Civil Engineering B.S. degree cut

by Lindsey Gilbert

Civil and environmental engineering majors returned to Rice this year to find their department in the midst of substantial change.

Unlike the 2003-2004 General Announcements, students can no longer earn a Bachelor of Science in civil and environmental engineering. Instead, the General Announcements list only a Bachelor's of Arts degree, which is not a professional degree.

CEVE Department Chair Herb Ward said the change is only temporary, and all if not all planned, the B.S. degree should reappear in the 2004-2005 General Announcements. The department is in the process of redefining its curriculum, he said.

CEVE majors said they were not told about the change until they returned to school this year, and many said they learned about the challenges facing the department from an e-mail sent by Ward during the first week of classes.

"We didn't feel that the department was in a position to offer a degree of the quality and distinction that is appropriate for Rice right now," he said.

Hughes resigned to accept a position at the Georgia Institute of Technology, leaving the department short a professor. Assistant Professor Michael Torok said he plans to leave at the end of this year, leaving another position open.

Ward said although the department is going through a period of uncertainty, current juniors and seniors will not be affected.

"This is no way influences the existing students," he said.

There are about 25 juniors and seniors in the CEVE department, Hedrick said.

Sophomores on track to declare a CEVE major should have no trouble following their current course schedules, Ward said. Freshmen should take prerequisite courses and plan further when they see the new major requirements.

The appeals board was created last April by a student vote to play a role in parking citation appeals, but none of these circumstances are grounds for appealing a citation, Binford said.

The only factors considered in deciding an appeal are whether the individual committed a violation and whether the ticket was written correctly, he said.

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Parking ticket appeals will require deposit

by Jenny Riess

Parking ticket recipients who wish to appeal citations will be required to pay a $10 deposit under the revised and reorganized 2004-2005 parking regulations. The deposit will be refunded if the appeal is granted or deemed not frivolous.

A large number of tickets have been appealed with no frivolous grounds, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Neill Binford said.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of appeals we've received in the last few years have been frivolous," Binford said. "It's surprising that a lot of people don't read the regulations before they make an appeal. Many appeals are made on the grounds that the individual did not know the regulations, was late due to a class or appointment or was unable to find a legal parking space, but none of these circumstances are grounds for appealing a citation, Binford said. The only factors considered in deciding an appeal are whether the individual committed a violation and whether the ticket was written correctly, he said.

The Rice University Police Department has been flooded with parking citation appeals, and there have been long delays in processing appeals as a result, UPD Chief Bill Taylor said.

"The reality is, sometimes it takes a month or more to process an appeal, and the people with good appeals have to wait for us to get through all those frivolous appeals," Taylor said.

President Malcolm Gillis approved the new appeals system during the summer as part of the general changes to parking at Rice, and it took effect when the 2003-2004 parking regulations were distributed during Orientation Week.

Taylor said he thinks the new system, which was designed by the University Standing Committee on Parking, will greatly reduce the number of appeals.

"We've seen no noticeable results so far, but I suspect as people start realizing that if they send in an appeal and that appeal is denied they've lost an extra 10 dollars, they'll think twice before appealing the ticket," Taylor said. "This product would hopefully lead people to do an appeal the day it gets here or the day before and get an answer to the person within five days."

Faculty seeks council members

by Mark Berenson

The Faculty Council is still searching for faculty members to serve on the newly created Honor Council appeals board.

Speaker of the Faculty Ed Akin said the Faculty Council is currently seeking input, and said he thinks it will be somewhat of a challenge to find faculty members to serve on the board.

"The uncertainty here is how much of a workload this is going to be," Akin, a mechanical engineering and materials science professor, said. "It is important to find people who are willing to serve even though they don't know what they are committing to in this first year.

The appeals board was created last April after the undergraduate student body approved an Honor Council constitutional amendment to that effect. The appeals board consists of two faculty members and the Assistant Dean for Student Judicial Programs, currently Ron Ostfeld.

The appeals board reviews first level appeals of Honor Council cases, which must be decided by the Assistant Dean for Student Judicial Programs only.

The Faculty Council decided at its May 8 meeting that six faculty members will be chosen to serve as a position from which no would be selected to serve on any given case through a partially set method.

According to the Faculty Council minutes, "The governing principle for this faculty group should be that each panel for an appeal should optimally include a faculty member from the closest related area of scholarship and service from outside the field."

All faculty members chosen must be full professors, Akin said.

Honor Council Chair Keith Benedict said he agrees with the Faculty Council's decision to restrict the membership in the appeals board to full professors and said he believes it is similar to the decision to restrict college memberships to tenured faculty.

"This is an important enough position that the same should be true." Benedict, an assistant professor, said. "We want professors who are the most invested in the

Niemann takes a nose dive

Collegebaseballinsider.com National Player of the Year Jeff Niemann slides down the obstacle course set up at the NCAA Championship Party Tuesday. The rally was held to honor the 2003 College World Series National Champions. Niemann was 17-0 last year and Rice won all 22 games in which he pitched. See Photo Feature, Page 8.

Rice sports editor said.

Professor Eugene Leve said he, Dean of Engineering Sidney Burns and former department chair Joe Hughes discussed the status of the department over the course of last year and decided not to include the ESE in the announcements.

"We didn't feel that the department was in a position to offer a degree of the quality and distinction that is appropriate for Rice right now," he said.

While Hughes resigned to accept a position at Georgia Institute of Technology, leaving the department short a professor, Assistant Professor Michael Torok said he plans to leave at the end of this year, leaving another position open.

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Labor Day Holiday

Having Monday off gives us the opportunity to rest, relax and party after all the grading work from the first week of school. Only six more weeks until the next vacation.

Bayou Bucket

Rice plays the University of Houston at Robertson Stadium at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow. Rice is coming off of a tough defeat last year in a season which the University of Houston actually won a few games, so this year's game should be fun to watch. At least we get the Marching Owl Band halftime show.

e-Coop is up

The e-Coop Web site also hosted by the Student Association that lists books students are selling for less than the slightly marked-up prices at the bookstore.
Cutting the B.S.

