**Input collected for presidential search**

**by Jenny Rees**

Students want Rice's next president to keep enrollment low and address the housing shortage. Andy Weber, the undergraduate representative to the presidential search committee, said the process will take six to nine months and will involve more than 200 applicants. The committee's work will probably be announced in December or January, Weber said.

The search committee is currently gathering input from students, faculty, staff and administrators. It will also solicit suggestions of people to consider as candidates for the position, Weber said.

Weber said he has received written feedback from more than 100 students, many of whom have called for an administration that will pay attention to students' opinions.

"Students want a president who will recognize the students' voice on campus," Weber said. "I think students are the heart and soul of the university and we are looking for a president who will recognize that and engage the students."

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**The joy of cola ... cans**

Children stack aluminum cans at Saturday's Houston Earth Day, held in the South Stadium Lot. Local nonprofit groups hosted booths and performances at the event.

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**Web site pirates image of Lovett Hall**

**by Lindsey Gilbert**

The General Counsel's office will ask the operator of an inexpensive Web-site found at http://www.rapemyprofessors.com, invites students to post complaints about their professors for other students to view. In the site's logo, the name of the site and a slogan, "The place to insult, demean, and taunt your most hated professors in a nonthreatening way," is printed on a panoramic picture of Lovett Hall.

Until Wednesday, the site also offered T-shirts with the Lovett Hall image for sale. The operator of the site, a Boston University student who wished to remain anonymous, said he discontinued sales of the shirts in question after receiving a notice from the merchandise company, CafePress.com.

"I called CafePress.com and told them they had been contacted by Rice about the legality of the image, he said.

Davidson said Lovett Hall is a recognizable building and its use could create confusion among site viewers, who might think Rice supports its content.

"It creates a sort of associational disparagement," he said. "There's some confusion that can be created in the marketplace. People might think that is a Rice-related site, or Rice-backed, or Rice-sponsored or somehow Rice-affiliated.

The first step in such cases is to send a cease-and-desist letter, Davidson said. If the student is cooperative and refuses to discontinuie use of the image, Rice could take legal action under common law arguments.

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**Parking draws moved to the spring**

**by Rachel Rustin**

The old parking rules keeping going and the new ones are coming in.

- With changes in the policy of where student parking lots, both the North and the South Colleges-Lots will be permitted only parking starting the first day of classes in August.
- While both lots have traditionally had a large period of, study classes held

Parking lots University police (department has unattended officers, will begin issuing citations, the first week of classes.

Colleges will complete jacks by the end of the semester and RUPD will issue stickers during Orientation Week and the second day before classes start.

Rice University Police Department

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**Honor Council considers future changes**

**by Mark Bercenson**

The Honor Council considers election last week was not the end of the council's work on the Student Judicial Board. It also featured hemp weaving and brownies.

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**Running for burritos**

The first 100 people in line are offered a free burrito, no purchase necessary. The burritos were purchased by the Student-Athlete Committee in an attempt to show students that the administration is trying to help Rice students.

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**No more Threshers**

Unfortunately, the break is not indefinite. Instead, this will be the last issue until the graduation issue, May 16, when we will be forced to come back to Rice to put together a paper that will be mailed to you all that you probably won't even read. Darn.
New president needs fun, student-oriented focus

The time has come for us to make our wish list for what we want in the next Rice president. We're trying to be realistic here; we know we are never again going to find a person who exactly looks like Beris Yeltain. That said, we would like the Presidential Search Committee to seek candidates who match the qualifications and traits that will allow the next president to continue what Malcolm Gillis did well and to improve in areas where Gillis could have been better.

First, the new president should be the type of person who will willingly and enthusiastically participate in Rice culture. He or she should also continue the initiatives that have gone well for Gillis. The president should:

• Be committed to being seen on campus as often as possible, especially if the or she is going to be rice across the street from campus. Eating meals at the colleges and watching student activities every now and then, as Gillis is prone to do, are great steps.

• Continue Gillis's laudable willingness to participate in Rice's zany traditions. This has helped make the Rice experience more entertaining with events such as the Gillis-Camacho Study Break, as well as with his receptiveness to Club 13 and Beer-Bike.

• Be able to fund-raise effectively so that opportunities at Rice can increase across the board.

• Aim to bring in more interesting and prominent commencement speakers.

• Despite Rice's critical undergraduate focus, improving the quality of graduate education also needs to be a focus.

Second, the next President needs to do a better job than Gillis of focusing on the quality of the unique Rice undergraduate experience — that which makes Rice special. To this end, the president should:

• Believe in the value of a small student body, and stand in the way of anyone who intends to hike enrollment.

• Realize the attractiveness of Rice's tuition, and seek to reinstate tuition indexing as soon as possible.

• Reverse programs and policies formed as a result of Gillis's obsession with turning Rice into Harvard. As tough as it may be for a university president to swallow, some Rice students came here in order to go to an Ivy League school. Instead of spending time and money becoming an Ivy knockout, the new president should focus on making Rice an even stronger competitor against the Ivies.

• Be a Rice graduate, if possible.

If the next president is as fun as Gillis but more focused on the undergraduate experience (and not the Harvard-imitating experience), we can confident Rice will head in an exciting direction in the coming years.

School should make safety a higher priority

We know the economy is tight, but safety should always be everyone's top priority. Rice's administration should be willing to subsidize departments' costs for purchasing new automated electronic defibrillators.

Building administrators are considering installing defibrillators in Alice Pratt Brown Hall and the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management Building, which is crucial because both are heavily used by Rice faculty.

To make the Rice campus safer, the administration should do the following:

• Install electronic defibrillators at major athletic facilities. This would allow for a quick response in case of emergencies.

