SA Senate proposal fails
Response to tragedy will not include letter to government

by Elizabeth Decker

SA Senate proposal fails
Response to tragedy will not include letter to government

A Student Association resolution to send a letter to the government to protest for the visit of a foreign dignitary, including holding a candlelight vigil and setting up donation systems in the colleges. The SA has addressed some tragedies, such as the 1989 collapse of the Texas A&M University tower, by sending letters of condolences, 2000 WSU SA President Lindsay Bowman said. The SA has also used formal resolutions to state its position on issues including last year's terrorist attacks and their families.

Senators debated a resolution in the spring about reform of the Higher Education Act, which states that federal scholarships would not be given to students charged with万元以上. "It was really bizarre and surprising," SA President Jamie Lisagor said. "We also wanted to say something speaking to the U.S. government about the steady acts of retribution."

Vanderlip said another goal of the resolution was to communicate with congressmen.

"We were really trying to avoid coming down on either side of that fence," Vanderlip, a senior, said. "Our goal in writing the resolution last night was to send the message that we as the students of Rice were scared from the backlist of racially motivated hate crimes that have been going on in our community and our nation."

Vanderlip said another goal of the resolution was to mention the U.S. government against steady acts of retribution. "They are very much aware of how much trouble we are in," he said. "They seem as if they might like to drink or stoned."

Students in the class said the two men looked like students. Entering the room about 10 minutes before the end of class, the two said, "Oh, this is philosophy? We like philosophy!" Then they asked if the students were talking about the attacks. "It was really bizarre and surprising," SA President Jamie Lisagor said. "We also wanted to say something speaking to the U.S. government about the steady acts of retribution."

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Rallying should be up close and personal

The Athletics Department should not have made the unilateral decision to keep students out of the first seven rows of seating at Rice's home opener Sept. 8.
The decision, announced only two days before the game, was an instance of the administration going over students' heads without even keeping up appearances by collecting our input.
If the administration had a problem with the behavior of Rally Club members, who traditionally sit in the first few rows, they should have addressed their concerns to them and started a dialogue. Athletics Director Bobby Mohr might have been pleasantly surprised to find that Rice students can be reasonable and rational. Instead, the administration surprised Rally and effectively punished the whole student body for the behavior of a few individuals that happened almost a year ago.
Rally Club members aren't the only ones who like to sit in the front. Students of all backgrounds and demographics appreciate a close view of the game. Come to think of it, we can't think of anyone who wouldn't sit up close if given the opportunity.
We hope that being forced to sit farther from the action doesn't turn some students off from Rice football. There's nothing to gain from smaller crowds — both the student body and the administration can benefit from bigger turnouts at sporting events. They get more prestige for the university and we get to close the social gap between athletes and non-athletes, all the while having a fun time.
We hope the talks between Rally and the Athletics Department since Sept. 8 have yielded positive results, and that all we've been afforded the opportunity to cheer from the front row.

Packled like sardines in a crushed tin box

At Saturday's Early '80s party at Sid Richardson College, 28 students piled into an elevator that, instead of going up, sank two feet and stuck them there for almost half an hour (See Story, Page 6).

Around this time last year, elevators at Sid and Brown Colleges were a reminder to students of winter. Before other similar incidents began all over again around campus, students should remember that elevators need to be treated with the same care that one would give to another piece of dorm furniture. Sure, you might spill beer on it once in a while, but you want to at least keep it usable so others can enjoy the convenience.

Elevators are our friends. Without them, getting that heavy trunk of clothes and that computer equipment up four or five stories would draw even more blood, sweat and tears, and moving is hard enough. And though they can withstand 200-plus college students moving in and out every semester, elevators are not made to take on excessive weight.

So use common sense, and respect each college's property by using conveniences provided as they are meant to be used — safely and without necessitating the intervention of University Police.

Getting a new Lifestyle three times a semester

When you opened up this issue of The Rice Thresher, hopefully you noticed the eight-page insert that fell out. It's not an advertisement — this time — it's the first issue of the Lifestyle Magazine. The publication is a new, improved forum for stories and features about the little things that make life interesting for you as a Rice student. Look for the magazine to appear three times each semester; you'll find the next issue Oct. 26.
As with any other aspect of the paper, we welcome feedback — send your comments to thetresher@rice.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proper response to attacks is tolerance

To the editor:
War was forced upon America in a most horrific manner. We are committed to win this war because no alternatives exist for us. I foresee the coming weeks to be some of the most critical times in our democracy. Albeit extraordinary powers necessarily given to the government in times of war, the nature of our present precondition seems to particularly warrant caution in the extent of the authority we grant our leaders.
A war against terrorism will be a very complex conflict. Soldiers will die in抱歉 I lost my train of thought. The maintenance of this check and balance will be the people's responsibility, for that is the very definition of democracy.
I assure that an ignorance of us in documenting proper laws is extremely important, but the preservation of our freedom and democracy is paramount.
We should never be willing to destroy our freedom. It is at the loss of our freedom that we can save the hateful name of America, for without democracy and freedom America is simply a name. Therefore, we are Americans of all races and parties that take away our liberty and are the enemies of our country. We must uphold our values.

Law Yu
Physics graduate student

Americans should be strong during adversity

To the editor:
As title this, it's now just under 60 hours since terrorists inflicted a grievous strike on our nation and the world. I write today to issue a call to arms — but not the sort you may think.
I write today to issue a call to arms today when justice will be served and the best possible punishment for those who committed this atrocious act will be meted out.

Today is not that day, however. Now is the time for us to reflect upon and care for those hurt in the attack.

I write today to issue a call to arms — not the sort you may think. Today is not the day for us to rise up and shout "idiot" and "terrorist." Today is not the day for us to call to arms.

To the editor:
Muslims pray to one God five times a day in five places; they recite passages from the Quran, the holy book of Islam. Muslims believed the Quran was revealed by God to the Prophet Mohammed, the last of the long line of messengers. "Say: We believe in God, and that which was revealed unto us, and that which was revealed unto Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the prophets of their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have surrendered." (The Quran 2:288). Muslims have an unrequited appreciation for the faiths practiced by the Jewish and Christian followers of these same messengers and by better systems everywhere. (To learn more about Islam, take a look at our own online issue).
The U.S. media has done an excellent job of characterizing last week's attacks as terrorist and not Muslim. For example, in the news we have all heard the term jihad translated to mean holy war. However, it is properly used in the Islamic context to mean a struggle for spirituality that should permeate all.

Ismail

Islam preaches peace, tolerance, not violence

To the editor:
Countless Muslim organizations around the United States have rushed to emphasize that Islam is not a terrorist, that the heinous acts of Sept. 11 were not acts of the faithful, but acts of criminals. The Muslim Student Association here at Rice joins other organizations in condemning terrorist actions. We fully endorse the anti-terrorism stance of one level, we mourn the loss of human life. On another level, we mourn the loss of our feeling of acceptance by our fellow Americans.

Through this time of mourning, we hope Rice students in particular will remove their stereotypical bias and cross religious and ethnic boundaries, and in doing so, show the types we are trying to fight misconceptions with knowledge, and so we would like to explain a little about Islam and its practice of over 700 million individual's across the world.

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters
• Letters to the editor should be signed and include a phone number, major or school and college and year.
• Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length.
• Letters to the editor should be submitted on disk (or typed on class mail).
• Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words in length.

Subscribing
• Letters to the editor should be phoned in to the Thresher (713) 348-4801.

Advertising
• We accept both display (classified) and classified advertisements.
• Contact the Thresher for more information.
**Guest column**

**Overcoming terrorism requires show of force**

*By S. S. Hadi*

The first attack was the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, then an Iranian-sponsored massacre of Israelis at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996, and most recently the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. These attacks were not isolated but part of a global campaign inappropriate to an act of war or means of international terrorism. But they are still acts of war.

Steve Miller

In the aftermath of Tuesday's terrorist attacks, the world witnessed the power of the United States. In the face of acts of terrorism, the United States responded with a show of force. The world watched as the United States launched military strikes against al-Qaeda and its allies. The United States demonstrated its readiness to use military force to defend itself and its allies against terrorism.

