It's baaack ...

Almost one year to the day after its first appearance, the tree house returned to the Rice Residential College and Engineering Dorms. Built on a sloop of firm wood, the tree house includes a small sofa, a table, and a bookshelf. The tree house's makers, Daniel Smith and Marcus Roman, both seniors in the School of Engineering, say they built it to provide a place where students can relax and socialize without the distractions of the busy academic environment.

The tree house has already become a popular gathering spot for students, who often spend hours there studying, socializing, or just enjoying the view from the third floor.

Take a look inside the tree house, and see how it's been used by students so far. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact the tree house builders at (713) 910-5412.
the Rice Thresher

Everybody wins all the time with 24-hour access

It makes so much sense that we’re surprised no one’s thought of it before! A 24-hour ID access policy would be a win for all residential colleges (See story, page 1). We’re glad that administrators have supported the change, which was proposed by Student Association President Derek Mattison last semester.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.

We hope all the college governments will approve the proposal and extend nighttime ID access to members of other colleges. Life will be simpler for everybody if there is one rule for all the colleges.

In addition, we think all public residential spaces should be accessible via ID. Card readers should be installed on the outer doors of the Lovett College Commons and the Will Rice College Commons. This would not risk our safety or privacy, as only two residential buildings on campus can only be accessed by key. The card readers would allow non-college members to enter both at night and during the day.

Finally, we like the suggestion that ID access revert to daytime hours during Willy Week. If students could enter any college they wanted during the week, leading up to Beercake, jacks might either lose their appeal or get out of control. The temporary fix would preserve the jack tradition.

Shutting our parking problems into Houston

Because owning a car at Rice has turned into a soul-sucking experience, many students, high parking fees, and, worse of all, driving in Houston, we applaud the recent decision to reinstate shuttle service to Target, Fiesta Mart and the Rice Village on the weekends for the first time since 2002 (See story, page 1). Such shuttles will make it not only possible, but also tolerable to spend four years at Rice without a car (assuming one can secure a good dorm room). Students will no longer have to leave the Rice experience involving proximity cards, high parking fees and, worst of all, driving in Houston, we applaud the recent decision to reinstate shuttle service to Target, Fiesta Mart and the Rice Village on the weekends for the first time since 2002 (See story, page 1).

Such shuttles will make it not only possible, but also tolerable to spend four years at Rice without a car (assuming one can secure a good dorm room). Students will no longer have to leave the Rice experience involving proximity cards, high parking fees and, worst of all, driving in Houston.

Lower transcript fees mean happier students

Registrar David Tenney (Sid ’87) won the hearts of most Rice undergraduates, including ours, last week when he announced a reduction in transcript fees. As seen in our story (page 7), the recent increase in transcript fees from $5 in 2002-03 to $17 by the following year to $10 this year was a needless inconvenience. For many students, applying to graduate school is expensive enough without having to pay an extra $10 per official transcript.

Servery lines again

As Monday’s holiday came to a close, we were disappointed to see long lines stretching out of the Wiess/Hanszen Servery — again. As Monday’s holiday came to a close, we were disappointed to see long lines stretching out of the Wiess/Hanszen Servery — again.

Although everything appeared to run smoothly during the other meals this weekend, lines at dinner stretched out the servery doors on the Hanszen Commons side and almost to the doors on the Wiess Commons side, inconveniencing many students.

If H&D is going to require on-campus students to purchase meal plans, then it is absurd to provide meals that can be enjoyed by all in a timely manner, and that means anticipating when student meal attendance will be at full volume.

Letters to the Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintain student input on college fees

To the editor:

President David Leebrook’s proposal to incorporate college fees into the general tuition “Board roll fees under tuition,” December 3) has many advantages over the current dissection of fees between the university and the colleges, and making the system simpler by leveling required fees campus wide and relieving college treasurers from having to total with hundreds of students’ checks every fall. I am also encouraged by the Abbas confirmation that despite the centralization of collection mechanisms, the colleges will retain control of how money is allocated and spent.

I am less enthusiastic, though, about the prospect of the Board of Trustees setting fees without a significant element of student input on a region-by-region basis. While the new proposal would allow the college treasurers to prepare budgets for the dean of undergraduate, who could then submit a request to change college fees to the board, that is a far cry from a true and open process used to change college fees – the vote of a college cabinet.

Nathan Black

Letters to the editor should be written to the Rice Thresher, c/o Rice University Student Publications, 6100 Main Street, Mail Code: 0040, Houston, TX 77251. All letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.

Letters to the editor must be unsigned and nonclassified. Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length.

Everybody wins all the time with 24-hour access

The new off-campus shuttle system means different things to different people.

From a financial perspective, being a student at Rice in the United States is a really nice gig. Actually, being a student at Rice is one of a lot of perspectives — but the financial aspect is one of the best. Rice currently makes $800,000 per year, which for many of those who ascend to the Oval Office is a huge pay cut. But what does that mean for me on campus on? The White House mortgage is covered by Uncle Sam. So are the grocery bills. And gas is — a particular tax — protected by the administration. I suppose one must always be saving for retirement, but let’s be realistic: The post-presidential salary is too low to even think about buying a home.

In terms of student life, I think it has been a waste of time and a distraction to have Rice students’ ID’s restricted to the on-campus buildings. We pay a lot of money to spend four years at Rice without a car (assuming one can secure a good dorm room). Students will no longer have to leave the Rice experience involving proximity cards, high parking fees and, worst of all, driving in Houston.

Bush does good (for once) with donation

It’s not often that we receive good news about Rice, but this time it’s a real win for the students. Rice rightly promotes its strong connection to the Ivy League, but it is hard to argue with the new approach to world affairs should this support his choice; we don’t give credit when it is due, we risk being cast as impossible to satisfy.

So, don’t be that Bush has made donations like this before, and it is his pragmatic case that remains silent about them most of the time. But — I write with grit teeth — it is hard to dismiss as an act of philanthropy.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words in length.

Rice rightly promotes its strong connection to the Ivy League, but it is hard to argue with the new approach to world affairs should this support his choice; we don’t give credit when it is due, we risk being cast as impossible to satisfy.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.

The current ID access policy, which shuts out non-college members between midnight and 7 a.m. weekdays and midnight and 8 a.m. weekends, seems stuck in the era of gender-segregated dormitories and adds little—if any—security. If residential buildings are open to all students all the time, campus life will be that much more convenient.
Proverbs 24:17 instructs us not to delight in the downfall of our enemy, but to wish him well. This is especially true if the trip, let your heart not rejoice. With this in mind, let us be mindful to show respect and charity to those around us, regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations.

**Guest column**

Texan should chair the rebuilding Democrats

**Last week, I was asked by the Rice Thresher to write about the reorganization of the Democratic Party. I have written extensively about the need for the party to reframe its message and message delivery in order to appeal to voters across the political spectrum.**

I have argued that the party needs to move away from its current focus on social issues and towards more practical and pragmatic policy proposals that can appeal to a broader base of voters. I have also emphasized the importance of the party reaching out to traditionally Republican voters and finding common ground on issues such as healthcare, education, and the economy.

The Democratic Party needs to do more than just change its message. It needs to change its leadership. The current leadership of the party is too tied to the old guard and too focused on maintaining its own power. The party needs new leadership that can bring in new ideas and new perspectives.

I believe that Texas should be the leader in this endeavor. Texas is a state with a diverse population and a complex set of challenges. It is a state that needs a strong, effective voice in national politics. I believe that a Democrat from Texas could bring a fresh perspective to the national stage and help to rebuild the Democratic Party.

The Democratic message as presently articulated does not resonate with many voters in the state of Texas. Republicans, on the other hand, have been able to successfully articulate a message that speaks to the concerns of voters in the state. This message has resonated with voters in Texas and has helped to elect Republicans to high office.

However, the Democratic Party cannot afford to lose Texas. Texas is a state with a large number of voters and a significant influence in national politics. The party needs to find a way to reach out to voters in Texas and to build a coalition of support that can win in the state.

A key to winning in Texas is to find a leader who can bring together a diverse set of voters. A leader who can appeal to both Democrats and Republicans, both urban and rural voters, both young and old. A leader who can bring together the best of both worlds and help to rebuild the Democratic Party.

I believe that there is a Democrat from Texas who could bring this vision to reality. This Democrat could bring a new perspective to the national stage and help to rebuild the Democratic Party.

Shawn Levantia

**The Rice Thresher,** the official student newspaper at Rice University, is published each Friday during the school year. The Rice Thresher is a newspaper of the student body of Rice University. The Rice Thresher is an independent publication of Rice University and does not necessarily reflect the views of the university administration.

Editorial and advertising offices are located at the Rice Aquatics Center, 6100 Main St., MS-524, Houston, TX 77005-1904. Telephone: 713-525-0411. Fax: 713-525-0415. Web page: www.rice-thresher.com. E-mail: rice.thresher@rice.edu. No returned material will be accepted.

