogar said she believes there has been no change in the quality of bagels. “We were really lucky to get New York bagels to deliver to us again,” Bogar said.

New York Bagel Shop delivered bagels to Rice in the early 1990s and stopped delivering for pragmatic reasons that have since been resolved.

However, several students have sent e-mail to Food and Housing to either complain or ask questions about the new bagels.

This way to Omaha

All-American right-hander Kenny Baugh, back for his senior year after flirting with professional baseball over the summer, leads the Rice baseball team into the 2001 season. The Owls, ranked as high as No. 7 in the country, kick off the season Thursday when they battle 15th-ranked Arizona State College Classic at Eron Field, the downtown home of the Houston Astros. See Baseball Preview, Pages 13-16.

Pulp-free

Designers Karen Rashid’s exhibition PleasureSpace opened in the Rice Art Gallery in Sewall Hall yesterday. In 1999, Rashid, who describes her work as “a metaphor for a continuous world,” was recognized as one of the ten most creative furniture designers working today, through the George Nelson Design Award. The exhibition will be in the gallery until Feb. 25.

Presidents organize forums about sexual harassment

by Rachel Rustin

The Student Association Senate and college cabins will hold discussions about the campus climate toward sexual harassment issues during the next month, according to a plan presented by William J. Rice College President Dr. William H. King at Monday’s SA meeting.

In addition, a chance contest will be held at each college in an effort to create new cheers in time for Beer-Bike.

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Behind the music

We wholeheartedly support the proposal that undergraduate members of the KTRU Friendly Committee should be DJs at the radio station. They could be required to work for KTRU to gain previous DJ experience, but they should show enough interest in the radio station to have a DJ position.

While any interested student should be reasonably qualified to be a member of the KFC, we think some firsthand experience with the day-to-day workings of KTRU wouldn’t hurt. How can a student who doesn’t know anything about the music KTRU currently plays evaluate the direction KTRU should go? If the members of the KFC are charged with carrying on KTRU’s educational mission, they should be willing to educate themselves at the same time.

Empty rewards

We think everybody should go to athletics events, especially students. All of our classmates and friends perform such amazing athletic feats and have a great time in the process.

However, we’re disappointed by the Athletics Department’s recently unveiled Owl Rewards program simple because it fails to reward undergraduates.

The program offers points that can be redeemed for prizes to people who attend athletic events. But aside from free drinks, the level rewards are mainly things like tickets to games — something undergraduates get for free.

The program could help boost attendance by fans from the Houston community — especially for women’s games, which give fans twice as many Owl Rewards points as men. But if the program is aimed at Houston’s Owl supporters, why were cheerleaders pushing the program papering the residential colleges this week? Trying to sell undergraduates on a program clearly tailored for them is not a useful idea.

While Owl Rewards is good in concept, it could be adapted to make students really care about it. In its current form, it just inspired quite a few rolled eyes at lunch — and that’s not a great way to get students and fans alike in the mood.

We think telling undergraduates about a new program, characterizing it as exciting and new and then having nothing in it for them is an ill-conceived move.

Streamlining elections

You may not even have noticed a modification in the proposed Student Association Constitution changes. It’s barely a sentence in the news article on Page 8.

But the change is significant: it is supported by some at the SA meeting Monday, the modification will probably go through without much problem.

All of the Student Association Volunteer Program offices will be elected by the entire student body.

That’s great, right? Democracy, etc.? Power to the people? Who’s elected, then?

RSVP is undoubtedly an important student organization. We applaud its mission to help others and the fact that all interested undergraduates can get involved.

But the student body at large doesn’t have to elect RSVP’s internal structure. If you picked the RSVP chair, the head of the organization, that would be enough to ensure that it remains accountable to the student body.

The elected RSVP chair could appoint the rest of the organization’s officers — much in the same ways the Rice Program Council president picks the rest of the RPC officers or the elected Thresher editor in chief appoints his staff. Or, if RSVP feels that puts too much pressure on the chair, internal elections could fill the other officer spots.

Furthermore, the General Elections don’t need to be more裁判它们 than they already are. A large number of positions are determined by the Elections Committee, causing overtime for many undergraduates.

RSVP has argued that its offices are elected positions in accordance with how electors would have had no effect on this distribution. The only function of the student body to elect is the student body.

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Bush critics should be sympathetic

George W. Bush has recently acknowledged that of all the crises facing the nation, the most difficult one he has faced is the abortion issue. He has said that it is the one issue that has caused him the most personal difficulty, and he has expressed regret that he did not handle it better.

The point is, politics never change, but the names do.

George W. Bush is our president now. Write opinion articles on how you have to write Elmo Clinton. Please do not go the way of many others from this side of the aisle as if to say, "We don't have the right ideas."

It is true that Bill Clinton has not been able to get along with the conservative leadership because his views are so far to the left. There are few people on the far left who have been able to get along with him.

I think you are scared that you have not dominated Congress. If you think you are scared that you have not dominated Congress, you are correct.

The point of this letter is to invite you to take pause to reevaluate the pro-abortion position. Particularly, there are three aspects of this position that I believe are serious:

First, despite Democrat claims in the cruelest part of the abortion debate, there is no moral issue at stake.

Second, the foundation of legal abortion seems to rest upon a premise that is not true. How could abortion truly empower women when about half of its victims are baby girls?

Third, even the fewest of arguments against abortion would not be enough to justify killing an innocent being.

Brad Aimone is a Baker College senior.

Are they laughing with me or at me?

Grad school applications fraught with difficulties

After applying for college, I remember thinking, "Thank God that's over! I'll relax for a bit now.

Last semester, I started trying to decide what to do when I graduated this May. Graduate school was the only logical choice because I want to pursue a career in journalism, and I don't really know enough about it. And even though I'm starting to get a little sick of school after being a student for over 18 years, I decided to do my master's programs in journalism and take one only year. And really, at this point, what's one more?

So let's talk for applications. Most of this stuff is nothing but a gross exaggeration and that they have done away with paper-based materials. So hopped on my computer and proceded to get totally lost. Most of the schools all had of the information up front with easy to follow instructions. Others made finding out how to apply almost a full time job.

It seems to me that all of the ritual information, I realized that I had to take the Graduate Record Examination. If you ever all up at right moments about the SAT, then the GRE is what's been thrown in. So you can take the GRE where ever you want. I had friend who called the GRE hotline and took the test the next day.

My wonderful GRE experience took place in a little town called Texas Southern University at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning. I was there at the rest half an hour early, or I wouldn't be able to take it at all 7:20. No one was there. At 7:45, same thing. At 8:10, I was starting to get tired. Finally, at 8:15, someone showed up. I stayed for 45 minutes of tests before leaving. From there I took the test even though I promised that once they saw my scores, they would have to take me down at my computer.

The point is, politics never change, but the names do.

It is just like the SAT, with a dash of crack thrown in.

Then I actually filled out the applications and sending them in and still, the same ticketing, as if it were a form of state taxation.

So now I'm actually filling out the applications and writing to the school board about things like a statement of purpose. I don't know my purpose. I need to get for me to take some more applications. I need to fill out some additional tests to take. Last week, I decided to take some more tests before I move to take one of these timed admissions.

I don't want to stick enough to do anything. I never meant to take one of these timed admissions.

Michael Nalpke

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We'll roll out the red carpet.

Picture Yourself

Thursday, February 1 from 5 p.m. to midnight
Grand Hall in the Student Center

Seniors! Come take your senior portraits before 100 Days!
Ten bicycles were stolen between Dec 8 and Jan 16. Although no suspects have been caught, police have received three reports of men on campus carrying cable cutters last week, but the man said he was carrying cable cutters, last week, but the man said he was looking for a student and gave the officer a false name. The suspect then ran from the scene. When police caught the man, he was issued a criminal trespass warning. Because he was not actually seen stealing a bicycle, police could not arrest him.

According to University Police Chief Bill Taylor, there is no evidence of such a break. "There are no reports of such a break," Taylor said. "We've searched this." Taylor said he believes the thieves are probably being committed by a group of people who know each other or by an individual, although he doesn't think police are the perpetrator is a member of the Rice community.

"It could possibly be an ex-member of the community, but I don't think it's an insider," Taylor said. 

"For someone who had some knowledge, it would be fairly easy," he said.

According to Taylor, several of the bicycles that were stolen had been locked with only a cable lock. But the thieves cut the lock and rode away. Taylor said thieves often use cable locks to steal bicycles.

"You can use your cutters to cut cables, and given enough time you can use scissors to cut cables one strand at a time," he said.