• Continue Gillis's laudable willingness to participate in Rice's zany traditions. This has helped make the Rice experience more entertaining with events such as the Gillis-Camacho Study Break, as well as his receptiveness to Club 13 and Beer-Bike.

• Be able to fund-raise effectively so that opportunities at Rice can increase across the board.

• Aim to bring in more interesting and prominent commencement speakers.

• Despite Rice's critical undergraduate focus, improving the quality of graduate education also needs to be a focus.

Racial reparations are not a positive solution

It is in response to Paul Mouton's opinion piece on racial reparations ("Racial reparations would curb hopelessness," April 18) that I am writing.

In the article, Mouton posits that the president should focus on making Rice an even stronger competitor against the Ivies.

I agree with Mouton's point. However, I believe that the article overlooks the history of race relations in the United States.

The history of race relations in the United States is a complex and often painful one. It is important to acknowledge and address these issues in order to move towards a more just and equitable society.

The idea of racial reparations as a solution is flawed because it implies that the problems of race relations can be solved through financial compensation.

The root causes of racial inequality are deeply embedded in systems of power and privilege that have historically restricted opportunities for people of color. Racial reparations cannot address this systemic issue.

Instead, it is crucial to focus on systemic change that addresses the underlying causes of racial inequality. This may include policies that promote diversity and inclusion, as well as support for marginalized communities.

In conclusion, while the idea of racial reparations may seem like a simple solution, it is not a viable approach to addressing the complex issue of race relations in the United States. It is essential to develop comprehensive solutions that address the root causes of inequality and strive for a more equitable society.
Guest column

Cross-burning takes 'freedom' too far

In a ruling that may have major repercussions on America's future, the Supreme Court decided April 15 that it will allow symbolic speech that supports cross-burning. The Court's decision marks a setback for many free expression advocates who had been fighting against cross-burning as a victory for the targets of hate crimes and intimidation.

The Supreme Court's Virginia v. Black decision was widely condemned as a blow to the cause of civil rights and liberties. The Court ruled that using the cross, which has been associated with violence and intimidation, is protected speech. The decision marks a major victory for hate groups and a setback for those who believe in the power of free speech to foster understanding and respect.

Fortunately, the majority of the Supreme Court made clear in its latest ruling that some forms of "freedom" are beyond the pale. The court's decision is a clear signal that it will not tolerate speech that promotes violence or hate.

The best possible protection against the threat implied by cross-burning is a symbolic citizenry united in all forms and fashions of peaceful speech. The ruling has created a dangerous precedent and has opened the door to other forms of speech that are equally damaging. It is up to all of us to ensure that the Court's decision does not go unpunished.

Moaz Abdel-Gawad

Ibn Hamad

The Rice Thresher

Harm caused by Thresher's double standard

Throughout my four years at Rice, the Thresher has maintained a strong front page that features articles on all of its articles, editorials, and columns. It is a university newspaper that serves the Rice community.

Take a look at last week's issue. It had 139 students by name, including 60 student-affiliated. Apparently, none of the 60 student-affiliated was listed, but five of the others mentioned were.

Max Starkenburg

The Rice Thresher

Council should try again after unfair opposition campaigning

Walking to class, I won't let them take away our rights' on a flyer and marched at the rally. We're not the only ones who care about cross-burning as a symbol of hate.

Ames Grawert
Kopay shares anecdotes of being a gay football player

by David Berry

Former NFL running back David Kopay, the first professional football player to openly acknowledge his homosexuality, told a standing-room-only crowd in Sewall Hall 301 Friday that he felt welcomed by Rice and its athletic department.

Through a series of personal anecdotes, Kopay combined sincerity, homosexuality, told a standing-room-only crowd in Sewall Hall 301 Friday that he felt welcomed by Rice and its athletic department.

Although Kopay alluded to the controversial comments made by head football coach Ken Hatfield last semester, he did not specifically address them.

"I know that me being here, in light of what has gone on recently, is very important," Kopay said.

In a Nov. 1 article about homosexuals and collegiate sports, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that Hatfield said he would not specifically address them.

Kopay said he never considered publicly acknowledging his homosexuality during his time as a football player because he feared retribution from coaches and other players.

"There was no way in hell I could ever imagine being here — being in this type of forum — when I was in college or playing pro football," he said. "It was totally in the closet and so unimportant to me, it was like another lifetime."

However, Kopay, who drew on his closeted emotions to fuel his athletic energy, "never would have been as good a player if I had not been trying to prove I wasn't a sissy," he said.

In high school, Kopay was a standout three-sport athlete and received football scholarship offers from many selective schools as the United States Naval Academy and Stanford University.

Asked whether he thinks a male athlete in any major professional sport would ever come out during his career, Kopay said he believes it is unlikely in the near future.

"I don't think it will happen right away, but maybe in twenty years," he said. "Maybe with someone who is so good he knows he will get to play anyway."

Kopay said the Athletics Department received him warmly.

"Athletic Director Bobby May (Will Rice '65) was wonderfully welcoming, and this is the first time I have ever been to a university and been welcomed by the Athletic Department," he said.

After the speech, Kopay said universit,es have an important role to play in increasing the acceptance of gay athletes.

"Colleges, as learning communities, could lead the way," he said.

Natalie Nardechia, a Brown College senior, first presented the idea of having Kopay come to Rice to the President’s Council on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Campus Climate.

"I thought it was important, in light of what has gone on here, to have someone come to speak who has experience as a gay athlete," Nardechia, a former member of the women’s varsity soccer team, said.

Sid Richardson College senior Craig Dos Santos said he thinks Kopay’s talk was of great benefit to the Rice community.

