Hypnotist entertains at Big Owl Bash

by Stephanie Jennings

300 volunteers in Outreach Day activities

by David Brown

Power supply units destroyed in surge

by Rice Gordon

OPINION

by Risa Gordon

Dalai Lama tickets here

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Faculty are free to wander.

A&E

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Heart to a soulmate.

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Soccer preview

Quote of the Week

"The hypnotist made our few hall so very

Happy shopping

"...you're doing things like picking Up a

Francesco Pianca of the University of

\frac{\pi^2}{6} \text{ on the first Saturday, Li said.}

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\text{\text{but not think having the Big Owl Bash}}

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\text{It was a nice kind of one-day activity. I think it's}

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the Rice Thresher

Tickets for defining Rice moment available now

Students should drop everything to see the Dalai Lama speak in late September. And faculty should let students skip class, if necessary, to do so. In fact, faculty should close down their classrooms and go themselves.

Arguably, the Dalai Lama's will be the most exciting speeches given at Rice in many years. It's not often that the leader of a country in exile or the leader of a faith comes here, and the Dalai Lama is both.

He is speaking twice on Sept. 22 in Autry Court — at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Tickets will become available to the general public Sept. 1, but until then, they are available exclusively to Rice students, faculty, alumni and staff, free of charge. Students and others can pick up one or two tickets to either speech weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Athletic Ticket Office in Autry Court.

For students, high attendance will provide more than the obvious educational and "coolness" benefits (how many people have been in the same room as the Dalai Lama?). A high turnout will also signal that students are serious enough about campus speeches to deserve a meaningful voice in the 2006 commencement speaker selection process. On the other hand, if students do not attend this international icon's speech in large numbers, not only will we have affirmed our general apathy, but we also will have no legitimacy with which to weigh in on future campus speeches or potential speakers — like the one coming to (or from?) Rice on May 13.

So get your tickets Friday or early next week while they are still restricted to the Rice community.

Screw 'independence': We love Barnes & Noble

The semianual book-shopping ritual has been less painful this week than during past semesters. We like what we've seen so far from the new campus bookstore.

Barnes & Noble's expertise in the campus bookstore universe is readily apparent. Compared to previous years, the store is better staffed in terms of both quantity and helpfulness. The employees' red shirts make them easier to find, and they live up to their claim of being able to help customers. With more registers and more employees, checkout lines move more quickly. Barnes & Noble's return policy is more student-friendly, allowing students to return books within the first 30 days of classes if they have proof of a schedule change.

The layout of the store is more spacious and easier to navigate, and the signage in the basement is greatly improved. And we like the idea of including popular non-academic books alongside the ones we need for our classes, saving us a car trip to an off-campus bookstore.

We also like the concept of having a slimmer apparel selection while making sure those limited choices are always in stock. But we would prefer that the bookstore had a few more T-shirts and not as many sweatshirts this time of year. The sweatshirts look considerably less superior.

The semiannual book-shopping ritual has been less painful this week than during past semesters. We like what we've seen so far from the new campus bookstore.

We know you have opinions.

Send us your letters and columns.

thresher-ops@rice.edu

We also need an assistant opinion editor.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

U.S. foreign policy is realist, not religious

To the editor:

I passionately agree with Ames Grawert's assessment of religion's place in society ("Old-time religion soothes United States toward old-world mistakes," Aug. 19). There is no place in a democratic government for the dogmatic stances of religion. However, I do not agree with the implication that some sort of American religious persecution instigated the July bombings in London. When the Soviets looked to Afghanistan during the Cold War, Muslims were our allies. There was no religious bias to America's decision to make this alliance — it was simply a means to an end. Blame this war on oil, on intervention, on the democracies of the Middle East, on anything else, but not on religion. I say that America goes for battle for much more pragmatic purposes than theology.

Jan Ragsdale
Hanscom pastor

We know you have opinions.

Send us your letters and columns.

thresher-ops@rice.edu

We also need an assistant opinion editor.