The Rice Thresher welcomes the right to refuse any advertisement for any reason. The Rice Thresher reserves the right to not publish any advertisement that does not conform to the standards of the Rice Thresher. The Rice Thresher also reserves the right to edit any advertisement for content or design.

The Rice Thresher is the official student newspaper of Rice University. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the author. The back page is a service provided by The Rice Thresher.
BSA hosts annual MLK vigil

by Katricia Lang

About 75 students gathered in front of Fondren Library for the Black Student Association's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Vigil Monday evening. Because of heavy wind, attendees did not light candles. Introduction speaker Raymarris Barnes (Lovett '06) said the ceremony was emotionally charged even without the traditional candles.

"As long as the light burns in our heart, that's all the light we need," Barnes, an education graduate student, said.

After a performance of King's "I Have a Dream" speech, the crowd proceeded to the Rice Chapel. Keynote speaker Anawalt Walker, professor of African American Studies at the University of Houston, reflected on King's memory.

"King understood that we [can] do more together than we can apart. In that way, you get the best and the brightest of everything."

Walker spoke about King's fight to affirm dignity in oneself and others. The third was to join in modern social activism with three lessons from King.

Walker said society must look beyond the yearly rehashing of the "I Have a Dream Speech" to understand the true depth of King's work. "King was more than a dream," Walker said. "King [was] way more detailed than posters, way more colorful than those black-and-white pictures in February. There [was] way more to King than what he locked away in books, in his speeches, in his works."

After Walker's speech, Adviser to the President Maryann Skender (Wiese '99) spoke about her experiences as a plasterer under the footsteps of the Supreme Court of the United States during the 2003 Grutter v. Bollinger case, which contested the use of affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School. She said students should celebrate progress and draw energy and support from each other.

"It's you ng people that lead the way," Wiles said. "It's great to honor a great man, but it's even greater to emulate his works."

King was a man of action and passion, Walker said. He said there are still battles to be fought and the younger generation should take action and honor King's memory.

"[King] would be saddened if we did not take it to the next level," Walker said.

In closing, Walker left the audience with three lessons from King, the first of which was to recognize the importance of working together.

"King understood that we [can] do more together than we can apart," Walker said. "In that way, you get the best and the brightest of everything."

King's next lesson was to see the dignity in oneself and others. The third was to join in modern social activism, Walker said.

"It's you ng people that lead the way," Wiles said. "It's great to honor a great man, but it's even greater to emulate his works."

Walker said society must look beyond the yearly rehashing of the "I Have a Dream Speech" to understand the true depth of King's work. "King was more than a dream," Walker said. "King [was] way more detailed than posters, way more colorful than those black-and-white pictures in February. There [was] way more to King than what he locked away in books, in his speeches, in his works."

After Walker's speech, Adviser to the President Maryann Skender (Wiese '99) spoke about her experiences as a plasterer under the footsteps of the Supreme Court of the United States during the 2003 Grutter v. Bollinger case, which contested the use of affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School. She said students should celebrate progress and draw energy and support from each other.

"It's you ng people that lead the way," Wiles said. "It's great to honor a great man, but it's even greater to emulate his works."

NEW RICE SHUTTLE SERVICES

NEW RICE SHUTTLE SERVICE TO RICE VILLAGE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 5:30PM-10:30PM, EVERY 15 MINUTES. WAIT AT THE LOOP STOPS FOR PICK-UP.

THERE ARE TWO CONVENIENT STOPS AT THE CORNER OF UNIVERSITY AT KELVIN AND KINKOS AT RICE BLVD.

THE LAST TRIP FROM THE VILLAGE IS AT 10:15PM.

SATURDAY SHOPPING FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

ON SATURDAY MORNING, YOU CAN GO SHOPPING AT TARGET AND FIESTA STORES ON MAIN/KIRBY. THE SERVICE STARTS AT 10:00AM TO 2:00PM EVERY 30 MINUTES AROUND THE LOOR THE SHUTTLE LEAVES RICE UNIVERSITY EVERY 30 MINUTES. THE LAST TRIP FROM THE STORES IS AT 1:30PM.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Nov. 29-Jan. 17.

- Residential Colleges
  Baker College Dec. 4 Bicycle stolen.
  WilRice College Dec. 5 Bicycle stolen.
  WilRice College Dec. 8 Non-Rice subject arrested for disorderly conduct after threatening a student with body harm. Subject remanded to Harris County Jail.
  Baker College Dec. 20 Intruder ransacked a student's room. Subject, found sleeping in the room, arrested for burglary of a habitation and remanded to Harris County Jail.
  Martel College Dec. 28 Food stolen from refrigerator.
  Martel College Jan. 10 Student reported receiving unwanted mail.
  Jones College Jan. 11 Resident found an unknown naked subject in his bed. Subject identified as a Rice student and referred to University Court for trespassing and public intoxication.
  Wiese College Jan. 11 Officers escorted an intoxicated student to his room. Subject referred to U. Court for public intoxication.
  Baker College Jan. 11 Bicycle stolen.
  Brown College Jan. 13 Bicycle stolen.
  Martel College Jan. 13 Student received harassing e-mails from a former friend.
  Sid Richardson College Jan. 14 Celing tiles stolen from kitchen and bathroom.
  Martel College Jan. 15 Bicycle stolen.
  Martel College Jan. 17 Bicycle stolen.
  Lovett College Jan. 17 Suspicious person reported in the Lovett Commons. Subject arrested for trespassing and remanded to Harris County Jail. Subject had received a previous criminal trespass warning.

- Academic Buildings
  Sewall Hall Dec. 1 Bicycle stolen.
  Mechanical Engineering Building Dec. 2 Bicycle stolen.
  Herman Brown Hall Dec. 6 Wallet stolen.
  George R. Brown Hall Dec. 9 Bicycle stolen.
  Alice Pratt Brown Hall Dec. 10 Piano vandalized.
  Anderson Hall Dec. 13 Golf cart stuck pedestrians. No injuries reported.
  Keck Hall Dec. 13 Wallet stolen from locker.
  Anderson Hall Jan. 3 Multimedia projector stolen.
  George R. Brown Hall Jan. 3 Bicycle stolen.

- Other Buildings
  Allen Center Dec. 4 Mirror broken in first-floor bathroom.
  Fondren Library Dec. 6 Report of subject exposing himself. Subject left the scene before officers arrived, but was arrested Dec. 9 after returning to the library, where he was identified by the complainant.
  Student Center Dec. 7 Subject arrested for criminal trespass and remanded to Harris County Jail.
  Adu Court Dec. 9 Subject issued criminal trespass warning for panhandling.
  Facilities and Engineering Dec. 26 Verbal altercation reported.
  Parking Lots Dec. 7 Complainant reported that a driver struck and damaged his vehicle in October.
  West Lot Jan. 6 Boot stolen from vehicle.
  Other Areas
  Alumni Drive and College Way Dec. 5 Subject drove vehicle around parking gate and onto grass. Driver issued citation for minor DUl, and passenger issued citation for minor consuming alcohol.
  Entrance 3 Dec. 10 Subject arrested for driving while intoxicated after attempting to drive under parking gate and under the Entrance 3 barricade. Subject remanded to Harris County Jail. Two passengers issued citations for minor consuming alcohol.

THE RICE THRESHER NEWS FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2005

JENN MOHOIT/THRESHER
I'm dreaming of a white campus

Snowflakes fall on the grassy quad between Martel College and Duncan Hall December 31 during one of two snowfalls in Houston during winter break.

Hanszen alumnus Crownover named Board of Trustees chair

by Katricia Lang

The Rice Board of Trustees elected Jim Crownover (Hanszen '65) as its new chair at its December meeting. Beginning July 1, Crownover will replace Bill Barnett (Hanszen '65), who has chaired the board since 1996.

Crownover, a former director of the international management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, Inc., has served on the board since 1996. He is chair of the board's Academic Affairs Committee and vice chair of the Financial Affairs Committee.

Crownover said he looks forward to implementing his vision for Rice.

"I really try to work with trusted academic people to define the vision where we go," Crownover said.

Crownover said he thinks Rice is a community that encourages uniqueness.

"I think Rice is a place where people enjoy ‘spikiness,’" Crownover said. "Spikiness is the thing that makes a person special, different from anyone else."

Crownover chaired the committee that selected President David Leebron in December 2003. He said preparing the committee helped him make connections with people in the academic world, especially those outside Houston.

"I had a chance to be an academic leader across the country," Crownover said. "Not only did I learn a lot about the academic world, but I have a lot of friends out there now."

Crownover said one of his goals as chair of the board will be to strengthen Rice's connections to Houston.

Leebron said Crownover's reputation as a leader in Houston will be an asset to Rice.

"Jim Crownover is a person who has been in Houston a long time, is very well known in Houston, and I think is going to be a very energetic supporter of Rice," Leebron said.