The show of force was a response to the terrorist attacks of September 11. The United States acted to protect itself and its allies and to prevent further terrorist attacks. The show of force was a demonstration of the United States' commitment to defend itself and its allies against terrorism.

The United States' action was not without its risks. There were concerns about the potential for further terrorist attacks and about the potential for collateral damage. But the United States believed that the risks were necessary to protect itself and its allies against terrorism. The show of force was a demonstration of the United States' commitment to defend itself and its allies against terrorism.

*The Rice Thresher*
Grant will be made this fall. The fund provides support for an 

I did not wear a black ribbon last Friday. I did not wear that looped 

thing black, does it mean they don't wear the black ribbon made 

me ashamed. The least they could have done, out of respect for the 

deal, was taken off the ribbon and hidden their symbol of mor 

row. Is it not just as important for what was lost in these or other at 

tacks. There's already been talk of going into battle, of believing about the morality of a U.S. 

military response. Why don’t we simply say that there’s no way, 

fully aware it would entail even more loss of life, blood, death or 

again, nothing can compensate. It is inevitable we should feel 

duty to help others cope, especially in the 

immediate aftermath of those events. It is one of will ever be able to forget the pain of that 

place was burned and I was at peace for a moment. Then I realized that 

what might have happened to her already had stretched to thousands and I cried. My tears dried, 

but the feeling from that moment was still with me and I will 

remember that is why I will not wear the black ribbon. You can’t go back 

to life. This realization has never been 

new to me. 

Last week’s terrorist acts were a wake-up call to many of us feel this pain as a blood 

stream. We want to cry, but we can’t. We want to go back to life and not 

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we have received far outweighs any 

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Hina Khan 

Khaled Abou El Fadl eloquently 

clari 

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going ahead with its Meals on 

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food and shelter is still not diminished in the last week. 

There are still children who need 

babi 

Helen Master, Wiess College (MS 738). 

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Helen Master, Wiess College (MS 738).
Will Rice quad holds 20 boxing matches between students

**by David Berry

**FOR THE THRESHER

Outlookers cheered as two boxers exchanged blows in the Will Rice College quad Friday night. Minutes later, Will Rice freshmen Thit Gupta and Jennifer Molholt took off their boxing gloves and resumed their friendship.

By the end of the evening, about 20 matches between students had taken place. The fights, which are not officially sponsored by Will Rice, began Sept. 12 and gained in popularity over the next two nights. Will Rice President Jesse Dickerman said a few similar matches occurred at Will Rice in the spring of 2000.

"Then, just a bunch of us put on gloves," he said.

Dickerman said there were no fights last year because most students who had started them the year before were living off campus.

Will Rice freshman Jerome Haseltine said the atmosphere Friday was relaxed at first.

"Whoever was motivated just said, 'Hey, do you want to fight?'" Haseltine said. "It wasn't aggressive or anything, it was just about punching around a little."

However, as the boxing went on, the crowd got more enthusiastic.

"We had people hanging out of their windows cheering and watching," Will Rice junior James Sullivan said.

Some students likened the atmosphere in the movie and novel Fight Club.

However, nearly all who organized or participated in the matches disagreed with Fight Club comparisons.

Sullivan and participants were allowed to discuss their fights and matches to those in the movie and novels. Sullivan said participants were only allowed two rounds per fight.

The fighting was regulated by a referee. Will Rice senior Eliudd Ramirez stopped the fights in the case of a mismatch, a violation of the rules or risk of injury.

"It's about boxing with your friends, not hurting people," Ramirez said.

For some spectactors, the high-energy scene and expressed safety concerns, later halting the fights after one student got a broken nose. Also injured was Wiess College senior Josh Ginsberg, who dislocated his shoulder.

"As long as it is controlled with people refereeing and we get some mouth pieces, it's reasonably safe, and if people want (boxing) to continue, it should," Ramirez said.

At press time, there were no definite plans as to when or where more boxing will occur.

Regardless, Dickerman said he condones the fights.

"Complaints will be settled in the ring."

However, Gorniak said he was concerned about potential head injuries.

"I'm not so sure about the whole getting hit in the head part," he said.

Sullivan was more enthusiastic.

"It's not like anything I've ever done before," he said. "You just take your shirt off, put the gloves on, get in the ring and mix it up with a fellow Rice student. Even at the end of the match, you give them a hug. You'll see them around campus, you'll see them in class, and every time you see them you can give them a little wink."

Perlman, who owns the gloves, may have the last word as to the future of boxing at Will Rice.

Perlman said he supported the idea as long as certain safety procedures are in place.

"As long as it is controlled with people refereeing and we get some mouth pieces, it's reasonably safe, and if people want (boxing) to continue, it should," Perlman said.

A press release was sent to the paper's desk as well as to the archivists.

"Write for the Thresher," the sign read.

"(or we might beat you up)

thresher@rice.edu"
Twenty-eight students were trapped in a Sid Richardson College elevator for almost half an hour during the college's public Early '80s party Saturday night.

The incident began when a group of Lovett College students on the first floor got into an elevator at Sid, Will Rice College junior Carter Basset said. The elevator was already crowded with students.

"Lovett people rushed on screaming their cheers," Basset, who was in the elevator at the time, said.

Lovett sophomore Sam Jones said the Lovett students wanted to go to the private parties.

"So we all piled into the elevator like a bunch of lemmings as soon as the door opened on the ground floor," Jones said.

When the doors closed, the overburdened elevator dropped two feet, then stopped. The students inside could neither open the doors nor get out, Jones said.

Once the passengers realized they were trapped, reactions varied, according to Jones. Lovett sophomore Gabriel Swift used the elevator's phone to call University Police, who were dispatched to the scene. Swift called a second time, asking the police to hurry.

While they waited to be rescued, some passengers tried to find ways to escape.

"It was pretty bad, but I can still ride elevators, so it obviously didn't traumatize me too bad."

— Laura Sawyer
Sid freshman

"We managed to pry the door open a few inches to get some fresh air," Jones said. "Then we tried to open the little door on the roof of the elevator but found, much to our disappointment, that it was sealed shut."

Other students did not take the situation lightly.

"It kind of sucked," Lovett sophomore Nath Pizzolatto said. "We couldn't move. We were all a little panicked."

After a few minutes, the elevator became stuffy. One female student, who wished to remain anonymous, said she thought she felt faint.

"I, personally, was not too interested in being lectured at that point," Pizzolatto agreed.

"We were all ready to get drunk once we got out," said Pizzolatto.

Most students were not seriously bothered by the incident.

"Some people found it really funny and others were upset and panicking," Pizzolatto said. "But inevitably when there are guests at a party, it is likely that people are going to abuse the elevators, and they will get stuck."

While the people stuck in the Sid elevator Saturday night did not suffer serious injuries, they did not enjoy the experience.

"My future advice to students is not to try to triple the capacity of the elevators," said Pizzolatto.

Eric Carlson/Thresher
Lessons in leading
President Malcolm Gillis addresses Student Association members in the Kyle Morrow Room of Fondren Library Saturday at the organization's annual fall retreat.

Dignitaries expected to reschedule

THE RICE THRESHER NEWS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were reported to the University Police for the period Sept. 12-19.

Residential Colleges
Baker College
Academic Buildings
Keck Hall
Anderson Hall
Anderson Hall
Skei Hall
Other Buildings
Allen Center
Other Areas
Rice University
Rice University

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perpetrate acts of anger and revenge, widen the scope of suspicion and to normal neighbors makes it easier to imagine that all Arabs and Muslims — and there is important to remember that many Islamic extremism exists, but it is true that classical Islam has unparalleled achievement anywhere else in religious unmatched anywhere else in the world.

In ancient Israel, Samuel the High Priest told King Saul that the Lord of the Hosts had given him the power to strike the Amalekites and utterly destroy all that they have, but that he will kill both men and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

And today, in modern Israel, founded with the aid of a fair transaction, some Jews — most, but not all — Stewart that this country had any right to that urgency, pressured God to direct it to them.

In Northern Ireland, Protestants and Catholics, both in the name of Christianity, have perpetrated terrorist acts for decades. The notion that produced the Protestant Reformation also produced, with considerable support from Christians, the Holocaust.