Civil Engineering majors were more than a little concerned when they discovered that the Bachelor of Science degree in their field is missing from the 2003-2004 General Announcements. (See Story, Page 1.) While the department has so far done a good job of addressing many of the students' concerns, it has also made a number of serious mistakes.

The department eliminated the degree, hopefully for this academic year only, partially because of a shake-up in the faculty. The B.S. program must now be reconstructed.

To their credit, faculty in the department are allowing junior and senior CIVI majors to graduate under the old requirements and receive a B.S. Some classes may not be available because the former department chair left the university, but the department seems willing to work around these inconveniences and graduate everyone who deserves to graduate on time with the major and degree they want.

Underclassmen who later declare themselves to be a CIVI major will graduate under the new requirements, which are a part of the department's amalgamation with the Environmental Engineering department.

However, eliminating a B.S. degree from its offerings — even if only for a year — is hardly indicative of sound planning on the department's part, and should not happen at a highly selective university such as Rice.

Further, the department is erring in not informing incurring freshmen of the change. Although freshmen are not expected to have a declared major, many of them came into Rice with the hope of pursuing the old CIVI degree — a possibility now open only to current undergraduate students. Such a change could have factored into these freshmen's choice of university, and for that reason we wish the department had been more upfront with them.

Finally, the seeming disarray in the department reflects poorly on Rice's reputation as a whole. While juniors and seniors will get their B.S. degrees, they can only hope prospective employers will not pay much attention to the chaos in the department.

Having said all this, we do support the changes the civil and Environmental Engineering departments are making, and are looking forward to the improved program. We just wish it could be improved in a more systematic, less agonizing way.

Lack of opening weekend food is a safety issue

We were disappointed and concerned to see a total lack of food service on campus last weekend. (If the weekend before school starts isn't an official part of our meal plan, we would be willing to foot another $10 in cash.) Besides the usual inconveniences, the dearth of food could have been a health risk, given the amount of drinking that inevitably occurs the weekend before the first day of classes. Do we really want students drinking canoe-on-campus on empty stomachs? Worse yet, do we want them driving intoxicated to get food off-campus?

In fact, on-campus food for two extra days before the start of school will not only make Rice a more convenient place to be but also a safer one. And the same applies to the weekend before the start of the spring semester.

Parking appeals system needs conveniences

We support the decision to make students pay $10 to appeal a parking violation. (The money will be returned if the appeal is found legitimate.) (See Story, Page 1.) The idea makes a great deal of fiscal sense and should decrease the number of frivolous appeals. However, the process of handling them is far from friendly.

When writing an appeal to the police station, a student is unable to pay his $10 in cash, he must either write a check or route the transaction through the Cashier's Office. Further, if the appeal is upheld, he'll have to pay the $10 deposit, not returned directly to the student, instead, it is deposited into the student's Cashier's Office account.

So if a student writes a check from her personal account and then wins her appeal, she must write another check to her; it is credited to a bill that her parents are likely to be paying. Besides, what student really wants her parents to know about her parking violations, justified or not?

Allowing students to pay and receive their appeals deposits in cash will make what is inevitable a hassle run a little more smoothly.

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.
Guest column

Rice Race is one of many Rice-worthys meritorious

As Rice students return to campus, they will debate the merits of the possible race-conscious admissions process in our university. This discussion rests on a foundation of justice. If we are out to make amends with that as its primary goal, we have to clarify what affirmative action is and how to achieve it.

The affirmative action we practice today makes little sense as an attempt to compensate for social injustice. We are out to make amends for the conquest of the Native Americans, blacks, slavery and the Mexican War; why focus on societal elites—those who have more than their fair share of wealth, power and privilege? We discuss the legacy of these sad chapters in our book, but that isn't the point.

Further, the affirmative action system we know ignores the fact that America was founded and is a multicultural nation. However, some blacks from the rural South who came to states like Texas for the last 40 years. No one has a problem with that. Harvard and Yale have, but that doesn't matter. We have to do things the same way with them as with our inner-city problem children.

So affirmative action along strict race lines might partially serve the right good fight against past and present oppression, but that doesn't seem to be the case. Any reasonable system with that as its primary goal would look more at the lower classes more directly.

Rice Voices

Kobe case encapsulates American values

One of the biggest pop culture stories of the summer was the rape allegations against basketball star Kobe Bryant at a Colorado resort. Bryant has pleaded not guilty to assault charges against a 19-year-old woman, who testified that she was attacked by Bryant when she tried to leave his home in July. The case has been scrutinized by many, with Bryant's legal team arguing that the victim's testimony was flawed. Bryant's trial has been delayed until the fall, and the case is scheduled to go to trial in the fall of 2004.

Nourin Khan

The case is perceived by many as a reflection of the intersection of sex and race, and the issues and principles that American society values, and how the case is being treated by the public is important.

Affirmative action follows closely by how society treats the alleged victim. Kobe Bryant was a black man with a white female accuser. His white Hispanic wife and children were not a factor in the case, and Bryant's race was not. The case has been investigated by authorities, and Bryant has pleaded not guilty to charges of sexual assault.

The race factor in the Kobe Bryant case is important to consider. Kobe Bryant is the son of a black man and a white woman, and the case involves an African-American athlete and a white woman. Bryant has not been found guilty of any crime, and the case is still pending.

Turning to the women's rights component, the laws that protect the rights of rape victims have come under public scrutiny. Several news sources have highlighted the need to identify and prosecute those who commit sexual assault.

The Rice Thresher
Coffeehouse plans renovations

Coffeehouse patrons can look forward to a more inviting space. The Coffeehouse will pay the architecture firm Vaughn and Clarkson $4,000 to design three schematics for possible Coffeehouse renovations. Associate Director of the Student Center Paul Sutera said, "Ideas for the renovation include adding stainless-steel counter tops, extending the counters from where the [the] Mac station is currently located to the water fountain, creating large menu boards to hang on the walls, and remodeling the Coffeehouse sign so it can be read from both directions.