Taylor said the only lock he recommends is a solid U-type lock. Taylor also said people need to lock their bicycles if there's no bicycle rack available. "If it's not fixed, it's not locked," he said.

Thieves know when we don't have students, and there's no one around here to see anything," Taylor said.

University Police Chief

"Theft is an insider," Taylor said. "We've searched this." Taylor said he believes the thieves are probably being committed by a group of people who know each other or by an individual, although he doesn't think police are the perpetrator is a member of the Rice community.

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A foundation formed by Rice alumni and headed by the president of the Rice Alumni Foundation, Dr. John MacDowell, has recruited minority students using completely race-blind admissions policies. The foundation believes that universities are now competing with large financial aid packages for highly qualified minority students.

Dr. MacDowell said the program is limited to black and Hispanic student initially, but will add Native Americans after its first year. "The more you have an opportunity to, on a daily basis, interact with different cultural groups, the better you all will be served in your life," MacDowell said. "Diversity in education has great value." Each scholarship recipient will be assigned to a faculty mentor, who is already mentors lined up for the first group of students.

Dr. Andrea Ehlers (Will Rice '88) said the foundation raised more than $40 million annually from its alumni and former assistant to the Texas Law School. Because of this decision, Rice is going to play the game with its rules. "Dr. Ehlers said. "Some of it will be additional and some will be essentially providing experiences which one normally wouldn't provide in the academic advising experience. It is conceivable that we can provide exposure to community people in a way (the advising done) correctly address." Dr. MacDowell said corporations in Houston are donating to Rice to support this program because they hope to keep talented students in Texas as future employees and to make useful for their services by out-of-state colleges, so they have Texas students and they may or may not come back.

"MacDowell said the scholarships will be offered to any undergraduate study. One of whom will be another student and one of whom will be the student-elected station manager and one of whom will be KTRU DJ. The other two spots will be open to any undergraduate students.

The exact process of how those two spots will be appointed has not been decided. According to tentative plans, Behrof said, interested students would submit an application and then interview with a committee composed of one SA Executive Council member, one KTRU officer and one other member of the senate. The SA Executive Council would then discuss candidates and make recommendations to the rest of the SA Senate would then approve those recommendations.

Applications will be available in mid-February. The KTRU will begin moving in March, Behrof said, after the station manager is elected.

At Monday's meeting, So said that if he and the other students who work at KTRU would like the students on the KTRU DJ after they have been selected. "If they are willing to put in the effort to have some kind of control of the station, they should put in the effort to work at the station," he said.

So said potential undergraduates would not be required to consider prior experience at KTRU, but would have to be willing to do a DJ shift.

Traditionally, first-semester DJs get very late-night or early morning shifts, but So said KTRU could work with the undergraduates on the KFC to find a time that would fit into their schedules.

After some discussion, concerns were raised by several people. Baker College senior Zachary Vakar said that was the first talk about specifics of SA's proposal. "If they don't successfully fulfill their duties as a DJ, will they be removed from the KFC or just a DJ?" So said details such as those have not yet been worked out. Discussion was also raised about the possibility of KTRU15s would be eligible for the two undergraduate spots.

Behrof said the meeting was discussing that having a DJ previously did not mean that at the last two spots will be appointed, not have a DJ in the first place should not be any interest.

The group, known as an hour-long board, but how does that make up the opinion about KTRU programming? said. "We have Vrable Harris asked later in the meeting.

Both Behrof and So said the discussion has not yet been decided.

The KFC would also include three faculty members, one staff member and one alumna who would be appointed by the senate. The faculty members will be recommended by the Student Association Committee and the alumna member will be recommended by the RICE-TMS Association.

Any member of the KFC must be approved by the university president.
First secretary to the college masters dies

Rice's first secretary to the college master died at the end of winter break. Erma Turner, who worked at Rice for over 25 years, also served as Hanson College's first coordinator.

Although she retired in June 1986, her acquaintance at Rice kept in touch with both fellow employees and former students through frequent visits to the campus.

"She loved Rice and she still came back and had lunch frequently at the Faculty Club," current Hanson Coordinator GYmdly Cunliffe said.

Turner came to Rice in May 1961 and served as the secretary to the masters of the five colleges at that time.

When each college got its own coordinator in 1965, Turner moved to Hammons.

Hanson Community Associate John King (Hanson 47) was a student while Turner was the coordinator. King continued their friendship and met Turner for lunch once every month from 1970 until 2000.

"Erma was a leesty person who knew her own mind and spoke it clearly," King said.

"She was quick to point out that any given entering class from out of state promote Rice's status as a national university and that the greater the number of similar size to last year's. 18 percent of early decision applicants in 2000 increased 45 percent over the previous year.

Wright reported that while there is a nationwide trend in rising number of early decision applicants, fewer schools have seen such a large increase in applicants as Rice did last year.

Wright said early decision applicants this year were of the usual high quality that is seen in all Rice applicants in terms of grades and test scores.

Early decision applicants also receive their financial offers and financial aid in December. A greater percentage of early decision applicants are from Texas than the regular decision applicants, Wright said. This is in part because Texans are more familiar with Rice than people who live elsewhere.

Rice aims to enroll about half of all of its entering students from out of state and half from within Texas, said Jerry Montag, vice president for student affairs. Although change will most likely not occur this semester, the proposal will hopefully be approved in time for the fall semester.

The plan to make uniforms at Autry Court optional this semester has been postponed because the decision shifted to the jurisdiction of Student Affairs. Although change will most likely not occur this semester, the proposal will hopefully be approved in time for the fall semester.

The new rules will be presented at the next meeting of the college masters and presidents on Feb. 21.

Emra Turner, former Hanson College secretary and the original secretary to all of the five colleges, passed away at the end of winter break. Hanson College President Lindsay Gorman said the students thank their coordinators in Turner's honor.

The new rules will be presented at the next meeting of the college masters and presidents on Feb. 21. Turner, who worked with the Beer-Bike coordinators are final

Although she retired in June 1986, her acquaintance at Rice kept in touch with both fellow employees and former students through frequent visits to the campus.

"She loved Rice and she still came back and had lunch frequently at the Faculty Club," current Hanson Coordinator GYmdly Cunliffe said.

Turner came to Rice in May 1961 and served as the secretary to the masters of the five colleges at that time.

When each college got its own coordinator in 1965, Turner moved to Hammons.

Hanson Community Associate John King (Hanson 47) was a student while Turner was the coordinator. King continued their friendship and met Turner for lunch once every month from 1970 until 2000.

"Erma was a leesty person who knew her own mind and spoke it clearly," King said.

"She was quick to point out that any given entering class from out of state promote Rice's status as a national university and that the greater the number of Rice students, the more students are accepted! early decision this year that last year because the previous year's entering class was expected to be larger than the entering class this year.

Wright said he expects an interesting range of quality for this year, about 28 percent of early decision applicants. The office of financial aid has increased 55 percent since last year, with a significant increase in financial aid offers.

"It is still a bargain if you eat all five meals a week for $600 a semester," Ditman said. "So as a consequence, many students will use the off-campus meal plan, which is now well over $1,100 a semester.

The finalized KTRU operating policy was available at the meeting. Applications for the KTRU Friendly Committee will be available in mid-February, and the committee will start meeting in March after the first meeting in March.

The plan to make uniforms at Autry Court optional this semester has been postponed because the decision shifted to the jurisdiction of Student Affairs. Although change will most likely not occur this semester, the proposal will hopefully be approved in time for the fall semester.

The new rules will be presented at the next meeting of the college masters and presidents on Feb. 21. Turner, who worked with the Beer-Bike coordinators are final masters and presidents may give it some thought, he hopes that the Beer-Bike rules will change, Hanson College President Lindsay Gorman said.

Attaway believes the new rules will make the parade safer. "I think they will work well," Attaway said. "It was a long painful process to get to them, so hopefully it is a compromise that does the greatest good for the greatest number of people."

"It is a terrible idea. The whole idea of the trucks is that you can put lines on balloons and people on them," Han- son senior Andrew James said.

"I support the Beer-Bike rules."
BAGELS, from Page 1

and operated by Ed Garrila and his brother-in-law Jay Kornbluh, third-generation bagel bakers. New York Bagel Shop is both a retail operation and a wholesale business, and the company delivers bagels to several hospitals in the Texas Medical Center and hotels throughout the city every day. They bakery also supplies bagels to most synagogues in the Houston area.

Some students said that besides just liking the new bagels, it is good that Rice is supporting a local business.