More recently, when Timothy McVeigh committed what was, until Tuesday, the worst act of terrorism this country had ever seen, he was chosen by an extremist minority that calls itself the Christian identity movement, not to break the back of African Americans as "mud people.

Religion is a powerful force for good, but people of all faiths have been too often for humility.

All of us have seen the pictures of Palestinians laughing and cheering and dancing and firing guns to show their outrage at the destruction of one of the most meaningful trivets of the American Revolution. And in the display of flags, our national symbol, in the drawing together of our divided families, the thousands of prayer vigils and gatherings the country all over this nation, and in the rapid return to every-thing.

The Robert Frost poem "Out, ent..." tells of a barn burn in Vermont, preceded with a buzz saw. Suddenly, his hand is reversed by the saw and, in a few short minutes, he bleeds to death. Immediately upon hearing that he has died, the poet ends with the words, "And, they, since they were not the same color, died too."

When I first read that 40 years ago, I thought it was shockingly cold. Since then, I have learned to love the way this poem raises summertime questions, and I have come to realize that, because we have little alternative, it is how we humans do.

"It means that you are human, with some self-regarding tendencies — an almost ineradicable characteristic of humans. That it may have bothered you to have had such self-regarding tendencies is also human."

"But take care in the fact that many people also acted altruistically, even heroically, and that you would have too, had you been there."

You would have pulled someone from debris if you had been able.

You would have given a ride to a person suffering from burns. You would have stood in front of your store and handed out sneakers to the people described their loved ones, for the cost of your own life. I know that you would have done that."

"That's another part of being human."

It is true that classical Islam has difficulty with the concept of phallic worship and images, and from not subordinate to religious forces. But the imperative to bring into the public square the control of the word and will of God as the only way to genuine, common beneficence to Islam, Jews and Christians, among others, to create a common heritage, and many still cling to that vision with hope and determina-

In America, a secular state has not been achieved, a society of decent, a secular people, but it has fostered a curiosity and vitality of religious union mismatched anywhere else from the Pearsontas and Pennsylvania organizations. And when she drove by the American Consulate in East Jerusalem, she saw a gathering of about 30 Palestinian Muslim schoolchildren with their teachers, all of them looking grief-stricken as they held their bouquets of daisies and flowers and stood behind a row of confederates.

"Silently," she wrote, "they kept their vigil outside our consulate. But no camera captured their quiet row.

At her home, Palestinian Christ Yan and Muslim friends came together, vowing never to let their sorrow or to ask what they could do. Again, it is important to remember that Muslims hold no monopoly on such behavior.

'It has witnessed death numerous times and I have come to realize that, because we have little alternative, that is what humans do. We carry on.'

— Bill Martin

Sociology professor

You would have gone into dangerous places to rescue trapped people, even at the threat — and perhaps the cost — of your own life. I know that you would have done that.

That's another part of being human.
Hundreds of students gathered in front of Fondren Library to remember the thousands who died in last week's terrorist attacks. The gathering in the academic quad featured a speech from Sociology Professor Bill Martin.

Hundreds gather to reflect on tragedy

On Sept. 14, members of the Rice community gathered in front of Fondren Library to remember last week's terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. President Malcolm Gillis delivered opening remarks for the observance. Student Association Presidents Jamie Lisagor and Gavin Parks then encouraged students to respect those of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. Graduate Student Association President Miles Scotcher, who is from the United Kingdom, spoke on his former experiences with terrorism. Sociology Professor Bill Martin followed with a speech (see facing page). Melodious Voices of Praise President Aliaquanda Derrick concluded the event by singing "America the Beautiful."

Above: Graduate Student Association President Miles Scotcher encouraged students to mourn the losses caused by the attacks, but told students they "have the responsibility to stand up and continue our daily business in a bold refusal to allow terrorism to dictate to us how to live our lives."

Right: Students sat under the trees between the Humanities Building and Fondren Library while listening to speeches at the gathering Sept. 14.

...the regular burritos are huge -- we're talking the size of a small fireplace log -- and are made to your specifications." The Rice Thresher
Lisagor said. "We're not, as a whole, political views of students at Rice. A resolution representing all the positions would be inherently difficult to draft a political statement that represents all the students is very difficult, if not impossible."

"It took us an hour and a half to sit down and write three paragraphs," Vanderlip said. "That was six people in a room. When you're talking about trying to get a consensus from the whole student body about how you interpret the words 'just and peaceful world,' that's not impossible, especially in a couple of days."

Botoford, the Weess senior, said since the statement was made less political it no longer said much of value. "I think it would be hard for the student government to pass something that can represent all the interests of the students in a document that actually had substance," Botoford said.

Vanderlip said it was important for the SA to make some sort of statement, political or not. "In my opinion, while we were reluctant to actually come down on a side or specifically lobby for anything, I feel just as it was in our place to send something out to the greater Houston community and to the Texas community and to the nationwide community, for what it's worth, some kind of statement from the students at Rice," Vanderlip said. "My viewpoint is that it's better than nothing."

Block said he was disappointed with the fate of the resolution. "The resolution does not solve anything, and we can't stop at that by any means," Block said. "It has to be more than that, but it's not our job to advocate, or say, 'Hey let's all go to the peace march,' it's a little harder to argue because the student leadership, especially in the SA, is just so focused on that thing that needs to be done, which is for students who want to get to the peace project," Wilbur said.

"Vanderlip agreed that the job of the elected officials was to facilitate rather than advocate action. "It's our job to get the information out if people want to attend them, but it's not our job to advocate, or say, 'Hey let's all go to the peace rally when the supervisors would seem to be too ambitious of a project," Wilbur said.

Sullivan said it was the responsibility of individuals, not the SA, to take action. "People can write letters to their congressmen and president, they can demonstrate, and hold rallies and sign petitions, anything that they want to do, and then any student that's interested in getting in on that can voice their support, but for us as a group of less than 30 elected leaders of the student body to say what everybody thinks, I think that's not the best way to do it," Sullivan said.

Ginsberg said while the SA should not be a politically oriented organization, it can have an advocacy role for action on campus. He said it was important for student leaders to use their position to encourage students to act. "It's the nature of Rice. You can set it up, you can put it out on theillery, but it's easy to ignore," Ginsberg said. If your student leaders say, 'Look, we're organizing this, this is what's going on, you can be there, please follow us,' it's a little harder to ignore because the student leadership, especially in the SA, is just so focused on that thing that needs to be done, which is for students who want to get to the peace project," Wilbur said.

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Rushdie unleashes 'Fury' with new book

Melissa Bailey
THE ROSE REVIEW

At the reading of his new novel Fury at the Alley Theatre Sept. 10, world-famous author Salman Rushdie ruchly characterized the book as having been "written about New York live and a half minutes ago ... huney how rapidly the past arrives nowadays." In light of the events that took place in New York City the very next day, Rushdie's remarks have a poignancy and quality that his novel almost an elegiac tone.

Fury
Salman Rushdie
Random House

Fury describes New York in the summer of 2006 as a city that "bodied with money ... this America with the 22 million new jobs and the highest home-owning rate in history; this balanced budget, low-death, stock-owning Mid-America." Months of economic uncertainty have dulled this glittering image, and Tuesday it went up in smoke entirely. In one sense, Rushdie's novel almost seems irrelevant, a detailed evocation of a decade, all-powerful New York and United States that as longer exists in the way he describes. In another way however, should not be more timely, because the novel, as its title proclaims, is more about the darkness that lurks beneath prosperity than the prosperity itself — about hate, passion, creation, revenge, power, and lack of it. Its hero, Malik Solanka, is a dis-controlled philosophy professor and doll maker born in Bombay and educated in England whose latest invention, a wildly popular doll called Little Bean, has made him a millionaire.

After watching others take control of his idea, Solanka flees to New York to escape conscientiousness and unstoppable anger. He leaves behind his wife, his son, and, he hopes, himself.

Yet in New York he finds only more confusion and anger — fury, as Rushdie terms it, "sexual, Oedipal, political, magical, the terrifying human animal in us, the exalted, transcendent, self-destructive, untrammeled lord of creation."