At a meeting with Rice community members, Vaughn and Clarkson presented three options to turn a completed plan four to six months later, Sutera said. The renovation will occur monthly during the summer to minimize its impact on Coffeehouse customers, Sutera said.

"Ideas for the renovation include adding stainless-steel counter tops, extending the counters from where the [the] Mac station is currently located to the water fountain, creating large menu boards to hang on the walls, and remodeling the Coffeehouse sign so it can be read from both directions. Architects from the firm will hold open meetings in early October. Com- munity members and Coffeehouse employees will select the best schematic, and the architects will return a completed plan four to six weeks later," Sutera said.

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The Rice Thresher News
Friday, August 29, 2003

Coffeehouse General Manager Monica Kim, a Loretto College senior, said she hopes the changes will create an appealing area outside the window of the Coffeehouse where people will relax and study.

Sweatshirt $9.99

University of Houston College of Optometry

The University Eye Institute at UH-Main Campus offers a Professional Courtesy on Optometric Services to Rice University Faculty, Staff and Students.

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Assl. director of Student Affairs named
by Houston Farris
THE CLUB OFFICE now has a new face greeting students who wan- ner updates in the Rice Memorial Center.

Holly Williams was named as- in Student Affairs. A new face that had been vacant since Heather Masden, the Director of Student Affairs, was promoted last summer.

Masden said she is excited to work with students in various areas of the department. "We're incredibly happy to have Holly," Masden said.

Williams' responsibilities for this year as assistant director will include working with the college coordinators to plan Orientation Week activities for O-Week 2004, being an advisor for the Rice Program Council, planning university activities for the mid-year transfer orientation in January, regrouping and overseeing campus clubs, raising programming funds applied for student organizations and training, overseeing the programming of organizations, Masden said.

Masden said Williams will also work with her in planning Beer-Bike and the Impact Rice Retreat. Williams will take on those jobs herself beginning next year.

Williams said she plans to make student activities a more unified de- partment. "At this point my main concern is trying to pull the department to- gether to try to work on different activities we have, to kind of make a group of things," Williams said.

Williams said she is adjusting to the campus and that nothing has caught her off guard yet. "Rice is a much more liberal campus than what I'm accustomed to," Williams said. "So, that's been a little bit of a transition, but a welcome one."

A committee of students and staff chose Williams from a pool of three finalists. Williams received her master's degree in higher educa- tion in student affairs from Florida State University.

The applicants interacted with members of the search committee and with various student leaders who would be in regular contact with the assistant director of Stu- dent Affairs during day-long inter- views. Masden said.

"I had a fantastic interview with [Masden] and three students," Will- iams said. "It was a day-long pro- cess. They took me out for dessert because my plane was so late the night before, so I was lucky and got to meet some of the students that night."

The applicants were also re- quired to speak about a given lead- ership topic in front of a panel of eight students. At the end of the day, the search committee as- sembled and decided to hire Will- iams, Masden said.

"Every student that interacted with [Williams] gave me positive feedback about how much they would enjoy working with her, how she had a great perspective," Masden said. "From their interac- tions with her, they thought that she would fit well with Rice stu- dents and be able to understand their desires and help them achieve what they wanted to achieve."

Masden said Williams has expe- rience in the areas that are pertinent to her work with college-aged students.

FREE STUDENT ADMISSION
The Athletic Department would like to familiarize you with the procedures related to athletic event student admission.

Undergraduate students are admitted free to all home sporting events by present- ing their Rice ID with the 2003-2004 athletic event sticker (GOLD) at the gate. Visit www.RiceOwls.com for all athletic schedules.

The athletic event stickers will be mailed to undergraduates this week. Graduate students (and their spouses) may purchase the sticker for $10 each at the cashier's office. The GOLD sticker allows free admission to ALL Rice University regular season athletic events during the 2003-2004 school year.

Football at Rice Stadium: Students may purchase two guest tickets at HALF PRICE IF PURCHASED IN ADVANCE ($11 per ticket) at the Atty Court ticket office. Student guest tickets may also be purchased on game day at Gate 4 of the football stadium at full price ($22).

Football at Reliant Stadium: A limited number (1,100) of free student tickets for the September 20, Texas game at Reliant Stadium will be available for pick up at the Miller Lite Gate - Reliant Stadium.

FREE SHUTTLE FOR RICE STUDENTS TO RELIANT STADIUM
The shuttle will start at 5:30PM and will depart from the East side of Rice Stadium, near the regular student entrance at Gate 4. The last shuttle from Reli- ant Stadium will depart before 9:00PM. The drop off and pickup point at Reliant Stadium will be in front of Reliant Center. Return Shuttles to campus will run from 8:30PM - 11:00PM.

Your loyal support is greatly appreciated by the players and coaches. We hope to see you all at these games this season! Please call (713) 548-4068 for more information.
Faculty board pending

HONOR, from Page 1

university because they have been here so long.

Until the faculty board is assembled, Akin said he will work with the Honor Council's faculty adviser, History Associate Professor Joel Wolfe, to choose two faculty members to serve as interim members.

Henneke said such an arrangement would be acceptable under the Honor Council constitution.

"There is no concrete system for how the faculty appeals board should be formed," Henneke said. "All that is required at this point is two faculty members so that any pending cases can be taken care of as quickly as possible.

There is at least one case currently in the appeals process that will require a faculty appeals board, Henneke said.

The Faculty Council has taken other actions related to the Honor Council. The Faculty Council decided to establish a permanent subcommittee on the Honor Council, which will need to be formalized through a change in the Faculty Council's bylaws and also to create a faculty liaison to the Honor Council, separate from their faculty adviser.

Akin said such changes are being made in support of the Honor Council.

"We expect the Honor Council to remain an independent entity, and I think our concern is if there are problems, then we want to know what Faculty Council can do to help resolve those problems," Akin said.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the University Police for the period Aug. 18-25.