"I think the new bagels are way better, but the most important thing is that Rice gave the bagel contract to a local, family owned business, not a national franchise," Will Rice college junior Matt Boles said. "These bagels, not fluffy cakes from Einstein." "If I wanted a New York style bagel, I would have gone to Columbia, not here," he said.

Several students have complained that two of the most popular flavors of bagels—cranberry and cinnamon and sugar—were no longer available. Vagla said New York Bagel Shop does not make those flavors.

Scheiner suggested offering flavored cream cheeses as a possible solution. "Maybe flavored cream cheeses would be a consideration to help the people who really want a different bagel," Scheiner said.

Garrila said he wants to keep students happy. "I am really happy to have the university's business, and I want to continue to have the business, and keep our standards to see that we take care of it and handle it," Garrila said.

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Baker College President Melissa Bodine reiterates the importance of the campus-wide SA and college discussions on sexual harassment and what types of behaviors constitute sexual harassment.

"It is important for students to know the law and people don't realize that exists, because I don't think people know how to deal with it," King said. "The administration is therefore obligated to act on that, and they are also obligated to act in a way that would work," King said. "We want to help, but not just the university in fulfilling its obligation but also so that we are fulfilling our obligations as people and student leaders."

The Feb. 5 SA meeting, which will be heavily advertised, will have yet to be set. Stokes said he hopes to have an agreement worked out by February so both the new kinesiology department and Student Affairs can determine next year's budgets.

"It's been hard to come up with a kind of plan because the academics have been muddied by the other stuff," Stokes said. "I don't have a plan."

Stokes said some discussion has centered around moving kinesiology to the School of Social Sciences, but nothing has been decided. Stokes is certain, however, that the department will continue to exist. "We can't just send it out to sea. We have to figure out a good proper thing to do for it," Stokes said.

Also tabled for later discussion is the Lifetime Physical Activity Program requirement. Some faculty members have proposed that LPP classes not be required for graduation.

History Department Chair John Zammito, who heads the University Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, said this has been suggested to the committee but has not yet been reviewed.

"Our agenda is very full. It's something we'll get to, but not yet," Zammito said.

Even if LPP classes were not required for graduation, they will still be offered. Stokes said.

**Create your memories.**

Picture Yourself

Thursday, February 1 from 5 p.m. to midnight

Grand Hall in the Student Center
ONE NIGHT QUARRELS.
I LEFT, PLUNGING MYSELF
INTO A WORLD OF FEAR AND
REMARSE. MY NIGHTS ARE
NOW PLOTTING WITH SELF-
CONSCIOUSNESS, CAUSING ME TO
TOSSE AND PULP MY HAM.

AMBASSADOR PUK.
HE RAN FOR PRESIDENT.
I WAS HIS CAMPAIGN
MANAGER.

IN CONN RAPIDS, A STRANGER
APPEARS TO ME.

PLEASE, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, MR.
TOWNSEND, FOR YEARS!

I'M A HUMAN BEING!
I'M NOT A PHONE!
I DECIDED TO SEE IF I COULD
BEAT THAT MAN!

BUT THE GAS STATION
HAD RUN OUT OF
THE KIND I NEEDED.

YOU NEVER JUDGE?
YOU NEVER HAVE ANY
COVER-AGE, SIR.

NO! I'M NOT A PHONE!
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO
HAVE THEIR OWN SIGHT.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'RE LOSING OUR...?

IT'S NOT OKAY, SIR!
SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE
TOLD YOU!

YOU HAD A VISIT FROM
A HUMAN BEING?

YOU HAD A VISIT FROM
A HUMAN BEING?

YOU HAD A VISIT FROM
A HUMAN BEING?

RAIDERS, OF COURSE.
WE HAD A PROBLEM.

HEY, WADDY MAKING?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT, SIR?

YES, SIR!
NO, SIR!
NO, SIR!
I'M AFRAID SIR. MOTHER AFTER BEING THROUGH, WHAT YOU'VE TO TAKE A NUMBER, ENPOF THE WORLP-ING THE POVCAL CAMPAIGN. JUSTIOOKAT&JSH. SIR, IT WAS ONLY A SIR.

outstanding minority students to attend Rice University whom might not have otherwise acknowledged with gratitude the following members of the Rice University community,

Andrea Ehlers, Chair, Board of Directors

Gifts from the Rice community, totaling $67,000 will make it possible for several Recruitment Into Collegiate Education Through Minority Scholarships faculty, staff, and retirees, for their generous contributions during the year 2000.

Your donations have helped us to jump start this effort in its first year and almost $350,000 has been raised or pledged for the effort.

Thank you for your personal commitment to this worthwhile cause.

Andrea Ehlers, Chair, Board of Directors

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Owls look to rebound with return to Omaha

A t most schools, winning a conference championship, coming within one game of the Super Regional and ending the year ranked No. 26 in the nation would all amount to a very successful season. The 2000 Rice baseball team accomplished all of the above. But when it comes to college baseball, Rice isn’t “most schools.” And while a fifth straight conference crown and a sixth straight regional bid were nice, they were also a step away from what the Owls had hoped for.

So, with the wound a bit too fresh just six days away, how do the Owls plan to erase the memory of such a disappointing year? Easy. By going to Omaha and the College World Series. And winning it all.

Winning one game away from the Super Regional and losing, I don’t think that in six months again,” senior first baseman Jesse Roman said. “I want to go to Omaha. When you come to Rice, you don’t sign thinking you’re going to do it in the regions. There’s a lot of tradition here. Some of these top teams were amazing and I just want to follow in their footsteps.

“Winning the conference is first of all important and we have to do it. But our expectations are to go to Omaha. Without fail. We all want to play for the national championship.”

On paper, such lofty goals would seem to be out of reach for a team that lost 12 key contributors from last year’s 92-12 squad. But head coach Wayne Graham has brought in a whopping 19 new players, including 11 freshmen, five junior college transfers and three four-year college transfers.

“With the injuries we will see much playing time, at least eight newcomers figure into Rice’s lineup. As a result, the Owls don’t think they’ll miss a beat. The guys that came in are all good players,” Roman said. “They’re experienced. They’re in top form, and they all have the same goals as we do. It’s fun to see they have the same thing on their mind.

And the third year in a row, Rice’s pitching staff is loaded. Offensively, there are more than a few question marks, but the Owls feel they could be stacked. They return Roman, a first team All-American outfielder and three-year starter, as well as returning All-WAC and All-American junior shortstop, Brad Arnold.

Those in junior college transfers Hunter Brown at third base and Alex Arroyo at center field. The Owls are just as confident about their defense. Roman feels confident about the defense, as the Owls are either seniors or seniors, as are three of the top six infielders in the nation.

Additionally, five returning of the 2000 CWS participant San Jose State Owls look to rebound with return to Omaha and are all of the above. But when it comes to college baseball, Rice isn’t “most schools.” And while a fifth straight conference crown and a sixth straight regional bid were nice, they were also a step away from what the Owls had hoped for.

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Additionally, five returning of the 2000 CWS participant San Jose State
Senior trio, deep bullpen give staff potential for greatness

Imagine, for a moment, the ideal college baseball pitching staff. We’d start with a weekend rotation anchored by three seniors, all of whom are current or former All-Americans, and all of whom have turned down professional contracts to continue their college careers.

Every staff needs a starter/long reliever outman, so we’ll take one too, and we’ll make him a lefthander. For him, let’s say he led the most prestigious summer baseball league in the country in earned run average last year. We could even say he posted an ERA under 1.00, but that might be a stretch.

Then let’s throw in a closer — we’ll make him a southpaw, and he should probably be a senior — who is coming off a masterful season out of the bullpen.

Finally, we need a few more relievers. How about two converted hitters? Baugh and Skaggs. Both were picked in the first five rounds of last summer’s amateur draft, but the duo passed up professional baseball to give college ball one last shot.

“The Owls couldn’t be happier. Baugh and Skaggs combined to go 24-1 last season with a 2.60 earned run average and 11 complete games. That’s quite a one-two punch at the top of the weekend rotation.” — Wayne Graham, Head coach

The Owls aren’t sure when Nichols, the school’s all-time leader in wins, will be ready to return. The fifth-year senior’s arm back, and he’s coming along. We just hope to get him back at some point during the year. Hopefully it’s soon, but it could be in a month or two. He did have major surgery. We’d like to have the depth to get it done without him, but we’re expecting him to be back and bring his 37 wins with him.”

