Parked cars will not be allowed to bring cars on campus for any reason, Keel said steam tunneling has not been an issue brought to the attention of Judicial Affairs in recent years, but it used to be a real problem.

Newest Health Services plan approved

Plans to move Student Health Services and the Health Education Office to the first floor of the old Brown College Commons are now in the design stage, after administrators approved the project program.

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Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs John Hutchinson said although he cannot predict a completion date, he hopes the new Student Health and Wellness Center will be ready by next fall.

The next step, Hutchinson said, is to get blueprints from the architects firm Ray and Hollingsworth, which the contractor will use to determine the cost of constructing the center. These final plans must be approved by the Board of Trustees before construction can begin.

Vice President for Student Affairs Zenaido Camacho, Provost Eugene Levy and Vice President for Finance and Administration Dean Currie approved the project program, the basic conceptual design for the space. The three administrators began meeting with Health Education and Health Services officials last summer to plan the facility.

Although the project does not include a specific floor plan for the new facility, approximate space measurements have been determined. The center will be 4,618 square feet. Of this space, 2,030 square feet will be located in the Health Services, which currently occupies 1,200 square feet in the first floor of Hansen College. Health Education and Wellness will get 1,350 square feet. An additional 435 square feet will be used for building support, such as restrooms and closets. Project Manager Anna Rodriguez said Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Lindsey Duran said a group including Health Services Director Mark Jenkins, Hutchinson and herself will see HEALTH Page 12.

Register to vote

Think it is horrible that Houston is such a polluted city? Think it is great that Texas business is so much free? If you register to vote, your opinions can matter.

Monday is the deadline to register to vote in Harris County. Voter registration cards can be obtained at the Welcome Center or Residential Center and at the early voter on campus on Nov. 5.

Weekend Weather

Friday, 72-91 degrees
Saturday, 74-96 degrees
Sunday, 68-83 degrees

Scoreboard

Football

Hansen State 31, Rice 28
Respecting relationships

Many on campus were shocked to hear that University Court is pursuing a case against two students caught stream tunneling. While it is true that the university has every right to enforce the rules of the Student Code of Conduct, the situation highlights a growing student sentiment about the declining relationship with the Rice University Police Department.

Members of the administration are well aware that students tour the campus and fear being caught. It would stick to their minds to enforce rules against steam tunneling, the police could have informed O-Week coordinators, who could have passed the word to their advisors. Rice students are responsive and the more they are being more strongly informed they might get in trouble, they would not do the action in question.

Even more important than the case currently proceeding through U-Court is the precedent that this case sets. If rules against steam tunneling are going to be more strongly policed in the future, undergraduates should be made aware. A forcelful warning describing the situation is enough to make most Rice students act responsibly.

It’s not just concerning steam tunnels that many Rice students are feeling bullied by the campus police. It seems like more tickets are being handed out this year, and it seems like more people are being thrown out of football games.

We advocate to establish direct lines of contact with students in order to hear complaints about the way things are working on campus. Though the college offers a spend a lot of time in the colleges getting to know students and to get a direct committee through which students can criticize or compliment RUPD.

If the university reaches out to students in order to clear up what is allowed, it will work responsibly with both their words and their actions. Rice students are mature students that can be trusted — and they want to work with the university.

Treat well

Health Services is one of the most neglected departments on campus. Not only are its facilities lacking (and have been for decades), but the staff is small and the availability of its expansion is limited.

But the neglect of Health Services extends past the administration. Students skip about 10 percent of the appointments scheduled in a year without notifying Health Services.

More than 5,000 student appointments are made every year, so about 300 appointments are skipped. That means there are 300 people who could have gotten earlier appointments if their fellow students had been more considerate.

Many other clinics force patients who fail to come to their appointment to pay a no-show fee. Because this measure would be unpopular with students, Student Health Services Director Mark Jenkins said he does not want to take such a policy. But we do.

We advocate changing no-show students who fail to cancel an appointment the morning of the day of their appointment a $10 fee to compensate for the inconvenience they are inflicting on other students.

While this fee is not prohibitive, it would be an incentive for being a responsible patient. In addition, Health Services could use the fee to invest in a system that helps the patience of a receptionist, which would cut down on time students spend in the waiting room.

We are glad to see the university supporting Health Services by giving them a new facility, but it won’t solve all the problems. Students need to work with Health Services to cancel their appointments so that more students can enjoy the services they have to offer.

Charging fairly

Rice likes to brag about its low tuition. But in some ways, Rice is like those hidden banking fees. The IT fee is one of those hidden fees. When students investigate the price of a university, the most commonly quoted figures are tuition and room and board. Fees like the IT fee are not reported with tuition, like those hidden banking fees.

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Families weekend hampered by parking

To the editor:

I am writing to congratulate the staff and students of Rice University for a very enjoyable and successful Families Weekend 2002. We, the families, were made to feel welcome at every turn by professors, college masters and all university personnel with one exception. Those in charge of parking at Rice were seemingly on the wrong page.

They were apparently not well-coached in advance about special needs that might be created by Families Weekend, such as snaking off packages or picking up students.

On Saturday and Sunday, numerous families voiced complaints about being denied access to hallway college lots as they positioned their SUV’s in the no-parking zones outside several gates.

For the most part, however, the families treated the Parking Department the same way the Parking Department treated the families — as an inconvenience. Luckily, this inconvenience was not enough to prevent Families Weekend 2002 from being a total success. Thanks again to all who worked so hard to create a successful weekend.

Michael Bowman
Parent of a Rice student

Pro-Israeli students groups promote respect

To the editor:

While I am all for the kind of dialogue黎娜 Danan is trying to promote on campus (“Ending the war movement on college campuses,” Sept. 6), her description of the Arab-Israeli conflict on American campuses is fundamentally flawed.

It may be convenient to equate the pro- and anti-Israel movements, for there are, as Danan points out, "extremists on both sides." The uncomfortable truth remains, however, that the pro-Israel supporters differ fundamentally in rhetoric and tactics. Whether or not we want to admit it, it’s plain for all to see that the anti-Israel campus movement is at best hostile, and at worst violent. We must prevent that kind of harassment and violence before it continues to grow.

I am an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley, where I have been a decidedly anti-Israel atmosphere prevails. And despite the often despicable, reprehensible rhetoric that we encountered as pro-Israel students, I have grown to respect that my peers and I never resorted to promoting "racist" anti-Israel and anti-Muslim sentiments.

Our activists, in sharp contrast to Danan’s, remain respectful of differences, and our actions were free of race baiting and stereotyping. Were it only true of the anti-Hezbollah activities that we had to contend with.

Benjamin Klafter

Parking fee disrespect hard-working staff

To the editor:

The Rice administration has no respect for the university’s students, staff, and hard-working staff. The IT fee and new parking structure amount to little more than hard-working accounting officers collection hitches, budget cuts and pay decreases.

The fee is a fairly obvious and straightforward decision. The administration wanted more money from the students, so instead of raising tuition, it forced IT to campaigns for monies that would go into the general fund. The IT fee has been discussed in detail elsewhere, so I won’t go into it any further.

I am more concerned with the Econ-style accounting needed in the new parking system. At the Student Association meeting where students first heard about the parking gates, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Neil Binford repeatedly emphasized that "academic funds" were not being used to fund parking and transportation facilities.

One can only imagine that the administrators who take the time to complain about the university’s treatment of students are not the same people who are fishing for printer ink. The administration has no respect for the students, staff, and hard-working staff.

Where does a department’s budget come from? Essentially, the budget of every department at Rice has been cut to subsidize parking.

The biggest slap in the face goes to Rice’s dedicated staff members. Many of these people are undergraduate and already treated poorly by the university. The administration demands $100 more for parking every year, in effect cutting the paychecks of hardworking people further. They could save money by reducing life and inviting parking on the far side of the stadium. That’s the proper way to reward the people who keep Rice running smoothly.

I’d like to give the students and future alumni of Rice one last thing to ponder. The administration shelled out $3 million to erect gates across all campus, but it couldn’t simply spend the money to build a new $1 million house (“Hanszen/Wiess House switch delayed,” Sept. 20).

Dan Phillips
Lecturer

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters to the editor should be sent via e-mail to thethresher@rice.edu. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a phone number.

Letters should not be longer than 250 words in length. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

News Tips

Preudices should be planned in to the Thresher (713) 346-4800.

Subscribing

Annual subscriptions are available for $60 domestic and $105 international.

Advertising

We accept display and classified advertisements.
I'm only four weeks into my Rice career and already I'm feeling the effects of lack of sleep. Nighttime melatonin levels should be scheduled in the afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. During this time, no obligations or extra-curricular activities should be scheduled for the students.

The study also affects students who have commitments during the night. This would give students the time to relax and get ready for the next day.

Studying students who need to sleep in the evening would benefit from the "night nap" before going to sleep. At 1 p.m., they can take a nap and get ready for class.

Studying students would be more productive in the evenings and at night, not to mention less likely to be sleeping during their morning classes. This time would be more meaningful and productive. The student would be less tired at night.

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Support the dominant paradigm

Apotized celebrities shadow our real heroes

A recent poll commissioned by the History Channel of the United Kingdom asked a simple question of the British populace: What was the most significant event in British history in the last century? The questions amazed historians. It was the death of Princess Diana, which, although significant in its own right, could hardly compare to two world wars, the fall of the British Empire or the rise of the European Union.

The nobility of a single individual outranks them all. A single princess, that is. The United States is little different. We still concern ourselves with the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the subsequent death of his son in 1999. The same is true of stories about other celebrities, from Elvis to Kurt Cobain and all points in between. It is almost as if we are reverting to our prehistoric past, embracing the fabric of our being. For whatever reason, we feel an insatiable liability with those whom we never knew.

The significance of one's accomplishments lingers over the phenomenon. Mother Teresa, perhaps the most altruistic and respected figure in the world, perished the day before Princess Diana's funeral. And so it came to pass that the magnitude of her passing was eclipsed. Royally captured the public eye, and virtue gone down the drain.