"Bill Barnett, who has been on the Rice Board since 1991 and has been a voting member since 1994, is a former managing partner of McKinsey & Company, and he did a very good job," Leebron said.

Federal Pell Grants cut by $300 million

by Franvedre Brenglit

A smaller proportion of Rice students' financial aid will come from Federal Pell Grants next year after the U.S. Congress made changes to the eligibility formula that cut the federal government's annual budget by $300 million.

Nationwide, about 1.3 million students' grants will be reduced, and about 80,000-90,000 students will lose them entirely.

Pell Grants are a form of need-based aid provided to undergraduates at the federal government and do not have to be repaid.

Associate Director of Student Financial Services Bonnie Rogers said the formula uses a student's expected family contribution, which is based on household income and cost of attendance, to raise eligibility. Students who qualify for the grant receive between $4,400 and $4,950 annually.

The new legislation changes the formula's income brackets so students currently receiving the minimum award may no longer be eligible.

"Any time aid is cut, it causes some concern because cost of attendance is always rising,'" Rogers said.

When Barnett's term began, no legislation was in place. The problems that many students at any given school face, said Rogers, are not unique.

"We decided that we would look at the formula's income brackets, but some changes, such as reducing the $10 million athletics deficit and making the admission process for student athletes more similar to that for nonathletes, will be nonnavigable," Rogers said.

Other difficulties, Barnett said, include the economic downturn of the past several years and the competition for strong faculty members.

During Barnett's term, the board itself went through many changes, becoming larger and more diverse. When Barnett's term began, no minorities served on the board. The board now includes a number of minority and international members.

In addition, the board changed from a two-tiered board with 7 voting trustees and 12 non-voting governors to a single-tier board with 25 trustees.

"I think Rice is a place where people enjoy "spikiness."

"Spikiness is the thing that makes a person special, different from anyone else."

— Jim Crownover (Hanszen '65)

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Crownover said he thinks Rice has been a very good place to be, but it's going to be a very interesting time for Rice.

"I think the transition will be quite seamless," Barnett said.

Peace Corps Recruits Rice

Ready for your adventure in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, Caribbean, or South Pacific? Take a look at the Peace Corps. Find out if you qualify to become a Peace Corps volunteer.

Women and men, singles and couples, with a bachelor’s degree (or higher), are welcome to apply.

Visit the Peace Corps website at www.peacecorps.gov or pick up the Peace Corps flyer in the 2nd floor, Ley Student Center.
Students hold event to remember tsunami victims

by Stephanie Jennings

No students or faculty members were directly harmed in December's tsunami disaster in South Asia, but members of the Rice community joined around the world in expressing their grief for the victims of the catastrophe.

"I originally could not figure out what she was talking about — I thought it was a joke," student Nissanka Wickremasinghe said. "I followed the news as much as possible and realized that things were much worse than I thought."

Wickremasinghe, a physics graduate student from Sri Lanka, said his family was fortunate because his family members were not directly affected by the tsunami.

"My sister was okay," West said. "Fortunately, he had been on the other side of the island and was traveling in Thailand when the tsunami hit. We got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead." West said. "Fortunately, I got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead." West said. "Fortunately, I got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead."

Wickremasinghe's family lives in southeastern India but stated that his family members who were directly affected were in Sri Lanka. Some people who knew were missing, he said. Wickremasinghe also said he thought it was a joke.

"Of the countries that were affected, most were in South Asia," West said. "We're all in the same boat."

Wickremasinghe said he and his family members are not directly affected by the tsunami.

"I got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead," West said. "Fortunately, he had been on the other side of the island and was traveling in Thailand when the tsunami hit. We got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead."

"I got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead," West said. "Fortunately, he had been on the other side of the island and was traveling in Thailand when the tsunami hit. We got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead."

Wickremasinghe said he and his family members are not directly affected by the tsunami.

"I got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead," West said. "Fortunately, he had been on the other side of the island and was traveling in Thailand when the tsunami hit. We got the postcard right at the beginning of the year that Ferrari was dead."

Wickremasinghe said he and his family members are not directly affected by the tsunami.
El Paso legislators' top priorities

The school needs $68 million from the legislature for planning the admission process, the curriculum and other details for the University of Texas Tech University Health Science Center's new medical school in El Paso, set to open in 2008. Camacho and his wife, Carol, left Wednesday for El Paso, where they bought a house earlier this month.

As good as new

The Rice Observatory's Owlnet lab has been re-opened, and is open to all students. The lab is funded by $10,000 from the Cashier's Office and goes toward paying for staff time. There are also changes for the online ordering system, but otherwise, there are few direct expenses associated with transcripts. Other expenses include the transcript service company that contracts with universities such as University of Texas, Texas A&M University, as Yale University and Johns Hopkins University, new processes online transcript orders for the Registrar's Office.

Owlnet lab opens in RMC basement

by Jenny B.oes

The mini-Owlnet lab located in the basement of the Student Center, in the Student Organizations Resource Center next to Willy's Pub, opened for operation at the beginning of the fall semester. The lab, funded by $30,000 from the Office of Student Affairs, includes three iMac computers, three PCs and an Owlnet printer. A Rice ID is not required to enter the mini-Owlnet lab, but special ID access is required to enter the Owlnet Center through the door near Willy's Pub when the building is closed at night. Club presidents can request ID access for members of their clubs by submitting lists of members to Student Center Director Becky Beckwith. A Rice Owlnet account is needed to use the printer in the mini-Owlnet lab.

Camacho takes El Paso med school job

by Jane Liu

Former Vice President for Student Affairs Zenaida Camacho, appeared at the men's basketball game Saturday to inform students, but in making a formal announcement as the managing director of Texas Tech University Health Science Center's new medical school in El Paso, set to open in 2008. Camacho was hired by Texas Tech about a week ago and plans to remain until his retirement.

In the managing director of the new campus, Camacho will report to the dean and will be in charge of planning the admission process, the curriculum and other details for the school.

According to the El Paso Times, the school will add 500 million from the state to start operations in 2008. One of El Paso legislators' top priorities this legislative session is to obtain the necessary funds to start the school.

Registrar announces fee reduction for transcripts

by Monica Huang

Applying to graduate school has become a slightly less expensive proposition. The Registrar's Office reduced the fee for transcripts from $10 to $5 beginning Jan. 1.

Registrar David Tenney (Sid '87) sent an e-mail to students announcing the change Dec. 15. Tenney, who became registrar beginning in September, said he decided to change the fee after several students contacted him about it. "I'm going to do everything I possibly can to be here for commencement," Camacho said.

We're now much more in line with our peers. We found that in comparison to many of the private schools, $10 was much higher than it should have been. For instance, [the University of Texas, Texas A&M University] are $10 a transcript, but Rice is neither [other schools]. Generally speaking, public schools fees are more. The transcript fee was formerly toward paying for staff time. Tenney said. There are also changes for the online ordering system, but otherwise, there are few direct expenses associated with transcripts. Other expenses include the transcript service company that contracts with universities such as Yale University and Johns Hopkins University, new processes online transcript orders for the Registrar's Office.

December and January are heavy months for transcript orders. Tenney said in December, the office processed 2,082 transcript orders. In comparison only about 500 were requested in September. About 1,400 of the December requests were made by mail or e-mail, and about 600 came through the online service. The office only recently began tracking the number of requests.

The Baker Institute for Public Policy is seeking applicants for its new Washington DC summer internship program. The program will provide stipends sufficient to support Rice undergraduates conducting policy-making research at government agencies and private think tanks and NGOs in DC in summer 2005. Those accepted must be currently enrolled as full-time undergraduates throughout fall 2005. Those selected will attend a seminar on public policy and global affairs interactions with their internship sponsors and will write a research report for publication. Applicants are responsible for establishing internships and residencies in DC. Interested students should send the following materials by Jan. 26 to Steven Lewis, Washington Policy Research Internship committee, Baker Institute, MS-40:

1. A letter of application with your campus and home addresses, telephone number and e-mail
2. A short essay of no more than 500 words describing your career goals, your internship plans and how these tie in with the mission and policy research of the Baker Institute
3. A resume
4. An official transcript
5. A letter of recommendation from an individual who can discuss your ability and why you should be considered for this program.

Questions should be addressed to swlewis@rice.edu
Vandiver was also popular with students in his home, Crist said. John Boles (Will Rice '65) said, "He would like to be remembered as a down-to-earth teacher," Jackson said. Lovett senior Peter Darrell said he was pleased with the administration's choice. "It's going to be a teaching-intensive position," that, Darrell said. College masters and presidents will gauge student opinions at each college and report back to the Masters' Committee at its next meeting Jan. 25. Wolfe said such a program will be implemented as early as Feb. 1.

The offices oversee by the Office of Student Affairs will continue to operate, but one of the most important components is how the responsibility for graduate education is handled, Leebron said. "I'm aware that many students have been unsettled by the transition," said the Restructuring of Student Affairs this semester.