Residential Colleges
Martel College
Jones College
Martel College
Other Buildings
Rice Memorial Center
Parking Lots
Greenbriar Lot
Abercrombie Lot
Other Areas
Laboratory Road
Alumni Drive

Aug. 20 Student reported stolen equipment.
Aug. 20 Futon stolen.
Aug. 25 Bicycle stolen.
Aug. 24 Parking gate arm broken. In addition, a Facilities and Engineering cart was found abandoned near Entrance 13 and full of beer. F&E contacted to retrieve cart, gate arm recovered and taken to police station.
Aug. 23 Traffic stop for running a stop sign. Officer found fake Texas identification card on subject. Case active.
Aug. 24 Traffic stop for running a stop sign. Driver was underage and had been drinking, but was not intoxicated. The case was referred to University Court.

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The Baker Institute announces the availability of new student internships to run through the autumn semester.

These internships involve working with Rice faculty and Baker Institute fellows on ongoing public policy research in the areas of energy policy, health policy, U.S. foreign policy, and Chinese culture and possibly other areas.

Economics, political science or engineering background is a plus. Workload may involve up to 10 hours a week. Interested Rice students should supply the following to the Baker Institute as soon as possible:

- a letter of application, including areas of interest
- a resume
- an official transcript
- one letter of recommendation

Information should be addressed to:
Baker Institute Internship Committee
Baker Institute, MS-40

Application consideration will start on September 5, 2003. Decisions will be made on a first come, first serve basis. For more information contact Jillene Connors at x2374 or jconnors@ruf.rice.edu.
Health Services move to old Brown on schedule

by Mark Berreros

Construction of the new Student Health Services and Health Education and Wellness Office in the old Brown College Commons complex is complete for completion in early November. But a move to the Rice Interfaith Center is still pending to accommodate the expanded facility.

During a recent tour of the new Health Services, Rice Interfaith Center director Jonathan Hamrick said the exterior work on the site is nearly complete and interior work is progressing, with city electrical, plumbing and wall inspections completed this week.

Health Services will now have four exam rooms and a triage area, as well as offices for the staff, a workroom and an expanded waiting area. SBWO will have two offices for the staff, two consultation rooms and a large common area complete with computer keyboards and seating.

Some students said they were looking forward to having an expanded facility.

"I think it's always good, especially when it comes to your health, when there's a better facility," said student representative Matthew McGarry.

RUPD hopes deposit will decrease number of appeals

PARKING, from Page 1

Will Rice College junior C.W. McCarthey, one of three undergraduate representatives on the parking committee, said he thinks the plan is fair.

"We decided that frivolous appeals were a waste of time and money, so we designed a system that will not penalize those with legitimate claims but will hopefully curb false ones," McCarrthy said.

"If students actually have a legitimate appeal, it will go through much faster now." Jonathan Hamrick, a Wiess College senior, said he thinks students should have the right to appeal tickets without paying a deposit.

"I wouldn't cast extra to appeal, particularly since there's always the chance of losing an appeal when you think it's legitimate," Hamrick said.

"You should have the right to appeal at any event, and they shouldn't try to deter you from doing that."

Lovett junior Jeff Sweetney said, "I feel it is going to be a hassle having to walk all the way over to the other side."

"If it's bigger and they have more people, it might be more effective than the little tiny place they have right now," Lovett College freshman Abbie Wiedemann said.

However, other students noted that the new location means a longer walk for the majority of off-campus students.

"It's better to have everything in one place so you can go to one place to take care of everything you need," Lovett College freshman Abbie Wiedemann said.

"Hopefully now there'll be more serious appeals rather than people who are just pissed off about a stupid rule," Wan said.

B.S. may return next year

CEVE, from Page 1

department by turning a three-to-five person student committee to work with faculty in developing the new curriculum.

Professor Philip Redentin said he hopes to move quickly in working with students to develop a new curriculum plan.

"There's a massive urgency to get this operation on the books in the next 30 to 60 days," Redentin said.

The new curricula will be much more contemporary than the old curriculum, and will have more flexibility and choice, he said. One new option will be a specialization in urban transportation.

Two years ago, the civil engineering department merged with the environmental engineering department. The current difficulties are not the result of that merger, Ward said.

"One of the hopes for combining the departments two years ago was that there would be a closer scrutiny of what kind of curriculum is right for students at Rice," Ward said at the meeting.

The department has already hired a professor, who will begin work next semester, to teach classes that Hughes taught. They will also recruit a new department chair and a new assistant professor to address the faculty shortage.

Rice's B.S. program in civil engineering has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology since 2006, at time that the Accreditation Board for Engineering, and Technology will review the new curriculum and determine if it is in line with the new standards.

"Some students said they think the sudden removal of the degree could reflect poorly on Rice."

Hansen College junior Schwannah McCarthy said, "I think that the students' well-being comes first." The completed facility will combine Health Services, which is located in Hansen College, with the SBWO office, which is located in the Rice Interfaith Center's cloisters off of Ray Courtyard.

Some students said they think the combined facility will be more convenient.

"It's better to have everything in one place so you can go to one place to take care of everything you need," Lovett College freshman Abbie Wiedemann said.

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B.S. may return next year

B.S. may return next year

"There's a massive urgency to get this operation on the books in the next 30 to 60 days."

- Philip Redentin

CEVE Professor

No freshmen attended Wednesday's meeting.

Levy said he thinks the inter-relation between the two curriculums will benefit students in the long run.

"The reason for [temporarily eliminating the B.S.] is to rethink the structure of the degree in more student contexts," Levy said.

"It's better to have everything in one place so you can go to one place to take care of everything you need," Lovett College freshman Abbie Wiedemann said.

Regardless, other students said they think the sudden removal of the degree could reflect poorly on Rice.
CELEBRATING THE CHAMPIONS

On Tuesday evening, the student body celebrated Rice's College World Series victory with a party complete with various carnival rides and free food from Chipotle, Papa John's, Smoothie King and Coca Cola. Coach Wayne Graham spoke to the students and the baseball team signed autographs for those in attendance. The event was sponsored by the President's Office, the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Student Association.