In this fair? Certainly not. It is to be expected. Undoubtedly, countless magazines and tabloids thrive on our need to live vicariously through others, those with spectacu-

lar lives not necessarily defined by selflessness. Fortune or title is usually more than adequate; the anecdotes of the aristocracy make for won-

derful columns. They are lapped up by an eager public.

It isn't right, but it never ends. Celebrities become our goals on Earth, made larger than life by virtue of chance as much as by ability.

But before the dust had a chance to settle, the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks were a total failure and a huge success. They accomplished nothing for their cause, and no one succeeded in terrorizing us.

We can't think rationally in a time of crisis. The terror-

ists will win every time.

Most of the measures taken directly after the attacks were extreme but completely justified. The Federal Aviation Administration shut down air traffic for the first time in history, and combat air patrol pro-

grams were set up across the coun-

dry. Business closed, classes were canceled.

But before the dust had a chance to settle, the Sept. 11 phenomenon began to appear. In one hand, there were Christian extremists who called the attack God's wrath, brought on by atheists and home

security. Some decided to take out their rage on anyone remotely re-

sembling a Muslim. On the other hand, there were terrorist sympathizers who practically launched the actions of the terrorists, aiding the backwash of militant Muslims.

What was more than a bit of insane murderers.

The reactions of many of the people who did not fall into one of the two categories above were also quite irrational. Instead of regularly donating blood, people rushed to donate blood right after Sept. 11.

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The reactions of many of the people who did not fall into one of the two categories above were also quite irrational. Instead of regularly donating blood, people rushed to donate blood right after Sept. 11. Much of this blood never got to the victims. People rushed to donate blood because there were means of collecting and keeping track of the bands. Air traffic crashed completely because we don't have another bloo
donation center, and millions of dollars were used in vain.

Three thousand dead, two land marks destroyed, billions of dollars in lost business. It could have been a lot worse.

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Montano caught, talks to KTRK

by Meghan Miller

Houston police officers arrested Rodrigo Montano Sept. 26 after an officer spotted him for a traffic violation and discovered there was a warrant out for his arrest, Rice University Police Department Sgt. Les Hulsey said.

"They ran a standard procedure check on his driver's license and found the warrant was outstanding," Hulsey said. "He's out on bond. He posted bond on [Sept. 27]."

Since posting bond, Montano has spoken to the Houston Chronicle and KTRK ABC-13. On ABC-13 Monday night, Montano claimed he was a Rice student.

"Montano keeps claiming that he has a brother that's 24 and that he's really 19," Hulsey said.

ABC-13's Chronicle reported the Houston Independent School District had records showing Montano was born in June 1982, making him "really 19," Hulsey said. Montano has a brother that's 24 and that he's spoken to the Chronicle.

"Rice University has no records of Montano, and the warrant out for his arrest, Rice University Police Department has no records of Montano," Rice University Police Department Sgt. Les Hulsey said.

"They were trying to ask leading questions," said Hulsey. "They were asking who he was, [that] his last name is Hispanic, and they were like, 'He didn't identify with his Hispanic/Latino heritage.' They asked, 'Did he normally hang out with black students or [Black Student Association] students?'" Hulsey said she tried to avoid answering such questions.

Hulsey said he is conducting an administrative investigation to determine how Montano slipped through the system. He said he has seen trying to manipulate the system and found out it is harder to con Rice than he thought.

"The students shouldn't feel that there's a lot of imposters out there or that they should be concerned about the system because it's still a good system," Hulsey said. "I'm still attempting to see where there are bugs or if there are any holes."

Commencement lacks speaker

by Daniel McDonald

While seniors search for the perfect post-graduation plan in preparation for May 16, the administration is searching for the perfect graduation speaker.

The President's Office approached three potential speakers during the summer but didn't find a match, and has asked the Commencement Speaker Committee to recommend additional candidates.

The committee consists of three members of the newest class, a graduate student and a faculty representative, will submit a list to the President's Office.

Assistant to the President Mark School said the search has interested the entire student body and should not be concerning. "There are always concerns about other universities in lining up the speakers," School said. "The fact that we don't have one now means that we are still probably a little bit ahead of the other universities."

Members of the Class of 2008 voted on a list of about 40 candidates last spring, and the top 10 finalists were recommended to President Malcolm Gillis. Gillis and School then evaluated the list based on speaker experience and price range.

School said former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was their first choice. Although Giuliani was receptive, he charges $100,000 for speaking engagements and requires round-trip transportation in a private jet, terms which are beyond Rice's means, School said.

The President's Office then contacted writer and game show host Ben Stein but deemed his speaking fee of $60,000 too high.

"For $35,000 you can get three quarters of an assistant professor, which is a lot better use of your money because you can have someone stimulating the student body for nine months as opposed to nine minutes," School said.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was also approached but did not respond to the offer. Committee member Karla Sonomia, a Weiss College junior, said the committee will either submit new names or resubmit some of those considered.

"I learned through the process of this committee that we do not actually have that much control over who our speaker is," she said.

"We had some options, but the ultimate decision is not in our hands," Committee member and Sociology Professor Katherine Dono said. She is worried that a speaker has not yet been found.

"We need to get moving on this because it takes quite sometime for people to be contacted and calendar to be cleared," Tomato, Weiss College master, said.

Know how to embed fonts in Acrobat? What an internal style error is? Or why computers seem to hate us?

Cause we don’t and we need someone who does. Badly.

thresher@rice.edu

Unlike your friends, we’ll pay you to fix our computers, and even just to keep them running.
Friedman began with a short dis-
cussion of his background and then
opened the discussion to a question-
ning. He said he thought that the current
administration should work with the
peace deal offered by the Palestinians
to them by the administration under
President Clinton.
Friedman also said he believes
that the United States has not yet
proven it can succeed in the war on
terrorism. In the wake of Sept. 11,
Americans have not seen before," Djer-
jian said. "The fact that we had 100
students come forward to connect stud-
ents with the event and that he has high
expectations in the context of the
Baker Institute for Public Policy," Lew-
enthal said. "The goal is to get
many of the world's important
people to join the international com-
munity to combat the war on terror.
He noted that German Chancellor
Gerhard Schroeder won his election
on a platform of fighting offshore U.S.
policies and that the United States
will continue to fight in countries if
it continues on a path of unilateralism.
After Sept. 11, Friedman returned to the
subject of another question and said he
thought the current United States "the
vast majority of the world" would be
in, and that they couldn't get ticket
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New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman spoke Friday at the Baker
Baker Institute Student Forum event at Baker Hall.

"Yasser Arafat has visited nothing but ruin
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We support Rice athletics.
observatory to open in October
by William Penny — The Thresher
Rice's undergraduate observatory will open in mid-October.
The domed observatory, located behind Dell Butcher Hall, will house
a permanently-mounted 16-inch reflector telescope.

Although primarily for the use of astronomy majors, the observatory is available to limited access Astronomy Professor Reginald Dufour said.
The building cost about $100,000 to construct and was completed in September.
The dome-shaped roof can rotate 360 degrees and contains a opening 48 inches wide, which the telescope will gather light.
Dufour said.

"It's comparable to having a 12-year-old car, then getting a brand new car," — Joan Shreffler

Honor Council amends penalties by David Berry — The Thresher
Honor Council unanimously passed two amendments to the penalty structure for Honor Code violations during the 2002-03 academic year when it met Sunday.
The council removed the tier structure for maximum penalty and added a set of mitigating circumstances primarily designed to protect students from interactions committed by partners on joint assignments.

For cases reported last year, the maximum penalty for Honor Code violations depended on the value of the assignment.

For assignments worth less than the maximum penalty for a class, the maximum penalty was a failing grade in the course of a semesterval suspension, whereas the maximum penalties assigned worth more than 10 percent was a failing grade and a two-semester suspension.

Now the maximum penalty is a failing grade and a two-semester suspension, regardless of the value of the assignment.

Honor Council Chair Joan Shreffler said the change is the sec-
and final step in the shift away from a tiered penalty system.
The council removed the last tiered structure where 0 to 10 percent was an F and a one-semes-
ter suspension, 10 percent and above was an F and a two-semes-
ter suspension, Shreffler, a Leawest College senior, said.
Shreffler said many council members thought the tiered system was unfairly biased against science and engineering majors.

"Percentage of course grade seems to be a rather arbitrary way of deciding a penalty, so we decided instead to decide penalties on the circumstances of each case." — Joan Shreffler

Honorary Council chair

Rice athletes top in D-IA for graduation by Karen Adler — The Thresher
Rice athletes are both bright and brainy, according to the NCAA.
Rice has the highest stu-
dent-athlete graduation rate in the nation.
Rice was the named recipient of the top NCAA Academic Achievement Award Sept. 26, and will be recognized in an awards ceremony at USA Today headquarters.

The figures are based on graduation of students matricu-
ating in 1995 and include any athlete who has received his or her diploma within six years.

Many said the high graduation rate reflects both the dedication of student-athletes and the rec-
ruiting efforts of coaches.

"Our coaches are very mindful of challenges [students] will face at Rice academically and ath-
te
tically, and they've done an im-

tense job recruiting the type of student-athletes that belong at Rice and can be successful," Shreffler said.

Assitant Athletic Director for Academic Services Julie Strollo, who conducts academic advising for athletes, said she thinks the atmosphere at Rice helps athletes balance their com-
mmitments.

"The athletes come in with a dual commitment to academics and athletics, but both are important to them and they work hard at both," Grizzard said.

"There was no atmosphere on campus where students want to learn and want to be successful, so that ends up being the standard, "

Many athletes agreed.

"It's comparable to having a 12-year-old car, then getting a brand new car." — Joan Shreffler

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"The athletes come in with a dual commitment to academics and athletics, but both are important to them and they work hard at both," Grizzard said.

"There was no atmosphere on campus where students want to learn and want to be successful, so that ends up being the standard, "

Many athletes agreed.