The plot follows Solanka on an increasingly complicated course as he becomes involved with two women, narrows a murder mystery and finally follows the "fury" to its limit at a remote island caught in the foetres of political revolution.

Fury is not a perfect novel and is from time to time "unwritten." Though written with the sort of fraticism that characterizes all his works, it lacks the vision of some earlier ones. It contains almost as much meandering as plot — passages on human cruelty, American materialism, love, New York deca-dence and, of course, fury.

Rushdie prefers to describe such themes directly and frequently rather than evoke them subtly, and as witty or poetic as his observations are, the effect is more like an essay than a story. His characters must fight their way through this heavy jacket of language, and as a consequence they become blurred, indistinct types rather than personalities. The women especially speak in disjointed monologues, all with the same intonation.

This is Rushdie's first novel set in America, and the wealth of references to famous persons, artists and traditions current at the time tend to bog down the plot as the setting threatens to overwhelm the action. Yet the details have a purpose, for it is just this bombardment of information, overflow, excess and clamor of modern existence that lies at the root of Solanka's problem.

He is surrounded by motion, ac-tion and anger without meaning. His desperate struggle to make sense of the absurd violence of everyday life forms the heart of his story. As Rushdie said at the reading, Solanka is "running from the demons which in fact, of course, are sitting on his shoulders."

Rushdie, like his novel's protagonist, was born in Bombay, educated in England, and has spent much of his recent life in hiding. He was sent to the Rugby School in England at the age of 14, and in 1964 his parents moved him to Pakistan, middle-class Muslims, moved to Pakistan, joining the Muslim exodus during the war between India and Pakistan. Denied loyalty, he became a heavy burden on Rushdie in the future.

He went on to study history at Cambridge and publish works of fic-tion. Formerly self-exiled author Salman Rushdie made his first-ever appearance in Houston Sept. 10 for a reading from his latest novel, Fury.

WIN JOEL HORSE’S MONEY

Rice alum Joel Stein keeps his music dream alive

Joel Stein
Hustler

Photographer Suzanne Paul's new exhibit features portraits of artists, writers, gallery owners and patrons from the last few decades. Famous names include Edward Albee, Julian Schnabel and Alfred Glassell. Free. Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The set was diverse, offering a more rocking, showy softer side. He seemed a bit unnatu-ral during the more rocking, showy moments.

While his energy encouraged many of us to dance, his antics seemed a bit excessive. His descent to the rhythm section and stay in the background.

Formerly self-exiled author Salman Rushdie made his first-ever appearance in Houston Sept. 10 for a reading from his latest novel, Fury.

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**Rushdie still hounded for ‘Sacred Verses’**

**STEIN, from Page 11**

He has recently been listening to such other rock acts as the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin, whose blues influences are very apparent.

In "Pompeii," Stein lets us know that the archangel who brought down the firebombed, riots broke out in areas outside the theater with signs reading "Death to Salman Rushdie." The Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran is-
Unlike the charismatic characters Pierce Brosnan usually plays, Andy Osnard is the anti-Bond. Motivated by pornography and big-breasted women, Andy is the "right" guy who normally occupies American screen time. Based on the novel by John Le Carre, The Tailor of Panama is more of a slow character study than anything else. Ousted from London for his tendency to hallucinate and lie, the audience couldn't care less who his court are coming to be wined and dined at the castle where Vatel (played by a dumpy Depardieu) is a man whose job stresses him out. The costumes are elaborate, theatrical, and wrongly-motivated character. Director John Boornian did an awful job with the adaptation. In stead of playing off the intrigues of the court, Stoppard didn't focus on anything in particular. All we get is a great view of Louis XIV constipated in his golden throne.

"Did I listen to pop music because I was miserable? Or was I miserable because I listened to pop music?" — High Fidelity

With everyone speaking in pure British accents, poor Depardieu comes across as a clumsy Frenchman. Although he is French, his accent sounds overly contrived. He is a good actor, but Fidelis sues his talent. Fortunately, famous playwright Tom Stoppard (Shakespeare in Love, Rosencrantz and Guildenstem are Dead) has only one special feature besides the chapter selection, which is actually a plus — after all, if the movie was being in its edited form, who in their right mind would want to watch deleted scenes? If they existed? The lone feature explores the making of Vatel's elaborate costumes and is actually worth a look.

— Natasha Abadi

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Robert Earl Keen's latest, _Gravitational Forces_, combines a little of all for which he's famous: A melodic blend of traditional Texas country and down-home folk. Keen's songs tell stories in a way that would make Johnny, Merle, Hank, and even Dylan proud. 

This release is a welcome alternative to the waffling rant now associated with socially conscious music, and its lyrical tales paint pictures to which real people can relate.

His music is beautifully layered. Keen's vocals are warm and inviting.
Volleyball ready for WAC action

Owls rule the net with 14 blocks in convincing 3-1 win over SWT Tuesday

by Chris Larson

The tables have turned. When Rice faced Southwest Texas State University last year, SWT came into the game with a 15-3 record and the Owls had just lost the starting setter as well as their past two games.

**IN FOCUS: VOLLEYBALL**

**Recent:** 5-3

**Last week:** The Owls defeated SWT 3-1 in their last game before WAC play begins.

**What made the difference:** Rice outblocked SWT 14-2, and senior outside hitter Leigh Lenman knocked down a game-high 15 kills.

**Up next:** The Owls open conference play Thursday at a game at Arkansas State (3-8).

"In the first two games, we were very, very strong throughout, especially on defense," coach Julie Morales said. "The defense was very good with the blocking and then defending the tips, which we haven't really done well but we have been practicing, and they were really on top of it." Following the break after the second game, the Owls lost a close third game after making three straight errors. Rice rebounded, however, in the fourth game, as the Bobcats had no answer for Cook, who delivered six kills on seven attempts, and senior outside hitter Leigh Lenman, who put down five kills on six attempts.

"After the break we always have a tough time," Morales said. "SWT came in and did some different things and it took us a little while to get adjusted. We really dominated the first two, which kind of forced them to make some errors, but then they played a pretty decent game."

The Bobcats, who have won more.

**VOLLEYBALL**, Page 18

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**Women's club soccer tastes sweet revenge**

**Freshmen help Owls defeat rivals UT and Baylor; claim Lone Star Division lead**

**by Jonathan Yardley**

The Rice women's club soccer team had cause for worry heading into this season after losing most of its starters from last year.

Three games into the new season, however, the team is all smiles, especially after a pair of home wins last weekend against the University of Texas (0-2) and Baylor University, two teams that beat Rice in its last year's regionals. The Owls moved Rice (2-0-1) to the top of the Lone Star Division of the Texas Collegiate Soccer League.

Starting four freshmen and bringing three more off the bench, the Owls defeated UT 3-1 Saturday and followed with a 2-0 win over Baylor Sunday.

"This is some of our toughest competition," sophomore midfielder Angie Howe said. "We're already looking for the next game. We won't have the luxury of having a day off after a tough game like we did last weekend.

"We were kind of worried coming in, but everybody's stepping up." -- Angie Howe

Senior midfielder

Rice, which used all 18 available players to defeat the team from the college, finally broke through in the 80th minute. Junior stopper Lisa Keesley took a free kick from about 40 yards out and played it to the top of the box, and freshman substitute Mary Ann Hulling, who had entered the game just one minute prior, was there to receive it. Hulling blasted a left-footed foot volley from the top of the box to the right side of the net, giving Rice a 1-0 lead.

Rice sealed the match with just four minutes to play as forwards hanged a goal on a deflection off a corner kick. The 5-1 win, averted a 3-1 loss in last year's regionals tournament.

While the Owls dominated UT, Baylor proved to be a much tougher foe. The first half was a midfield battle, with neither side able to gain any good chances.

Baylor began to gain control, and it paid off four minutes before halftime when forward Raffi Bolmader, the team's most dangerous player in the three games so far, put a good move on her defender before staying a through ball on the right side. Sophomore right midfielder Whitney Bondfield finished, flicking the ball over the sliding keeper and into the net for a 1-0 Rice lead. It was Rice's only shot on goal of the half.

Rice essentially wrapped up the match in the 53rd minute. Santas sent the corner kick toward the back post, where Belizaire was waiting to tap it in.