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters

• Letters to the editor should be sent to the Thresher by e-mail to thresher@rice.edu. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.

• All letters to the editor must be signed and include college and year if the writer is a Rice student.

• Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

Subscriptions

• Annual subscriptions are available for $50 domestic and $105 international via first class mail.

Advertising

• We accept display and classified advertisements. Advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date. Please contact our advertising manager at (713)348-3807 or thresher-ad@rice.edu for more information.

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

Freshmen should be selves, not screen names

Over the past summer and spring, a group of freshmen was observed walking into Rice through the school's official student newspaper, the Rice Thresher's online forum for the class of 2009.

Out of a class of 750, approximately 160 joined the forum and inundated it with questions on what to buy, what classes to take, and what math course would work best on the AP Calculus BC test shudder.

From this forum, I saw my fair share of this going to school with enthusiasm, naively believing, "I'll be fine!"

The social party girl is in cringe at the lack of protocol. Think Math! My inner dark—suppressed in high school and latent in college—died with the prospect of jokes about Newman's uncertainty and Heine's Oedipal tendencies.

Without the pressures of real-time phone or face-to-face conversations, you have plenty of time to word clever comebacks. You can essentially re-create yourself, depending on your mood and who you're talking to.

At the start of the fall semester, there was also a Xanga blogging, a LiveJournal community, an Audioblog group, a MySpace group, a College Confidential forum and Google, Friendster and Multiply groups. The student body is the only one we used to have. This class was an anomaly too.

After getting to know each other all summer, it was finally time to set up our campus, to the sound of our fellow efficient excess expenditure and the circuit clinics dreaming out the freshmen's minds before they saw word.

After prying off our parents' stake/contract arms, we were plugged into the most lecture filled summer camp-ever. In the little free time they gave us, those of the Internet obsessed, fantastically sought each other out. Although we were breezing with anxiousness to find our new friends, the Internet can be very deceiving.

Most of the people were shorter than I expected. Two people were wearing backpacks with the fake breeze to the Internet tails tale. You, us. This is a picture and I deserved myself in the most personal of terms, or you can share only those pictures which hide the defects and accentuate the obvious. Without of who we are and what we were like. We are supposed to grow — not just into ourselves, but into each other. Even for the GPA worriers, the distinction between who you are and what they think you should be. It can be empowering, but ultimately everyone returns back to his or her real self, complete with defects and awkward silences.

Apart from the forum, there was also a Xanga blogging, a LiveJournal community, an Audioblog group, a MySpace group, a College Confidential forum and Google, Friendster and Multiply groups. The student body is the only one we used to have. This class was an anomaly too.

And, of course, all the awkwardness was a lot of DisOrientation, to be replaced by a little too friendly camaraderie. The fact that this drunkest evening was the night people were doing their self-introductions, people are not really comfortable with themselves with each other — not yet.

College is not just for education, but for personal growth. In addition to classes, intramurals and clubs, we are supposed to notice our identity. We are supposed to grow — not just into ourselves, but into each other. Even for the GPA worriers, the distinction between who you are and what they think you should be. It can be empowering, but ultimately everyone returns back to his or her real self, complete with defects and awkward silences.

Guest column

Anti-Islam bigots need education, not attention

I opened my e-mail one day this summer to find myself swamped with messages demanding urgent action against a Web site producing T-shirts imprinted with ridiculous slogans. The T-shirts made light of the devastating attacks on September 11, 2001, and the Muslim community, allegedly conducted at Guantánamo Bay.

Islam is not the enemy, Muslims have been compelled to protest repeatedly.

People, who my friends and family feel are volunteed to act, lack of sensitivity and respect shown to Muslims after Naeemah published a report on alleged Kuwait crimes (which it later retracted).

But it was more important of how to react as I sorted through the e-mails that enthusiastically called upon everyone to fight this intruder. Web sites through letters, editorials and phone calls to local politicians.

Calling attention to the Web site and equating the company's profit with its public good is inaccurate. The Web site's obviousness is not the issue. It is a manifestation of the public good.