"It's comparable to having a 12-year-old car, then getting a brand new car." — Joan Shreffler

Honor Council amends penalties by David Berry — The Thresher
The Honor Council unanimously passed two amendments to the penalty structure for Honor Code violations during the 2002-03 academic year when it met Sunday.
The council removed the tier structure for maximum penalty and added a set of mitigating circumstances primarily designed to protect students from interactions committed by partners on joint assignments.

For cases reported last year, the maximum penalty for Honor Code violations depended on the value of the assignment.

For assignments worth less than the maximum penalty for a class, the maximum penalty was a failing grade in the course of a semester suspension, whereas the maximum penalties assigned worth more than 10 percent was a failing grade and a two-semester suspension.

Now the maximum penalty is a failing grade and a two-semester suspension, regardless of the value of the assignment.

Honor Council Chair Joan Shreffler said the change is the sec-
and final step in the shift away from a tiered penalty system.
The council removed the last tiered structure where 0 to 10 percent was an F and a one-semes-
ter suspension, 10 percent and above was an F and a two-semes-
ter suspension, Shreffler, a Leawest College senior, said.
Shreffler said many council members thought the tiered system was unfairly biased against science and engineering majors.

"Percentage of course grade seems to be a rather arbitrary way of deciding a penalty, so we decided instead to decide penalties on the circumstances of each case." — Joan Shreffler

Honor Council chair

Rice athletes top in D-IA for graduation by Karen Adler — The Thresher
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Trading with the (ex)-enemy

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy hosted the U.S.-Russia Commercial Energy Summit on Tuesday and Wednesday. The purpose of the conference was to stimulate international cooperation to make both country's economies stronger. On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans (left) gave a keynote address to an audience packed into Baker Hall. Then on Wednesday, former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker (above) gave the Summit's closing keynote address.

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U. Blue now available

It's late, but it's here: The 2002 issue of University Blue, Rice's student-run literary and visual arts magazine, is now available at all residential colleges. The magazine's regular fall publication date was delayed because of shipping problems, said editor Shari Laster. "That was unfortunate, and it won't happen again this year," Laster, a senior English major, said. "We're excited to finish the issue on time." Laster said that this year's issue is scheduled for Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Rice Memorial Center. This year's submission deadline has not been set but will most likely be in mid-to late January, Laster said.

Rice's Computer and Information Technology Institute will kick off a new series of technology-related lectures Monday.

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The third award for the Dr. Bill Wilson Grant will be announced in November 2002.

CITTI lecture Monday

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Geared toward undergraduates, the lectures will cover a broad range of computational science and engineering topics. At least one lecture will be planned per semester by CITTI Director Jan Odegard. Each lecture will last about 90 minutes and will be followed by a reception.

Odegard said the goal of the series is to communicate the range of exciting opportunities in graduate studies and research.

"The speeches need to show why faculty out there are so excited about what they are doing and why people pursue Ph.D.s," he said. "Because the lectures are aimed at undergraduates, they will focus on practical rather than theoretical issues," Odegard said. Potential speakers will be recommended to the CITTI by a joint committee of students and faculty members.

The first lecture, entitled "Using technology to keep other countries honest," will be held Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. in McMurtry Auditorium in Duncan Hall. Rice graduate John Treichler (70) will speak on signal processing and its ramifications in the field of intelligence.

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Odegard said he hopes attendees will gain interest in lecture topics.

"Lectures are good preparation for students because they must attend and comprehend those in graduate schools and for business," he said. "Lectures may include successful Rice alumni and other prominent entrepreneurs," Odegard said. Potential speakers will be recommended to the CITTI by a joint committee of students and faculty members.

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First President's Lecturer discusses future of genomics

by Michelle Afkhami

Gregory Stock addressed the advent of the genomic revolution in his speech, "Genomics and the Future of Humanity" Monday in the Grand Hall. The speech was the first event in the 2002-'03 President's Lecture Series.

Stock, the director of the Program on Medicine, Technology and Society at the University of California at Los Angeles' School of Medicine, received a Ph.D. in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University and an M.B.A. from Harvard University.

Stock discussed many of the topics explored in his newest book, Redesigning Humans: Our Inevitable Genetic Future, which was published in April. The speech included issues surrounding biotechnology, the human genome project, bioinformatics, cloning, stem cell research and the economic and social impact of these developing technologies.

Stock said there are two revolutions, which he referred to as the silicon revolution and the genomic revolution, currently taking place. The silicon revolution allows us to create artificial intelligence, Stock said, while the genomic revolution refers to the ability for humans to engineer themselves for the better.

"The synthesis of these two revolutions will allow us to make the greatest advances in the future," he said. "We are unraveling the workings of life, we are understanding what makes it tick and we are seizing control of our own evolutionary future."

Stock concluded his speech by saying that this is a crucial moment in history and that members of today's generation are the architects, the objects and the interpreters of important biotechnological developments.

"The only things that would change are the social constructs... but in terms of genetic diversity, he says it's not an issue," Nish said. "We're going to have a chance to read parts of this book to find out how:

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Malcolm Gillis directed a question-and-answer session, during which audience members asked about topics such as mass extinctions, genetic diversity and policies related to bio-technology.

"I thought the lecture was incredibly interesting," Jones College junior Ada Kup said. "I actually had a chance to read parts of this book just today. It's hard enough for me to be able to look towards the future and see that our manipulation is really where it gets incredibly interesting, and that is where the questions of humanity... really comes in.

Will Rice College sophomore Andrew Nath said she thought Stock was ambivalent on some features.

"I thought he gave a pretty good overview of the problem, but however went back and forth on the issues... sometimes making it sound like this would be some monumental huge problem but at the same time making it seem like the opposition is making too big a deal out of [biotechnology]." Nath said.

Nish also responded to Stock's stance on the advancement of genetic engineering.

"The only things that would change are the social constructs... but in terms of genetic diversity, he says it's not an issue," Nish said. "We're going to have a chance to read parts of this book..."

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The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 7 in Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center.

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STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Association met Monday. The following were discussed:

- Rice shuttle buses will be available to take students to and from tomorrow night's Rice football game at Reliant Stadium. The shuttles will pick up students near the student entrance to Rice Stadium starting at 9:30 p.m.

- Tickets are available for the Oct. 19 professional women's soccer exhibition match between the Washington Freedom and the Angra Boats at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Tickets are $14 and are available at the Rice ticket office, online at www.hwsa.org and at Soccer 4 All in the Rice Village.

- The 2006 Class Council will meet on Sunday at 6 p.m. in Keeny Lounge in the Student Center. At freshmen are encouraged to attend.

- The senate approved the Rice University Dance Marathon Club. The club will be holding a dance marathon on Fri., 22-23 from 9 p.m. to 10 a.m. to raise money for the children's section of Memorial Hermann Hospital. Anyone interested in joining should contact Rice College junior Lydia Smaaks at ldyas@rice.edu.

- The senate approved the Rice Wine Society. The club seeks to increase student appreciation of wine, both by drinking and learning about wine. Anyone interested in getting involved with the event should send email to Browning, a Wiess College junior, at银行业@rice.edu.

- Students for Athletic Spirit and Support President Jill Browning spoke to the senate about Hakeem Naja's Sports Council, which will end on Oct. 31 from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. The event will include scrimmage between the men's basketball team and the woman's basketball team and also a scrimmage between two teams of various campus personalities. The Basketball Owl Band, Rice Cherubettes and Rice Dance Team will be present at the event, and there will be a raffle, free food and drinks. Anyone interested in getting involved with the event should send email to Browning, a Wells College junior, at银行业@rice.edu.

- Wells College senior Michael Leggatt and Works junior Brian Dettorre proposed a resolution regarding the elimination of spring break and the timing of mid-term recess. The resolution urges faculty to reconsider the timing of mid-term recess, which is now scheduled for the tenth week of classes in Spring 2004 because the new schedule will make the spring semester more difficult for students. The resolution was tabled until the Oct. 21 meeting. Anyone with comments can send an email to Leggatt at mleggatt@rice.edu.

- SA President Matt Haynie led a discussion about the grading for LPAP 101 and 102, which are required for graduation. Currently, students receive a grade but no credit. Possible ideas include making the class a one credit hour class. One possible implication of making the class a one credit hour class would be an increase in the graduation requirement to 122 hours for a bachelor's degree. Another possibility would be to make the class pass/fail, but keep it no credit. Any change would need to be approved by the faculty.

- SA Internal Vice President Clare Johnson led a discussion about what students would like to see in a new student center. Ideas for the new Student Center include bringing new food providers (including Chick-fil-A, IBCB or Taco Cabana) into the Student Center, enlarging the Coffeehouse and adding more public phones. For a new student center, ideas included combining the Recreation and Student Centers.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 7 in Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center.
Endowment down five percent; campaign needs $90 million

by Olivia Allison

General nationwide economic slowdown and a continued stock market decrease, which will conclude June 30, 2003, the end of the fiscal year.

The endowment's return on investments has fallen 7.5 percent in the first quarter of this fiscal year, after the endowment value lost $300 million in fiscal year 2001.

This marks Rice's third consecutive year of zero or negative endowment returns.

President Malcolm Gillis said that Rice has not yet been forced to take drastic measures to cover the economic slowdown and has used only cost-control measures thus far.

"Typically, a downturn in the economy and a decline in the stock market can cause a decrease in the endowment," Gillis said. "But we can afford to take a little more of a hit on the investment returns, and we will get through this without having to cut any programs or services."

"People need to remember that the endowment is a long-term investment," Gillis said. "It's a way of securing the future of the university for a generation or longer."

"If the endowment value has declined, it doesn't mean that we have to reduce our programs or services," Gillis said. "We can afford to take a little more of a hit on the investment returns, and we will get through this without having to cut any programs or services."

"Rice's investment policies are designed to be conservative," Gillis said. "We don't want to take on too much risk in order to try to make up for losses in the stock market."

"Rice is committed to maintaining a strong endowment," Gillis said. "We are confident that we will be able to weather this difficult period and come out stronger on the other side."