'Ve have a sense of frustration among students and faculty as well, this is an area that needs attention," Leebron said. "I look forward to getting past that to say, 'What can we accomplish?' There are lots of issues here, but in the end, it's about the students and the administration."
Interim decision numbers drop slightly

Interim decision admission applications dropped this year, following a similar decrease in early decision applications in the fall.

As of Wednesday, the Admissions Office had received 2,933 complete interim decision applications, down from 3,348 last year. Vice President for Enrollment Ann Wright said Wright said many students applied later than usual this year because of the single-choice early action policies of Rice's peer institutions, which restrict applicants to only one early application.

"Many students think out interim decision admission is a type of early action," Wright said. "So they think they can't apply to (Rice) interim decision. These students wait until they hear from Harvard, Stanford and Yale, and apply to (Rice) after that.

Of the estimated 720 spots available for the class of 2009, 162 were offered to early decision applicants. Wright said she expects almost all of these students who choose early decision is binding. The early decision application deadline was Nov. 1, and applications were notified of their admission status Dec. 15.

The early decision pool is predominantly Texan, and thus not representative of the geographic and ethnic diversity of the incoming class, Wright said.

Rice offered admission to 163 early decision applicants last year. This fall, 727 freshmen matriculated at Rice. Total enrollment increased by about two percent per year over the past four years. It grew from 2,822 in 2003-04 to 2,880 in 2004-05. Both Wright and President David Leebron said they do not think Rice's undergraduate enrollment will change significantly next year.

The size of the student body is an important issue we have to talk about. But the plan is no expansion next year in the size of the student body," Leebron said.

As of Wednesday, Admissions Office staff members had entered 2,990 regular decision applications into the office's computer system. Wright said many applications have yet to be entered, so the number should increase significantly.

Last year, the Admissions Office received 8,106 applications. The high number of applications may have been due in part to the national publicity Rice received after the baseball team won the 2003 NCAA national championship. Wright said Wright said she did not expect to receive as many applications for the upcoming fall term this year, especially because many of Rice's peer institutions are seeing flat application numbers.

"I thought we would be lower, but we're very close to the same number of applications," she said.

The postmark date for interim decision applications is Dec. 1, and the Admissions Office must notify those applicants of its decision by Feb. 10. Wright said many students applied later than usual this year because of the single-choice early action policies of Rice's peer institutions, which restrict applicants to only one early application.

"Many students think out interim decision admission is a type of early action," Wright said. "So they think they can't apply to (Rice) interim decision. These students wait until they hear from Harvard, Stanford and Yale, and apply to (Rice) after that.

"I think it's cool," McBride said. "It's really taking into account the fact that students with out cars have some trouble getting around Houston.

Lottet College sophomore Sara McBride, who owns a car, said she found the shuttle useful.

"I think it's cool," McBride said. "I used the one to The Village once, and that was very helpful."

Sid Richardson College freshmen Joe Salazar, who does own a car, said he will probably use the shuttle a couple of times over the next semester. He said he would be useful for many students around campus.

"I think it's good," Salazar said. "I have plenty of friends that I've seen that have to get on their bikes and bring back stuff, and they're looking for rides.

A group of students enrolled in the Leadership class, Unt 300: Creating and Managing Change, in the fall surveyed about 300 Rice students, faculty and staff members and found strong support for a weekend shuttle service. Lottet sophomore Jacob Lopez, a member of the group, said the members presented their findings to Leebron and to the Parking Committee at the end of October. Though presented after approval of the shuttle plan, the results of the poll were encouraging to Leebron, Lopez said.

"We're trying to look at these issues not only as parking issues but as parking and transportation issues," — David Leebron President

The size of the student body is an important issue we have to talk about. But the plan is no expansion next year in the size of the student body," Leebron said.

As of Wednesday, Admissions Office staff members had entered 2,990 regular decision applications into the office's computer system. Wright said many applications have yet to be entered, so the number should increase significantly.

Last year, the Admissions Office received 8,106 applications. The high number of applications may have been due in part to the national publicity Rice received after the baseball team won the 2003 NCAA national championship. Wright said Wright said she did not expect to receive as many applications for the upcoming fall term this year, especially because many of Rice's peer institutions are seeing flat application numbers.

"I thought we would be lower, but we're very close to the same number of applications," she said.

The postmark date for interim decision applications is Dec. 1, and the Admissions Office must notify those applicants of its decision by Feb. 10. Wright said many students applied later than usual this year because of the single-choice early action policies of Rice's peer institutions, which restrict applicants to only one early application.

"Many students think out interim decision admission is a type of early action," Wright said. "So they think they can't apply to (Rice) interim decision. These students wait until they hear from Harvard, Stanford and Yale, and apply to (Rice) after that.

"I thought we would be lower, but we're very close to the same number of applications," she said.

The postmark date for interim decision applications is Dec. 1, and the Admissions Office must notify those applicants of its decision by Feb. 10. Wright said many students applied later than usual this year because of the single-choice early action policies of Rice's peer institutions, which restrict applicants to only one early application.

"Many students think out interim decision admission is a type of early action," Wright said. "So they think they can't apply to (Rice) interim decision. These students wait until they hear from Harvard, Stanford and Yale, and apply to (Rice) after that.

"I thought we would be lower, but we're very close to the same number of applications," she said.
The committee also wanted to ensure that the process of selecting a new master would be transparent and inclusive. "We want the community to feel involved," Marschall said. "It's not just a process that we're doing internally; it's a process that we're doing for the entire campus." 

Leebron said that the new masters will play a crucial role in the future of Rice University. "They will be the leaders of our institution," he said. "They will be the stewards of our future, and they will be the ones who will help us to define what Rice will be in the 21st century." 

The selection process was also designed to be collaborative, with input from faculty, students, and staff. "We want everyone to feel like they have a voice in this process," Leebron said. "We want everyone to feel like they have a stake in the outcome." 

Despite the potential for controversy, Leebron said that the committee was confident that the process would not be compromised. "We have a very strong tradition of academic freedom at Rice," he said. "We believe that this process will allow us to continue that tradition." 

The selection of the new masters was a significant moment for the Rice community, and Leebron was eager to see the outcome. "I'm very excited to see who our new masters will be," he said. "I think we have a talented pool of candidates from which to choose." 

In the end, Leebron said that he was confident that the new masters would be able to lead Rice University into the future. "We have a very strong institution," he said. "We have a very strong community. And I believe that our new masters will be able to build on that tradition."
Summer Jobs & Internships
Schedule of Events

- **Preparing Your Resume**: Tues., Jan. 18, 12 noon in Farnsworth Pavilion
- **Resources for Finding a Summer Job**: Mon., Jan. 24, 12 noon in Miner Lounge
- **Interview Workshop**: Mon., Feb. 14, 12 noon in Career Services
- **Networking for a Summer Job**: Thurs., Mar. 3, 12 noon in Career Services
- **Academic Year Internships**: Mon., April 4, 12 noon in Career Services
- For more information, contact Jackie Hing at jhing@rice.edu

CSC Spring Career Fairs
Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Rice Collegiate Job Fair:
Full-time Opportunities
RMC, Grand Hall
2PM – 5PM

Summer Opportunities Fair
RMC, Grand Hall
7PM – 9PM

For a complete list of companies attending both fairs visit the CSC website http://careers.rice.edu

Sponsored by: Career Services Center
Wrapping up the holidays

by Mike Mathews and Jonathan Schumann

King Arthur and Troy any day. Well, leave it to the French to capture what we've been missing.

In the midst of World War I, Marie (Tautou) fears that her fiancé Max (Brotherhood of the Wolf's Gauguin Uille), a soldier, has been killed. She embarks on a vast search to find him by tracking down the other combatants of his lost battalion. As in Amelie, Jeanne displays an extraordinary ability to capture the essence of minor characters without distracting too far from the central narrative. American actress Josie Foster (The Silence of the Lambs) provides one of the most fascinating miniature portraits as the love-starved Elodie Gorder. Foster remarkably blends into this all-French cast with a flawless accent and an amazing ability to convey emotion.

As Marie passionately searches for those she's been missing, the film flashes back to the gruesome reality of life in the trenches. A Very Long Engagement is an engaging film as it is a romantic and its scenes of battlefield conflict are remarkably shot.