So, I asked myself, should I just sit back and tolerate the existence of such degraded humor to minimize any added publicity? It certainly was not an intentional choice. Considering the importance of the Muslim community's offense with defending an entire religion, it is rather difficult to think of young Muslims to maintain tolerance for Web sites that disregard any sense of civility and sensitivity.

Considering the frustration associated with defending an entire religion, it is rather difficult for young Muslims to maintain tolerance for Web sites that disregard any sense of civility and sensitivity.

Rather, the only way to stop careless assumptions about Islam is to break down misconceptions. We should use the media and educational resources to start a peaceful battle to break down ignorance.

In conclusion, the blanket-tax organizations that can be rewarding, but for personal growth. This year is a crucial one for those who have actually grown up and want to make their mark on your university.

Res ipsa loquitor

Blanket-tax organizations provide paths to power

Freshmen — and more than a few upperclassmen — will browse this semester's impressive array of new organizations at the Student Activities Fair in the Academic Quad, on October 17 during the Student Activities Fair to the Rice Community and the College of Liberal Arts, with all the religious, cultural and academic groups. I hope you can encourage students to stop by the tables for the blank-tax organizations. These are the kinds of groups you've always wanted to be a part of — the ones in which administrators actually listen to you and talk about anything at all.

For you new students, blanket-tax organizations are those clubs funded by a tax charged to all students. The Honor Council, the Thresher, KIRV, Rice Program Council, Rice Student Volunteer Program, University Student Government, Rice University, the Student Association and the Student Association are all blanket-tax organizations.

Rice has many extracurricular organizations that can be rewarding, but for a lasting impression, follow the money.

In these groups, freshmen have the unique opportunity to offer a new perspective in life, the opportunity to be collections of ideas, plans, projects and events can come to life with a little effort.

By joining one of these groups, you can have actual power over what goes on at your university.

Elections for next year are months away and until that point, your opinions matter less exist. For example, SA Standing Committees will soon select the SA budget, but these committees are made up of centrist and non-political students.

SA New Student Representative. These positions are especially important given their breadth and depth in the organization. For instance, in the current system, inertia usually precludes much activity in the current system. Inertia usually prevails in institutional settings, it could be you.

Ian Everhart is a Hanszen College Redshirt.
pleased with the event. "We haven't done any kind of formal evaluation yet, and we are waiting to get feedback from the students," she said. "We want students to give input about what they want on campus."

The hypnotist called 12 males and 12 females up to the stage and sent them back to the audience. She saw the hypnotism was not affecting them.

Baker College junior Russell Schafer was part of the hypnotized group. "I couldn't go kill a person but one of the hosts was kind of relaxed, and you hear and try not to listen to [the command], but you get this kind of feeling."

The hypnotist more or less had Baker College junior Russell Schafer was part of the hypnotized group. "[The hypnotist] more or less had you were doing things like quack like a duck," he said. "You just feel kind of relaxed, and you hear a voice and just listen to the voice. You hear and try not to listen to [the command], but you get this kind of a 'Why not follow what he's saying' feeling."

"I usually have a little apprehensive about something happens." said. "Some people were nervous, alcohol Policy was the cause of the relative quiet.  "In part, I think that people at Martel generally follow the Alcohol Policy," Sozanski, a junior, said. "Some people were nervous, through."

"I think the private party hosts were a little apprehensive about how strict the new enforcement was going to be, so they were all really cautious about what went on at their parties," Blackstock, a junior, said. "They were worried because it's been said that hosts will now be held responsible in the event that something happens."

"I think the private party hosts were a little apprehensive about how strict the new enforcement was going to be.

Dave Blackstock
Lovett College Chief Justice

Martel College Chief Justice Erin Szanski said Martel's Disc-O was also relatively calm. However, Szanski said she does not think stricter enforcement of the Alcohol Policy was the cause of the relative quiet.  "In part, I think that people at Martel generally follow the Alcohol Policy," Sozanski, a junior, said. "Some people were nervous, through."
Owl’s eye view

Eight tented suites were constructed at the north end of Rice Stadium this summer, the first premium seating available at football games. Each suite has 50 seats. The first home football game of the year is at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 against Navy.