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TUNNELS, Page 1

"We're not asking students to walk in on their own," Jenkins said. "We're asking them to make an issue for the last few years." Bass said information about games that are past this year is hard to come by because her office keeps only summaries of games. She said some summaries classify steam tunneling as trespassing, making it difficult to identify its occurrence.

Bass emphasized that there is not a major change in the steam tunneling during O-Week or any other time. O-Week coordinators said they were not able to make sure steam tunneling is not allowed, but they were told about a change in policy enforcement.

"Every year we say to the coordinators that steam tunneling is not allowed, and they are supposed to communicate that to the students," Bass said.

O-Week Steering Committee Chair Heather Mass production that campus police pur- sants that steam tunneling is not allowed, but they were told not to change in policy enforcement.

Sid Richardson College senior Michelle Precourt also concerned about the future of steam tunneling. "Whether anyone in the administra- tion wants to acknowledge it or not, steam tunneling is OK during O-Week," Precourt said. Brickman said he had concerns about the case and the administra- tion should have informed students about the enforcement policy.

"I feel like the act is put in an unfair position because we are上海 students for a violation that about half the student body has committed," Brickman said. "I also feel like the administra- tion should have made it more pub- lic that they were going to start enforcing the law, but at the same point, I do understand that it is their right to start enforcing laws with out- standing students."

Many students said they, like Schatz, were under the impression that campus police per- mits steam tunneling "at O-Week to let us carry on this tradi- tion," Schatz said.

"I think it just brought up issues of selective enforcement, noting that many were seen wearing zone two uniforms while steam tunneling up- stairs," Brickman said. "It's so tiny now at Health Ser- vices, and possibly put themselves in harm's way."

Heather Masden said. "It's always fun during O-Week. Steam tunneling may indeed outweigh the chance of someone getting hurt, especially because of its distance from most of the incidents of steam tunneling androng in other on-campus rooms."

"It's not a fun-and- games place. It's a place for a very specific use, and there are some haz-ardous conditions down there."

— Bill Taylor Rice University Police Chief

The current Health Services area is very small to provide a private enough space for ambulances. The new one will also include two consultation rooms, one for patients who use wheelchairs. The current offices are not arranged in other rooms and consultation with handicapped students must be arranged in other consultation rooms.

"There's never even been an opportunity to discuss bringing in additional health professionals, and this will give us at least an opportunity to do that."

— Gary Spears Rice University's Student Affairs

Brown Commonwealth offers larger space for Health and Wellness

HEALTH, from Page 1

Camacho said he hopes the new Health Services area will be complete by the third floor of Lovett Hall Fall 2002. Shared space for the new center will also include one consultation room, four examination rooms, a waiting room, a nurse's station, a laboratory area and space for filing storage. In addi- tion, the new Health Services area will include a waiting room, offices and space for student counseling.

Rebecca Jenkins said that the Health Services is located in the basement floor of the Rice Aquatics Center across from Student Health and Education Services. The plans were delayed in 1999 due to budgetary constraints. A second plan grouped the three offices in the Brown Commonwealth, but the RRC ex- panded its existing office in the third floor of Lovett Hall Fall 2002.

Jenkins said the Health Services rooms are located in a common space and that the space is not large enough to handle consultations with handicapped students.

Brown Commonwealth offers larger space for Health and Wellness

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**SPEAK YOUR PIECE**

**SAME BAT TIME, SAME BAT CHANNEL**

Check out The Bat Whispers showing at the Rice Media Center. The film inspired cartoonist Bob Kane’s most famous character: Batman. The film is being shown in conjunction with the H.C. Westermann exhibit at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston and the Menil Collection.

7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, $5 with a Rice I.D., $6 all others.

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**PRIMETIME PICKS**

tomorrow and
sunday

### ‘Bread’ hurt by poor acting in small roles

Carly Keener, THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

I’m slightly uncertain about what went wrong with *The Bread, My Sweet*. The plot is charming romantic-comedy fare with some family drama based in — something that should not be horribly difficult to pull off.

The film was a labor of love by writer and director Melissa Martin, who made the film as a homage to her friend Gemma, an elderly Italian emigrant who lived above a bakery belonging to Martin’s husband.

The essential plot summary is that Bella (a character played by Rosemary Peitz and presumably based on the real-life Gemma), who lives above Dominic’s bakery is dying of cancer but doesn’t want to tell anyone. She’s been saving money for years for her semi-estranged daughter Luca to have a “big American wedding,” and Dominic, bent on letting Bella die happy, decides to marry Luca.

Part of the problem lies in the fact that the movie tries to take on too many themes and can’t develop them fully. One of these is focus on food. The title is apparently taken from the notion that “in Italian, a good man is a piece of bread.” The price of bread is of course, Dominic.

Dominic (Scott Baio) loves his bakery but works during the day as a construction worker. A job that he finds very well paid but hates. The film only shows him acting moderately competent at work — he shows up late for a couple of meetings, argues with his higher-ups, then quits. His disgust with the job apparently stems from the fact that he fires people for a living, but doesn’t like them more. Much focus is given to scenes of Dominic and his two brothers, Eddie and the mentally handicapped Pino working in the bakery, as well as to shots of the sumptuous Italian meals Bella puts on the table.

### ‘Moonlight Mile’ handles representation of grief clumsily

**Raj Wahl, THRESHER STAFF**

There are bad films, and then there are bad films that should have been good. Writer/director Brad Silberling’s *Moonlight Mile* falls in the latter category. It’s a movie that promised to be a sensitive, delicate study of the process of grieving but gives us only the Cliff’s Notes version.

**‘Moonlight Mile’**

Rating: 1/2 (out of feet) in theaters

I would perhaps be more accepting if it were inherently impossible to address the intricacies of grief in less than two hours, but films like *The Sweet Hereafter* have shown us that it can be done. And even without that knowledge, it’s hard to ignore the most fundamental failing of *Moonlight Mile*, which is that Silberling is so busy trying to be “sensitive” and “whimsical” that he frequently seems to forget what the movie is about.

At the beginning of the film, we’re introduced to Joe, Nest (Jake Gyllenhaal), a young man who, following the death of his fiancé Diana (Carey Mikesel) in a terrorist shooting, agrees to be temporarily in her parents’ Ben and Julio Foss (Dustin Hoffman and Susan Sarandon) until he can figure out what to do next.

Joe, meanwhile, has a lot on his mind. It turns out that he and Diana had broken off their engagement three weeks before her death, but neither of her parents knew about it. Things get even more complicated when Joe falls in love with Bertie Knox (Ellen Pompeo), a goofy, sweet bag lady. Joe’s even more complicated feelings for Joe are equally strong.

*On paper, this sound like a can’t-miss movie. Where Silberling steps wrong is in adapting the wrong tone for the material, leaving potentially-interesting characters hanging out to dry while he indulges in self-consciously quaintness.*

It takes less than five minutes after the end of the opening credits for this movie to become a drag.
Director’s treatment of mourning invites ridicule

DEATH, from Page 7
To realize that this is going to be a problem. The first scene takes place at Diana’s wake, and Silberling, in a grotesque miscalculation, elects to play the scene for laughs. There’s Ben, compulsively answering every phone call after the first ring. Let’s all laugh at how neurotic he is.

There’s JoJo, grumbling about the overwrought condolences she has to accept from people who barely even knew Diana. Let’s all laugh at her cynicism. And there’s the family dog, vomiting on the guests’ shoes (I’m not kidding). Let’s all laugh at the barf while we eat our popcorn.

To be fair, Silberling tones things down after the opening scenes, but there’s still something off-putting about the way he presents Ben and JoJo as they struggle to come to terms with Diana’s death. Ben buries himself in his real-estate ventures, reassuring himself that it’s best if he just “moves on,” while JoJo chats superficially with Joe and chides Ben for his obsessive-compulsive behavior.

The point, of course, is that they are in denial, but it seems that Silberling is inviting us to jeer at their faults instead of taking us down into the trenches with them. As a result, when Ben and JoJo finally let their grief come to the surface, we feel the director is treating them with condescending pity more than with heartfelt empathy.

Meanwhile, the romance that develops between Joe and Bertie never feels truly convincing. That they fall for each other so quickly is plausible (still advised), but the manner in which their relationship evolves is frequently too cute or silly to work within the context of the story.

I would perhaps be more accepting if it were inherently IMPOSSIBLE to address the intricacies of grief and healing.

For instance, Bertie is undeniably charming, but Silberling insists on her quirky personality to the point where it’s embarrassing. When she clambers over the post office counter to pull her cat off Joe’s dog, it’s cute; when she starts dancing around barefoot in the mail, however, it gets to be a bit much.

There are a handful of moments that suggest just how good Moonlight Mile could have been if Silberling had only played things straight. In one beautifully understated scene, Ben stands in the middle of the restaurant where Diana was killed and chokes back tears as he tries to reconstruct the events that led to her death. It’s a powerful moment of quiet honesty, and I found myself wanting more like it.

After watching the movie, I learned that Silberling’s inspiration from the story was in fact the 1989 shooting death of his girlfriend Rebecca Schaeffer. That, to me, makes the arm’s-length feel of Moonlight Mile even more baffling. Clearly Silberling is in a position to tell a compelling story about loss and the emotions surrounding it, but for whatever reason, he hasn’t done it here. Hopefully he will someday; I believe he can.
Rice debuts at Reliant tomorrow

by Jason Gershman

On paper it is a home game played in Houston, but tomorrow’s football game against Louisiana Tech University at Reliant Stadium will be far from the typical home game.

"It’s going to be exciting," senior halfback Vincent Hawkins said. "We’ve stayed in some exciting places before, like Hawaii. This should be just as exciting. We hope that by practicing there, we can avoid the jitters." The game should be exciting in itself, he said.

Women’s cross country wins 2nd straight title

by Melissa Domínguez

Not even Hurricane Ike could stop the Owls’ cross country team, which ran to its second straight title at the LSU Invitational Saturday in Baton Rouge, La.

The Owls won their second consecutive team title, as they delivered another impressive showing in the Western Athletic Conference race.