"Baylor's a really skilled team," Bolmader said. "But we did a good job of passing the ball around."

Of Rice's five goals during the weekend, two came on set pieces, two were headers, and one was a goal on a deflection off a corner kick.

Rice will try to carry its lead into the weekend when the Owls return to action tomorrow at home against Southwest Texas State University (0-2-0) at 3 p.m.
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Owls hope added depth, experience bring improvement

Rice opens season with 10th-place finish in ultra-competitive Mason Rudolph tourney

by John Chao

If you're sending out invitations to the Hundred Days party, don't bother inviting the golf team — this group of Owls boasts no seniors on the roster.

But the team's two juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen in the biggest and perhaps most talented Rice has seen. Having eight golfers on the roster gives head coach Clay Romon much more leeway in determining who will represent the blue and gray at this year's tournaments.

"I'm very pleased that this year we will have a lot of people pushing each other," Homan said. "A lot of people have the potential to travel."

The team began its season by finishing 10th among a field of 12 teams at the Mason Rudolph Invitational in Franklin, Tenn., Monday and Tuesday. Led by sophomores Ryan Morgan, the Owls posted consecutive rounds of 295, 297 and 296 to finish with a team total of 871 strokes, 32 shots behind tournament champion University of Alabama.

Although a 10th-place finish is not what the team hoped for in its season opener, the tough field loaded with teams from the ultra-competitive Southeastern Conference meant Rice's finish was a bit misleading — its final team score of 871 was lower than in any three-round tournament last season.

While the team has not yet reached the top tier, the Owls have no doubt they're on their way.

"It's going to take a couple years to get to that point," Homan said. "But as long as we concentrate on what we need to do and take care of our business, we will get there."

Morgan agreed. The Owls finished last season on a sour note when nothing seemed to go right for them at the WAC championships and the Owls finished last in the nine-team conference. They know they're capable of much more and have been looking forward to the opportunity to prove it all summer.

"We were really disappointed last year at the WAC tournament," Morgan said. "But if we go out there every day and improve and look for constant improvement, we will definitely beat last year's finish."

"You probably can't dunk — but you can write."
Lads even season record with 2-0 win over SWT

by John Turpin

The Rice men’s club soccer team is beginning to wish all its matches were on Sundays.

For the second straight weekend, the Lads rebounded from a Saturday loss and salvaged a split for the weekend. The Lads scored a 3-0 home win over Southwest Texas State University Sunday after a disappointing 5-1 loss Saturday at the University of Texas.

The 2:30 regular-season record keeps the Lads in contention in the Premier Division of the Texas College Soccer League after playing some of the division’s toughest teams.

Saturday, the Lads fell behind 2-0 early and never managed to get back into the game. The Lancheros (20-1) kept the pressure on and handed Rice its most lopsided loss of the season.

The Lads knew they faced a SWT team Rice league standings — but they also knew they faced a SWT team Rice hadn’t beaten in several seasons. The Lads weren’t intimidated by history, however.

“We just wanted it more. We were ready to play and it showed on the field.”

— Blake Borgeson
Junior defender

Junior defender Carlos Marchani added to the Rice lead late in the first half, slicing between a defender and the goalkeeper to softly lob the ball into the box. Graduate student Greg Bredt scored in the second half, giving him a 60 percent save percentage on penalty kicks for the season.

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After four games, a balanced Rice attack has seen seven different players put in a total of eight goals. “We came out and played really hard,” Up said. “For the first time we actually began to pass well and set each other up.”

SWT, which fell to 0-2-1 with the loss, was tough to account for in the second half. The rowdy Rice fans put SWT on edge, and the Bobcats drew a couple cards, one resulting in another Rice penalty shot.

“We just wanted it more,” Borgeson said. “We were ready to play and it showed on the field.”

Rice faces another Saturday-Sunday combination this weekend. Tomorrow the Lads travel to Angelo State University (2-2-0) before facing Texas A&M University-Commerce (2-1-0), which usually contends for the division crown.

The game begins Sunday at 1 p.m. at the field adjacent to Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

All the way in and stopped the attempt. He added a block on a breakdown shot by a SWT forward and stopped another penalty shot late in the first half, giving him a 40 percent save percentage on penalty kicks for the season.

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Busting through the line

Wisees senior Eliza Chen (right, No. 25) reaches for Baker College sophomore To-Shine Williams’ center flag Sunday. The game was the season opener for both powerhouse teams and Wisees jumped out to a 1-0 halftime lead and held on for a 1-13 win. Sid Richardson College, Housen College and Brown College also claimed opening-weekend wins.

Owls open WAC season Thursday at Boise State

VOLLEYBALL, from Page 15

than three seasons but stepped up the difficulty of their schedule this year, finding themselves in an unfamiliar position with a long record of 3-5 after facing two nationally ranked teams.

Still, Morales said, a win over SWT is a quality win. “They have some different personnel, but certainly it’s a good team,” Morales said. “It’s not much different from the past — actually, I wanted to say it’s a more versatile team. They don’t depend so much on one or two people as they did previously.”

The game was Rice’s last before Western Athletic Conference play begins next Thursday, when the Owls travel to Boise State University. The Broncos are winless for the season at 0-8, but things get tougher in a hurry as Rice faces the University of Nevada two days later. The Wolf Pack won both meetings with the Owls last season.

Rice enters WAC play with three fewer games under its belt than it had anticipated after last weekend’s Lady Tiger Invitational at Louisiana State University was canceled due to last week’s terrorist attacks on the United States.

“Were trying to get some games this weekend, but it didn’t happen,” he said. “We’ll see how it affects. Last night, we came out as we had practiced, so in that regard we’re ready. I wish we could have had more games so we could have seen it happen more. But we’re in for the real stuff now.”

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BY THE NUMBERS

sept. 17-18

RICE 3 SOUTHWEST TEXAS ST. 1
Rice (5-3)  30 27 0
SWT (3-5)  19 30 27
Final Stats
Rice 158 151 138
SWT 150 151 157
Rice .629 .593 .576
SWT .629 .593 .576

Individual Stats
No. 1 in Upper Division.

WAC STANDINGS
Western Division
Nevada 0-0-0 6.1
San Jose St. 0-0-0 7.2
Fresno St. 0-0-0 4.3
Hawaii 0-0-0 4.4
Boise St. 0-0-0 4.8

Eastern Division
Rice 0-0-0 5.3
Tulsa 0-0-0 3.3
UTEP 0-0-0 3.4
SMU 0-0-0 3.4
La. Tech 0-0-0 2.6

GOLF

TEAM RESULTS

Boise St. 870
Tulsa 844
Texas A&M 843
North Carolina St. 845
North Carolina 851
George St. 851
Tulane 852
Mississippi St. 858
Kentucky 867
Rice 871
Hawaii 870
Central Florida 894

Rice scoring: 218
Tulsa 218
South Florida 220
Boise St. 220
La. Tech 223
**friday SEPT 21**

Mail yourself over to the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m. Friday because this is your last chance to DROP COURSES without a fee. This is also the last day for late registration or adding courses.

Today from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. John Zerette, professor and chair of the History department, and Graduate Student Coordinator Jason Pilhill lead a TEACHING WORKSHOP on collaboration between professors and graduate students in Duncan Hall, Room 1070. The free workshop is sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association.

The Rice Art Gallery's 2001-02 season opens today with a new installation by Los Angeles-based artist Jennifer Steinkamp. This computer-generated video project will employ the entire gallery as its screen, making the viewer an integral part of the work. Steinkamp's abstract patterns challenge the senses and immerse the viewer in a KALEIDOSCOPIC world of moving light and color. Examples of Steinkamp's work can be viewed on her Web site (http://jsteinkamp.com).

**sunday SEPT 23**

The Shephered Society Faculty RECITAL is at 3 p.m. in Duncan Recital Hall. The concert features several Shepherd School faculty members, including Andrea Jaber singing soprano, Brian Connolly, Robert Ross and Thomas Jaber on the piano, and James Durham playing the viola.

**monday SEPT 24**

SOAR (Students Organized Against Rape) is having a meeting from noon to 12:50 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the NMC. For more information, contact Linda Hall at Jsh@rice.edu.