LABOR DAY SALE

STARTING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31,
we’re taking exciting reductions off our Fall shoes
regular prices
20% OFF women’s shoes
30% OFF women’s pants, slacks, shorts, patio shoes
30% OFF high tops, tennis shoes and more

For more information visit our web site: http://www.nm.com

Spend all your money on books?
Work for us. We pay.

Send an e-mail to thresher@rice.edu for more information.
**POWER**

From page 1

phone lines to remain operational.

"We've had a project in the past to replace that overhead line — maybe bury it or try to protect it somehow — but it's such an enormous project, it's been one of those things we just have been putting off," Price said. "We're going to look into that again and see if there's any way to protect that overhead line from lightning."

Power was restored to most of the campus, including the colleges, in about 30 minutes. Power was not restored to the entire campus by 6:30 p.m., Price said.

Restroring power to the west end of campus — Rice Stadium, Rice University Police Department, Rice Media Center, Continuing Studies and Autry Court — took the longest because the overhead line that was struck carries power to that part of campus, Price said.

"We always have to check the system out thoroughly before we energize it again for fear the system could take it someplace. It's a concern," Price said. "We just don't want to turn the power back on [and cause more damage]."

Power was restored to Data Center operations by 10 a.m., Aug. 19. All the servers had to be rebooted, and most systems were running by 3 a.m.

The system was made operational by wiring temporary bypasses around the disabled UPS units. However, some systems still ran slowly, and lost data needed to be reconstituted from backups.

Price said the abrupt shutdown of the computers is responsible for any lingering problems.

"The unplanned shutdown is one thing that's caused the difficulties of this past week because the systems were not shut down cleanly — because they had the power yanked out from under them," Price said. "There have been various straggling problems here and there, and it's been a little slower than it needs to be."

Other problems were caused by the power outage. Several people were stuck in elevators at Fondren Library. McNair Hall and Sid Richardson College, Price said.

The emergency power in McNair Hall malfunctioned, leaving stairwells and the underground garage dark.

The Courtyard Cafe, which had water pressure, chill water and steam, took several hours after power was restored to become fully operational, Price said.

Orientation Week activities were not affected significantly. Campuswide O-Week Coordinator Alex Paul said. The Aug. 1 Athletics rally was canceled because of the power outage. Paul, a Jones College senior, said.

A brief Data Center outage Aug. 19 interrupted new-student class registration for about an hour.

Price said the timing of the power outage — just before the end of the workday — allowed staff members to work on the problem immediately.

"During these emergency situations, it's good to have good technical people on our staff," Price said. "We turned up quickly to troubleshoot the situation and determine what was wrong and what was not wrong and restore the power very quickly."

---

**MED* STUD* (CHECK US OUT FOR A REEL* GOOD TIME)

Medieval Studies Film Series 2005-6
Media Center Selected Sundays @ 3 p.m.

Free. Refreshments while they last. All films are either in English or dubbed/subtitled in English.

Sponsored by Houston Hillel
For more information contact Rebecca 713-526-4966

**OUTREACH**

From page 1

at Magnificent House, which offers a free and soup kitchen for the homeless.

The amnesty group met Saturday in a Humanities Building classroom to prepare the 14 volunteers. The officers first spoke to the volunteers about what to do when refugees — from how to give a firm handshake to the cultural importance of being on time in America.

When the group of sixty young to middle-aged Libyan refugees arrived, the volunteers' paired off. Most refugees who settle in the U.S. receive funding from the federal government for at least four months. Afterward, refugees often depend on state welfare programs, of which Texas has few.

"We knew they had to get jobs as soon as possible," volunteer Robert Browning, a Jones College junior, said. "So we told them they need to look for employment. They don't have a lot of time to get on their feet."