Top left: The returning members of the 2003 baseball team show the national championship trophy to the students assembled in the Grand Hall in the Rice Memorial Center.

Bottom left: Junior pitcher Wade Townsend sees how fast he can throw the ball in the Speed Pitch machine.

Below: Baker College freshman Mackenzie Moser looks to her friends for help while she climbs the 25-foot climbing wall set up at the baseball celebration outside Ray Courtyard.

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Raj Wahi
THRESHER STAFF

All eyes are on the circus performer as he makes his way skillfully across the tightrope. Then, just when he is less than an inch away from the safety of the platform, he diverts off.

Why? Is he pandering to the.instincts in the audience? Or did he simply forget where he was and what he was doing?

What I will say is that for the most part, director Stephen Frears and screenwriter Stew Knight do a remarkable job of balancing the brutal details of the story with the quiet, more down-to-earth story of OTOCOL's and SOW'S day-to-day existence.

The first sixty minutes of Dirty Pretty Things are, for lack of a better description, a real treat. Much of the movie's appeal can be credited to the actors. Natasha Kharunovas meticulously conveys a mixture of idealistic love and streetwise resourcefulness, Lopez plays SOW with an edgy flamboyance, and Benedict Wong is terrific as OTOCOL's friend at the hospital mortuary.

Ejiofor's performance is by far the most satisfying, as his face is lit with an airy, tiring determination that becomes subtly more desperate and intense as his situation grows from bad to worse. A particularly impressive moment in his performance comes when a lingering immigration official asks him if Senay is his friend or just a patient. Senay's response is, for lack of a better word, "no" when he answers.

A FINE BOTTLE OF LE FAUX FROG

Comedy with French accent bites off more brie than it can chew

Ian Garrett
THRESHER STAFF

Hudson is Isabel Walker, a non-descript young California girl from Santa Barbara. (And a film school drop out in the book on which the film is based, "Waltz with Me," by Romain de Porsand, Isabel's father, dark portion of a pregnant sister who has married into the well-to-do French family of painter and sculptor Charles-Henri de Porsand (Michael Penaard).

Upon Isabel's arrival in Paris, Charles-Henri is on his way out, apparently having found the love of his life—a nonconventional Russian named Magda Toltman (Ronni Hartman) currently married to Isabel's American (Matthew Modine). The divorce the title refers to is the one Charles-Henri must get from the unwieldy Rose in order to marry Magda.

This seems like plenty of material for a single film. Yet this film also tries to tackle and address the societal rifts between Americans and the French. Charles-Henri's family represents the voice of French societal norms. They object to his opinion on how to handle all aspects of the proceedings, as would be proper and respectable—in French society.

The girls family counters the French bias, coming to Isabel's defense and offering their support in the matters at hand. This, too, is just enough for a film about the differences between French and American families.

A good film could have also been made of the coming-of-age story of Isabel. As the young American abroad, she takes advantage of her situation, immediately involving herself with Rany's political activist friend Yves (Roman Duris), innocent writer friend Olivia Tvers (Gena Clouse) with her sister's Peerless Old Uncle Law, and conservative politician with a taste for young girls in fancy undergarments.

Then there are the subplots, including a painting belonging to the girls' family that just happens to be a misplaced masterpiece, the jealous rage of the other woman's husband, an expensive Hermes handbag, Rany's inability to cope with losing her husband's love but later falling for a divorce lawyer, and Isabel's lack of French language skills in the face of bourgeois shopping.

Though these subplots may not have worked as feature films by themselves, they all find themselves tied together throughout the course of the movie.

James Ivory (Howard's End)
Soho BESTSELLER, Page 10
**Best-selling book too complex for the screen**

*BESTSELLER*, from Page 9 adapts yet another Diane Johnson book for the screen. An ambitious effort to capture the bestseller, the film version tries to get the depth and breadth of the novel into a space three minutes shy of two hours.

What defeats this film is its ATTEMPT to fit too much into too little.

Everything provided, *Le Divorce* is not at all what I’d call a bad movie. The acting is consistently good, and the dialogue is well written and believable. What defeats this film is its attempt to fit too much into too little. Material that could very well have filled three to five separate films is all crammed into one. The end result is an oddly edited, broken film that never lets the viewer fully invest themselves in any particular storyline or character — if they succeed in attaching themselves to a character, the film only jumps to another of the multitude of subplots too soon, frustrating the audience.

The full effect of *Le Divorce* is not entirely unlike being told the difference between Americans and the French by someone who keeps backtracking to retell parts of a poorly set-up joke.

**Film ends on unnecessarily bitter note**

*EJIFOR*, from Page 9 For most of the film, the story and direction are as impressive as the acting. Knight’s screenplay slowly and confidently sets up characters and storylines that draw out the audience’s sympathy without ever seeming manipulative or didactic.

Frears and Knight avoid the trap of presenting Okwe and Senay primarily as victims (although Senay is victimized, quite horribly, on at least two occasions), choosing instead to portray these two big-hearted people as survivors above all else. We respond to Okwe and Senay not with pity but with admiration, even as they find themselves facing a snowballing moral dilemma that tempts them to do things that would normally repulse them.

Now, speaking of repellent: What about that ending? Again, it would be unfair for me to give anything away, but suffice it to say that it amounts to Frears and Knight thumbing their noses at nearly everything that has gone before, especially when it comes to the overall tone of the film.

Their feelings take a BACKSEAT to the task of surviving.

The climax is infuriating, not because it is contrived and revolting (although it is certainly both of those things), but because the filmmakers wallow so shamelessly and unexpectedly in the protracted ugliness of the scene, milking the shock value for all it’s worth.

Is it necessary to conclude on such a nasty, borderline-nihilistic note, especially when the rest of the story is such a beautiful example of restraint and gentle observation? Understand, I have nothing against stories with less-than-idyllic endings — as long as such endings are earned. *Dirty Pretty Things* does deserve a great deal of credit for even tackling its subject in the first place, and moreover for doing it with such skill.