"Although Rice did not dominate the entire race as it did in its Sept. 21 victory at the SMU Invitational, it still led the field with all seven Owls finishing in the top 30," Bivins said. "The LSU meet was much more competitive than last week’s race," junior Amanda Felder said. "The schools we raced against were definitely better, and there were more teams competing.

"The level of competition was not the only varying factor, as the course itself was also different. The course was 8,000 meters long, the distance of the Distric 4C championships and kilometer longer than the SMU course that will host the WAC Championships. The hurricane left some mud and water in the existing hills to make things tougher for the runners.

"This extra length gave some of our stronger runners more time to move up the pack," sophomore Anna Reeve said. "Even though we were not as strong, there was more individual effort in the race. We were missing a couple runners, so the team really had to step up." Placing five runners above the top 20, Rice defeated 16 other schools in win team honors with 49 points. The hosting Owls were second at 54 points and McNeese State was fourth at 60 points.

"We need to go out and stop making our game and make them one-dimensional," Reeve said.

Junior Whitney McAlpine and senior Kate Watts stayed together in finishing fifth and sixth, respectively, reflecting the Owls’ strong teamwork.

The LSU meet was much more competitive than last week’s race. The schools we raced against were definitely better."

"McAlpine and Watts did a great job staying close with Bell," head coach Jim Bivins said. "Yet having three in the top six with a 19-second split is certainly with the theme of our group running well and off of each other." Reeve ran her best six-kilometer race of the season, and Felder, Rice’s fifth runner, passed 16 runners over the course to seal the victory for the Owls.

"She really had to come through, as we didn’t run (freshman) Kate Gorry and (junior) Tanya Wright because of some slight pains," Bevan said. "We are protecting them for the future. They are both healthy this week."

Rice will take the weekend off to rest after this back-to-back victory before competing in the Texas A&M Invitational Oct. 12. After that race, the Owls set their sights on the NCAA championships.

"We have a lot more potential than we imagined," Reeve said. "Right now we are looking to beat Baylor (University) and A&M, qualify for nationals and, of course, win the conference. It is going to take a lot, but that team is willing and ready to do what it takes."
Women's tennis starts slow in tourney

by Wei-Han Tan

Women's tennis starts slow in tourney, as Rice held its own against the top competition.

"Everything just fell in place after I committed to this mentality. Rather than play the rankings, I played the ball," Freshman tennis player Blair Disesa said.

"I lost to her last year at the Rice Invitational, so it was nice beating her this year," Gonzales said. "It was a great tournament, being able to watch these top teams, play them and realize that we're competitive. It's not even a question whether we are good enough because this week-end showed that we're in it, we're there."

Sophomore Mindy Ko also performed admirably, winning three of her five matches, including an easy 6-2, 6-2 victory over Minnesota's Cici Anderson.

"I played the game because I had an awesome breakdown," Ko said. "I remember telling myself that I'm not really going to go out there and win — I felt that I had improved in tennis, but more importantly I've improved in tennis and I need to manage my time better. Last year was a transition year for me, and I feel better prepared in all aspects of my life."

In doubles play, junior Stephanie Moat and sophomore Erika Goodrich lost 6-3, 6-2, but rebounded to the consolation final.

"We played really well in the finals, but things just didn't fall our way," Villalobos said. "I really enjoy playing doubles with Steph. We complement each other. She has strong ground strokes, while I play well at the net."

Rice travels to Pacific Palisades, Calif., this weekend to compete in the Riviera All-American Championship.

The Owls will also hope for the return of freshmen Lauren Arterburn and senior Natasha Movmonga who both had to default at the Rice Classic due to injuries.

Golf drops to 12th in Kansas

by John Choo

Frustration abounds once again for the golf team after another poor tournament performance, but the Owls aren't making excuses.

"It was a tough weekend, but we just didn't cut our own cilia," junior Ryan Morgan said. "We are not facing intense pressure that we can't handle. We're working on the right thing, we're working our best, but it's very frustrating to not see any result."

Rice traveled to Manhattan, Kan., for the Jim Colbert Invitational last weekend and were greeted with rough conditions. The course is 7,525 yards long, stretching the Owls' ability, but it's very frustrating to not see any results.

"The Alabama game quite positive result," Gambetta said. "It was frustrating because we really could win; sophomore midfielder Kristen Gambetta said. "The Alabama game quite positive result," Gambetta said. "The Alabama game quite positive result," Gambetta said. "The Alabama game quite positive result," Gambetta said. "The Alabama game quite positive result," Gambetta said. "We had a lot of mental errors, but we're starting to concentrate a bit more."

While the defense has been solidifying, however, the offense has struggled, scoring only three goals so far. Though Yoder (four goals and three assists) has been solid, the Owls have scored only seven goals this season, good for 12th in the WAC.

"I think we definitely cut down on the number of silly mistakes we made," Garrison said. "We had a lot of mental errors, but we're starting to concentrate a bit more."

In the 2001 WAC season, Rice has only played two games at home, a 0-0-0 tie with Arkansas State and a 1-0 win over Idaho. Rice is 0-1-1 in WAC play, back to 0-0-0 again," Gambetta said. "We're still in transition, but we've got a lot of potential. We just didn't pull through."
No. 2 Hawaii trounces Owls

by Scott Schieler

Losing all three games in a volleyball match is usually cause for concern. Having to lose all three games in a row is definitely different for Rice Friday.

The Owls (0-2) traveled nearly 4,000 miles to the University of Hawaii, and although they lost all three games in the ` challengedoffensive fashion. Still, they returned to Houston with their heads held high.

"The Owls were outplayed, but it was in no way a poor showing," head coach Julio Morales said. "They were just as disciplined as us in certain areas, and we had the opportunity to compete.

The Owls were outplayed, but it was in no way a poor showing. For the majority of the match, Rice held its own and took the fight to the Rainbow Wahine. But another factor had been at work this week.

"We blocked Wahine's three times and Kahumolu twice, and not many other teams can say that," Morales said. "I was very impressed by the way we played defense, and it was an impressive part. We were able to dig them up on defense and keep them off offense. We put up decent numbers for any team and great numbers for a team that is usually good at offense. Offensively, the Wahine had only four points in the second set, and we made it a double-coverage consistently well in the second half, and felt like we had momentum on our side. We couldn't let the game up with a field goal and send it over to overtime."

The Owls nearly pulled off another comeback in the final quarter, driving with a three-yard deficit. Once in field goal range, the Owls killed the clock before bringing in freshman kicker Brantley Landefur for a 43-yard field goal. The snap, however, was not to go, and the kick came up short, his second missed field goal of the game.

"In the second half, we ran the option to perfection... I can't say enough for those guys on the offensive line."

— Kyle Herm
Junior quarterback

Despite the loss, Rice's offensive execution in the final quarter was nothing short of phenomenal. Sophomore fullback Ed Bailey ran for 89 yards, scoring the first two touchdowns of the season, and helped keep the team's confidence growing.

"They had a good game, and we didn't," Herm said. "Our confidence is definitely still there."

Junior fullback Rubble Beck and sophomore halfback Joe Mostrom rode for Rice's two other touchdowks, with Moore's touchdown also the first of his Rice career. In total, the Owls rushed for 412 yards, and it was interrupted on an blocked offensive line that was double-covered.

"We didn't do as well in the throwing game," Herm said. "We still have the capability to throw deep, but we were stymied on both sides of the ball."

For all those who think a "good job" means 90-hour work weeks and pin-stripe suits...

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"That game stuck in our minds the rest of the season," defender and captain Green said. "At halftime, I thought we were playing for pride and then to come out and almost pull it off, it's really hurt." Green hopes to lead the defensive charge to put pressure on Bulldog quarterback Luke McCown, who averages 280 passing yards per game. - Amanda Cahn

"To break the record of star Ndukwe Kalu (Baker '02), was one of the goals I had for this year," Senior defen-

ding back-to-back games and winning field blocked in the final seconds before finally falling 41-38 in overtime.

"They've been on the road, and they've traveled a good bit, but the biggest thing is that they're defending vac-
cancy. But the Owls need more wisdom with the ball (too many turnovers) and better shooting (too fond of)," Green said. "Even when they announced that (new assistant strength and conditioning coach Ryan Atherton) was from La Tech, that was a huge boon in our locker room." - Ken Hatfield

Green himself has some impres-
sionable moments from his first two seasons in college.

"It's Domino's. - 1

SPORTS NOTEBOOK

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's club soccer solid in third place

The Rice women's club soccer team continued on its run at the top of the Texas Collegiate Soccer League last weekend with a pair of road games. Rice traveled Sunday to take on the University of Texas at San Antonio and broke its scoreless tie with 60-7 win.

Women's club soccer solid in third place

The Rice women's club soccer program garnered its first-ever national ranking last week in the preview edition of Street & Smith's College Basketball 2002.

Rice, the second-highest-ranked team in the Western Athletic Conference, currently oc-
cupies the No. 25 spot. Of the Lady Owls, Street & Smith's writes "Cristy McKinney has quietly been building a tradi-
tion at Rice, and this could be the year it all pays off. Four starters return from a very solid team, and two red-shirts - both big forwards - will fill the va-
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Louisiana Tech University, last year's WAC champs, returns a rated eighth in the country. Rice and Louisiana Tech had met twice before this season, and with four meetings left, each team winning on its home turf. Rice went 23-9 last year, earning a bid to the Women's National Invita-
tional Tournament. The Lady Owls opened the 2000-2001 season with an exhibition game Nov. 10 against the University of Houston Cougars. The Cars ran over the Cougars 10-0, led by the duo of Rice stars Maria Brunfeldt and Kaye Tufts.

The Lady Owls continued their run at the top of the Texas Collegiate Soccer League last weekend with a pair of road games. Rice traveled Sunday to take on the University of Texas at San Antonio and broke its scoreless tie with a 60-7 win. Rice stars Marie Brunfeldt and Kaye Tufts were named to the Southern Women's Soccer Association All-Star team. Rice also faces Louisiana State in a tough game. It will be a challenge for us in the game," Green said. "Even when they announced that (new assistant strength and conditioning coach Ryan Atherton) was from La Tech, that was a huge boon in our locker room." - Ken Hatfield

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FRIDAY

Hey, I did my part for democracy when I voted for "American Idol"!