The Aviator — ★★★½★

At nearly three hours in length, concise may not initially seem an appropriate description of Martin Scorsese's latest film. But these profiles of Howard Hughes, the '30s filmmaker and aviation innovator whose ideas revolutionized aviation design. As with Goodfellas and Casino, the story is told through the eyes of its chief protagonist, The Aviator sustains a rhythm which, through smooth, flowing dialogue and tight scene sequencing, captivates the viewer throughout the entire feature. The film opens with young Hughes standing in a bathtub while his mother dyes his hair blonde. The next scene shows him, years later, wearing the same hairstyle. As he tells the stories of Hughes in this same frame, he relates the stories of the many different women he will have in his life, including his divorce, which he knows is the Aviator on the same hard pack, but this time the narrative is one of Hughes as he comes to terms with making the biggest changes in his life. Scorsese closes the Aviator on this same blackboard, but this time the narrative is one of Hughes as he comes to terms with making the biggest changes in his life. Scorsese has been an expert in the study of characters consumed by self-inflicted excruciating pain. From Mean Streets to Raging Bull and Bringing Out the Dead, in The Aviator, a compelling addition to this list, the cast's richly textured performances join with uncommon behind-the-scenes ingenuity to provide the last, essential touches in this exploration of Howard Hughes.

— Mike Mathews

Bad Education — ★★★★½★

I've been head-over-heels in love with Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar for several years now. His films possess the uncanny ability to find humanity in the most unlikely, often funny and bizarre, circumstances. Women in his movies rarely ever break through, a narrative device he uses under the guise of screwball comedy, while All About My Mother and Talk to Her are his two closest ventures there. His latest effort, Bad Education, is Almodóvar's closest effort to provide the last, essential touches in this exploration of Hughes. His films straddle multiple genres and often involve laughter and tears simultaneously. All the while, though, his characters retain a certain dignity and authentic sparkle. He has the odd scenes of battlefield conflict, but he never exploits his characters' pain, suffering and loss in his latest, Bad Education, as in yet another masterwork.

As it follows the devotion between childhood friends Enrique and Ignacio, the film covers territory familiar to any Almodovar fanatic — drag queens, unrequited love and drug-induced desperation. After forging a unique bond at the school.

While his actors triumph, Almodóvar is the true star, a master writer and director with unparalleled vision and ability. With this dark, seductive mystery romance, Almodóvar achieves his best —

— Jonathan Schumann

A Very Long Engagement — ★★★★½★

Four years ago, director Jean-Pierre Jeunet and actress Audrey Tautou seduced audiences with the whimsical Amélie. The duo has reunited with A Very Long Engagement, a sweeping wartime romance that restored this critic's faith in cinema.

There was a time when big-budget epic was the quick route to Oscar glory. In the 1960s, lavish, seductive productions like Lawrence of Arabia and The English Patient wooed the Academy as much, I suspect, for their visual splendor as for their intriguing characters and romance-driven plots. Luckily, though, directors have discovered the genie with empty aesthetics and vacuous characters. I'll take the classics over the epics any day. Well, leave it to the French to capture what we've been missing.

In the midst of World War I, Marie (Tautou) fears that her fiancé Max (Brotherhood of the Wolf's Gauguin Uille), a soldier, has been killed. She embarks on a vast search to find him by tracking down the other combatants of his lost battalion. As in Amelie, Jeanne displays an extraordinary ability to capture the essence of minor characters without distracting too far from the central narrative. American actress Josie Foster (The Silence of the Lambs) provides one of the most fascinating miniature portraits as the love-starved Elodie Gorder. Foster remarkably blends into this all-French cast with a flawless accent and an amazing ability to convey emotion.

As Marie passionately searches for those she's been missing, the film flashes back to the gruesome reality of life in the trenches. A Very Long Engagement is an engaging film as it is a romantic and its scenes of battlefield conflict are remarkably shot.
Alexander: My crush in eyeliners

I'm aware that it's a bit late to write about Oliver Stone's bloated and sandal-epic Alexander. Critics and audiences have already spoken; the former labelling the film a gross, ego-driven monstrosity, the latter responding with hardly any interest whatsoever. But this holiday season past, as we defined on our respective birds, many of us forgot to acknowledge, discuss and celebrate the movie turkey of the season.

Don't get me wrong. I am certainly not coming to Stone's defense. He has long been one of Hollywood's most irritating directors, unable to look beyond his own self-produced conspiracy theories for the sake of his narratives. If you go into the film with absolutely no preconceived notions, you might be surprised — there's Julie's accent, a thick, broad-shouldered, belligerent European-looking Val Kilmer, as Alexander's father, is even worse. He seems to be doing his best impression of a Scientologist. I'm sure I caught a "fiddler" in his voice somewhere.

With a film so up-

sentend to a gay icon, with a cast made wearing EYE CANDY.

And here comes another worthy inquiry. Alexander and his legions of boy-toy warriors appear to have arrived at an obsession with makeup. Who knew eyeliners were so popular at Macedon? Don't even get the naysayers — into this bucolic steps our eponymous heroine. Raised in an upper-class Carolina household that abhors dinner parties, makeup and Halloween, Charlotte Simmons has never seen a Cosmopolitan magazine, nor to mention a erect penis. Once she adjusts to the infidelities of dorm life — coed bathrooms and being sexiled to a fraternity formal, a campus bar, a fraternity formal, a fraternity formal — she knows she'll be one of the cool kids in her place of employment. She fellow-convicts are uniformly obnoxious. And with newfound powersCharlotte Simmons is written by Wolfe, directed by and starring Natalie Portman, and signed to a five-year contract. This is not just a sequel, it is a sequel.

The acting is so overdone that you can't help but laugh. Natalie Portman plays a young woman who has descended into Hell and returns to tell the story, but as The Thrasher's Matthew HANDS Online states, "The story is far less interesting than the SCENERY.

The acting is so overdone that you can't help but laugh. Natalie Portman plays a young woman who has descended into Hell and returns to tell the story, but as The Thrasher's Matthew HANDS Online states, "The story is far less interesting than the SCENERY.

Michael Hardy

THRESHER STAFF

In Tom Wolfe's latest novel, a young woman travels over the rainbow and across the Blue Ridge Mountains to seek her fortune at Dupont University, home to 30 Nobel prize-winners, a national championship basketball team and — if we believe Wolfe — the most immoral students in the history of higher education. Sex, drugs, alcohol and rap music desecrate the campus's venerable Gothic architecture. Jocks with Mr. Olympia muscles collect groupies and easy C's in "athlete-friendly" classes. Hooking up — sex with strangers — is in every student's extracurricular activity.

Alexander and his legions of boy-toy warriors appear to have arrived at an obsession with makeup. Who knew eyeliners were so popular at Macedon?

I am Charlotte Simmons

I'm aware that it's a bit late to write about Oliver Stone's bloated and sandal-epic Alexander. Critics and audiences have already spoken; the former labelling the film a gross, ego-driven monstrosity, the latter responding with hardly any interest whatsoever. But this holiday season past, as we defined on our respective birds, many of us forgot to acknowledge, discuss and celebrate the movie turkey of the season.

Don't get me wrong. I am certainly not coming to Stone's defense. He has long been one of Hollywood's most irritating directors, unable to look beyond his own self-produced conspiracy theories for the sake of his narratives. If you go into the film with absolutely no preconceived notions, you might be surprised — there's Julie's accent, a thick, broad-shouldered, belligerent European-looking Val Kilmer, as Alexander's father, is even worse. He seems to be doing his best impression of a Scientologist. I'm sure I caught a "fiddler" in his voice somewhere.

With a film so up-

sentend to a gay icon, with a cast made wearing EYE CANDY.

And here comes another worthy inquiry. Alexander and his legions of boy-toy warriors appear to have arrived at an obsession with makeup. Who knew eyeliners were so popular at Macedon? Don't even get the naysayers — into this bucolic steps our eponymous heroine. Raised in an upper-class Carolina household that abhors dinner parties, makeup and Halloween, Charlotte Simmons has never seen a Cosmopolitan magazine, nor to mention a erect penis. Once she adjusts to the infidelities of dorm life — coed bathrooms and being sexiled to a fraternity formal, a campus bar, a fraternity formal — she knows she'll be one of the cool kids in her place of employment. She fellow-convicts are uniformly obnoxious. And with newfound powersCharlotte Simmons is written by Wolfe, directed by and starring Natalie Portman, and signed to a five-year contract. This is not just a sequel, it is a sequel.

The acting is so overdone that you can't help but laugh. Natalie Portman plays a young woman who has descended into Hell and returns to tell the story, but as The Thrasher's Matthew HANDS Online states, "The story is far less interesting than the SCENERY.
Men's basketball faces first-place Wolf Pack

by Adam Tolokos

The men's basketball team hopes to maintain its unblemished home record this weekend as it faces two tough tests in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Entering last night's game against Fresno State University (14-6, 5-1 WAC), Rice and UTEP were a half-game behind both the Bulldogs and the University of Nevada. The Owls take on the Wolf Pack tomorrow afternoon at 2:05 p.m. at Autry Court.

"The two games coming up are the biggest two games of the year so far," said Jamar Moore, junior forward.

"Both games are conference contests, which is an important week, almost halfway through the [conference] season," senior forward Michael Harris said. "We've got to practice with the mindset that we've got to take every day seriously and treat each day [like it's a game] and see what happens." Rice enters last night's contest having won four of its last five games after an 82-70 win over the University of Tulsa Saturday at Autry Court. Head coach Willis Wilson (Will Rice '82) changed the starting lineup for the game.