"Sometimes what people need is to see someone who is gay to make that personal connection, and I hope that’s what went on here today," Dos Santos, also a member of the men’s track team, said.

Baker College President Mel Batchelor said although Kopay’s speech lacked structure in some places, she enjoyed it and views it as a positive step.

"His speaking at Rice encourages dialogue on an issue I think is very important — that of discrimination towards homosexuals in the arena of sports," she said.

A large percentage of students in attendance were varsity athletes, and members of several teams, including the football team, said they had been urged to attend.

Kopay’s visit was funded by Athletics Department, the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Program for the Study of Women and Gender, and PRIDE.

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Faculty members recognized

Eight faculty members given tenure and six promoted to professor

by Daniel McDonnell

Various groups members received recognition for outstanding teaching with the announcement of the 2003-2004 Faculty Teaching Awards and the faculty promotions.

Teaching awards

Twenty-four faculty members will receive teaching awards at the faculty meeting May 9. The awards are:

- Council of Upperclassmen Award
- Excellence in Teaching Award
- Student Award
- Faculty Award
- Professor Emeritus Award
- Founders Certificate Award

Faculty promotions

Six faculty members were promoted to professor:

- George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching: Winners will receive $5,000. (See Box)
- Rockefeller Foundation Professorship: Winners will receive $40,000. (See Box)
- Assistant Professor of History: Winners will receive $40,000. (See Box)
- Assistant Professor of Bioengineering: Winners will receive $40,000. (See Box)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology: Winners will receive $40,000. (See Box)
- Assistant Professor of Computer Science: Winners will receive $40,000. (See Box)

Just clarifying what the Honor Council is — which to me is a separation of the process from the board — but the board is still to be discussed and determined," Zammito said.

"The council could potentially be merged and over and over again, but it doesn't know what mistake it is making according without knowing," Scheid said.

"Getting the abstract, we will have a chance to look at it and do our part," Scheid said.

Assistant Director for Student Affairs Robert S. Gillis supported the creation of the appeals board.

"It gives a much clearer idea of what is going on in the whole process, rather than [what] just happened in the first stage, which I think is very important," Scheid said.

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WILLY'S PUB

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Doug, Katie Beth, Dave, and Trevor

For Another Great Year!

Thanks For Your Hard Work.
Good Luck To Next Year's Management Team:
Trevor, Ryann, Dave, and Sorte
Weber collects feedback

President, from Page 1

Weber said many students do not want the next administration to increase enrollment substantially, especially without adding more on-campus housing.

"There's a general view that enrollment should not increase dramatically and should not be done at a higher pace than the increase in space for housing," Weber said. "Any increase should be small and accompanied by an increase in housing."

Wexner sophomore Sarah Salazar, who was present at the SA discussion, said she wants the next president to avoid increasing student specialty enrollment.

"I think it's really important that the next president retain the sense of Rice as a small, affordable school and not jack up the tuition and just jack up the enrollment," Salazar said. "This size and environment really caters to the individual student. It would be hard to lose our spot as the number-one first-year school."

Weber said he thinks an important key to the future is to "address the balance between teaching and research. He said students have expressed the belief that professors should be rewarded for good teaching as much as they are for successful research.

"The balance between teaching and research has to be addressed," Weber said. "The next president is going to have to make that decision — what's the best mix for Rice?"

Another issue the next president will face is Rice's future involvement in Division I athletics, Weber said. "The student body and the administration will need to decide whether to increase, decrease or maintain the current level of financial support for the Athletics Department."

Honor Council Chair Keith Remusco, who attended the SA discussion, said he wants the new president to be supportive of a student-run honor system.

"The new president should try very hard to uphold the rules that Rice University Student Senate passes," Remusco, a Jones College junior, said. "I hope the new president will be less concerned with enforcing the honor system as I know the student of Rice is, and the faculty as well."

Weber said student should resolve so many issues as possible with the current administration to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"I don't think anyone wants someone to come in their first semester and have something like a KFRUaura," Weber said, referring to the administrative shutdown of Rice's student-run radio station in fall 2000. "You want the first few months to be relatively smooth. I encourage the SA to engage the current administration as much as possible and get these issues resolved.

Weber said he hopes to receive more feedback from students before the end of fall exams. He said students wish to express their opinions on any aspect of the presidential search should fill out one of his surveys or send him an e-mail.

"There are a lot of things that students feel strongly about," Weber said. "Someone's written about almost every issue out there, and now I'll have to judge the level of responses what's most important."

Student faces criminal assault charges

Charges stem from altercation where student broke fellow student's nose

by Ian Everhart

Jones College junior Ben Stephens faces criminal assault charges after Rice College senior Robby Morgan punched him during Rice's Jammy Party April 11.

Charges have been filed against Stephens with the Harris County District Attorney and with University Court.

Dorian Colar said Stephens was charged with assault, a misdemeanor, for hitting Morgan and causing bodily injury.

Stephens will appear at a May 7 hearing, which will begin the process of bringing the case to trial or reaching a plea bargain agreement. The maximum sentence he can receive is one year in prison and a $4,000 fine.

Morgan said April 11 at about 10:45 p.m. Stephens was attempting to leave Morgan's suite, where Morgan and his roommates were hosting a private party, with two cups full of beer. Morgan, the former Wexner president, asked Stephens to leave the drinks in the room. The Rice University Alcoholic Beverage Policy states that any party taking place in a private area that ends up overflowing into public space, such as hallways, landings, lounges or other common areas, becomes a public party.

Morgan said after Stephens punched him twice in the face and left the scene, Morgan laid down for a few minutes before going to Wexner House and calling Rice University Police Department.