If you have not registered to vote for the Congressional elections, you can do so in the lobby of the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Remember, Monday is the deadline for registration.)

Talgo Festival
The 3rd annual Houston Grand Talgo Festival is being held Friday and Saturday at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. Experience world-class Kabuki performances, a stage show by Native Americans and dynamic classical Japanese dancing. The show begins at 7 p.m., and admission is free.

I've got your letter, you've got mine.

The Rice Student Volunteer Outreach is holding a Business Etiquette Luncheon in Baker Hall at 11:15 a.m. Learn which fork to use, where to put your napkin, how to juggle a plate while working a room, and other rules of business dining. Send an e-mail to kegel@rice.edu for more information.

Because you never knew when it might come in handy

Learn rosh hashanah (a.k.a. belly dancing or "the dance of the East") at the Rice Dance Studio in the Recreational Center from 1 to 3 p.m. The fee is $5 for students.

Good luck trying to find an empty seat

The Rice football team hosts Louisiana Tech University at 7 p.m. This will be the first-ever collegiate game played in brand-new Reliant Stadium, home of the Houston Texans.

WHAM! BAM! KA-POW!
The Bat Whispers, the 1930 film that inspired the creation of Batman, will be shown at the Rice Media Center at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is $5 for students. Contact Rachel Boyle at rboyle@rice.edu for more information.

SATURDAY

Volunteer. It's sexy.

The Rice Student Volunteer Program Outreach Day takes place today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go to Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center to sign up for a site. Lunch will be provided afterwards.

All the cool kids are doing it

The Rice Linux User Group is holding a Linux Installfest in Duncan Hall room 3029 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Bring your computer, monitor and peripherals. There is no charge, though donations will be accepted. Contact rieglerr@rice.edu for more information.

What do you mean, "There are no sporks"?

German Studies Lecture
Michael W. Jennings, Professor of German at Princeton University, will be speaking on commodification and experience in Walter Benjamin's late work. Come to the Humanities Building Room 119 at 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

(Insert uncontroversial, safe comment about evolution)

Good Friday Week 3: The Career Services Center is holding the 3rd Annual Career Services Week. Find out what can be done to improve your future employment prospects. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Career Services Center in the Student Center. Contact careers@rice.edu for more information.

Why is it so hard for a 30-year-old to think about retirement?

When you're young, retirement planning is pretty far down on your list of concerns. Say, somewhere between the melting polar ice caps and dishpan hands. And that's completely understandable. But by planning early and sticking to that plan, you can increase the money you'll have to enjoy retirement, and potentially decrease the years you'll spend working. We offer a range of different options, including tax-deferred retirement plans, SRAs, and IRAs, all with low expenses. Now that's something to fall in love with.

THURSDAY

(I'm tired. Let them think of a funny headline.)

Spontaneous Combustion
Rice's improvisational comedy group, will be performing at Sammy's Cafe at 10 p.m.

THURSDAY

Just enough time for a road trip to the World's Largest Ear of Corn in Rochester, Minnesota.

The midterms recess begins today, which means students get a four-day break from classes.
The Backpage's dream matchups (the Olsen twins aren't legal yet):

Remember Eugene Levy, the dad of the apple-pie kid from "Don't call me Dick" Smalley. As the oft-forgotten Noble Prize Standing 6'8", 328 pounds, Dr. Bob Curl is the heavy favorite to win ken or something), so look forward to some punishing blows.

The Eugene Levy Brawl to the Death!

The Eugene Levy vs. Eugene Levy
dimian vs. Bubba Ray Dudley™ and Stacy™. As A&E Editor Carly Kocurek™ later said, Wrestlers and naked women? That's what it takes.

William Shatner of "Star Trek" fame or something), so look forward to some punishing blows.

The Backpage's dream matchups (the Olsen twins aren't legal yet):

Remember Eugene Levy, the dad of the apple-pie kid from "Don't call me Dick" Smalley. As the oft-forgotten Noble Prize

Standing 6'8", 328 pounds, Dr. Bob Curl is the heavy favorite to win ken or something), so look forward to some punishing blows.

Hmmm. 'Camacho vs. Rabid Squirrels' would be funny too. Classifieds.

36-70 words: $30
71-105 words: $45

ISO STUDENTS. Rental 2-class. Two-bedroom, one-bath apartment with wood floors, central air, oak hardwood floors, central air, central laundry and off-street, gated parking at 1301 Rich- mond, 3850 plus electric, with lease and deposit. Owner-managed. Call Andover at (713) 524-3344. No dogs, please.

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: WADE'S/34TH STREET: Barres- sive, energetic catering company seek- ing to hire energetic waitstaff/hardwork- ers. Previous experience a plus, great opportunity for students. Flexible hours, attractive pay. For more infor- mation, contact George at (713) 323-1133. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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"Sometime last year, I was introduced to the Friday night wiener wonderland of the West Alabama Icehouse."

First off, for new students, welcome to Rice. I realize we're more than a month in now, but this is the first chance that Lifestyles has gotten to welcome you.

The purpose of the Lifestyles Magazine is ever-evolving. We try to keep you up-to-date on what's happening in and around Houston, but we aren't a news source. Instead, we're focused on the way people live — food, clothes, entertainment, health, etc. We'll help you with the protocol for attending a charity cocktail party or a Jones College kegger party because to us, it's all important stuff.

I wanted to dedicate the first issue to Texas. Many of us here at Rice are from Texas, so we share what so many of you who aren't from Texas consider to be some sort of weird state "pride." I, for one, never believed that Texas was as unusual as people make it out to be until I spent a summer in Boston a couple of years back.

Once there, I discovered that my ideas about almost everything from what constituted a "long" car ride to what could be considered a "hot" day seemed to ring decidedly Texan to most of my Bostonian pals, and I quickly acquired the most hated nickname 'Tex.' The funny thing is, I'm one of the least Texas-centric Texans you'll find. Here in Houston, no one would ever call me "Tex." In fact, I'm frequently mistaken for a Northerner.

But after a summer in Beantown, I was more than happy to return to the "normal" way of doing things, which, I suppose, is the Texas way. I was glad to get back to people that have a little patience. I was more than happy to return to real food. Have you ever tasted Bostonian Mexican cuisine? I'll let you in on a secret: Roasted Duck tacos are not Tex-Mex.

I was thrilled to return to air conditioning. Little did I know that the Northern version of this Texas mainstay was opening a window. But somehow, opening a window to let in a hot summer blast doesn't really help cool a room.

For a while, all of these little idiosyncrasies of Northern culture didn't really get to me, but after a while, I decided that though they're nice folks, Bostonians can sometimes just be completely insane.

All in all, I've decided that we are different in Texas. We take a Texas History class in seventh grade. We're the only state that can fly its flag at the same height as the American flag. Heck, we even air-condition some outdoor areas. And we're proud of it. We're proud to live here.

So, to welcome you (some for the first time and others once again) to Rice, to Houston and to Texas, Lifestyles is proud to present this Texas issue. I hope it makes you feel a bit more Texan. Enjoy.
Houston isn't known as the coolest city in the world. It might rank in the top 10 but only if you rule out other hemispheres and a couple of time zones. However, that doesn't mean there aren't cool things in Houston, and this list of 51 things proves it. Every item on the list is something special about Houston, and although a few of these things aren't necessarily "good," they all make this city unique.

If you aren't especially familiar with Houston, this may read like a scavenger hunt to you, so I recommend that you take a look at www.houston-guide.com or www.houston.citysearch.com to find out more about these spots.

The next time you're sitting in your dorm room, and you say to a friend, "There's so nothing to do in Houston, dude," just pull out this list and get in your car. There's no reason not to go out there and have fun in our beloved city. Just keep in mind that no matter how late it is, the night is young, and so are you.

51 reasons to love Houston

1. THE WATER WALL

No better place to picnic and walk hand-in-hand.

2. THE GALLERIA

Houston's shrine to commercialism; prime for people-watching and spending cash.

3. HIGHLAND VILLAGE

The up-and-coming challenger to the Galleria, complete with Crate and Barrel.

4. RICHMOND STRIP

Secretary Strip. In even fun for young, jobless types like us.

5. AMC 30

Still huge and cheaper than anywhere else for students.

6. THEATRE DISTRICT

Best collection of major art venues in the South.

7. JONES PLAZA

Enjoy the free concerts on Thursday nights downtown.

8. MINUTE MAID PARK

Everything you could ask for in a park. You want it; they've got it.

9. MILLER OUTDOOR THEATER

Lots of free shows.

10. HOUSE OF PIES

Two locations serving you pie at all hours.

11. AMY'S ICE CREAM

Doesn't matter if it started in Austin, we've claimed it for our own.

12. CHUY'S

Highly recommended, and always crowded.

13. TACO CABANA

Know it; love it.

14. RICE VILLAGE

You know it, you love it.

15. GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL

Best starting point for a trip to somewhere cooler than Houston (e.g., Paris).

16. HOBBY AIRPORT

Better starting point for somewhere less cool than Houston (e.g., your home).

17. RELIANT STADIUM

Rice v. Louisiana Tech, this Saturday! Go Owls! (And Tridents).

18. RELIANT ASTRODOME

It's still the eighth Wonder of the World to us.

19. COMPAQ CENTER

Check it out before the Rockets head downtown.

20. ART CAR MUSEUM

Not as many cars as you might expect but still extremely cool art.

21. THE ORANGE SHOW

Much better than the alternative "Lemon Show."

22. MEMORIAL PARK

Everything you could ask for in a park. You want it, you've got it.

23. BAYOU BEND

Ina Hogg overcame her name and her dad to found this cool destination.

24. SAN JACINTO MONUMENT

Sure, you remember the Alamo, but do you remember where Texas actually won?

25. MENIL

Art is good.

26. MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art is really good.

27. CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM

Art is great.