**tuesday SEPT 25**

**ATLANTIC ODYSSEY: The Two Princes of Calabar & the 18th-Century Atlantic World** is a free seminar open to the public, is tonight from 7 to 9:30 p.m. There will be a guest presentation by Randa J. Saniati, a professor from Tulane University. For more information contact History Professor John Bates at (713) 348-6039 or send him an e-mail at pbates@rice.edu.

"A Concert of SONGS AND ARIAS" featuring voice graduate students of the Shepherd School and Thomas Jaber on the piano, begins at 8 p.m. in Stude Concert Hall. Music selections include works by Handel, Purcell, Verdi, Dvorak, Karg-Elert, Gounod, and Berlioz.

**thursday SEPT 27**

Texas born author Ray Gonzalez will read from his works from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Kyle Morrow Room in Fondren Library, with a reception following. His works include Caballo Sentora and The Heat of Arrivals (poetry), MEMORY FEVER (mixed genre) and Memory Fever (memoir). There is no cost of attendance. Send an e-mail to Jane Segal at segal@rice.edu or call her at (713) 348-3802 with any questions.

**friday SEPT 28**

Today is the deadline for changing a Spring 2002 PASS/FAIL to a grade, although if you haven't already done so, are you really going to do it now? There is a YOM KIPPUR morning service 10 a.m. at the Hillel Student Center, 1700 Bissonnet Dr.

Hilary Kornblith is leading a free seminar entitled KNOWLEDGE and Social Practices” from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Humanities Building, Room 119. Kornblith’s research has focused on a theory of knowledge concerning the relationship between ideals we set for ourselves and our human limitations and capabilities. Contact Miranda Robinson-Davis at (713) 348-4994 for more information.

**Calendar submit items:**

- by CAMPUS MAIL to Calendar Editor, Rice Thresher, MS-524
- by FAX to Calendar Editor, (713) 348-6238
- by E-MAIL to Calendar@rice.edu

Calendar submission FORMS are available at the Student Activities Office or on the Thresher office door.

The DEADLINE for all items is 5 p.m. the Monday prior to publication. Submissions are printed on a space-available basis.

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$9.23 Plus Tax

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Getting an enema from a rhino, masturbating with sandpaper and ripping your eyebrows off, to name a few things

"women's soccer team?"

"women's soccer team" idea like it's American Gladiator. \[Editor's note: However, Brandis failed to explain why he was taking so damn long to get my cup of coffee.\]

"It's almost as much fun as drop kicking a dog."

"I am a philosopher god."

"I have a farms for the little men that fall out of my head."

"Sure she's my sister, but I'm down with incest when they look like that!"

"I'm as happy as a kid with a new toy."
Our FIRST issue!

MAKE YOUR PAD LOOK GREAT WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

LS GUIDE TO PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

IN SEARCH OF HOUSTON’S BEST BURRITO
Around midnight the second night, I had a showdown with a Twinkie.”
You’re a busy person. You have classes all day, meetings all afternoon and college or club events at night. You’ve got phone numbers scribbled on every available scrap of paper as well as the backs of your hands and half-way up your arms. You know that you’ve got an orgo test sometime next week and a paper due on Friday — or is it the orgo test Friday and the paper due next week? Ah! The life of a Rice student!

Unless you really enjoy living in a state of perpetual disarray, you’re probably trying to find a good way to keep your life organized. More and more frazzled college students are eschewing paper organizers and picking up snazzy new personal digital assistants. Since you’re obviously too busy to wade through the myriad of PDAs on the market, here’s a rundown of a few of the more affordable PDA options.

**PALM m100**

For the past year or so, Palm’s m100 has been the PDA of choice for people who want an organizer that packs a moderate punch without a huge cost. By equipping the Palm m100 with Nokia-style changeable color faceplates, Palm has marketed them toward “hip” consumers who actually believe a handheld organizer can be fun. The m100 doesn’t have the computing power of its more expensive Palm cousins, but it’s easy to use. That’s good for someone just looking for a way to keep track of appointments, phone numbers and maybe play a quick game of minesweeper.

**ADVANTAGES**

- Fairly cheap, powerful

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Bulky

**SONY CLIÉ**

Sony’s entry into the handheld market has seen a recent price drop that makes it one of the most cost-effective PDAs on the market. Like the Visor Deluxe, the Clie has 8 MB of RAM, but it also boasts a memory stick card that allows it to expand up to 16 MB. The Clie also features the novel Jog Dial that allows users to navigate through the Palm operating system by turning a knob.

**ADVANTAGES**

- memory stick, small size

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Flimsy, somewhat pricey

**WINDOWS CE HANDHELDs**

Although more and more handhleds are being made with Microsoft’s Windows CE operating system, the memory demands keep these devices in the high price range. Both Compaq’s Ipaq and Casio’s Pocket PC line offer the familiar Windows interface and applications like Word and Excel. However, remember that this is a Windows product, so there are often glitches in the memory-hungry programs.

**ADVANTAGES**

- the familiar Windows interface and applications like Word and Excel

**DISADVANTAGES**

- varies by model

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**Man can’t live on juice alone**

At Round Midnight the second night, I had a showdown with a Twinke — a little voice from deep inside the yellow, icing-filled treat calling, “Eat me! Eat me!”

I was fasting. Why? Who roped me into it? And was everyone around me right to think I was crazy?

To start at the beginning, I began feeling bad over the summer. At the urging of a friend, I went and talked to a specialist in holistic medicine. He looked at my diet and saw the problem immediately — garbage in, garbage out.

Here’s the philosophy behind fasting: When you eat, you fill your body with toxins. There are other substances in your food — preservatives, pesticides, etc. — that build up in your body and weaken your immune system, making you sick. Traditional medicine only suppresses symptoms of sickness and never treats the cause.

Juice fasting allows your body to cleanse itself of all the garbage inside. When you stop putting toxins into your body, you begin to expel the ones currently there. As your body purges itself, you may come down with mild cold symptoms. It’s natural and expected. Instead of suppressing the negative effects caused by toxins, your body is actually expelling them and, in the process, making you more healthy.

Most medical doctors will tell you that fasting is terrible for your system. Eating so few calories a day puts your body in great duress; however, holistic medicine has evidence that shows fasting to be effective. You’ll have to decide for yourself.

It’s important to remember a few key facts should you decide to fast. First, only drink organic juices. “Juice” from a soda fountain isn’t going to cut it if you expect to derive any nutritional value from what you’re imbibing. Your juices should be fresh (not from concentrate) and should have no sugar or preservatives added.

You should take a multivitamin while fasting. Few college students get enough vitamins, and though pill form is not the best method, getting them the alternative way is better than getting nothing.

Get plenty of rest. Your body is, in theory, repairing itself. At the same time, you’re taking in very few calories. This mix will make you very tired. Don’t fight it. If you’re going to be very active or needing to do great mental work (like writing a paper), put your fast off for another time.

Start slow. Take a day and eat only raw fruits and vegetables. You may need to do this for two days before you feel comfortable cutting out solids altogether. Even after you’re comfortable, your first fast should last no longer than three days.

Don’t fast for the wrong reasons. If you’re just trying to lose weight, you need to find some other way. Fasting isn’t a good option for dieting. Once you begin to eat again, you may even gain weight since you’ve slowed your metabolism down so much during the fast.

Before you start your fast, talk to your doctor. Do some research. Find an herbalist. I was careful to take all advice as just what it is — opinion. Medical doctors told me the herbalists are quacks and the herbalists told me modern medicine is making the quality of life poorer than ever before. Did I believe either one of them? Not really.

When I began to eat again, I had more energy and everything tasted better. My funny nose disappeared and I felt energetic. I can’t really say with any certainty that it was due to the fast, but I will say I didn’t find the whole thing to be a negative experience. I’d recommend it to friends, with the condition that they do research on it and talk to a doctor. If you aren’t ready to jump into fasting without instruction, buy a kit from a local health food store.
A clean, well-lighted PLACE

SO YOU'RE A COLLEGE STUDENT, finally living on your own. Sure, the space might be smaller than the one you've grown accustomed to at home, but dorm living provides many opportunities for fledgling creativity (or else complete disaster). You will be spending a lot of time in your room, and even if you never cared much about decorating before, a few weeks of residing in the colleges can persuade anyone to take some interest in interior design. You might ask, how much time and effort is necessary for a design project of this size?