"We need to get off to good starts, especially at the beginning of the season," Harris said. "We've got to practice with a very important week, almost halfway through the season: really and treat each day [of practice] like it's a game and see what happens."

Rice is expected to be available this weekend, as the team played in the absence of its second-leading scorer. "I'm a lot more comfortable," Gillespie said. "A lot of the workouts I did in the off-season were really intense. I've also worked a lot with Shane Respert, and he's helped me a lot as far as the mental game."

Gillespie scored 8 of his 13 points in the first half as the Owls took a commanding 52-35 lead at halftime. Despite starting out on fire in Rice's 13 games, Gillespie is averaging enough career-high 18 points per game, as compared to 9.2 points per game last season while starting all 13 games. Better shot selection has also led to a career-high field goal percentage this season for Gillespie, which he credited to working with ex-Michigan State star and Rice's current director of basketball operations, Shannon Bennett.

"We've got a lot more confidence," Gillespie said. "A lot of the workouts I did in the off-season were really intense. I've also worked a lot with Shane Respert, and he's helped me a lot as far as the mental game."

Harris again starred for the Owls Saturday, leading the team with 19 points and a career-high 15 rebounds for his tenth double-double of the season. With that performance, Harris increased his season average to 11.7 rebounds per game, fourth-best in the country, while his 20 points per game and 60.4 percent shooting beyond the three-point arc, including three each from Gillespie and Harris. "We've been doing a good job of shooting the ball well in practice, and that showed up beyond the three-point area," Harris said. "It spreads out the floor a lot, and it's going to start making people have to respect our outside shooting. I think everybody did a good job of knocking down the open shots — we've been working in practice on not just taking the easy shot, but the good shot."

While McKrieth has practiced this week and is expected to be available this weekend, Wilson said he was pleased with the way his team played in the absence of its second-leading scorer. "We've got a lot of depth, and we're excited about these meets is good preparation for the excitement at WAC," said Laura Holsey, junior swimmer.

Junior Laura Holsey and senior Kiana Galvao gave the Owls the top spots in the 50 freestyle, finishing in 24.14 and 24.64, respectively. Both events are scheduled for 2:05 p.m. at the meet at Autry Court.

"We've had some great meets coming up because we are matched with equal teams," Bichman said. "There are some we have never lost to."

The team's training regime has changed little as the Owls approach the final weeks of their season. The team has substituted two hours per week of aerobic and weights training on land but will not begin tapering in the pool until after the Tulane meet.

The team won unsanctioned in the Western Athletic Conference Championships Feb. 23-25 in San Antonio, Texas. The team's performance at this meet has qualified its location for the NCAA championships March 23-25 in Indianapolis.

"I am excited to race Tulane because my baby sister is on their team," Taheri said.

Bichman said the team's upcoming meet will be more indicative of the team's capabilities than the meet against UT, a national championship contender and a heavy favorite in almost all of its dual meets.

"We have several good meets coming up because we are matched with equal teams," Bichman said. "There are some we have never lost to."

The team's training regime has changed little as the Owls approach the final weeks of their season. The team has substituted two hours per week of aerobic and weights training on land but will not begin tapering in the pool until after the Tulane meet.

The team's performance at this meet has qualified its location for the Western Athletic Conference Championships Feb. 23-25 in San Antonio, Texas. The team's performance at this meet has qualified its location for the NCAA championships March 23-25 in Indianapolis.
Men’s tennis hosts Met/Rice Indoor
Defending champ Baylor highlights 10-team field

by Matt McCabe

Rice won its first-ever Western Athletic Conference championship last year and is the favorite to repeat in 2005, as Southern Methodist University is the second-highest ranked WAC team at 33rd. The Owls reached 11th nationally by season’s end, but they did not play any tournaments in the fall due to arthroscopic knee surgery and consequently fell out of the rankings. So far, Baylor is ranked 1st nationally, excluding them from a competitive match or practice in six months. I think that he’ll play better this weekend than last weekend, and I think he’ll be up there as one of the top players in the country by season’s end.” Head men’s tennis coach Ron Smarr said.

The defending NCAA singles champion is seeded second in the tournament, if that says anything.

Ron Smarr

Head men’s tennis coach

Rice’s schedule affords them the opportunity to play at home matches against 37th-ranked Nebraska, 11th-ranked Ohio State and 13th-ranked Kentucky.

“This is probably one of the best weeks in the country,” said coach Smarr. “The defending NCAA singles champion is seeded second in the tournament, if that says anything.”

Baylor’s Benjamin Becker, who won the NCAA singles title in 2004, is seeded second as singles behind (unseeded) Ben Harkkett of Rice’s Robert Searle, a junior, is seeded third in the A flight of the tournament and hopes to regain his form after an opening-round bye. In the semifinals, Searle and Harkkett lost to Somdev Devvarman and Treat Huey, both from Virginia. Despite losing, Searle said he was not pleased with the way he played at the tournament.

“It’s hard to put into words how badly I performed,” Searle said. “The fact that I won three playing after being out six months was about all I could take from the weekend.”

Searle said he was optimistic about returning to form in the week ahead, and he said the team is optimistic about its chances of advancing to the NCAA tournament this year. In order to do so, the team can either win the WAC championship, or lose its last match at home, or win a good enough record to be considered for an at-large selection to the tournament. With dual matches against 37th-ranked Nebraska currently ranked among the nation’s top 35, the Owls’ schedule affords them the opportunity to qualify for the NCAA tournament without winning the WAC. Rice plays four ranked teams ranked in the nation’s top 20, highlighted by home matches against 10th-ranked Alabama Feb. 5 and 17th-ranked TCU April 1.

MET/RICE INDOOR INVITATIONAL
Participating teams (rank):
1. Baylor (1)
2. Ohio State (13)
3. Rice (16)

A tight top seeds

BY Chuck Robison

Volleying into the tournament
Freemason library Yvette Kirk dies for a ball in the volleyball team’s Dec. 3 NCAA tournament match against the University of Michigan. Kirk had 12 digs in the match, but the Owls lost to the Wolverines in four games, 31-29, 24-30, 30-23, 30-20. Senior outside hitter Rebecca Pazo led Rice with 14 kills, while senior outside hitter Lindsey Carter, senior middle blocker Rebecca Kami, junior setter Kristina Nolan, sophomore outside hitter Tessa Kyukendall and junior outside hitter Olivia Peno each contributed at least 10 kills. In her first year as head coach, Guyon Vepa led the Owls to their first-ever NCAA tournament bid — an at-large selection after losing in the Western Athletic Conference tournament semifinals, as well as a season-ending 4-3 loss.

Being a brain

Accidents Happen. Emergency Contraception. It can effectively reduce your chances of becoming pregnant. While best if taken within 72 hours, it can be taken up to 120 hours after unprotected sex. We also offer annual checkups, birth control, pregnancy testing and counseling for sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

Register online at www.pphouston.org to download a coupon for $10 off an office visit.

www.viritasdgc.com

1.800.230.PLAN www.pphouston.org

Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc.

The defending NCAA singles champion is seeded second in the tournament, if that says anything.

Ron Smarr

Head men’s tennis coach

Rice’s schedule affords them the opportunity to play at home matches against 37th-ranked Nebraska, 11th-ranked Ohio State and 13th-ranked Kentucky.

“This is probably one of the best weeks in the country,” said coach Smarr. “The defending NCAA singles champion is seeded second in the tournament, if that says anything.”

Baylor’s Benjamin Becker, who won the NCAA singles title in 2004, is seeded second as singles behind (unseeded) Ben Harkkett of Rice’s Robert Searle, a junior, is seeded third in the A flight of the tournament and hopes to regain his form after an opening-round bye. In the semifinals, Searle and Harkkett lost to Somdev Devvarman and Treat Huey, both from Virginia. Despite losing, Searle said he was not pleased with the way he played at the tournament.

“It’s hard to put into words how badly I performed,” Searle said. “The fact that I won three playing after being out six months was about all I could take from the weekend.”

Searle said he was optimistic about returning to form in the week ahead, and he said the team is optimistic about its chances of advancing to the NCAA tournament this year. In order to do so, the team can either win the WAC championship, or lose its last match at home, or win a good enough record to be considered for an at-large selection to the tournament. With dual matches against 37th-ranked Nebraska currently ranked among the nation’s top 35, the Owls’ schedule affords them the opportunity to qualify for the NCAA tournament without winning the WAC. Rice plays four ranked teams ranked in the nation’s top 20, highlighted by home matches against 10th-ranked Alabama Feb. 5 and 17th-ranked TCU April 1.