Morgan went to Memorial Hermann Hospital and then St. Luke's Hospital, where he was treated for a broken nose. Morgan said he had facial reconstruction surgery to repair the injury and a pre-existing injury, and said he was irritated by the incident.

"It's pretty painful to punch the face you've given all the beer to drink the entire day," Morgan said.

Economist Robert Shiller wonders why

we have such faith in the utter rationality of markets when we ourselves can be

deceived, you know, irrational. Bad judgment, loss information, half-baked strategies — there are times when money brings out the worst in people. That's why Prof. Shiller's retirement dollars are invested with a company whose lehwehead thinking stands out in a world where impulse and intuition are backing intelligence and insight.

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Student Association meeting on Monday. The following were discussed:

- Students who can proctor self scheduled exams should contact their senator.
- Elections Chair Ames Growett announced the results of the Honor Council at-large election and referendum, held April 15 and 16.
- The senate approved the Rice Tai Chi Association as a new club.
- The senate approved Quick Houston, a magazine about offbeat entertainment in Houston, as a new club. The faculty sponsor will be Student Media Advisor Jim Cooper.
- The senate approved changes to the bylaws repealing the changes approved April 7 that allowed the Spring Elections to occur.
- The senate approved Manish Agrawal as co-chair of the SA Standing Committee on Sports and Health.
- Andy Weber, undergraduate representative to the presidential search committee, laid out the characteristics students want to see in the new president. (See Story, Page 1.)
Summer storage to change

by Olivia Allison

Brown College will lose half of its summer storage space because Health Services will move into the old Brown Commons, while Hassen's College's basement has been refurbished to allow for increased summer storage.

Wiese College will use first-floor non-residential rooms to store couches, but Wiese President Andy Perez said the college will not be able to store students' other items.

Marcel College will be able to use either its basement or two non-residential rooms on the first floor instead of the two first-floor classrooms it used last year, but otherwise its storage accommodations will not change dramatically. The other five colleges' storage situations will remain the same.

Brown President Kathleen Milano said Brown's storage has decreased significantly because Health Services and the Health Education and Wellness Office will be moving to the old Brown Commons and basement in the fall.

"In the past, Brown students were typically able to store the majority of their items — including couches and futons — on campus, but items stored over the summer this year may not include any sort of furniture," Milano, a junior, said.

Milazzo said students will be able to store boxes and small refrigerators. Milano said she has not heard any complaints about the decreased storage space, and believes students are looking for alternate storage space.

"I think there's been a lot of discussion about it, but I think people are just dealing with it," she said.

In addition, she said she is working with Housing and Dining to find other summer storage spaces at Brown, such as basement closets. She said these spaces will probably not be available next summer but might be used in the future.

"We don't even know right now what's in those closets, and we need to go through and reorganize," Milano said.

Hassen's College's basement will be able to use the newly remodeled basement space for summer storage, which has been unusable for a few years. Hassen "converted" the basement area in September 2001 because of a leak that left two inches of standing water in an area where there was established electrical work. Last year, Hassen students stored their items in the basement of the new Wiese Commons.

H&D Director Mark Ditman said the basement has been repainted and is now safe for storage. One leak persists, but the problem will be fixed by the time students move items into the space, he said.

"Hassen already has an enhanced storage situation," he said.

Hassen President Alex Sigeda said the new space is sufficient for Hassen students' possessions.

"There's plenty of space in there, and I think they'll find it," he said. "Last summer H&D fixed things in there, and now they are saying it is 'flood-proof.' Hassen will go ahead and take their word for it and see where it takes us.

However, Sigeda said all students should remember there are no guarantees on the basement areas, and they should remember this when deciding how to store their belongings.

"There's no guarantee or protection in place against damage or theft, so students need to decide on their own how much they want to risk," he said.

Ditman sent a memo to college presidents, which stated that the off-campus facility Storage USA will provide discounts to Rice students.

Ditman also said the service www.CollegeBoxes.com, a company that picks up students' boxes at the end of a semester and stores them, contacted him about becoming affiliated with Storage USA.

"I'd rather have a week and a half of intensity and get it over with than have it dragging and dragging," Taylor said.

Each of the north colleges received 25 close-in spots, and each of the south colleges received 27.

Taylor said the new policy does not apply to the residential student lots in the stadium, though the plan for those lots during August has yet to be finalized.

Parking gates in these lots will most likely be open at the beginning of the year, he said. Taylor said he has been working with SA co-presidents Bryan Deblank and Michael Leggieri and Associate Vice President for Planning and Administration Neil Binfords to resolve student concerns to a practical manner.

Binfords, who makes the final decision about the gates being open, said he was not reached for comment.

Rice College President Ryan Borgen said holding the parking jack in the spring was not a problem, but being notified late was an inconvenience.

Sid Richardson College President Beca Schendel said Sid attended their parking rules to deal with the situation, but she expects the change to have its benefits.

"Overall, I think the first few weeks of school will be a bit hectic because it will be clear who is allowed to park where from the very beginning," Schendel, a junior, said.

Taylor said the RUPD office will be open the weekend before school starts in order to issue decals. Parking in the close-in lots cost $34, plus the $86 shuttle fee paid for by all students.

Council concerned with site

WEBSITE, from Page 1

"I just think it's horrible that anybody would wear a shirt that advocates rape in any way, even in a joking manner," she said.

The operator said the site has not attracted any participants, such as he hoped, and he was told he could not advertise by at least one company.

After purchasing an ad on the electric screen next to the side awn.jork.com, he was notified that some patrons were offended, and he was banned from further advertising, he said.

The student said he received several e-mails from students asking about the image of Lowell Hall, and he posted a take-e-mail address, adamw@refreshingwaste.com, to divert the questions.

"This was not a problem, he has no affiliation with Rice and is willing to take down the image of Lowell Hall if asked.