Yet by the same token, the movie is all the more infuriating because we sense how much better it could have been — if only it had stayed true to itself and its characters.
Owls open against UH tomorrow

by Dylan Hedrick

Thursday August 23, 2001

Volleyball serves up new coach, season

by Scott Schlegel

After ending last season on a downnote, big changes in the off-season have the Owls looking on the bright side. Although the new coach brings uncharted waters, the Owls hope to put together all the pieces for success.

"It will be a different year in 2003," Hatfield said. "How well we pull together and adapt as the game along will make a big difference in the success of the season." Hatfield said, "It's a good game among active Division I head coaches, in entering his 10th year at the helm and holds a 46-51 record at Rice. Even after ten years, Hatfield said he still gets excited about the first game of the season.

"We're excited about playing," Hatfield said. "It's been a long time since we've played a ballgame. We've been through a lot of ups and downs through spring ball and two-a-days, and we have a lot of people eager to play." While Hatfield has been a staple at Rice for the past decade, UH has a new coaching staff under new head coach Art Briles, who will make his collegiate head-coaching debut against Rice. Briles previously spent 12 seasons as head coach of Neepock High School; a high school southwest of Fort Worth, and three years as the running backs coach at Texas Tech University.

Although the new coach brings uncertainty as to how UH will run its offense, Hatfield said the Owls will be prepared for any sort of situation.

"You take what you know, and you take what you think Briles knows, and you have to adjust to that style of offense," Hatfield said. "It's tough enough preparing for a first game anyway. First, the uncertainty of your own players; second, the uncertainty of the other team; and third, in this case, the uncertainty of the new offensive scheme of the other team." Hatfield said he enjoy the intensity rivalry as a traditional season opener.

"It's rare with a city with two Division I-A football teams in recent years," Hatfield said. "We're excited about playing," Hatfield said.

The football team opens its season Labor Day weekend means two things for sports authorities: rice in the formua case of avoiding defending champ Briles State for the 2003 and 2004 seasons.

As always, sights are set on Rice's first bowl-game appearance in 42 years. which will likely require a top-three finish in the WAC.

The WAC is guaranteed a representa- tive in the Big Ten, the Southeastern Conference, and the Big 12 Conference, among other possible conferences. The Owls hope to put together all the pieces for success.

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**FOOTBALL: OEN**

Owl offense keeping its options open in '03

by Dylan Hedrick

Rice’s offense this year will continue using its successful style from recent years: the spread option.

With six returning starters, the Owls will have a combination of experienced veterans and athletic underclassmen to anchor the offensive corps in what should again be a solid offensive attack.

Last season, Rice finished ranked sixth in the nation in total rushing yardage per game with 247.7 yards, just behind national running powerhouses such as Nebraska and currently fifth-ranked Kansas State.

Four of the top five rushers from last year are returning to the squad, including senior quarterback Kyle Herm. In 11 starts last season, Herm earned a 124.1 quarterback rating while averaging 5.7 yards per carry rushing.

Senior fullback Robbie Beck, the Owls’ leading rusher last year with 661 yards and eight touchdowns, returns as Rice’s most consistent offensive weapon, and junior Ed Bailey will also see time at fullback. Sophomore wide receiver Marcus Meador, winner of Rice’s 2002 George R. Brown Offensive Award, will be Herm’s number-one option in the air. Battle caught 26 passes last year for 430 yards and scored two touchdowns.

“We are going to let the offense set the time for the game,” Herm said. “We are prepared to show [opponents] what we can do.”

Junior quarterback Greg Henderson, no relation to Ken Hatfield, will start at right halfback and sophomore Thomas Lott will start at the right halfback position. Junior Joe Moore has been injured in the preseason, but will also see plenty of playing time. Clint Hatfield entered 150 yards on 48 carries last year and caught a memorable 57-yard touchdown pass at Floyd Stadium against Louisiana Tech University. Clint Hatfield will also perform kick return duties on special teams.

Upfront, Rice’s offensive line will feature two returning seniors — national recognized center Ben Stephens, who has started 21 games in his collegiate career, and right tackle Chris DeMuntran.

Ken Hatfield is still shuffling the 300 lb. lineman to special teams.

“We would run one drive for 60 minutes if we could,” Ken Hatfield said. “But we can’t, so I guess we will have to run down the clock for 10 minutes in the first half, kick a field goal, and do it again in the second half.”

**A glance at the starting lineup**

**Offense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Bill Parham</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Starting quarterback in 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Ben Wiggins</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Team's leading rusher last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Robby Beck</td>
<td>Sr. FB</td>
<td>Runs for a touchdown against Hawaii last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Marcus Battle</td>
<td>So. WR</td>
<td>Rice's top receiver and always a threat to break open downfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Dustin Haynes</td>
<td>Jr. LCB</td>
<td>Speedy wideout who played in eight games last season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Adam Hermski</td>
<td>Jr. LB</td>
<td>Talented player who notched two sacks and a fumble recovery in his 11 games in 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Terry Haskins</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Second team all-WAC player who led the team with 52 tackles last season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Steve Syptak</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>One of the best option QBs in matchup with 124.1 OB rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Dustin Haynes</td>
<td>Jr. LCB</td>
<td>Speedy wideout who played in eight games last season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top Rushers**

Rice returns five of its seven leading rushers from last year:

- **Name, Pos.**
  - **2002 Att-Yds**
  - **2003 Att-Yds**
  - **Avg. Yds.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben Wiggins, HB</td>
<td>95-482</td>
<td>113-416</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Herm, QB</td>
<td>95-482</td>
<td>113-416</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbie Beck, FB</td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Battle, WR</td>
<td>6.4 300</td>
<td>6.4 300</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dustin Haynes, LCB</td>
<td>40-211</td>
<td>40-211</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOOTBALL: DEFENSE

Athleticism, effort will key defense's success

by Dylan Hedrick

The football team's defense will have to rely on its youthful athleticism and speed rather than on experience for the upcoming season.