Well, there are a couple of extremes. You could be the person who literally has nothing in her room but clothes, books, a bed, a chair and a rumored desk beneath all the clothes and books. You don't have to be Martha Stewart to realize this gets old fast.

The other extreme consists of people who hired a decorator immediately after setting foot on campus. Last summer, I watched a home improvement show in which the host gave two college students $100 each to decorate their respective dorm rooms. On the next week's program, the would-be interior designers returned to show what they'd done to brighten up their living spaces. They had covered chairs with blankets, lit candles for a soft glow — one even added a guitar into the mix, not to play but to render a certain effect and mood. In other words, these "dorm rooms" appeared to have been ripped from the pages of a Pottery Barn catalogue.

Sure, the rooms looked nice. My mother found them very appealing, aside from their frighteningly small dimensions. But I could find one major flaw with the new and improved dorm rooms — no college student could ever live in them.

Don't get me wrong. People our age can definitely appreciate quality decor at affordable prices. However, experienced college students have already learned that a dorm room is not just a bedroom or a sitting area, but a place of congregation, study and, sometimes, absolute chaos. By the end of a long week, the floor, desk and bed can merge into one entity. Clothes and backpacks will join in this union, until your living space is not much of a space at all. No one wants to live in a room that is too perfect to mess up every now and then. But everyone needs to feel like his space is personal. So what can you do?

Here are some suggestions on how to balance money, space and comfort without hiring an interior designer or settling for beer bottle decor.

POSTERS: A DECORATIVE DECLARATION OF PERSONALITY

The basic accessory to any dorm room wall is the poster — there is no easier way to brighten up a drab paint job or show off your personality. Tack them on the door or tape them to the ceiling; you can never go wrong with a good poster. Are you a fan of Pulp Fiction or Pretty in Pink? Would you like to wake up to the sight of kittens and puppies or your favorite pop singing sensation? The choice is yours. Keep a lookout for the next poster sale in the Student Center. If you miss it, places like Sam Goody, Soundwaves, Cactus Music and even Target offer a wide variety of choices.

But, you might ask, how do I get these things to stay on the wall? Stay away from tacks and nails if at all possible, because at the end of the year Housing and Dining will charge students for any damages to the room, including tiny holes in the plaster. Sticky tack is a really great way of keeping up posters and pictures while not leaving permanent markings. However, sometimes posters are too big or the wall doesn't take well to sticky tack. Enter the velcro trick.

Drive, walk or run to Target or Walgreens (you'll find many useful things at these places). Go to the hardware section and look for the little boxes of velcro strips. No one really knows why people normally use these items, but velcro is a great way of keeping posters up. Cut the velcro strips into little squares, maybe 1-by-1 inch. Stick one half of the velcro to the actual poster, then stick the other half to the wall. Put the two pieces...
FURNITURE

Dorm rooms seldom allow for a lot of extra furniture—you and your roommates may feel at some point like bunking the beds just to get out the door. Be aware that a few crucial and practical pieces of furniture can help make any dorm room more comfortable.

A common staple of the dorm room is the futon. Perfect for both small and large living spaces, a futon can work as a couch by day and a bed by night if guests ever need a place to sleep. Also, futon cushions usually have removable covers, so they are much easier to wash.

Students living in suites with a common room have even more options. If your college hasn't already had an auction, stay on the lookout for any unwanted couches or arm chairs. Large storage trunks can work well as coffee tables. Some people have even used a shopping cart for food storage.

Almost all furniture troubles can be solved by Ikea (7810 Freeeway, just off Interstate Highway 10 toward Katy (exit Wirt Rd)). You can find an array of affordable and trendy accessories, ranging from picture frames to fold-out couches. Target is a nearby option for other basic furniture needs and easy additions like bean bag chairs or throw rugs.

LIGHTING: SETTING THE MOOD

If the halogen lamp and the blinking light fixture hanging from the ceiling aren't enough to illuminate your little corner of the world, a few extra additions to the visual character of the room can't hurt. Parents always tell their kids reading in dim light damages the eyes. Here's a chance to listen to their suggestion and add some mood lighting to your humble abode.

One classic example of dorm room flare is the use of holiday lights (no, they're not just for December anymore). Though they may not help you read your chemistry book, they certainly add some pizzazz and happiness to a room, and they are usually reasonably priced. Japanese paper lanterns provide another great source of light and decoration. Ranging in price from around $10 to $24, there come in simple solid colors or in more elaborate designs, giving off a soft glowing light for those moments when you need to rest your eyes after all that studying. You can purchase the lanterns at places like Cost Plus World Market or Urban Outfitters, but don't forget to compare lamp kit prices (the electric cord comes separate from the lamp itself), as these can differ depending on the store.

QUICK FIXES

Not surprisingly, college students barely have enough time to eat, sleep and party, let alone decorate their dorm rooms. And they often don't have the money for much else either. So for the student on the go and on a budget, here are a few quick, economical suggestions to give a room some personality.

SARONGS

These are great for wearing at the beach or on a summer's day, but they don't have to hang off your body to be useful. Sarongs can work as makeshift curtains, bedspreads or even poster substitutes. Hang them up for a colorful effect. They take up a lot of space, and no room can ever look dull with pink-and-purple-splashed material covering the walls.

POSTCARDS

No, I do not just mean the kind your aunt sends you from her vacations in Florida. Cute, interesting and eye-catching, postcards are small but cheap ways of perking up those off-white walls. Take a stroll into Rice Village one afternoon and visit Iconography for a wide array of quirky shots. Frequently, at music stores or places like Urban Outfitters, you'll find free postcards near the cash registers, and these are sometimes the best kinds of decoration.

PAINT YOUR FRIDGE

Basically, be creative. Start a project with your roommates one afternoon and paint your refrigerator door or that old coffee table something found at a junk sale for $5. If you know any architecture majors, ask them to bring home some goodies from Anderson Hall. An extra crate or an architecture major's defunct contraption can make for an interesting addition to the room.

ORGANIZE

After putting together a fabulous room with personality and atmosphere, how can you keep it livable and (relatively) clean? As the year progresses, the levels of stress heighten. You'll have a harder time finding those extra disks or printing cartridges at 6 a.m. the morning your paper is due if you don't organize your stuff early in the year.

No one expects flawlessness. (Remember the saying, “A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.” The same applies to college living.) In fact, any room that's too perfect is utterly intolerable. Who can live in a sterile environment? But knowing where you've stored your extra underwear is hardly perfection. An easy way to keep things organized is to buy plastic drawers or crates in which to store extra bathroom or school supplies. You can purchase these at Target, and often they'll stack easily.

The best way to make your room feel a little larger is to maximize the space you do have. If your bed isn't bunched, take advantage of the storage potential under the bed and add a pullout drawer or some of the bigger Rubbermaid containers. Also, use hanging hooks for jackets or towels.

For all those papers you've begun to collect, nothing helps more than a plastic accordion file. However obvious the suggestion may seem, separating the papers for each class in the end a basic filing system can help immensely. No matter how hard anyone tries, loose papers will always fly around the dorm room. Eliminating as many of these as possible never hurts.

A hanging shoe rack, also available at your nearest Target location, alleviates some of the mess in your closet. Plus, you can find the shoes more easily and probably take better care of them.

BEYOND THE BEDROOM

Just because you don't live in your hallway doesn't mean you can't help enhance your communal living space. It is the responsibility of the students to keep dorms looking unique and welcoming, which in the end benefits everyone. Decorate your door with quotes, photos or pictures. Put up a magnetic poetry board inviting all of the closet poets to take their chances and have their say. Cover your hall with butcher paper and put out markers so people can contribute pictures or thoughts. Anything goes.

Decorating tips aside, the best advice for any student is to design his or her own individual living space according to personal taste and style. Big blue couches, inflatable furniture and plants—they all make for a good place to live. I won't recommend HP or mats or other stolen goods, but they do add a little something extra to a room.