"I have no personal vendettas against Rice University," he said. "I think it's a great school, but now that the student government is the poster people from your school, I'm beginning to question that fact."
Turn Off Your Boom Pow: The Influence of Cartoons in Art, Batman!

The Contemporary Art Museum of Fine Arts. The film, about a bureaucrat of Adam West and Burt Ward prancing about in a costume called the Caped Crusader and the Holy Comic-Identity Crisis, is at the Museum of Fine Arts, tonight through Sunday at 7 p.m.; $5 students, $6 others.

WILL KILLED 'RAMP'? Latest horror flick, 'Identity' seems to be suffering from crisis

Raj Wahl, Houston Press

We're back again! Yet another movie in which a bunch of strangers are trapped in a building with a mysterious killer and are subsequently murdered one at a time because they all have one thing in common. 'Identity' opens with a psycholog-ical thriller (Alfred Mediina) reviewing a cryptic audiotape with a client (Pruitt Taylor Vince) who has been so moved by silence, which was all... something in common. The trailers for 'Identity' were quite intriguing, but it turns out to be rather interesting. The group includes an ex-cop (John Cusack), an octogenarian washed-up actress (Rebecca de Mornay), in a truly embarrassing performance, the injured woman's watching husband (John C. McGinley), a handy mannequinn couple (Dea Du Vall and William Lee Scott) and a compassionate hooker (Amanda Peet, who gives the film's best performance even though her character is straight off the shelf-o'-cliches). Also in the mix are a bookish, Burt Lanford supporting the murder (Julia Roberts), a truly bad attitude who is transporting a psycho-terrorist (John Hawkes) who, being the most obvious suspect for the murders, is inevitably revealed to be the killer when he is found with a baseball bat stuffed down his throat. La Haye through the film, there is a revelation that can only be described as a tragic catch-22. On one hand, this plot twist makes the story more interesting than the standard, hollow goe-seedo 'Identity might otherwise have degenerated, yet on the other hand, the nature of the revelation also requires the movie to screw over the main character, who unfortunately were also twirling out to be rather interesting. In a way, I suspect the key plot twist would have worked better if the cast hadn't been so good. Identity is populated with solid, instantly likable actors like Cusack and DuVall, a fact that was quickly overshadowed by the film's own poor moments. It's a real shame, which was all... something in common.

Amanda Peet and John Cusack take starring roles in the post-apocalyptic thriller, 'Identity.'

Caroline Shaw, Houston Grand Opera

Renee Fleming and her character, Violetta Valery, had one thing in common in the first scene of operatic night of La Traviata: the pressure to play the perfect hostess.

'La traviata'


Fleming has been saluted as having "the world's most beautiful voice" (The New Yorker) and has performed in every major opera house in the world. Last summer, she sang Violetta in Verdi's La Traviata for the first time at the Houston Grand Opera April 17, transcending journalistic hype and evoking anticipation with the presence and presence of a truly great artist. She chose Houston as the site for her Traviata debut because it was here that she got her first big break years ago, with Christoph Eschenbach in The Marriage of Figaro, a historic replacement.

The role of Violetta is exciting both in its singing range and its color. The voice of Fleming is loved for its warmth and size, and she has many rich qualities with controlled brilliance. She is the self-possessed, forceful singer who gives voice through the main principal character, the aging courtesan Violetta Valery. Fleming's voice is used for all its possibilities, and she has many moments during the show to use its rich qualities with controlled brilliance. She has the world's most beautiful voice," performs La Traviata for the first time at the Houston Grand Opera. Fleming's gripping acting was well matched with tenor Paul Charles, Tenor Paul Charles, tenor Paul Charles, and their chemistry together was great in worth onstage. The first really con- vincing romantic pairing we've seen in a while... something in common.

Who Killed 'RAMP'? Latest horror flick, 'Identity' seems to be suffering from crisis

Raj Wahl, Houston Press

We're back again! Yet another movie in which a bunch of strangers are trapped in a building with a mysterious killer and are subsequently murdered one at a time because they all have one thing in common. 'Identity' opens with a psycholog-ical thriller (Alfred Mediina) reviewing a cryptic audiotape with a client (Pruitt Taylor Vince) who has been so moved by silence, which was all... something in common. The trailers for 'Identity' were quite intriguing, but it turns out to be rather interesting. The group includes an ex-cop (John Cusack), an octogenarian washed-up actress (Rebecca de Mornay), in a truly embarrassing performance, the injured woman's watching husband (John C. McGinley), a handy mannequinn couple (Dea Du Vall and William Lee Scott) and a compassionate hooker (Amanda Peet, who gives the film's best performance even though her character is straight off the shelf-o'-cliches). Also in the mix are a bookish, Burt Lanford supporting the murder (Julia Roberts), a truly bad attitude who is transporting a psycho-terrorist (John Hawkes) who, being the most obvious suspect for the murders, is inevitably revealed to be the killer when he is found with a baseball bat stuffed down his throat. La Haye through the film, there is a revelation that can only be described as a tragic catch-22. On one hand, this plot twist makes the story more interesting than the standard, hollow goe-seedo 'Identity might otherwise have degenerated, yet on the other hand, the nature of the revelation also requires the movie to screw over the main character, who unfortunately were also twirling out to be rather interesting. In a way, I suspect the key plot twist would have worked better if the cast hadn't been so good. Identity is populated with solid, instantly likable actors like Cusack and DuVall, a fact that was quickly overshadowed by the film's own poor moments. It's a real shame, which was all... something in common.

Amanda Peet and John Cusack take starring roles in the post-apocalyptic thriller, 'Identity.'