28. HOUSTON ARBORETUM

Trees are also great.

29. HERMAN PARK ZOO

Sure they smell bad, but animals are so cute!

30. MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE


31. MEDICAL CENTER

Houston isn't known as the coolest city in the world. It might rank in the top 10 but anyone is acceptable, but it's still there.

32. SPASHOTOWN USA

Downtown. Not on the Orientation Week schedule anymore, but it's still there.

33. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

We've all kids at heart.

34. SCREEN MILE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Askipark, blacklight mini golf/course and IMAX. Bring it on.

35. LIGHT RAIL

Dude, dude.

36. RICE UNIVERSITY

Coolest school, like, ever.

compiled by MATT HAYNIE

LIFESTYLES 3
You never knew

You probably knew that Texas has a state song and a state motto. Did you have any idea we had a state dinosaur? Lifestyles uncovered all these juicy state items. Sure, it's nothing you needed to know, but maybe it will one day come in handy during a heated game of Trivial Pursuit.

**STATE BIRD**
Mockingbird

**STATE CAPITAL**
Austin

**STATE DINOSAUR**
Brachiosaur sauropod, Pleurocoelus

**STATE DISH**
Chili

**STATE FIBER AND FABRIC**
Cotton

**STATE FISH**
Goudieper Fines

**STATE FLOWER**
Bluebonnet, Lupinus texensis and any other variety of Bluebonnet

**STATE FOLK DANCE**
Square Dance

**STATE FRUIT**
Texas Red Grapefruit

**STATE GEM**
Texas Blue Topaz

**STATE GEMSTONE CUT**
Lone Star Cut

**STATE GRASS**
Sideoats Grama

**STATE INSECT**
Monarch Butterfly

**STATE FLYING MAMMAL**
Mexican Free-Tailed Bat

**STATE LARGE MAMMAL**
Longhorn

**STATE SMALL MAMMAL**
Armadillo

**STATE MOTTO**
“Friendship”

**STATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**
Guitar

**STATE NATIVE PEPPER**
Chilepepa

**STATE PEPPER**
Jalapeno

**STATE PLANT**
Prickly Pear Cactus

**STATE REPTILE**
Horned Lizard

**STATE SHELL**
Lightning Whelk

**STATE SHIP**
U.S.S. Texas

**STATE SHRUB**
Crape Myrtle

**STATE SONG**
“Texas, Our Texas”

**STATE SPORT**
Rodeo

**STATE STONE**
Petrified Fossilwood

**STATE TARTAN**
Texas Bluebonnet

**STATE TREE**
Pecan

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A brief crash course in Texas history

COREY E. DEVINE

They say if you live in Texas for three or more years, you become a naturalized Texan. This is, probably, to some degree true. However, you can never be a real Texan until you can rattie off interesting Texas history facts with the greatest of ease. For people who went to school in Texas, this is no sweat, since we have had Texas history drilled into our heads time and time again. For everyone else, this proves to be a bit more difficult. In the interest of helping everyone become a real, honest-to-goodness Texan, Lifestyles has compiled the following bits of important Texan.

A SHORT HISTORY OF EARLY TEXAS

This history of Texas begins as early as 1519 when the Spanish, searching for the fabled cities of gold, navigated the Gulf of Mexico and landed on the shores of South Texas. Once here, the Spanish set up numerous missions in south and west Texas. In 1685, the French, still searching for the unfound treasure the Spanish had given up, financed a colonizing expedition to the Gulf of Mexico. Indians, weather and general low morale ruined the French attempts and finally led the French to give up their claims to Texas.

The Spanish continued their missionary efforts through the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of the land was cultivated for cattle ranching. In the 1820s, Moses Austin gained permission to establish an Anglo colony in Texas. His son, the famous Stephen F. Austin, brought about 300 families on a relatively successful colonization mission.

More families followed: 900 in 1825 and 800 in 1831. Mexico finally won its independence from Spain after a long war and attention turned to Texas, which was a Mexican region at that time. Tension quickly developed between the Texans, who considered themselves part of a different country, and the Mexicans, who viewed Texas as a part of the motherland. A war for independence was waged, and in the end, Texas won.

Sam Houston was named the first president of the Republic of Texas—a country that lasted for almost a decade until Texas was admitted as the 28th state to the United States of America.

THE ALAMO

Nothing in Texas is more folklore, more fabled or more prized than the Alamo. Even if you're not from the Lone Star State, you undoubtedly knew something of the Alamo before your time here at Rice, whether through some anecdote you heard in the common platitude: “Remember the Alamo.” The important thing to remember when “remembering the Alamo” is that we lost. Yes, that's right, Mexico won the battle at the Alamo.

The Texans actually beat the Mexican army later at the battle of San Jacinto (honored by a much less impressive monument). “Remember the Alamo” was the battle cry used at San Jacinto to rally the Texas troops to fight harder against the Mexican army.

Surrounding the Alamo is a cloud of fact, legend and lore that’s not easily dispelled. Take, for instance, the legend of the line in the sand. Facing the entire Mexican army with less than 200 troops, Col. William B. Travis drew a line in the sand and asked any man willing to stay and fight for their country to step over—all but one did. There’s real evidence this event actually occurred; however, Rice Political Science Professor Gilbert Cattanho argues that the accuracy of the tale is not important. Instead, we should recognize that it’s tales like these that build the Texas character. It’s legends like those that surrounds the Alamo that give Texans individuality and pride.

The Alamo is open for viewing and protected by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. You can visit their website at www.thelamo.org.

SPINDLETOP

If you travel to other parts of the world, you'll quickly realize that people think that Texas owns one of two things: longhorns or oil derricks. The fact of the matter is that in my 21 years in Texas, I've never acquired an oil field or, for that matter, even seen a gusher. However, Texas is and always will be known for the oil business. (For this, we can thank television's very own Dallas.) Not far from Houston is what is now Beaumont. Texas, Anthony Lucas discovered the first oil gusher Jan. 29, 1901. The Texas economy was never the same again.

IMPORTANT NAMES IN TEXAS HISTORY

**Stephen F. Austin**

Often referred to as the “Father of Texas,” Austin brought families to Texas in the first Anglo colonization effort of Texas. Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, is named for him.

**Sam Houston**

Houston was an important general in the Texas Revolution; he was the general that defeated Santa Anna and the Mexican army at the battle of San Jacinto. Houston became the first president of the Republic of Texas. You can see a huge statue of Houston outside of his hometown of Huntsville, Texas, where his namesake Sam Houston State University is located.

**William B. Travis**

Travis was commander of the Texan forces at the Alamo. Though defeated, his appeal for support at the Alamo continues an important piece of Texas because “If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or Death.”

4 LIFESTYLES
Places to go and people to see — travel in Texas

austin

As the star of the Lone Star State, Austin is a great weekend trip. A three-hour drive will put you smack dab in the middle of the Texas state capital (a great place to have a walk in the early morning or late evening). If you're into live music, take a stroll down 6th Street where you'll find bands aplenty. Like Travis is an excellent spot to swim and sunbathe if you prefer the serenity of a lake over the crashing waves of a beach.

big bend ranch state park

A nine-hour drive is not for the faint of heart, but campers argue that Big Bend is well worth it. This huge state park was purchased from private owners in 1988 when it was transformed into a open park. It encompasses two mountain ranges with some excellent vistas and even a couple of waterfalls. If you like big state park camping, you'll enjoy Big Bend.

dallas/ft. worth

Dallas is, perhaps, Texas's most chic city, famed for high-end shopping and (no offense to people from the city) snooty crowds. However, it's home to the State Fair of Texas (going on now until Oct. 29). For the historically inclined, stop in Ft. Worth to enjoy the Ft. Worth Stockyards and Bill Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk. If you're not sure what a honky-tonk is, you're required to visit Ft. Worth before your time at Rice is up.

enchanted rock state natural area

Enchanted Rock is, actually, a big pink granite rock that rises 425 feet and covers 640 acres. It's interesting to see, and it's decent camping closer to Houston than Garner State Park by about 2 hours.

new braunfels

New Braunfels exposes visitors to some of the state's unexpected culture — German, that is — and it's only over a little three hours away. One of many central Texas German towns, New Braunfels has built itself into an interesting little city. You can tube along the Guadalupe River or visit the United States' largest waterpark — Schlitterbahn (water slide in German). From New Braunfels, it's a short drive to Gruene, Texas, which is a cool historic town with Texas' oldest dance hall (Gruene Hall). Don't miss New Braunfels' celebration of Oktoberfest.

san antonio

San Antonio's main tourist attraction is the Riverwalk, which is essentially shops, restaurants and clubs lining the San Antonio River. You can take a boat ride along the river or sit out on the patio of a Mexican restaurant and enjoy the river. Also check out Market Square, the self-proclaimed "largest Mexican market outside of Mexico." And remember, you've got to visit the Alamo.

south padre island

Padre is Texas' own claim to spring-break party fame. Here you'll find wide sandy beaches and water much cleaner than that in Galveston. Mexico is also close, so visits to border towns should be on your itinerary.

More Texas travel information is available on the Internet at http://traveltex.com.
Finding the Texas martini: WAIH

Every great region has its own way to dress a hot dog. The Chicagoans do it with a pickle spear, sport peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and mustard. The New Yorkers do it with kraut and mustard. And don't forget about the chilli dog. But what about the Texans? They have their own McDonald's Value Meal; shouldn't they have a hot dog too? Well, I think I may have found it, and so much more.

Sometime last year, I was introduced to the Friday night weiner wonderland of the West Alabama Icehouse — WAIH to the acronymically inclined. This home of Houston's best hot dog is conveniently located at the corner of West Alabama St. and McDuffie St. And by "best," I mean free. These hot dogs have turned vegetarians and health nuts away from their commitments. They spend what seems like an eternity on the slow-cooking grill until the grill master signals "hot dog time." A line magically forms as people grab little vinal trays and Fiesta buns ready for filling. Condiments are few, but there is much to be said about a dog with mustard and white onion. This is my soul food.