If you spent most of your former life living in a room your parents decorated or even if you didn't, here's a chance to express yourself and create a new home away from home. See you at Ikea!
For Houston, burritos are the next big thing

COREY E. DEVINE

Sometimes you're looking for something to really sink your teeth into. For one, know that college food service doesn't always do the trick.

When chicken tenders seem unsatisfying, I suggest something more substantial: a burrito. We've chosen Houston's top build-your-own-burrito spots. Here's our rundown.

MISSION BURRITO
2245 W. ALABAMA RD.
(713) 520-0535

I'd like to think that Texans could handle burrito making. In fact, I remember boasting about Mission Burrito to an out-of-town friend and using the phrase "only in Texas." Unfortunately, I should have done more homework.

Wendy Jones, owner of Mission Burrito, imported the idea for her now legendary build-your-own-burrito restaurant from San Francisco. That's right, I said San Francisco. The story goes something like this: One of Wendy's childhood friends told her about some fast and inexpensive burrito restaurants springing up in the Mission District of San Francisco. The restaurants were funky and run-down (like most of the Mission District), but they served huge burritos at low prices — basically a fast-food version of the burrito. Inspired, Jones decided to give it a go in Houston. Since she opened Mission Burrito in 1996, Houstonians' conception of what a real burrito should be hasn't been the same.

In the San Franciscan tradition, Jones makes some of the tastiest burritos you can find, filled with almost anything. You start your burrito adventure by choosing a tortilla — white or whole wheat. On that platform, your burrito architect will build your masterpiece. The rice at Mission Burrito is cooked just right — it's wet and a bit sticky, evoking thoughts of Asian cuisine. It provides a perfect palate for beans of your choosing (pinto or black).

Here's where the fun begins: Choose your meat from either tasty and tender tilapia beef or charred chicken. The more adventurous will opt for southern-inspired beer-battered fish. Vegetarians fret not — Mission Burrito offers the most flavorful veggie options of the build-your-own-burrito lot. Try the garlic-grilled mushrooms, roasted red peppers or sauteed spinach. My last burrito contained a mixture of all three and I have to say that I didn't miss the meat at all.

Once you select a meat, choose from a variety of original sauces. The spice-sensitive should opt for the tomatillo salsa. Those wishing to prove their strength should try the habanero salsa — if it doesn't make you sweat, I'm sure they'd say, "Don't shit here long." Even though they can't speak, they get the message across to your lumbar region soon enough. If all of this isn't enough, Chipotle plays loud music to liven up the atmosphere. I pity the fool that arrives with a headache.

Ambience aside, simplicity is again the theme for Chipotle burrito making: You choose your burrito size and fillings as with any of the other burrito joints. But don't expect to create your own wonder-burrito at Chipotle. There really isn't much to choose from in terms of creative fillings. Of course, that isn't to say that what is there isn't well executed.

The beef and chicken are always flavorful and tender, and the standout filling for any burrito from Chipotle is definitely the cilantro-lime rice. Instead of just filling the burrito, this rice actually adds to the flavor. Kudos to Chipotle! I should also mention that Chipotle prepares all their burrito ingredients in small batches all day. This means that the chicken they stuff your burrito with hasn't been sitting in a warmer since early that morning — it honestly makes a difference in taste.

While you're at it, be sure to order a bag of lime chips. Chipotle makes their own tortilla chips, then coats them with a delicious lime salt. They are the perfect balance to the famous creamy guacamole that is a study in creating big taste with few ingredients.

TASTE • (Below) Newly opened Freebird's provides great atmosphere with decent food. It's sure to become a college hot-spot.
(Right) Enjoy Houston's most inventive burrito filling at Fresco on Mission Burrito's patio.
(Far right) If Chipotle's cilantro lime rice doesn't win your heart, their helpful staff will.

I'm not left with the feeling that Chipotle serves up a bad burrito. Quite to the contrary, the burritos are low-priced and well made with freshly prepared ingredients. However, I'm forced to equate the whole experience with McDonald's. If you want a fast hamburger, you go to McDonald's. If you want a great hamburger and a dining experience, you go somewhere else. Strangely enough, words on the street is that Chipotle was recently bought out by Mickey-D's. Case closed.

FREEBIRD'S WORLD BURRITO
3745 GREENBRIAR DR.
(713) 524-0495

I know that something was mysterious about this place by the unusual abundance of Volkswagen Jetta's in the parking lot outside. While looking for a parking spot, I realized that most every vehicle had a "University of" sticker on the back window. This is how I discovered Freebird's secret: Corner the college market. Hold on to your hat, Nancy Drew.

Of all the burrito joints, Freebird's has the most inventive burrito filling at Fresco on Mission Burrito's patio. (Right) If Chipotle's cilantro lime rice doesn't win your heart, their helpful staff will.

What starts out with great success, unfortunately, quickly fizzles out. Freebird's doesn't offer anything imaginative to stuff your burrito with. It's all standard — lettuce, tomato, jalapenos. The standout topping is the "bad ass barbecue sauce," and I, for one, wasn't keen on mixing barbecue into my burrito flavor mix. The black beans were literally flavorless, and I cooked better rice in my dorm-room rice cooker. However, it's all very fresh, and the staff is dead set on making sure your burrito is exactly as you order it.

In the end, I'm torn. I've never been too hipster-like Freebird's. It's a great college hangout. The owners are very community-oriented. They support cycling, they'll give you stickers for donations to charity and they even use recycled bricks in their buildings. In College Station, they've become an Aggie institution. So I guess I should just be truthful: I'll probably eat at Freebird's on a somewhat regular basis. I won't enjoy the food as much as I would at Mission Burrito, but it's worth it for the company and ambience.
WE COULD BE HEROS
Never having come face to face with a real giant before, you'd expect a more fearful reaction, but a little boost can make all the difference. If you haven't been to any Rice Owls games yet, get off your duff and show some love.

SCENE

got something to say?

LIFESTYLES MAILBAG wants your input!
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Play “Beat the Clock” Every Monday Night
Get one large, one topping pizza, for:

<table>
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Shower shoes. Flip-flops. Thongs. Whatever you want to call them, almost everyone has at least one pair.

From the two-dollar drugstore variety to high-fashion heeled jobs or hemp leather, Dr. Martens-inspired styles, thong shoes are everywhere.

Technically, thong sandals are those held on the foot by a strap between the first and second toe. The basic design has been around since before recorded history.

However, the popularity of the style has risen sharply over the last few years.

Respectable shoe companies including Teva, Dr. Martens and Birkenstock have added thong-style sandals to their lines, but probably the most common incarnation of the simple white plastic pairs found everywhere from Wal-Mart to the Gap.

Such low-cost footwear is almost disposable, and in addition to a low price, the shoes have the appeal of being great for the pool, beach and everywhere.

However, super-savvy designers like Steve Madden and Isaac Mizrahi quickly incorporated the increasingly popular style into their designs, often pairing it with thick platforms or spindly heels.

Of course, such high-fashion inspiration doesn't necessarily carry a high-fashion price tag. Inexpensive knock-offs for the fiscal conservative fashionista (or fashionisto) can be found at the usual low-price shoe sources, including Target, Payless or your favorite sale rack.

There's, of course, a time when wearing sandals meant it must be summer. It seems that now sandals are more a sign of your place in life than of the season.

College students have adopted thongs as the shoe for all seasons. The consumer-driven fashion-maven we love to hate, Abercrombie and Fitch, shows their beautiful models in tweed jackets, corduroy pants and, you guessed it, thongs. The Gap has even created a line of wool sandals for fall.

The fashion-conscious college student can find her entire shoe wardrobe in this one style: polished leather for dress-up, cheap foam for early morning classes and a nice fabric for everyday treks.

If you haven't bought a pair for yourself yet, you shouldn't wait any longer to jump on the bandwagon. Inexpensive flip-flops, like Reef thong with rubber sole and blue fabric strap ($22.00 at Soundwaves), are waiting for you.

Some of the more common flip-flop styles:
(From left) Old Navy foam thong in pink ($3.99 at Old Navy); American Eagle leather slap sandal in chocolate ($25.00 at American Eagle); Reef thong with rubber sole and blue fabric strap ($22.00 at Soundwaves).