But the Owls say Nichols’ mere presence on the practice field and in the dugout is an asset. “Jeff helps us just being around because he’s been there and he knows how to motivate the other guys,” Baugh said. “That experience is going to be a big key as far as getting the whole pitching staff working together.”

Rice has the depth to get by without Nichols. Senior lefthander Philip Barzilla is firmly established as the team’s No. 1 option out of the bullpen after going 4-0 with a 3.06 ERA and four saves last year. A key will be sophomore southpaw Jonathan Gonzales. While none of the four are proven pitchers on the Division I level, the Owls expect them to contribute.

“Think we have a lot of potential coming out of the bullpen.” — Baugh

Rounding out the bullpen are seniors Billy Jacobson, junior Philip Triba and Nick Martin, who were starters last year, so they know how to handle big pressure situations. Gonzales has the possibility of being a starter or a reliever, as that gives us even more depth.

“This is the best pitching staff I’ve ever been a part of.” — Martin

THE STARTERS

Senior all-American Kenny Baugh, the pitcher responsible for the only College World Series win in Rice history, returns as the Owls’ ace.

Senior all-American Jon Skaggs finally tapped into his limitless potential with a breakthrough season as Rice’s third starter last year.

Fifth-year senior Jeff Nichols, Rice’s all-time leader in career wins, enters the year as a question mark following major shoulder surgery.

THE PITCHING STAFF

Senior southpaw Philip Barzilla enters the year as Rice’s top reliever. Barzilla got off to a slow start last year but came on strong down the stretch and finished the campaign 4-0 with a 3.06 earned run average and four saves.
Rice returns just three starters from last year, but the Owls should still have a potent offense. Head coach Wayne Graham has yet to determine the batting order, but here’s a quick look at a projected lineup:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF</td>
<td>A.J. Porfiri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Jose Enrique Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>Eric Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Hunter Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Jesse Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Billy Jacobson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Phillip Gutzman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH</td>
<td>Mike Lorsbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Bobby Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Austin Davis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Athletic transfer has speed, bat to handle hitting first without patience usually seen in a lead-off man. Solid defensively with great range.

Blue-chip freshman with baseball in his blood brings speed, pop from both sides of the plate.

Do-it-all senior will play critical backup role at three infield positions, but two-year starter could break into starting lineup at any time.

Streaky all-American practically carried Rice’s offense last year while playing great defense.

Former shortstop has the total package: great batting eye, power and outstanding defense.

All-WAC DH in 2000 takes steady left-handed bat to the infield, but defense won’t be a problem.

Mid-term transfer from Stanford talented enough to play center field. Great arm gives him outside shot at claiming closer’s role out of bullpen.

Smart, fiery senior finally healthy after playing with a broken wrist last year. Has good relationship with hurlers and could surprise with offense.

Oklahoma State transfer brings College World Series experience. Could also play in outfield.

Will play wild card role with ability to catch, play corner outfield positions or DH. Has hit well during preseason practices.

Talented freshman has impressed with no-fear attitude, left-handed bat. Could also DH.
Owls rely on experience, patience

BOSTON, from Page 12 — The Owls have fulfilled the prediction the last four years. Then there are the preseason polls. Collegiate Baseball has the team ranked No. 7, while the Baseball Weekly Coaches Poll has it listed at 11th. The Owls are 10th in Baseball America and have them at No. 12 but says Rice is "as good as anybody."

"We're all so excited about it, but we have to keep ourselves calm... We've got a great shot."
— Phillip Gauthman
Senior catcher

As far as the Owls are concerned, none of that means a thing. "Preseason rankings mean nothing," Roman said. "You get your ranking from how you play. I think we're good enough to be No. 7. I think we're good enough to be No. 1. But you have to prove it on the field."

Showing the rest of the country that they are indeed one of the top teams in the nation is important for the Owls. Their first chance to do so comes Thursday, when they take on 16th-ranked Baylor University at the Astors College Classic at Enron Field.

But Rice understands one important thing: It's a long way from Enron Field to Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.

"We know there's a lot of games," Gauthman said. "That's an important thing for the older guys to stress, that we know it's such a long season. It all comes down to us first getting into a regional and then taking care of business from there. All the other games are important and that's where you get better for the postseason, but we definitely need to focus on the postseason because we know that's where it counts.

"We're all so excited about it, but we have to keep ourselves calm. All fall you get anxious and everybody's telling you you're going to be great. But you have to just stay calm because it's a long way. You don't want to get jumpy. Everybody's thinking Omaha from the first day, but that has to be in the back of your mind because it's 70 games away. But we're really excited. We've got a great shot."

2001 RICE BASEBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Home Games</th>
<th>Away Games</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>10 Georgia Tech</td>
<td>11 Lamar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>16 Purdue</td>
<td>17 Wake Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>22-24 Hawaii-Hilo (WAC)</td>
<td>27 Southwest Texas State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3 Lamar</td>
<td>15-25 Hawaii (WAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13 Lamar</td>
<td>20 Baylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>17 Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>28 Central Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WAC denotes a Western Athletic Conference Game.
BOLD denotes a home game at Reckling Park.
Owls set to defend Autry Court

by Ryan Keedy

Thresher Sports

Friday, January 26, 2001

It's all about protecting your home turf.
Two opponents have come into Autry Court this season and walked away with wins. Rice's men's basketball team, but the Owls have resolved that it's not going to happen again.

In Focus:
Men's Basketball

Last week: The Owls rebounded from a 72-54 loss at Southern Methodist University in the 1st annual Texas Christian University 73-66 Saturday to earn their Western Athletic Conference record at 2-2.

What made the difference: Senior guard Mike Wills scored a career high 22 points against the Horned Frogs, and junior center I. McKenzie had 19 points and 13 rebounds in what was his best game as an Owl.

Upnext: Rice hosts San Jose State University at 7:45 p.m. Saturday in Autry Court.

Sophomore guard Michael Walton defends Texas Christian University's Genevieve Daniels Saturday. TCU's 66 points was almost 30 points below its season average.

Swimmers shatter two pool records in win

by John C. Chou

At its first Western Athletic Conference meet on Saturday, the women's swim team budgeted to establish itself as a contender for the Western Athletic Conference title. It looks like the Owls succeeded.

Behind two pool records, Rice defeated San Jose State University 149.5-104.5 in the Rice Pool. The meet was highlighted by 11 victories. Sophomore Mandy Mularz won the 50-yard freestyle in 28.45 seconds and the 100-yard freestyle in 56.25 seconds. The 800-yard freestyle relay team, consisting of Katie Schell, Katie Hermann and Rachel Armstrong and freshman Toni Ciffolilli finished in 7:04.47, breaking the previous meet record set in November 1990.

"Racially, everybody swam really well," Ciffolilli said. "We're just trying to get strong swims and dominate before we go to the WAC Championships. Breaking pool records is definitely a plus." In addition to being a member of the record-setting relay team, Armstrong recorded victories in both the 100 and 200-yard freestyle events.

The Owls believe their past weekend's success was directly related to a successful winter training trip to California.

In Focus: Swimming

Last week: The Owls defeated San Jose State University 149.5-104.5 to claim their first meet of the season.


Upnext: Rice faces Western Athletic Conference rival and 11-time champ Southern Methodist University today in a dual meet in Dallas.

"The trip had lots of positives," Ciffolilli said. "We learned a lot about each other and working as a team. We talked to each other about some of the goals of this year."

And they're on their way to achieving those goals. Head coach Doug Boyd said he believes the team's success against the Spartans was due to his swimmers' increased desire to succeed.

"The San Jose meet was a good one," Boyd said. "But, more importantly, we're getting to the point where the things we've been talking about for three years are finally getting realized."

Boyd hopes this new frame of mind will help the Owls compete for the title at the WAC Championships, which take place Feb. 22-24 in San Antonio. One problem the team will have to overcome is its small size. The Owls have no diving program and there are only 11 swimmers on the roster, which ties them for the smallest squad in the nation. But Boyd is confident in the quality of his team and hopes they can defeat teams twice their size.

This weekend, Rice will compete in three dual meets on consecutive days, a schedule similar to the one they will face in the WAC meet. The Owls began their road trip yesterday in a meet at ranked Texas A&M University in College Station.

Today, they face 11th-ranked Southern Methodist University in Dallas before facing the weekend's final meet against Texas Christian University in San Antonio. The swimmers know this weekend will be a critical test of how much progress they have made.