The ‘99 defensive line, for example, with three new starters is not the biggest or the most experienced but has plenty of raw talent to make up the difference.

With new faces at the defensive ends, nose guard, weak-side linebacker, corner back and safety. Rice will look to the veteran leadership of the returning upperclassman for stability.

Senior linebacker Jeff Vanover, who won Rice's Jess Neely Defense Award last year, will be the key figure for both performance and leadership. Vanover led last year's team with 92 tackles — including four sacks — and three forced fumbles. Vanover, the starting strong-side linebacker, was named the presssion Western Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year by The Dallas Morning News. Vanover said Rice is focused on the WAC but also values tomorrow's collegiate game on opening night.

"Our goal this year is obviously to be conference champions," Vanover said. "We want to win every game we play — especially the first game against Houston — and have bragging rights for the rest of the year."

While sophomore Adam Herrin will be the speedy trio of junior Raymore Barnes at free safety, junior Tery Holley at rover and sophomore Michael Morris at halfback, all three ran track in high school, and Barnes has the most experience after racking up 47 tackles as a starting corner back. Head coach Ken Hatfield said the entire defense will have to be on its toes against UH, which is expected to use a wide-open passing attack under new head coach Art Briles.

"The first game is going to be hard (on the defense)," Hatfield said. "It's tough enough preparing for a first game anyway. First, the uncertainty of your own players, second, the uncertainty of the other team; and third, in this case, the uncertainty of the new offensive scheme of the other team."

Most of Rice's uncertainty stems from an untested defensive line. Current Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Brandon Green, nose guard B.J. Ferguson (Sid Rich '03) and defensive tackle Nick Sabula (Haast) are gone, leaving junior Jeremy Calhoun as the only returning starter on the defensive line.

"We have some good senior leadership," Hatfield said. "At the same time, we think we have some good young players who redshirted last year who are exciting and will add to the new personality of the team."

Hatfield said he hopes the new players will quickly adjust to the new defensive line and only appeared in five games last season.

"We'll have 27 or 28 players playing in their first college game," Hatfield said. "When you have that, you're always eager [to see] how well they adjust and focus on their assignments and just enjoy playing."

"Once you get hit once and get into the speed of the game, you relax and just play after that. It ex- cludes you when you see them make a play and have some success in things you've been coaching."

There's no substitute for success.

Hatfield also said that once the inexperienced players get into the game and gain playing time, their nervousness and inexperience will take over.

"Two prepared, we have to know everything — every position," Vanover said. "There is going to be some nervous tension at first, but once you just crack the pads, you get over it."

In the opener against UH, Vanover said in-game adjustments will be necessary for the young de- fense in its first game together.

"You have to practice on defense to know your phones and mi- mesis," Vanover said. "There will be miscues on both sides, but you have to see your strengths and go from there. We have lots of speed, athletic ability and effort. We will be ready."

2003 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Last Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 10</td>
<td>at Houston</td>
<td>Reliant Stadium</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: L 24-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>at Duke</td>
<td>Durham, N.C.</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>2001: W 15-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Reliant Stadium</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>1999: L 13-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>at Hawaii (WAC)</td>
<td>Honolulu, Hi.</td>
<td>11 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: L 28-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>San Jose State (WAC)</td>
<td>Rice Stadium</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>2000: L 16-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>Rice Stadium</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: W 17-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>at Fresno State (WAC)</td>
<td>Fresno, Calif.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: L 28-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Nevada (WAC)</td>
<td>Rice Stadium</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2001: L 21-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Tulsa (WAC)</td>
<td>Rice Stadium</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: W 33-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>at SMU (WAC)</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: W 27-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>UTEP (WAC)</td>
<td>Rice Stadium</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: L 35-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>at La Tech (WAC)</td>
<td>Ruston, La.</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>2002: W 37-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(WAC) denotes a Western Athletic Conference game

BOLD denotes a home game

All times are Central Standard Time.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Here's what Owl fans are saying about The Rice Football Webletter

You have truly captured the unique spirit of Rice Football. On behalf of all the guys who have upheld the integrity of this program, thanks for helping keep the tradition alive.

Aaron Stanky — Rice Football letterman (1993-1996)

I'm a 1992 Rice grad and four year football letterman (captain 1994 season). and thank goodness a Rice friend turned me on to this great web page....Wow! What a layout. Super graphics -- intelligently written and displayed. Keep up the good work -- I've put it on my favorites list.

Bryan Hill

Thanks for doing the Rice Football Webletter and for your ongoing support of Rice Athletics.

Bobby May — Athletic Director, Rice University

Your Rice football website is the best I've seen of any major university....Thanks for creating such an invaluable resource for all of us Owl fans out here. It's always a pleasure to find someone else who shares my sick love of the generally unappreciated charms of Rice athletics.

John Stepahn Freedman

I covered the Owl footballers for the Thresher from 1994-1996....Thanks for creating such an invaluable resource for all of us Owl fans out here. It's always a pleasure to find someone else who shares my sick love of the generally unappreciated charms of Rice athletics.

John Stepahn Freedman

It's great. I hope it lasts forever.

Stephen W. Lorimer

The Rice Football Webletter

Your Unofficial Web Guide to Rice Football

www.Ricefootball.net
Cross country squads set eyes on WAC prize

by Melissa Dominguez

The cross country teams had different fortunes last year, but both are focused on the Western Athletic Conference crown this season. Both the men’s and women’s teams open their seasons tonight at MacGregor Park, near the University of Houston campus, before hosting the on-campus Rice Invitational Sept. 13. The women’s team only lost two runners to graduation, and six freshmen runners should help the Owls retain their conference championship.

“Our team looks even stronger than last year when we won the WAC title,” senior co-captain Shannon Murto said. “We lost two solid runners in Summer Bell and Katie Wait, but we’ve got a large group of freshmen who can contribute.”

While the primary goal is another WAC title, the Owls remain focused on achieving success at the national level as well.