Caroline Shaw, Houston Grand Opera

Renee Fleming and her character, Violetta Valery, had one thing in common in the first scene of operatic night of La Traviata: the pressure to play the perfect hostess.
Talent wasted on ‘Identity’

CAST, from Page 9 who could emerge from all but the very worst movies with their dignity intact. These are performers who carve out characters with more sympathy and nuance than the rushed, let-guest-to-guest-already-each-a-slasher-movie-allows-performers-in-embryo. To put it succinctly, most of the cast of Identity is way, way overqualified.

The key plot twist would have worked better if the cast hadn’t been so good.

Oh, and while I’m still in tirade mode, here’s another thing that annoyed me: You know that “whump” sound effect that gets blasted through the theater speakers any time there’s a collision in a movie? The one that decalcifies your kneecaps, alters your heart rate and has been known to cause seizures in white mice?

Thanks to Identity, I have learned that all of the following things make that “whump” noise at more or less the same volume: a tire blowout, a woman being hit by a car and a severed head spinning around in a dryer. But, if you’re going to leave a movie with decalcified kneecaps, you might as well have learned something in the process.

Yes, I know I’m being rather cranky about all this, but really, is it too much to ask that actors as talented and enjoyable as Cusack, Poit, DuVall and Molina actually be given something interesting to do in a movie? Cusack in particular should be his agent. Anyone who can carry a film like Say Anything deserves much, much better than this. For that matter, so does the audience.

SUPPORT, from Page 9 HGO season). Clarke has a strong sense for that flammable Italian passion, though his voice can sometimes sound piercing. The role of Georgio Germont, Alfredo’s father, was sung by last-minute replacement Bruno Caproni of Northern Ireland, who was also one of the highlights of the performance. He has that low, commanding, paternal sound that resonated perfectly in the role.

Another supporting star who is sure to have her own shining career soon is HGO Studio artist Angela Niederlech, whose performance of Violetta’s friend Flora reminded me of an operatic version of Marianne on “Cybill.” Her character was always engaging, fitting into the scene exactly as the winsome best friend should, and with a voice that held its own next to the Grammy-winner. The success of this all-star cast was due in part to the staging of Americans Frank Corsaro (director) and Priscilla Nathan-Murphy (choro-}

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 200C

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COURTESY HOUSTON GRAND OPERA
**Women’s tennis hopes to pull off WAC tourney upset**

by Wei-Han Tan

The women’s tennis team may not be the favorite to win this weekend’s Western Athletic Conference tournament, but they are relaxed and prepared for the trip to Boise, Idaho.

"The girls had a great week, and we’re ready to go," head coach Roger White said. "We’ve been playing as a team, and we’re going to take care of business against ourselves."

"We’re definitely in the mix," senior Lindsey Sarles said. "The Owls are ready to compete in the tournament and are looking forward to playing against everyone else."

"It’s been a great season, and we’re excited to see what we can do in the conference tournament," senior Emily Archer said.

"We’re going to give it our all and see what happens," senior americaneous Katherine Moat said.

"We’re ready to pull off an upset," White said. "We’ve been working hard all season, and we’re confident in our abilities."

"We’re going to play our best and see what happens," Archer said.

"We’re ready to do our best," Moat said.

"We’re ready to give it our all," Sarles said.

"We’re ready to do our best," White said.

"We’re ready to do our best," Archer said.

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Behind the mask
The baseball team's four catchers combine quick wits with a tireless work ethic to anchor the pitching staff

by Jonathan Yardeley
THECHRONICLESTUDENT

Catching equipment is often called "tools of the trade," but catching is also thinking man's position on the Rice baseball team.

On almost all college, minor league and some major league teams, coaches call pitches during games, but head coach Wayne Graham allows his catchers to call their own games.

"I'll yell at them once in a while because I don't know the whole story of how they pitched," Graham said. "I sacrifice the fact that four or five or 10 times a game, they're going to call a pitch that I don't like. [But if it does] for the simple reason that - gives our scouting report and the field in front of them and the fact that they see the hitter - they're overall going to make better decisions out there than I can [in the dugout]."

"I'd probably be bored if I played outfield or something. At catcher, I keep my head in the game all the time."

- Jeff Blackinton
Senior catcher

Volunteer assistant coach Zane Curry (Baker '03), himself a former catcher under Graham during the 1999 and 1999 seasons, called pitching jokes to his catchers' nature.

"It takes a lot of patience [to catch]," he said. "You're supposed to look at the game - not root for your own pitches."

So call pitching, the catchers shall have detailed scouting reports of hitters on the tip of their hands, simultaneously keeping track of the game situation and looking for clues from the lattice. Better pitcher Justin Blackinton said that mental aspect is what make to catch both challenging and difficult.

"There's definitely an artificial aspect in that a lot of people can't see. We're watching the stands. Blackinton said. "[we need] the game, we throw a fastball and the hitter [wants] to come back to the dugout, and think, 'All right, cool, uncanny, and I ended up getting upjumped by a couple of minutes for a guy pitching like that."

The job is just trying to make sure that you do everything the way the scouting report says.

Minds like steel traps
Sophomore righthander Josh Baker said the catchers always seem to know what to call against opposing hitters.

"[The catchers] will go over scouting report, and their minds are like steel traps," Baker said. "I can't be a catcher on the weekends - Man, don't get me [the batters] confused with the other ones! They're right on the money every time."

Because of his emphasis on pitch selection and defense, Graham said offense is not one of the leading factors when he evaluates catchers.

"It's a matter of the philosophy of your program," Graham said. "We like to throw the breaking ball below the knees with two strikes.

To do that, you're going to throw a lot of them in the strike zone. Our premium is on the slider being and blocking. The next premium is on the catcher's ability to receive and blocking. The next premium is on the catcher's ability to receive and blocking."