"We're really going to work on our mental preparation this weekend," Ciffolilli said. "If you're in the mental frame of mind, everything else will fall in.
Owls post huge road win at TCU

by Ryan Keedy

The Owls didn’t lose a game at home all year, but the Owls hadn’t come out of TCU’s Daniel-Meyer Coliseum with a win since the 1994-95 season. TCU entered the matchup averaging 18.1 points per game. The Owls were coming off losses at Siena College and Southern Methodist University, two games in which their spotty offensive, relatively seamless management to better than 50 percent shooting from the field.

Rice instead shocked the Heted Frogs 73-66 to score their biggest win of the year. Coupled with the loss to SMU, the Owls managed to split the tough Metroplex road trip. The win brought Rice’s eight-game WAC losing streak to an end.

"We’re coming into the TCU game, we just hoped to get a split on the road to keep us in the middle of the pack," Wilks said. "This was our goal, and we went in there focused on the game plan, and we went out there and executed."

The Horned Frogs entered the matchup averaging 18 points more than Rice. But while the Owls hadn’t come away with a win, the Owls had their share of successes as well.

Eight of the Owls’ players were the first-round of the team against SMU. The Owls had their share of successes as well. Eight of the Owls’ players were the first-round of the team against SMU. The Owls had their share of successes as well.

"We executed and we got good looks in the SMU game, but unfortunately a lot of us were cold and we just couldn’t make shots," Wilks said. "If you make shots, you’re not going to win."

Fortunately for the Owls, Rice turned everything around against the Horned Frogs and ended up ranking exactly half of their shots from the field. Wilks rediscovered his shooting touch to score 12 points on eight-of-11 shooting. As a team, the Owls nailed eight of their 18 three-point attempts, while TCU struggled, going just seven-of-26 from behind the arc.

"Going into the TCU game, we just hoped to get a split on the road to keep us in the middle of the pack," Wilks said. "This was our goal, and we went in there focused on the game plan, and we went out there and executed."

The Owls had four scorers — combined to shoot just eight-of-42 and score just 29 points, 15 points less than their combined season averages.

"In the performance against SMU, contrary to what the score might have suggested, we actually played pretty good basketball," Wilks said. "When your best shooters have a hard time getting it going, you’re just not going to win. But our execution was good, our defense for the most part was pretty good until the game got out of hand."

Wilks, the team’s leader on and off the floor, often made three of 10 field goals shooting, and no one else stepped up to pick up the offensive slack.

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Rice looks to recover on Pacific trek
by Jason Gershman

In recent years, the women's basketball team has been a force to be reckoned with in the WAC. Last season, they were the unanimous choice to win the conference and did so, finishing with a conference record of 13-3 and a 5-0 mark in the WAC. This season, however, has been a different story.

After last weekend's pair of home losses, the Owls are now 1-2 in conference play and 7-9 overall. The losses have come at the hands of the University of Hawaii, 65-52, and Texas Christian University, 84-72. The loss to TCU was particularly disappointing as the Owls had built a 13-point lead in the first half and were in control of the game. However, the Horned Frogs came back with a vengeance in the second half, outscoring Rice 43-19.

"It's frustrating for me and for the players," said sophomore guard Katy Yoon. "I've been concerned about our play for the past month, but I didn't have anything to lose. We need to keep battling and get more consistent." Yoon scored a career-high 22 points against TCU but was held scoreless in the Owls' 65-52 loss to Hawaii.

The Owls have struggled offensively in recent games. They are averaging just 55.3 points per game, which is 13.7 points below their season average. Offensively, the Owls are shooting 39.4 percent from the field, 25.7 percent from three-point range, and 81.4 percent from the free throw line.

Defensively, the Owls have held their own, allowing just 58.2 points per game. They are forcing 15.0 turnovers per game and are averaging 7.6 steals and 4.3 blocked shots.

But the Owls will have to improve on both ends of the court if they hope to make a run in the conference. The Owls' next two games are against San Jose State and New Mexico State, both of which are expected to be close games.

"It's a tough start, but we're not Quitting," Yoon said. "We have to work harder and smarter to get back to our winning ways."
Men's track takes on young look

by Chris Lawson

Rice's track team will face young challengers this year.

The incoming class's greatest hope is senior Rashad Stafford, who won the 60-meter hurdles at the 2000 NCAA Indoor Championships. He placed third in the hurdles, but then he beat everyone and set the national record. He placed third, so a repeat of last year's second place finish would be quite an achievement for Rice.

Still, the Owls know they have many strengths of their own. Davidson said a high finish is more than a possibility in the indoor meet. Preseason rankings rank TCU second and Southern Methodist University third, so a repeat of last year's second-place finish would be quite an achievement for Rice.

The Owls will compete in the Bi-district Track Meet at the University of Houston on February 3. Rice will face other teams in the Western Athletic Conference.

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**Owls hope for high student turnout**

"T.J. has been a more consistent factor with rebounding than he has with the point production, but I think everything that he does is going to start with rebounding and defense," Wilson said. "When a guy comes out and excels himself on the defensive side and rebounding, he contributes to the success of the team." "I think most players, when they can make a contribution, they are able to relax and not press as much in other areas. Consequently when T.J. has played his best offensive games, I think he's also had his rebounding nights to go with it as well as solid defensive performances.

One of the biggest weapons a college team has in its quest to defend its home court is the turnout of students coming to support their team. "The biggest key for these games, and I think these are pivotal games for the direction that we go for the rest of the year, is how much the students come out and give us some support," Wilson said. "I'm hopeful that the students would want to come out and show us that support and really make a difference. It bothered me a little bit to see the article in the [The Houston Chronicle] and The Sporting News saying what a draft place Autry Court is to play. "Two years ago we were 11-1 at home. We couldn't do that without the participation of the students, and we're playing in the same tough basketball league now that we played in then."
Rugby aims to build on success of best year ever

by Paul Aronson

The men's rugby team looks to build on last year's top-10 finish in USA Rugby's final national rankings when it begins play in the Texas Rugby Union this weekend. The Owls take on Southwest Texas State University tomorrow in San Antonio.

Arong the sweet lift highlighted the 1999-00 season for Rice and earned the Owls their highest national ranking ever.

Despite losing many key players from last year's squad, the Owls played well this fall and improved throughout the semester.

First-place finishers last fall in the collegiate division of the High Desert Classic in Albuquerque, N.M. and the open division of the Houston Rugby Tournament give Rice confidence and bunch marks on new season in the TRU.

"We have a lot of new guys playing key positions," junior Brad Legg, who makes the second row for the Owls, said, "But we had a lot of success this fall and we expect it to continue in Texas this semester.

Last season the Owls didn't win the TRU, but they put it together in the postseason, when Rice advanced farther than any other TRU team in the national championship tournament.

Rice finished third in the TRU last season and their foremost competition this spring will likely come from last year's league frontrunners Texas A&M University and Louisiana State University, which both beat the Owls last year.

And the Owls shouldn't lose a match before spring's outdoor season, because they train outdoors for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

"In the past we've never worried about training indoors," Lopez said. "The curves are too tight and the surface is harder, so you'd be looking for an injury. But we still want to manage to always have one of the best indoor teams."

The Owls take on Southwest Texas State University tomorrow in San Antonio, Ga.

Southwest plays a skippity style of rugby, but if we play disciplined fall we should be able to control the game," Legg said.

The match should help Rice get accustomed to the game and to each other after a long winter break.

"We really need the chance to get our feet back under us and get some game experience," senior team captain Jacob Robson said. "Hopefully we will be still sharp enough to pull this one out and then we can look ahead to our more talented opponents."

Many new contributors get invaluable experience this fall, and tomorrow will mark their TRU debut.

"We have some new faces seeing significant minutes, but to a man everyone has embraced the challenge and thrived under the pressure," Robson said.

"I can't wait for tomorrow and our chance to show that we are going to be as tough as ever in 2001."

by Chris Larson

If you're looking for a hole in the women's indoor track team, you're going to be looking for a quita a while. Spriters? They've got plenty, including seniors Cheryl Anderson and LaKeesha Robertson, the second-place finishers from last year's Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, respectively.

You want distance runners? Freshman Shannon Morton made a big splash in the cross country scene this fall when she finished fifth in the NCAA Championships. Junior Kate Waite, who finished ahead of Morton in the first two meets of the cross country season before being sidelin ed with an injury, is healthy and ready to go.

How about jumpers? To start with, there's sophomore Alice Palave, who outjumped her competition in last year's WAC Indoor Track and Field Championships by more than a foot and finished fourth at last year's NCAA Indoor Championships — as a freshman. This summer, she jumped 23 feet, 11 inches, the best in Rice history.