MET/RICE INDOOR INVITATIONAL
Participating teams (rank):
1. Baylor (1)
2. Ohio State (13)
3. Rice (16)

A tight top seeds

BY Chuck Robison

Volleying into the tournament
Freemason library Yvette Kirk dies for a ball in the volleyball team’s Dec. 3 NCAA tournament match against the University of Michigan. Kirk had 12 digs in the match, but the Owls lost to the Wolverines in four games, 31-29, 24-30, 30-23, 30-20. Senior outside hitter Rebecca Pazo led Rice with 14 kills, while senior outside hitter Lindsey Carter, senior middle blocker Rebecca Kami, junior setter Kristina Nolan, sophomore outside hitter Tessa Kyukendall and junior outside hitter Olivia Peno each contributed at least 10 kills. In her first year as head coach, Guyon Vepa led the Owls to their first-ever NCAA tournament bid — an at-large selection after losing in the Western Athletic Conference tournament semifinals, as well as a season-ending 4-3 loss.

Being a brain

Accidents Happen. Emergency Contraception. It can effectively reduce your chances of becoming pregnant. While best if taken within 72 hours, it can be taken up to 120 hours after unprotected sex. We also offer annual checkups, birth control, pregnancy testing and counseling for sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

Register online at www.pphouston.org to download a coupon for $10 off an office visit.

www.viritasdgc.com

1.800.230.PLAN www.pphouston.org

Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc.
Women motivated by coach Lopez's upcoming retirement

by Stephen Whitfield

After reviewing the third and first-place finisher at the Western Athletic Conference Indoor and Outdoor Championships last season, the men's track and field team boasts a strong foundation and have an equal number of 2005 campaigns. The Owls lost some key members of last year's team, including All-Americans Ryan Harlan (400 meter) and Adam Davis (long jump), but the team was relatively healthy last year. Senior distance runner Warren said that his team's chances to win its second outdoor championship will depend on how well he thinks they will get them.

"We're happy if we could win third, obviously, but I think we need to look at championships and how to get them. Focusing on outdoor is how I think we're going to get them," Warren said.

If they line up and compete like they did in 2004, great things can happen. [including a championship, and that's what's important. We'll be happy if we could win third, but it's always good to have team success," Warren said. "If they line up and compete like they did in 2004, great things can happen."

Thrice the team has finished fourth in the 5,000-meter run at WAC Outdoor Championships in the triple jumps, and Wiggins, who is recovering from a knee injury sustained in the 450-meter hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Championships and finished fifth at the national meet.

Warren said his team's chances to win its second indoor championship will depend on how well the team has moved on from some of the other guys. "I have room for personal improvement, but it's always good to have team success," Warren said. "We have a bunch of young people coming in, and it'll be nice to have them.

"It'll be fun to be in a leadership position coming in, and it'll be fun to see what those guys will do. If he has to be in a leadership position on this team and pass on what I've learned to some of the other guys.

In Harlan, the Owls lost a 2004 NCAA championship in the decathlon and dropped what despite illness in the same event at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Of the seven freshmen who will try to make up the impact of losing the All-Americans most are distance runners. The Owls will count on them, as well as two sophomores, to help them.

Senior hurdler/sprinter Ben Wiggins runs the 110-meter hurdles at last spring's Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Rice won the meet, and Wiggins hopes to lead the Owls to another outdoor title this spring.

"We're happy if we get second or third, obviously, but I think we need to look at championships and how to get them. Focusing on outdoor is how I think we're going to get them," Warren said. "If they line up and compete like they did in 2004, great things can happen."

"I have room for personal improvement, but it's always good to have team success," Warren said. "We have a bunch of young people coming in, and it'll be nice to have them. I'll have to deal with some of the other guys."

In Harlan, the Owls lost a 2004 NCAA championship in the decathlon and dropped what despite illness in the same event at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Of the seven freshmen who will try to make up the impact of losing the All-Americans, most are distance runners. The Owls will count on them, as well as two sophomores, to help them.

Senior hurdler/sprinter Ben Wiggins runs the 110-meter hurdles at last spring's Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Rice won the meet, and Wiggins hopes to lead the Owls to another outdoor title this spring.

"We're happy if we get second or third, obviously, but I think we need to look at championships and how to get them. Focusing on outdoor is how I think we're going to get them," Warren said. "If they line up and compete like they did in 2004, great things can happen."
Rooster beat Wies For Powerpuff crown

Sid Richardson won his second consecutive title and completed his second straight 3-for-3 season with a 13-6 win over Rice in the Powerpuff championship.

Freshman backfield Natalie Galliam ran 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give the Owls a 6-0 lead. Sid Richardson ran for just one yard after the touchdowns and Wies freshman backfield Tash mai ran only 10 yards on five carries.

In the second quarter, Sid drove into Wisconsin territory with an 11-play drive but stalled at the Owls' 34-yard line. Sid's next drive also stalled, although quarterback Matthew Ford didn't fumble the ball until the Owls' 15-yard line, and the Owls were penalized on third down.

But they didn't come with anything..." We respect [Tulsa]... but we didn't come with fire. We just hoped for the best, and you can't win that way.

— Latrice Elder

Head women's basketball coach

Rice held second-half leads in 10 of 11 losses this season. The Owls are 3-0 in the first half of conference games, as well as in living room WAC games against SMU and SMU, and 1-1 in non-WAC games.

The Owls opened the game on a 17-0 run and led by as many as 16 points in the first half. But the Owls were outscored 25-4 in the second half, and they didn't make a shot in the final minutes.

"We had the game in our hands," said junior guard Millie Pedersen. "But we weren't able to make the shots we needed to make.

The Owls led 75-66 with 9:45 left in the game, and 77-68 with 4:15 left. But in the final minutes, they were outscored 23-7.

"It's disappointing," said Elder. "We had the game in our hands, and we couldn't make the shots we needed to make.

All of our point guards have strengths and weaknesses. We're just struggling to find the one to get the most done.

— Cristy McKinney

Head women's basketball coach

Rice beat Wies For Powerpuff crown

Sid Richardson won his second consecutive title and completed his second straight 3-for-3 season with a 13-6 win over Rice in the Powerpuff championship.

Freshman backfield Natalie Galliam ran 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give the Owls a 6-0 lead. Sid Richardson ran for just one yard after the touchdowns and Wies freshman backfield Tash mai ran only 10 yards on five carries.

In the second quarter, Sid drove into Wisconsin territory with an 11-play drive but stalled at the Owls' 34-yard line. Sid's next drive also stalled, although quarterback Matthew Ford didn't fumble the ball until the Owls' 15-yard line, and the Owls were penalized on third down.

But they didn't come with anything..." We respect [Tulsa]... but we didn't come with fire. We just hoped for the best, and you can't win that way.

— Latrice Elder

Head women's basketball coach

Rice held second-half leads in 10 of 11 losses this season. The Owls are 3-0 in the first half of conference games, as well as in living room WAC games against SMU and SMU, and 1-1 in non-WAC games.

The Owls opened the game on a 17-0 run and led by as many as 16 points in the first half. But the Owls were outscored 25-4 in the second half, and they didn't make a shot in the final minutes.

"We had the game in our hands," said junior guard Millie Pedersen. "But we weren't able to make the shots we needed to make.

The Owls led 75-66 with 9:45 left in the game, and 77-68 with 4:15 left. But in the final minutes, they were outscored 23-7.

"It's disappointing," said Elder. "We had the game in our hands, and we couldn't make the shots we needed to make.

All of our point guards have strengths and weaknesses. We're just struggling to find the one to get the most done.

— Cristy McKinney

Head women's basketball coach

Rice beat Wies For Powerpuff crown

Sid Richardson won his second consecutive title and completed his second straight 3-for-3 season with a 13-6 win over Rice in the Powerpuff championship.

Freshman backfield Natalie Galliam ran 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give the Owls a 6-0 lead. Sid Richardson ran for just one yard after the touchdowns and Wies freshman backfield Tash mai ran only 10 yards on five carries.

In the second quarter, Sid drove into Wisconsin territory with an 11-play drive but stalled at the Owls' 34-yard line. Sid's next drive also stalled, although quarterback Matthew Ford didn't fumble the ball until the Owls' 15-yard line, and the Owls were penalized on third down.

But they didn't come with anything..." We respect [Tulsa]... but we didn't come with fire. We just hoped for the best, and you can't win that way.

— Latrice Elder

Head women's basketball coach

Rice held second-half leads in 10 of 11 losses this season. The Owls are 3-0 in the first half of conference games, as well as in living room WAC games against SMU and SMU, and 1-1 in non-WAC games.

The Owls opened the game on a 17-0 run and led by as many as 16 points in the first half. But the Owls were outscored 25-4 in the second half, and they didn't make a shot in the final minutes.

"We had the game in our hands," said junior guard Millie Pedersen. "But we weren't able to make the shots we needed to make.

The Owls led 75-66 with 9:45 left in the game, and 77-68 with 4:15 left. But in the final minutes, they were outscored 23-7.

"It's disappointing," said Elder. "We had the game in our hands, and we couldn't make the shots we needed to make.