Ruchti himself is one of the team's catchers and 1590 SAT score was the lowest in his family — but the Bainbridge Island, Wash., resident has been led to the program, sometimes I think with police brutality. He'll shake a pitch off six, seven times, and it's no problem for him, and you just break the game down. Most guys trust what you put down there."

"It depends on who it is, the different kind of techniques you use to talk to them and calm them down on the mound," Ruchti said. "[Sophomore right-hander] Wade [Townsend, for example] needs to be discip- linary, sometimes I think with police brutal- ity. He'll shake a pitch off six, seven times, and it's no problem for him, and you just break the game down. Most guys trust what you put down there."

"I've never been in a program where you don't get to call your own pitches, so I don't know what that's like, but I can imagine," Blackinton said. "That whole part that requires a mental capacity is just completely taken away, and you're just doing whatever the head coach says. The extra yelling that comes every once in a while is a pretty small price to pay for getting to be in charge out there."

Ruchti, who comes from a family of catchers, said he longs pitching at the age of eight.

"In seventh grade [Blackinton] made me the most experience of the quartet. He seldom had to throw it down. Most guys didn't have to spend that money on more than all the big private schools, which I con- sider our competition."
Blackinton walked in here and asked if he could try out for the team. He didn't have a mitt. We had to go in and find him a mitt. — Wayne Graham

Head baseball coach

handle umpires in his four years at Rice. "You have to know what kind of umpire you're working with," Blackinton said. "There's a guy that wants your feedback about what you thought the pitch was, and there's a guy that if you say a word is going to blow up and toss you. You just have to know who you're working with, what you're working with to try and get all the pitches you can for your pitchers." Like Ruchti, Blackinton's favorite major league catcher reflects Blackinton's own traits. "My boy's got to be [Seattle Mariners catcher] Dan Wilson," Blackinton said. "He calls a great game, and he's a great [smart] player. He's got not the best arm, but a good arm. He's just one of those guys who knows the little things, and I appreciate that." Blackinton has excelled at the little things for four years, and he said he knows his diligence behind the plate has been the key to his success.

"I definitely wouldn't be on the team if I wasn't catching," Blackinton said. "Tonight when I was nine, but I didn't catch again until I was a sophomore in high school. That was my way onto the varsity team. Ever since then, it's been my thing."
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Pictorial Review Spring 2003
Rice also enjoyed strong performances from its 800-meter runner, freshman Adam Basch, who set the university record of 1:46.13 for the season's fourth fastest time. Basch ran the final five innings.

The Owls have a 0.500 record in the NCAA Regional Championships this season. They are one of the best in the league. I guarantee you they're as good as Sam Houston State, and [Houston] beat us 8-1.
Women head to Drake Relays

TRACK, from Page 11
weekends, "assistant coach Jim Bevan said. "At Mt. SAC, eight runners out of the 12 runners who go set lifetime bests."

Senior Rick Pasaje leads 20-1/4 in the long jump to place ninth in the long jump invitational competition.

"I flew a jumping against headwinds in two jumps," Bevan said. "Her marks weren't what she wanted but the weather was close to perfect for everybody else."

Junior Keia Watkins took second in the 400-meter dash open event and regionally qualified for the NCAA Regionals by finishing in 54.13. Senior Allison Beckford set the top time in the Western Athletic Conference Athletic this season with her second place finish in the 400-meter invitational. The reigning NCAA 400-meter dash champion's time of 51.69 was only one-hundredth of a second behind Hazel-Ann Regis of Louisiana State University.

"It was a tough race," Beckford said. "It was tough to prepare mentally. A girl running on the inside caught me in the first 50 meters, then a girl outside сделал. It was my first 400-meter race of the season, and I was happy with my time. I opened with a good time this year, which is a good sign."

Freshman Funmi Jimoh narrowly missed a regional-qualifying mark in the 400-meter hurdles. Her 11th place finish was only four hundredths off of a spot at the regional meet.

Freshman Megan Sander recorded her fastest time of the season in the 4000-meter run by finishing 12th in 2:10.90. Freshman Kate Gorry completed the 5000-meter run in 17:13.23, while senior Summer Bell took fifth in the 10,000-meter run in 35:55.32.

I opened with a good time this year, this is a good sign."

— Allison Beckford
Senior track and field athlete

This weekend the Owls will travel to the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. The Relays are typically considered to be one of the biggest outdoor national meets of the year.

"The Drake Relays have been sold out for 38 years in a row," Bevan said. "We have had good performances at the meet for the past two years and we want to try to continue to improve this year."

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Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies.” John 11:25

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.” John 14:6

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 1 John 4:15

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16
Today is the first day of classes for the Spring 2003 semester. It is also the last day for January 2003 undergraduate student matriculants to drop a class. To do so, go to the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.

You know I like that Snack Pack, why can't you just give me a Snack Pack?!

There is a science and engineering ice cream social being held today from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Engineering Quad.

If you are still looking at pictures of me, I'm here to learn, nobody, not to make out with you! Go on with the class. Everybody doesn't understand what and all she can talk about is making out with you! Did ya hear that?

FRIDAY

No I will not make out with you! Did ya hear that? This girl wants to make out with me, I'm here to learn, not to be in the middle of class! You got Chlorophyll Man up here talking about God-knows-what and all she can talk about is the chlorophyll! What a glorious day!

Monday at no point in your rambling, incoherent response were you even close to any thing that could be considered a rational thought.

The last Rice Music Show of the semester will be held today from 1 to 3 p.m. Tune into KROI 91.7 FM (91.5 FM on campus) or listen to the web at www.bru.org to hear music from Rice students, faculty, staff and alumni. Contact matt@bru.org for more information.