Looking for a thrower? Look no further than junior Jessica Summerfield, who captured the shot put title at both the indoor and outdoor WAC Championships.

And Rice even brought in two freshmen pole vaulters to contribute in one of the few events in which the team didn't score at the conference indoor meet last year.

Put simply, the women's track and field team is loaded. They've got talent and balance — possibly more balance than head coach Victor Lopez has ever seen in a group of Owls.

"Our overall strength is the balance of our team," Lopez said. "I believe this is the first time in history we have people in every event." That's probably bad news for the rest of the teams in the Western Athletic Conference. A year ago, the Owls ran away from the field at the WAC Indoor meet scoring 87 points to easily outdistance runner-up Southern Methodist University's total of 81. Rice went on to finish fourth at the NCAA indoor meet.

This year, a deeper Owls squad hopes to finish even higher.

"First of all, the main objective is that we hope to repeat as the indoor champions of the WAC," Lopez said. "But we had a lot of success this fall and we expect it to continue in Texas this semester.

Last season the Owls didn't win the TRU, but they put it together in the postseason, when Rice advanced farther than any other TRU team in the national championship tournament.

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"Our depth has to come through. Of course, they hope to win the conference title with our specialty events this weekend," Lopez said. "We're looking for more training, so we'll run a lot of people in longer events than they specialize in. We're trying to get them to feel comfortable out there.

And the Owls shouldn't lose a step before spring's outdoor season, because they train outdoors for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

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Kevin Cochran
THREESHER STAFF

What was the inspiration behind Snatch, director Guy Ritchie's boisterously dynamic romp through the murky underworld of British society?

Rating: *** 1/2 (out of five) in theaters.

In the words of widdle photographer Nigel Dennis, "One is always exposed to descriptions of money changing hands. It's much more dauntless than sex." With this in mind, Ritchie could have taken one of two directions. He could create a film tracking the life of something immensely valuable—valuable in its sheer existence—the changers, the exchangers, and the accompanying last appennages, and any other development that would continue to fuel the material pulse with life and correct the mercantilist plot forward.

Or, produce some sort of level ode to an angel ridden young woman from rural nowhere, who finally reaches adulthood in the big city. However, Ritchie decides to go with his instincts and erect a film of scant resolution. All the familiar elements from his earlier features Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, are present: the bespectacled baddies, the clausrophobic locale, the calculating, deceitful, and overly efficient brokering of evil, and the magnificent chase scenes. Franky Four Fingers (道士 Dido) is introduced to his new boss, Arv (Dennis Farina), what he must do to make it back to the States safely. Stay low and don't go gawking. Sounds pretty simple, right? Before long, a cast of characters — your everyday gangsters, fat promoters, cold rears and pig farmers — will learn of his whereabouts and what exactly is within the bribe chained to his arm. Deluded into thinking this is a matter of an illegal underground boxing match on behalf of an outrageously charitable Russian (Bodo Schaufel), Franky becomes ensnared in the at all costs Machiavellian dealings that cause the stone to change hands many times and pick up countless adorers along the way.

Something that has become common in the world of critically acclaimed films is the use of intertwining stories. It was carried out admirably in Truffaut, as well as in Magnolia and Old School. Ritchie, similarly, creates a network of different编织as, each with his own objectives. Some collaborate and virtually every one interacts with the others with obtrusive report on at some point in the movie. There are Tommy (Stephen Gra- ham) and Turkish (Jason Statham), the boxing promoter in pursuit of a last-minute replacement fighter, and Mickey O'Neil (Brad Pitt), the biochemical pathology who is responsible for their troubles, although it's willing to help if the price is right. There is also Brick Top (Alan Ford), the man responsible for the shady things, and its accompaniment of low-life, low-sounding names like Franky Four Fingers, Bullet Tooth Tony, One Punch, and Boris the Blade.

Snatch may be viewed as a story involving a fictional plot lines involving a real vampire. Some elements from the REM school of film-making — basting the celluloid with endearing names like FRANKY FOUR FINGERS, BULLET TOOTH TONY, ONE PUNCH, and Boris the Blade. There are Russians and Hassidic Jews with thick accents, insatiable, mercurial plot forward. A feats of cinema from the bygone era of the early 90s, there's the fresh inventive aspect — representing in filmic terms the vampire, the monster, the vampire, the monster, and for the most part, one animal is almost stylistically indistinguishable from the next. Each competitor is intent on catching the prize, and in Snatch, the medals are off.

For more info, call (713) 627-7751.

THE WAILERS

One of Jamaica's most legendary bands comes to Fitzgerald's to spread their message of love and peace. Several other legendary bands come to Houston this weekend.

The Brown Auditorium in the University of Houston. University of Houston. $21. 2706 White Oak Dr. $4 students. 8:30 p.m. for more info.

The legend of the vampire Nosferatu creeper than ever

Kevin Cochrane
THREESHER STAFF

This is hardly your vampire caption any longer! The dread vampire Nosferatu (William Darrow) stalks his victims in Shadow of the Vampire. No more mysterious incidents and deaths that occurred to the set. But there's a new twist. In Shadow of the Vampire, the cause of all the problems is lead actor Max Schreck, who is doing more than just playing the vampire. This is what makes Shadow such an exciting film. Witnessing the same true story of the making of what may be the most important horror film ever. Schreck is playing the same role of Max Schreck from Nosferatu. It begins in 1921 in Germany where director F.W. Murnau (Uma Thurman) is shooting the first scenes of his masterpiece. It's clear from the beginning that Murnau and his whereabouts and what exactly is within the bribe chained to his arm. Deluded into thinking this is a matter of an illegal underground boxing match on behalf of an outrageously charitable Russian (Bodo Schaufel), Franky becomes ensnared in the at all costs Machiavellian dealings that cause the stone to change hands many times and pick up countless adorers along the way.

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Singing ‘Old Wicked Songs’

Carl Krosch
THEATRE EDITORIAL STAFF

A play set in a music professor’s rehearsal studio in Vienna in 1986 and encompassing only two characters may seem like an entertainment dead-end. However, as in Stages Repertory Theatre’s production of Old Wicked Songs, when the characters are an elderly Austrian professor and a young, burned-out American pianist, the personality conflicts alone provide humor.

Throw in the troubled pasts of both Austria and the character, and the play also incorporates points of pain. Professor Josef Mashkan (William Hardy) is an aging vocal instructor. Stephen Hoffman (Daniel Magill) is his 20-year-old piano student. He has traveled to Vienna to regain his love of music after not being able to compose for two years. Hoffman and Mashkan are involved in a love affair, the song cycle conveys the growth of both characters as each forces himself to confront his own past and present. Director Mark Ramont also relates Austria’s past to the present of the Waldheim election.

Mashkan’s studio also adds to the impact of the play, reflecting the man who spends much of his time there. The clock sitting on the end table, according to elderly Mashkan, has not worked in 10 years. Altmann is placed on the floor near the record player that sits on a small table.

Chronically the story of Schumann’s stormy love affair, the song cycle conveys the growth of both characters.

Overall, the wobbly lit studio has the feel of a living room, complete with couch, coffee table and fireplace. The room implies a place of leisure rather than a place of work. Consuming adds an interesting dimension to the play. As Hoffman matures, he puts away his stuffy tie and jacket and dresses in a more casual way.

Although Hofmann’s behavior occasionally slips slightly beyond the brink of believability, Mashkan is thoroughly convincing.

Adding as much to the play as its dialogue is Schumann’s Dichterliebe (“A Poet’s Love”), the song cycle that Hofmann and Mashkan work through, singing in German, then in English. Chronicling the story of Schumann’s stormy love affair, the song cycle conveys the growth of both characters as each forces himself to confront his own past and present. Director Mark Ramont also relates Austria’s past to the present of the Waldheim election.

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Although the audience may initially laugh at the characters’ personality quirks, by the end of the second act, the laughter is tempered by an understanding of both characters’ pain. Old Wicked Songs succeeds by giving the audience the same blend of sadness and joy that Professor Mashkan promotes as the only solution for truly great works of music.

Three members of the Rice community are involved in this production. Director Ramont is also the director of the Rice Players, and Rice alumnus Debs Ramser (Will Friedle) makes her Stages debut as an acting dramatics. Old Wicked Songs is currently running at Stages Repertory Theatre through Feb. 11. Student tickets are available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for $10 with valid student ID and may be purchased through the box office. For directions or other information, check out the Stages Website at www.stagestheatre.com.