“I think we realize that now we’ve got to take our racing to another level and qualify for nationals,” senior co-captain Tanya Wright said. “I think most of the returning runners would see that as the difference in our focus this year.”

With a bigger squad, competition for places has increased, as has the team’s depth in case of injury.

“Our philosophy is that we want a team that passes well, stabilizes the situation and takes pressure off the hitters that have to pace,” Wilson said.

The middle hitter position also has a number of able players in competition. Junior Rebecca Raint, a WAC second-team honoree, will almost certainly retain her starting position, while senior Julie Jackson and freshmen Tessa Rokendall and Amber Wiedmann will need to push themselves in the next level to secure their status as starters.

That’s a position that will be resolved and could change rapidly,” Wilson said. “We have good freshmen that come in and are being pulled up by the people here. Sometimes something clicks, they get a little less overwhelmed and then they tend to have bigger bursts than the non-freshmen.”

Rounding out the squad is junior Catherine Duff, a dominant right-side hitter who has a strong ego. Wilson said, “I don’t think we’re going to do really well.”

The Owls open regular-season play tonight and tomorrow at the Ramada Invitational in San Diego. They will square off for the first time against both Universities of California Irvine and UC Riverside, as well as San Diego State University, which three years ago dominated Rice in the conference last meeting six years ago. The Owls are very happy with the new scheme that this year’s as a starter.

Overall, Wilson is pleased with the new blood flowing through the Owls.

“We’re very happy with the new class,” Wilson said. “[I] didn’t recruit them, and I didn’t know them, but they’re working hard. They’re in the range they need to be in.”

With the right amount of experience, Wilson sees the Owls as a team that will be very difficult to defeat.

“We want to be an NCAA tournament team this year,” Carter said. “We also want to do better in our conference because while we pretty much dominate the Eastern division, we still struggle in the Western division.”

The Owls open regular-season play tonight and tomorrow at the Ramada Invitational in San Diego. They will square off for the first time against both Universities of California Irvine and UC Riverside, as well as San Diego State University, which three years ago dominated Rice in the conference last meeting six years ago. The Owls are very happy with the new scheme that this year’s season Tuesday against Stephen F. Austin University at 7 p.m. at Autry Court.
FRIDAY

There’s a post-party in my pants... and everybody’s coming.

The A-Funk All Stars present the first party of the year at Wiess College tonight in the Academic from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Just in case you didn’t hear, there’s an epic post-party tonight in my pants... and everybody’s coming.

FRIDAY

You better represent. You’re in Montag’s house now. Today is the deadline for adding courses without a fee.

FRIDAY

Bring your signed add/drop forms to the Registrar’s Office by 5 p.m.

"There was a moment last night, when she was sandwiched between the Polish dwarf and the Maori tribesman when I thought I could really spend the rest of my life with her.”

The Rice Media Center presents Gigantic, a Tale of Two Johns. The film explores the lives of John Flansburgh and John Linnell of the indie pop band They Might Be Giants. The film starts at 8 p.m., and admission is $5 for students. For more information, visit http://ricecinema.rice.edu.

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What:

On July 1, 2003, Rice University took a major step towards reinforcing its commitment to the arts by creating the new department of visual arts.

Come meet the faculty and staff and see what is in store for the visual arts @ Rice.

• Food
• Music
• Department and major information
• Bachelor of Fine Arts degree information
• Free movie
• Tour the renovated facilities
• Experience our new energy

When: September 3, 2003
Where: department of visual arts @ Media Center
Time: 4:30 p.m.

This event is being generously underwritten by the Jerome J. Singel Endowment, the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and the Dean of Humanities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Enesco and Halsey Stevens. The music of Hummel, Neruda, and Beethoven will be performed.

Open auditions for male roles will be held tonight and tomorrow from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Wiess Upper Commons. For more information or to register, contact Scott Wray at swray@rice.edu, or stop by the Operations Desk at the Rec Center. You can also find a list of classes at http://www.rice.edu/ricerec/pages/swim_lessons.html.

TUEsDAY

Ellen swims well. But her B.S. skills are infinitely better. The Rice Rec Center is conducting swim lessons. Classes begin this week. For more information or to register, contact Scott Wray at swray@rice.edu or stop by the Operations Desk at the Rec Center. You can also find a list of classes at http://www.rice.edu/ricerec/pages/swim_lessons.html.

WEDNESDAY

Better than the usual option of Wednesday night "drinking with Mrs. Tinklepants.” Oscar Garcia Montoya will be holding a Master’s Recital on trumpet. He will be playing the music of Hummel, Neruda, Enesco and Babayev Stevens. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. in Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

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New Club on Campus:

The "Guys Who Try to Get Laid by Saying They're Friends with Players from the Rice Baseball Team" Club

Are you sick of spending those hot Houston nights alone? Tired of going to parties to see the same old people again and again by partying at a freshman dorm party in a tight skirt... Well, is about time you grab your sorry ass of yourself to the Rice staff party. Meet the players from the Rice baseball team, who will surely make your life infinitely easier. So if you're lucky for you, there's a new club on campus that will teach you how!

Not since Seventeen Magazine declared Rice a cool school in 2002 has there been an opportunity to be a Rice student as an advantage; rather than disadvantage, to the quest for getting your man. But with Rice's recent victory in the College World Series, the time has come to exploit the win in your efforts to score major points (and boys) for those of you from the Minute sota area. With the help of the "Guys Who Try to Get Laid by Saying They're Friends with Players from the Rice Baseball Team" club, you can learn fool-proof ways of getting your man's attention.

As part of weekly club meetings, learn how to impress the Rice ladies with lines like, "Oh, I remember that guy who won the World Series when he was at Rice... and all those strikeouts... Yeah, he borrowed my Howard the Duck DVD one time and still hasn't given it back..."

Club meetings will be held outside Vincent Sinisi's dorm room every Tuesday at 9 p.m.

Got 90 hours?

Then you can order your Rice class ring at any time from the campus store.

Questions?
See www.ruf.rice.edu/~stumedia/rings.htm.