I drew the duck blue because I have never seen a blue duck, and quite frankly, I wanted to see a blue duck.

"Parade: An Exhibition," the architecture student show will be presented by the architecture students tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Farish Gallery in Anderson Hall. The show continues from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29th and Wednesday, April 30th.

I'll tell you who it was. It was that damned Sasquatch.

The student directed movie The Gentleman will be shown tonight from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Jones College Commons. This is the second showing, and there will be an additional showing behind-the-scenes documentary and free food. For more information visit www.polu.com/thegentleman.html

Hey, you wanna feed that thing that could be considered a אנ Coil omelet today? I'll tell you who it was, it was the gentleman. I leave the hair silky and smooth!

The 90th Commencement commences today at 8:30 a.m. in the Academic Quadrangle. It will last until about 11:30 a.m., and the speaker will be Shannon Lucid, NASA's senior female astronaut. Following Commencement will be receptions for undergraduate degree recipients and their guests in the residential colleges.

TUESDAY

SUNDAY

27

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Backpage Sells Out to Multinational Corporation

Here we at the Backpage know the value of a dollar. That's why when we were offered 200 of them plus a lifetime supply of Windex for the complete creative control and managing rights of our humble little comic page, our only question was where to sign. Handing the whole thing over to shady businessmen? Why not. Changing the format from comedy to right wing political propaganda? No problem! And so for your enjoyment, here is the debut edition of the Backpage: Multinational-Corporation Style. Back in the glory of big business and conservative politics.

An Address from the New Owner of the Backpage

Hello Backpage Readers,

My name is Roosevelt Gibbons III, CEO of OrgoCorp (the world’s largest multinational corporation) and, as of today, the new owner of the Rice Thresher’s Backpage. For those of you not familiar with OrgoCorp, our history dates back to the 1920s when my dear old granpappy Roosevelt Gibbons ran a small flower stand out of his basement. Dealers of granpappy turned that little flower stand into the largest flower shop chain in all of Western North Dakota. I like to believe that OrgoCorp shares the same values and exemplary customer service that my granpappy embodied and puts it to use in our modern day businesses, consisting mainly of manufacturing, chemical weapons for rogue terrorist organizations and selling hard-core child pornography (and I’m talking real children, not that fake stuff you get on the Internet).

So why would a corporation that’s worth several billion dollars want to purchase the humor page of an obscure college out in the middle of hillbilly country? Well, we see the Backpage as a forum for the youth of America and informing them about all the great new OrgoCorp products.

The Last Chance to Donate Your Eggs Before the End of the Semester

Classifieds

**Housing**

**Great Summer Sublets**

- **200 Memorial Drive**
  - Close to Rice. Fully furnished. Two-bath. Call (832) 244-3346.
- **201 Greenway Plaza**
- **6100 Main Street, MS-524**
  - Rates are as follows: $420 per month plus utilities. Call (713) 311-1416.

**The Goose Would Like to Present:**

**The Pub Rookie All-Stars 2003**

- **Daria Flores**
- **Liz Mims**
- **Mollie Peters**
- **Ashley Pfefker*una Laf Donald**
- **Claire Pritchett**
- **Sam Syndons**

**Quiet Roommate Wanted**

- Two-bedroom, two-bath apartment with utilities. Call (800) 293-3985 ext. 155.

**MONTROSE SUMMER SUBLET**

- May 1 thru August 31.
  - One room in a two-bedroom apartment. Hardwood floors, large common room and backyard. Call (281) 639-6333 or (713) 7950011.

**Help Wanted**

- **Summer Full-Time Receptionist**
  - at Greene’s Pharmacists. Please call (214) 503-6553.

**Marketing Company**

- Seeking college students to work part-time on special projects. Call (713) 352-0235 or (713) 352-0235.

**Bar Work**

- Bartender Trainees Needed
  - Must have lots of energy and be good with people. For info, contact Sean at erinw@rice.edu.

**Miscellaneous**

- **CAR RENTAL**
  - 1-800-GRAB-A-CAR
  - (281) 639-6333 or (713) 7950011.

**Birthday Bash**

- 21st birthday bash. Call (713) 871-1116.

**The Thresher reserves the right to refuse any ad and does not take any reason and does not take any responsibility for the factual content of any ad.**

By Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

Syria, Syria...has the past month taught you nothing? We know you gave Saddam the night vision goggles, we know you let the tail of his hiccups hole up inside your borders for a while, and we’re pretty sure you’d go down faster than an insecure drunk girl on Spring Break at Padre. But go ahead, piss us off. We’ll fight you for fun. It’ll be good sport for the soldiers who are bummed that Iraq was so easy.

Or you could try to hide behind France’s skirts like you did in front of the UN Security Council, and see how far that gets you. Are you really going to trust an army whose frou-frou uniforms are straight out of Moulin Rouge, and whose lone aircraft carrier is made primarily of pipe cleaners and old issues of Le Monde? While you’re at it, you might remind France that the only reason they’re even on the Security Council is that we felt sorry for them after World War II. France did put up a good fight for the first 45 minutes or so, so we decided. ‘What the heck? Let’s let them in.’

But we can take it away just as easily as we can give you the Iraq treatment.

The same goes for you, Iran. Don’t think we’ve forgotten you. Hell, your name is only one letter away and North Korea, watch your ass. Seriously, what member of the North Korean military won’t trade sides for a cup of rice and some two-ply Charmin?

But I don’t want the world at large to start worrying they’re next on the list. Like, Mauritania or whatever. Just mind your business, do what we want and we’ll let you see Christmas. What? You don’t celebrate Christmas? On second thought...