Rating: **** (out of five)

“Old Wicked Songs”
Stages Repertory Theatre
Rating: **** (out of five)

SINGING ‘OLD WICKED SONGS’

I'm here with a special surprise in the heart of Batman fans as a landmark in the history of the Caped Crusader, but viewers who have never seen the “Batman” TV series (like myself) will find it to be an exciting, expertly presented action movie.

“Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker”

You might think cartoons are for kids, but dissing the various incarnations of this computer-animated Series Set in a crime so heinous that the Dark Knight himself ought to hunt you down and smash you around.

The “Batman Beyond” television series, which stars a new Batman named Terry McGinnis working under the guidance of an elderly Bruce Wayne 40 years in the future, has had a successful run for the past two years with its dark tone and clever writing. With Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker, the Joker is reintroduced into the world of Batman Beyond, standing that is still much grimmer and more tragic than any American-made cartoon you’ll ever see.

“Seven”

Years, silence and the silence of the Lambos are often lumped together as the best horror/thrillers of the decade. Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt star as detectives on the hunt for a serial killer John Doe, and you’ve got to hear talking about some-thing they love: Batman. This is worth skipping, though. Most important, there’s an audio commentary by director David Fincher, which takes place in the medium that has in recent years provided the most faithful adaptation of the Dark Knight’s brooding style. For the DVD itself, the extra features aren’t worth checking out. The audio and visual quality is flawless, the deleted scenes are eerie and interesting, and there’s the run-of-the-mill “making of” documentary. The included music video is worth skipping through.

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Serving up a little Southern comfort

Montrose's famous Fox Diner opens its doors at its new, more chic Shepherd home

corey e. devine

When I first heard that owner, chef and self-proclaimed busboy Tom Williams decided to move his legendary Fox Diner from its quaint Montrose location to a bigger, newer building at the corner of Shepherd and 2815 S. Shepherd, I was a bit disheartened. Frankly, I’d gotten quite used to the dingy-looking hovel that was synonymous with Montrose’s famous Fox Diner opens its doors at its new, more chic Shepherd home attitude that was once the signature of Fox Diner. I’d gotten bit disheartened. Frankly, I’d gotten used to the dingy-looking hovel that was synonymous with Montrose’s famous Fox Diner opens its doors at its new, more chic Shepherd home attitude that was once the signature of Fox Diner. I’d gotten used to the dingy-looking hovel that was synonymous with Montrose’s famous Fox Diner opens its doors at its new, more chic Shepherd home.

The almost cavernous dining area, complete with what look like 1950s ceilings (maybe more) and comforting wood-paneled walls, is lined with windows looking onto Shepherd. Perhaps the most scenic view in Houston, but I’ve never complained about a restaurant that affords its patrons natural light.

Unfortunately, the huge windows in front combined with the high ceilings and low tables create a space that seems a bit daunting when it’s empty, but once the sun has gone down, the building regains the intimacy of the old diner. The open kitchen, with some variation, has been preserved, but it’s been made less of a part of the ambiance here and seems to be more of a holdover to for the nostalgia, but I’m in good company — there seems to be a little fried chicken fan club that descends upon the diner Thursday evenings.

You can’t miss with this menu that’s inspired by the cuisine of the “low country” — what Williams describes as the “coastal plains of South Carolina and Georgia.” Basically, it covers a variety of flavors, utilizing everything from seafood to fresh vegetables to steaks. You’re bound to find something you’ll fall in love with. But my Problem is that I can’t choose.

If your sweet tooth gets the best of you, stop by the Fox Diner for one of their inventive desserts. They’ve added a vegan pastry chef to their staff, and as a result, I’ve seen the desserts go from good to “wow” status almost overnight. I remem-ber the first time I was convinced to splurge on one of Pam the pastry’s.

Saying thank you

corey e. devine

Back to school and back in the swing of things — great, right? I’m a bit upset that the huge space inside is crammed with tables — especially in the misses are one continuous booth. I’m not anti-social, but I like my personal space. I’m reminded of a cliché someone sitting near me has ordered, I don’t think she should have to wait that long to have a glass of the Diner’s signature lemonade, complete with fresh fruit floating on top. It’s hard to beat the compromise between fast and slow.

If you’re not having hunger pangs, I’d try the Southwest cheese steak sandwich. It’s not quite a Philadelphia cheese steak, but in its own right, it’s just as good. The sandwich is loaded with steak melted with cheese and onions, then smothered in a warm French roll. I’ve made the Diner my regular Thursday dig because of the day’s special, Southern fried chicken. I remember my grandmother slaving away at a hot iron skillet for hours to create fried chicken this crispy, juicy and just all around good. Maybe I go for the nostalgia, but I’m in good company — there seems to be a little fried chicken fan club that descends upon the diner Thursday evenings.

As the hoopla about the grand opening calms down and things return to normal, I’m sure Williams will work out any kinks. If we’re heading out for tremendous bread, Fox Diner wins my vote hands down. I’m a bit upset that the huge space inside is crammed with tables — especially in the misses are one continuous booth. I’m not anti-social, but I like my personal space. I’m reminded of a cliché someone sitting near me has ordered, I don’t think she should have to wait that long to have a glass of the Diner’s signature lemonade, complete with fresh fruit floating on top. It’s hard to beat the compromise between fast and slow.

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When I receive a gift from someone, I might reach over and take it off her neck. It means something to you. They send the gift. Alternately, a great thank you for an old hobby you’ve picked up than a pot of how school is going and what they bought me. It’s a nice way of letting people see how you’ve changed since you last saw them and telling them thank you all at once.

I’ve gotten great response from some of my relatives send gifts just to see how things are going in my life — at least, that’s what they tell me. I suppose the truth is that most people — especially people who care about you and don’t see you often — simply want to know what’s going on in your life. As a result, they’re much more likely receive a printed report of how school is going and what new hobby you’ve picked up that a gift return.

Alternatively, a great thank you for clothing type gifts is pictures. It may seem a bit cheesy, but if someone gives me clothing of some sort, I send a thank you note along with a picture of myself in the clothing. I do this for the nostalgia, but I’m not sure why and like the fact that I’m wearing what they bought me. It’s a nice way of letting people see how you’ve changed since you last saw them and telling them thank you all at once.

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Style Watch

Looking for a great back bag? Well, you don’t have to look very far anymore. Purse-design maven Kate Spade’s husband Jack Spade has entered the fashion scene with a great set of all-purpose satchels, rucksacks and soft attaches. Most are made from heavy-weight synthetics (around $200), which makes them great for college students who are hard on their bags — who aren’t? If you’re looking for something really durable, you can shell out more cash for a leather bag (around $500) that will last the rest of your college career and longer. You can pick one up at Neiman Marcus.

Chipotle

GOURMET BURRITOS TOCA, PRONTO.

KIRBY & NOTTINGHAM

FAST, NOT FAST FOOD.
Bored Game?

Last weekend, a hoard of students and a few non-students gathered in the Student Center and Sewell Hall for OwCCon 2001, sponsored by the Alliance. The gaming, fantasy and science-fiction conference lasted Friday through Sunday, and featured everything from anime movies to 24-hour gaming. The success of OwCCon is the past two years left planners especially hopeful for a great conference this year. Hey, it may not be for everyone, but if the shoe fits, wear it.

Right: Hanszen freshman Kevin Delgado enjoys a friendly game of world domination.

Somewhere to Turn...

Students having trouble with alcohol or drugs now have another place to turn. The Rice Counseling Center is coordinating a support group for students struggling with substance abuse.

"I think it’s a problem at almost all universities, and Rice is no exception," Staff Psychologist Salimah Adam said.

Adam, who is coordinating the group, said it will be both educational and supportive.

"We will be offering students new ways of coping, healthier ways of living, and the other members of the group will be there to provide feedback on what has worked and what hasn’t worked," she said.

"We hope it will be a cohesive, supportive group," Adam said.

Adam acknowledged that a substance abuse support group is one that’s initially hard to get members for. "Not many people like to come up and admit that they have a problem," she said.

She emphasized that the center will keep students’ problems confidential. For example, a problem with illegal drugs will not be reported to the police.

"The only time we have to report anything is if the student is in danger of killing themselves or someone else, if they report the abuse of a child or an elderly person or if they’re involved in a criminal pursuit," she said. "Everything else is confidential.

She added that the group isn’t just for people with alcohol problems. Those struggling with use of marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy or any other drug are also welcomed.

"The group is really an effort for it to be non-shaming and de-emphasizes stigma," Adam said. "We’re really there to help, and we encourage and look forward to working with willing students who want to make a positive change in their life."