All of our point guards have strengths and weaknesses. We're just struggling to find the one to get the most done.

— Cristy McKinney

Head women's basketball coach

Rice beat Wies For Powerpuff crown

Sid Richardson won his second consecutive title and completed his second straight 3-for-3 season with a 13-6 win over Rice in the Powerpuff championship.

Freshman backfield Natalie Galliam ran 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give the Owls a 6-0 lead. Sid Richardson ran for just one yard after the touchdowns and Wies freshman backfield Tash mai ran only 10 yards on five carries.

In the second quarter, Sid drove into Wisconsin territory with an 11-play drive but stalled at the Owls' 34-yard line. Sid's next drive also stalled, although quarterback Matthew Ford didn't fumble the ball until the Owls' 15-yard line, and the Owls were penalized on third down.

But they didn't come with anything..." We respect [Tulsa]... but we didn't come with fire. We just hoped for the best, and you can't win that way.

— Latrice Elder

Head women's basketball coach

Rice held second-half leads in 10 of 11 losses this season. The Owls are 3-0 in the first half of conference games, as well as in living room WAC games against SMU and SMU, and 1-1 in non-WAC games.

The Owls opened the game on a 17-0 run and led by as many as 16 points in the first half. But the Owls were outscored 25-4 in the second half, and they didn't make a shot in the final minutes.

"We had the game in our hands," said junior guard Millie Pedersen. "But we weren't able to make the shots we needed to make.

The Owls led 75-66 with 9:45 left in the game, and 77-68 with 4:15 left. But in the final minutes, they were outscored 23-7.

"It's disappointing," said Elder. "We had the game in our hands, and we couldn't make the shots we needed to make.

All of our point guards have strengths and weaknesses. We're just struggling to find the one to get the most done.

— Cristy McKinney

Head women's basketball coach

Rice beat Wies For Powerpuff crown

Sid Richardson won his second consecutive title and completed his second straight 3-for-3 season with a 13-6 win over Rice in the Powerpuff championship.

Freshman backfield Natalie Galliam ran 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give the Owls a 6-0 lead. Sid Richardson ran for just one yard after the touchdowns and Wies freshman backfield Tash mai ran only 10 yards on five carries.

In the second quarter, Sid drove into Wisconsin territory with an 11-play drive but stalled at the Owls' 34-yard line. Sid's next drive also stalled, although quarterback Matthew Ford didn't fumble the ball until the Owls' 15-yard line, and the Owls were penalized on third down.

But they didn't come with anything..." We respect [Tulsa]... but we didn't come with fire. We just hoped for the best, and you can't win that way.

— Latrice Elder

Head women's basketball coach

Rice held second-half leads in 10 of 11 losses this season. The Owls are 3-0 in the first half of conference games, as well as in living room WAC games against SMU and SMU, and 1-1 in non-WAC games.
mentioned more than once that there are times when we're going to face adversity and be without Mike or lance and somebody going to need to step up," Wilson said. "We've got guys getting of the bench, playing like they had something to prove. As far as bricks and Jamil starting, I think both those guys felt more than capable and more than ready to lead on the challenge.

Since the Owls last their fourth consecutive road game 66-65 upset on Jan. 6, Wilson said he has noticed increased intensity in practices, which he said contributed to wins against Tulsa and Rice over Rice State on the road Jan. 8.

"I'm very pleased with the progress that we're making," Wilson said. "For whatever reason, there's been a subtle difference in our approach in practice. Mike in particular has done a good job of setting the tone for us early in practice. Since the UTEP game, we've responded pretty well. I think both those guys felt more than ready to lead on the challenge."

Rice Social Dance Society presents the spring 2005 dance classes!

No Partner Needed!

One Low Fee Allows You to Take All Classes!

First Lesson FREE!!!

Club Dues: $20 Students and Rice affiliates, $30 others

Salsa

TUESDAY NIGHTS

Salsa at Willy's Pub

MONDAY NIGHTS

Ballroom

See website for location

7 pm Beginner

8 pm Intermediate

9 pm Advanced

Check out www.ufl.rice.edu/~rsd or email rsd@rice.edu for more info
FRIDAY

"Chipped toe of a disgraced celeb tal, Mi-simintes do ochi tal."

If you know what that means, then you know European techno is the new hip-hop.

Today at 5 p.m., the first Add/Drop PSW expires for all undergraduates. Online registration will be disabled so that PINs may be reset. Today is also the last day to resolve grades of "Other" from Fall 2004.

Dude, on a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being not-so-extreme and 10 being extremely extreme, that was a 9.8!

Today in the registration deadline for intramural men's and coed volleyball and softball teams.

I've sunk to a new low: Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens? All they said was, "BACH, BACH, BACH ..."

Andrew Williams performs the music of Bach, Beethoven and Sarasate at 8 p.m. in Duncan Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.

SATURDAY

While jogging in a park, a man found a brand-new tennis ball. While jogging in a park, a man

and not seeing anybody around, he slipped it into the pocket of his shorts. Later that day, he

noticed a woman pointing at his shorts.

"Tennis ball," came the breath. "What's that?" she asked.

"Tennis ball," came the breath again. "What's that?" she asked again.

"Tennis ball," came the breath once more. "Tennis ball," she said, "What's that?"

"Tennis ball," came the breath for the last time.

MONDAY

PINS reactivated!

Online registration resumes at 9 a.m. as the second Add/Drop begins. Pins become active for all undergraduates. Time to add courses without obtaining the instructor's permission.

How do you tell a male chromosome from a female chromosome? Pull down its genes!

Bonnie Bassler of Princeton University presents a lecture entitled "Tiny Conspiracies: Cell-to-Cell Communication in Bacteria" at 4 p.m. in Room 131 of Anderson Biological Laboratories. All are welcome.

Confucius say, "Foolish man give wife grand piano. Wise man give wife upright organ."

Ira Gold performs the music of Popper, Brahms, Ligeti, Boccherini and Rossini on the cello at 5:30 p.m. in the Duncan Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.

THURSDAY

Master's Recital

Ira Gold performs the music of Antonin, Vivaldi, Schumann and Anderson on the double bass at 5:30 p.m. in the Duncan Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.

FRIDAY

Because you're not quite evil enough. You're a wimp. You're a punk. You're a quasimodo, you're the margarine of evil. You're the Diet Coke of evil. Just one calorie, not "evil" enough.

Today is the last day to add courses without a fee as well as add a course without obtaining the instructor's permission. Online registration deadline for intramural tennis doubles, coed ultimate and coed inner-tube water polo teams.

The Baker Institute Student Forum hosts a panel discussion entitled "American Politics, Texas Style: The Growing Influence of Texas in American Politics" at 4 p.m. in the Dorv Commons. Please RSVP to RISP@rice.edu by noon on January 21.

WE ARE the Globo Gym Purple Cobras ... and we will, we will, rock you!

Maky Gibson-Lane performs the music of Popp, Brahms, Ligeti, Boccherini and Rossini on the cello at 5:30 p.m. in the Duncan Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.
Obligatory Senior Checklist...

Eight wet & wild must-dos for second-semester seniors

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

GREAT RENTAL for family 4 bed/2.5 bath, home commune in Downtown, UH. Res. METRORail and Medical Center: Huge rooms, many custom features, $2500 per month. Call Helen Michael (713) 480-9018.

MUSEUM DISTRICT: The Rice 1/1 small, well-kept building at 4000 Greerwood Hardwoods, great closet space, tiled kitchen and bath, washer/dryer. Ask about our free rent offer. Call us at (713) 424-5344.

HELP WANTED

TEACHING ASSISTANT and substitutes positions are available for persons who are interested in working with children in a professionally stimulating and challenging Montessori environment. Interested parties should submit an application to Mr. Cococar, Vice President of the Beckman Center. For more information, contact (713) 348-5238.

WANTED: NEW WEBSITE for our monthly office run, hourly pay and possible equity in the site to the right person. Call Craig: (713) 320-5844 or e-mail ring@energyt.com.

SEEKING EXPERIENCED sitter for toddler in Voss/Lily area. Cost flat rate, plus $0.10 per hour. (713) 562-7055.


MONTESSORI SCHOOL near Museum Area seeks substitutes and assistants. Child care experience preferred. Ideal for students needing flexible schedules. Contact Karrie at (713) 520-6789.


MISCELLANEOUS

THE BECKMAN SCHOLARS Program provides support for undergraduate research and travel expenses with Beckman faculty mentors in the areas of chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering. To apply, submit 2 letters of recommendation and a personal statement to Dr. Kristen Kulinowski, Beckman Center, Rice University. Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence and demonstrated potential in the field of chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering. The application submission deadline is Feb. 15, 2006. 1995 CHERYL L. BELLERON Financial Aid Contact, I-5, 36-70 words: $15 37-60 words: $30 71-100 words: $45 Cash, check or credit card payment must accompany your ad. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. prior to Friday publication.