Not only are free frankfurters present, but affordable refreshments flow like, well, beer. Domestic brands start at $2 a bottle and top out at $4 for imports and microbrew. Here one can find the best people-watching in Houston. The patrons are a veritable cross section of Houston culture. Spanning from 30-something business types to motorcycle aficionados to a lady who attempts to find homes for abandoned kittens.

And I cannot forget to mention the other half of the clientele — the dogs. Each greets another with a friendly sniff of the butt, then commences with the evening's agenda; rescuing ketchup-laden hot dog buns from the ground. Only the greatest, the elite few, obtain the grill master's perfectly-cooked tube steak.

While eating a hot dog, drinking beer and soaking in the evening sun, one can also "enjoy" the sounds of many Houston amateur bands. Such musical geniuses include Dean Seltzer and the Redneck Mothers, Skop Jar Jr. and other delightful entertainers.

After all, you don't come to WAIH for gourmet cuisine or an elegant interior. It is the incredible atmosphere that keeps me coming back; the horseshoe sandpit, the sea of halter tops and cowboy boots, the collection of red picnic benches and basketball hoops.

It's difficult to talk about this place with such affection; a few of us would like to keep it to ourselves. The West Alabama Icehouse is a special place, radiating with personality, and perpetuating Texan flair. When you are looking for a rest, a break from fast-paced school life or the hustle and bustle of the city, this is the oasis for anyone who appreciates novelty as much as I do.

I'd be hard-pressed to find a place like this anywhere other than in Texas. What other state would allow an open air bar within the city limits? Where else could you find businessmen in cowboy boots putting back a cheap beer? And in that definitively Texan way, there's no social boundary between the Harley crowd and the business people, the business people and the college students, or the college students and Frazzled Kitten Lady. You'll find random folks pulling up a chair at your table and starting a conversation. The whole thing feels like a county fair. Well, a county fair with free hot dogs. Even if you're not yet 21, stop by and enjoy a hot dog, some music and a strong dose of Texas culture.

West Alabama Icehouse Haiku

Grill me a weiner
Beer me a Harley Bud Lite
Far beyond the hedge
In Texas, barbecue is king

COREY E. DEVINE

I actually believe that pork is "the other white meat." It's in the same class as chicken, and for Texans, it has no place in the grand tradition of Texas barbecue.

In other Southern states, Alabama for instance, pork is the centerpiece of the barbecue tradition. Pulled pork sandwiches reign supreme, and I agree, they're quite good, but they're not Texas. My Northern friends don't even know what the hell pulled pork is — and that's fine. Knowing the intricacies of Southern barbecue state by state is not a requirement for cultural literacy. So, I guess their closest experience with barbecue would be... roast. And frankly, roast is nothing like barbecue.

So, Texas brisket goes something like the following: Take a normal roast (usually much larger than the one you mother cooks for dinner), rub it with a spice rub (this can consist of numerous different spices from sugar to cayenne pepper) and place over medium heat in a barbecue pit for hours (until adequately fall-apart tender). Now, that's an oversimplification. County fair barbecue prize winners have their own secret marinades and spice rubs, but, in general, you get the picture.

What makes that so great? I can't really put it into words. It isn't just about the meat — it's about the experience. There's a lot of Texas history cooked into every brisket sold in every restaurant or made in every home. I guess it's a source of pride, like clam chowder for Bostonians. Texas barbecue is as much a part of Texas as Dairy Queen in an East Texas town, so while you're here, have a bite and see for yourself what all the fuss is about.

Beneath the roof of this humorous Kirby Dr. structure are some Houstonians that are more serious about barbecue than you can imagine. The Goode Co. is close to campus and close to perfect for Texas barbecue newcomers and aficionados alike.

Houston's own barbecue barn

GOODE CO. BARBECUE
5109 Kirby Dr.
713.522.2350

It's sort of hard to miss a big wooden barn on Kirby Dr. However, among the fast-food joints, car lots and upscale shopping strips, that's exactly what you'll find. Housed inside this anomaly is what most Houstonians consider the best barbecue in town: Goode Company Barbecue.

At any given lunch hour, you'll quickly discover that this barn is the meeting place for West University moms, Rice students, businesspeople and yuppies alike. It's a mix almost as strange as the structure itself. But it all makes sense. One of my good friends summed it up like this: "Once I moved to Texas, I stopped being surprised... by almost anything."

Once inside the place, it's almost a sensory overload. The screen door slams behind you, and you're on another planet. The walls are covered in pictures and old license plates. A mounted longhorn hangs on the far wall. Most of the tableware are long plastic benches that patrons of this barbecue mecca gladly share with one another.

To get some grub, you form a line at the bar and order your choice of meats — brisket, chicken, sausage and even smoked duck, but I recommend sticking with the brisket. Here, it's smokehouse smoked until it's so tender it almost falls apart. The secret to Goode Company's barbecue fame is not just their excellent brisket. It's also in the sauce. Their rich, smoky barbecue sauce is what keeps most barbecue addicts coming back time and time again.

While I agree that the side dishes at Goode Company aren't as good as they could be, I've never been dissatisfied with a big helping of their potato salad or coleslaw. I am, however, smitten with their jalapeño cheese bread, which is good enough to have my father hooked.

In an overcrowded world of barbecue restaurants, Goode Company holds its own by making some of the best in Houston, if not some of the best in Texas. So when your friends from Boston or New York City come to visit, ready to see what all this "Texas" fuss is about, take them by Goode Company. Perhaps they'll consider moving.

But best of all is the slogan the Goode Co. has painted on the side of their barn: "You might give some serious thought to thanking your lucky stars that you're in Texas!" From what I can tell, Goode Co. takes this platitude to heart.
According to legend, cowboy boots were first conceived of in Texas sometime in 1878, specifically for the work and on-the-job dangers of cowboys. The pointy toes meant time wouldn't be wasted as ropers tried to jam clumsy farm-boot heels into stirrups, and the tall shafts provided protection from trail hazards.

That's all fine and dandy, but cowboy boots appeal to a much broader audience than the admittedly narrow demographic of honest-to-goodness modern cowboys.

There was something irresistibly anti-fashion about the grease-stained steel-toed boots my father used to wear to work. My brother and I would tromp around the house in them. Eventually, my parents bought us our own. Mine were the same red as Marilyn Monroe's lipstick. My mother would plead with all three of us to wear almost any other shoe. After a few years, I had moved into regular shoes: tennis shoes and loafers and other less romantic footwear.

About two years ago, I got my first pair of grown-up cowboy boots, a gift from my father, of course. They have the quality leather construction of my Dr. Martens without the shoeslaces and the attention to detail of my best pair of boots without the plush toes: thick soles, perfect fit and graceful stitching on the toes and shaft.

Cowboy boots might not be a real staple of the average Texan's wardrobe, but they are a part of my cultural background I'm far from willing to discount. Make fun of them all you like, but something has to be wonderfully right for a style to exist for more than a century with only minimal alterations.

BOOT TYPES

Cowboy boots are not generic. If you doubt this, go into any fair-sized western retailer and confront the shoe section. Boots come in different widths, different toes, different stitches, different leathers and different soles.

The traditional heel is stacked and slanted like a pair pictured. Roper-style heels are more like a regular pair of dress shoes.

Leather soles are the most traditional, but if you're looking for city-slicker pavement walking boots, stick to a rubber sole, which will help you to keep your balance better (which also makes them better work boots, especially since rubber soles are all-weather). The perfect pair of cowboy boots actually feels like the perfect pair. Oh, sure, you'll have to get them good and broken in before the heels stop slipping, the leather starts getting soft and they're really perfect, but they'll be much closer than almost any other shoe you've bought.

Expect to spend between $50 and $80 for a pair of basic boots. Before you panic, realize, these things are good and broken in before the heels stop slipping, the leather starts getting soft and they're really perfect, but they'll be much closer than almost any other shoe you've bought.

Lucchese makes higher end pairs that start at $400 and cap out at around $1,500. Expect to spend between $300 and $500 for a pair of basic boots. Before you panic, realize, these things are well-crafted, and a decent pair should last a few years unless you're intent on wearing them exclusively.

Justin, Nocona and Tony Lama all make good starter boots in addition to the more advanced variety.

Buying boots is an art, and to me, the absolutely greatest thing about my cowboy boots is the fit. Boots can come in widths from AAA to EEE. When considering that the average shoe store usually carries only medium widths, you're at a huge advantage if you know what you want.

Some models clad in southwestern chic clad in suede, turquoise and distressed denim may be coveting on the pages of GQ, and cowgirl boots on a thrifty-store T-shirt and jeans clad guy might have just the right degree of fashion irony, but cowboy boots are good shoes. And if nothing else, they can be a good way to get a rise out of folks from the less interesting parts of the country.

Most cowboy boots are made of old-fashioned cowhide leather, but exotics like ostrich, alligator, lizard and snakeskin offer some interesting texture and color variations. Ostrich and snakeskin are dramatic, but for a moderately-priced pair of boots, alligator is tough to beat and comes in cuts, head and tail for example, that have different textures.

If you really want to break the bank, though, a pair of elephant-skin boots is nearly indestructible. I watched in amazement as a boot salesman raked a pair across the raw end of a wooden display rack repeatedly, leaving no visible mark on the boots.

BUYING BOOTS

If you're the ultimate city-slicker seeking boots for the exclusive purpose of giving kicker dancing, follow the lead of the Dallas Cowboys' Cheerleaders and stick with a pair of lightweight dance boots from the Everlast Star Boot Company, which may be a little untraditional, but are not completely inauthentic, since they are handmade in Texas (on-line at www.bootdirect.com). Surprisingly, boots designed for working in Texas' dust-to-mud climate and leaping on and off horses are not ideal for indoor dancing.

The newest sole type is crepe, which is heavier especially since rubber soles are oil resistant. Untraditional, but are not completely inauthentic, since they are handmade in Texas (on-line at www.bootdirect.com). Surprisingly, boots designed for working in Texas' dust-to-mud climate and leaping on and off horses are not ideal for indoor dancing.