For more information about the group, students should call the center at (713) 348-4867 to make an appointment for a 15-30 minute screening.

Students should direct specific questions to Adam. She said the group will probably meet once a week for about an hour and a half.

— Elizabeth Jardina

Southern Food with Flair

SERVING, from Page 25

Chef’s Creations: When I asked to see the dessert tray, the waitress called the chef to our table to describe the selections.

Before I could choose from the featured deserts, she had run back to the kitchen to whip up one for each of my tastes—from most initially delicious enjoyment. Since then, these three desserts have become our favorities.

The peppermint bark cake is a red velvet cake layered with white peppermint filling and covered in a rich chocolate icing. The white lady is chocolate-brownies topped with a sweet passion fruit sauce that balances the vanilla flavor of the pudding and adds a touch of fruitiness.

No dessert selection could be bad under the careful guidance of the Deuce’s pastry chef. I’m thrilled to eat any of her creations, even if it means loosening my belt just a bit.

There is a certain River Oaks feel to the patina on most nights; however, I was excited when I returned for Sunday brunch and found the old, eclectic crowd gathered with one thing in common — an empty stomach and craving for great food.

In the end, nothing’s gone from the old diner. They’ve expanded the space, but the waitstaff is still the same. You’ll still find Williams miles from the mud slinging customers and boosting the occasional table when things get busy. He’s still working just as fervently from text to other restaurants — a lot of ground work set up with a little TLC.

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friday
JAN 26
MEN'S TENNIS takes on Lamar University at 10 a.m. at the Jake Hess Tennis Stadium, followed by a match against the University of New Orleans at 2:30 p.m.

5 p.m. is the deadline for ADDING AND DROPPING courses without a fee. Time to stop shopping and buy those books.

On an unlucky Jan. 13, an earthquake hit Central America, killing 700 people and destroying thousands of homes. HACER does its part with a COIN DRIVE. Make your final donations today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the table in front of Sammy’s in the Student Center.

KTRU DJ applications, available on the station door, are due by 5 p.m. Demonstrate your love of jazz by improving grammar on your application.

The first LOVETT UNDERGROUNDS of the semester features Kate Siiper at 10 p.m. the Philipsanomics at 11 p.m., Carolin Shulman at midnight, and Merritt McAnister at 1 a.m.

saturday
JAN 27
The Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra provides music to entertain your inner child from Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony with a YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT, today at 11 a.m. in Stude Concert Hall.

MEN’S BASKETBALL goes head-to-head against San Jose State University tonight at 7:35 p.m. in Audrey Court.

Catch a little moonlight madness tonight from the Rice Chinese Students and Scholars’ Club when they host a LUNAR NEW YEAR PARTY from 6:30 p.m. to midnight in the Grand Hall of the Student Center.

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sunday
JAN 28
No means no, but you can still enter the HOUSE OF YES. Auditions in the Brown College PDR tonight, Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Parts available for two men and three women.

Get in gear for the semester at the first SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS meeting of the year tonight at 8:30 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center.

Hear the music of Ives today in a CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL at 5:30 p.m. in Duncan Recital Hall in Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

wednesday
JAN 31
Men’s Basketball takes the field against Baylor University tonight at 5:30 p.m. at Enron Field in the Astros College Classic.

If you find yourself plagued by Valentine’s Day desperation, it’s time to hit the Web for the Rice Program Council-sponsored HUGS DATING SURVEY, which is available online now through Feb. 8. Bonus: It involves absolutely no face-to-face contact.

Seniors can celebrate the light at the end of the tunnel tonight. The HUNDRED DAYS PARTY kicks off downtown at the tonic at 810 Main St. Free buses are available to free up all you designated drivers and run to and from the Sliceport.

thursday
FEB 1
Time to find a shirt that looks like it might have been rained on at one point and think of an innovative and memorable visual statement for your peers to remember you to PICTURE YOURSELF is tonight from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Grand Hall of the Student Center.

MEN’S BASEBALL takes the field against Baylor University tonight at 6 p.m. at Enron Field in the Astros College Classic.

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Dress code is enforced (no jeans), and the party runs from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

friday
FEB 2
Campus squirrels get a short break from the nodent limelight as the world turns its attention to a small burrower. It’s GROUNDHOG DAY.

The Astros College Classic continues tonight as the University of Texas travels to Enron Field to take on the MEN’S BASEBALL team at 7 p.m.

Check out our Webcast - premiering on Thursday, February 1 (11:00 p.m. EST, 12:00 p.m. CST, 11:00 a.m. MST, 10:00 a.m. PST) - for information on our new name and new opportunities. It’s an interactive experience and career opportunity you won’t want to miss.

Register for the Webcast at: careers.accenture.com/webcasts

> accenture
Find the Rice hook-up hot spot that's right for you!

With Valentine's Day rapidly approaching, it's time to start planning a romantic rendezvous with that special person in your life (sorry Comp Sci majors, Lara Croft doesn't count). Unfortunately, the pressure of schoolwork and extracurricular obligations often make it difficult to get off campus; moreover, students lack automotive transportation, making that candlelit dinner at Taco Cabana a nearly impossible fantasy. However, it has come to our attention here at the Backpage that you don't need to venture beyond the hours to find your perfect one next. Our local campus offers a plethora of easy locales ideal for some sweet, sweet love.

**FONDREN STUDY ROOM**
The anal pre-med frantically studying next door might end up with a better GFA than you if you don't start studying more about anatomy than he does.

**PROS:**
Locked door. Parents please you're spending so much time at the library. Condoms readily available in first floor vending machine.

**CONS:**
Windows. Mandatory sign-in checkout desk denies secrecy (even if you bring champagne and an ice bucket). Harsh, unflattering fluorescent light shows every zit you've had since middle school. Four-hour time limit on room use may pose a problem for you unflattering fluorescent light shows every zit you've had since middle school. Four-hour time limit on room use may pose a problem for you who needs lots of cozy locales ideal for some sweet, sweet lovin'.

**TIP:**
Kindle the flame of desire with a bit of role playing. When signing in with the librarian, use the names of a famous couple, e.g., Romeo and Juliet, Robin Hood and Maid Marian, Siegfried and Roy.

**BAKER HALL**
During the day, this building is renowned for the study of public relations. But when the sun goes down, relations turn private. Very private.

**PROS:**
The third floor offers 12 alcoves separated by red velvet curtains. These secluded nooks also provide a stunning view from their balconies down into the main foyer.

**CONS:**
Elevator makes conspicuous 'ding' noise audible in lobby, so the stairs present a more clandestine route to your lofty hideaway. Creepy pictures of Gorbachev and Arafat may ruin the sensual mood. Possible interruption by Doc C ambushing through the halls muttering about myth, power, and value to no one in particular.

**TIP:**
For the daring, the large wooden table in the center of the main hall represents the perfect political platform for conducting "negotiations." But beware, it's creaky.

**RYON LAB POOL**
Until now, the Civil Engineering Department had closely guarded knowledge of the wave pool, a quarter mile hidden in the belly of Ryon Lab. Although it seems shallow at first, its three-feet of water contain endless depths of passion potential.

**PROS:**
Gives guys brave enough to prove the age-old claim: "It's not the size of the boat, it's the motion of the ocean." Pungent chlorine-smell masks unpleasant engineer body odor.

**CONS:**
One word: drainage. On a lesser note, engineers may be easily distracted from task at hand by impressive gear ratios on wave machine. No liftguard on duty. Swim at your own risk.

**TIP:**
For the flakes, you may want to drag your hands through the water to make yourself feel like a fish. (No, we're not kidding.)

**HUMA BUILDING SHOWERS**
Being an academic never felt so good.

**PROS:**
White and black tile supply a classic art deco ambiance while you're getting wet and wild. Shower heads equipped with massage option made exclusively by Chicago Faucet and featuring their patented erotic Hydropoise technology. Memory of the opening ceremony may inspire episodes of exotic, if abstract dancing.

**CONS:**
Possible interruption by Francisco and Scott returning to strip coopers from bathroom pipes as part of humorous 'jack on Martel College. Necessity of passing Religious Studies Department on second floor may prompt moral hesitation. Those unfamiliar with feminine hygiene products (like certain male BPEs) may mistakenly believe that tampon dispenser in women's bathroom supplies contraceptives.

**TIP:**
Bring Herbal Essences and relive the commercial with a totally organic experience.

**The 'Are those your pecs? No, actually they're my ribs' classifieds**

**RYON LAB POOL**

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