Free. Refreshments while they last. All films are either in English or dubbed/subtitled in English.

Sponsored by Houston Hillel
For more information contact Rebecca 713-526-4966

**COFFEEHOUSE**

WELCOME BACK.

Mon-Th 830 AM-midnight
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Sun 8 PM-midnight

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**ESPRESSO. COFFEE. MIGHTY LEAF TEA. FREEZIES. ITALIAN SODAS. FAL LL BISCOTTI. OTIS SPUNKMEYER COOKIES. MUFFINS. BAGELS. 20 SYRUP FLAVORS. MUSIC. CUTE EMPLOYEES. AND MORE.**
ENTRANCES RENUMBERED

Many campus entrances were renumbered Aug. 10. Facilities, Engineering and Planning implemented the one-time changes so future alterations would not be necessary as new buildings and entrances are built.

NEW ENTRANCE NUMBERS

OLD ENTRANCE NUMBERS

Celebrate Labor Day Weekend!
September 2nd thru 5th
10% Off Your Entire Purchase* with valid Student ID
“You don’t have to be rich, Just a student.”

“Now Serving 99¢ Breakfast”
Restaurant Hours
9:30am--8:30pm

$199
KLIPPAN sofa
ALME natural
100% cotton fixed cover

Open Everyday
10am--9pm

$4.99
DOKUMENT trash can

St. Paul’s
United Methodist Church
Dr. L. James Bankston, Senior Minister
Rev. Shelli Williams, Wesley Foundation Campus Minister

Traditional Worship for Contemporary People

5501 Main Street * Houston, Texas 77004 * 713.528.0527
In the Museum District * www.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG

Sunday Services at 8:30, 9:45 & 11:05 A.M.
For more information, contact Rev. Williams by phone or at SWILLIAMS@STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG
The Princeton Review annually releases college rankings on academic performance, student life, and other categories based on student surveys, which are conducted for each school at least every third year.

The 2006 edition, released Monday, includes 361 colleges ranked in 62 categories. Rice made the top 20 in five categories, detailed below.

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<td>Peer assessment</td>
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<td>Faculty resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni giving</td>
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<td>Rice</td>
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"Rice is an outstanding school," said Pham. "We're still building the core of the network. The new network will support up to one gigabit per second of data transfer. The new wiring will take us through 10 years or more," Pham said. "This will prepare Rice for the high bandwidth demand of the future."
Artistic passion lies at core of thrilling ‘Heart’

The new French film The Beat That My Heart Skipped is the type of movie that reminds unfurled summertime dreams hope for a good French, director Jacques Audiard’s new film, which plays like a noir thrillers with compelling story of family, breathes life into a season of lackluster cinema.

THE THRESHER’S RECOMMENDED EVENTS AROUND HOUSTON THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

THE EFFECTORS picks

tonight

WOULD YOU LIKE MUSIC WITH YOUR ART?
The contemporary music ensemble Musiqa will perform in conjunction with the exhibit Landscape Confection. Tonight at 6:30.

The Contemporary Art Museum, Houston.
The Steel Lounge, 5216 Montrose.
Please call (713) 284-8251 for more information.

WELL, WHAT IF THERE IS NO TOMORROW?

The Bill Murray classic Groundhog Day is this week’s midnight movie. Tonight and tomorrow at midnight.
The River Oaks, 2000 West Gray.
Shopping www.riveroaks.com for more information.

DIRTY PICTURES

The Melni presents Cy Twombly: Fifty Years of Works on Paper. This exhaustive survey of Twombly’s work spans from his rockin’ roots in the 1950s, through his famed chalkboard period in the 1970s to works made in 2002.

Through September 4.
The Menil Collection.
1515 Sul Ross.
Please call (713) 525-3400 for more information.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2005

Piano Vox

Remain Duris (Luches Cazo) pianist Thomas See, a man caught between his passion for music and his commitment to family in director Jacques Audiard’s The Beat That My Heart Skipped, in theaters.

’Song’ proves sex and rock ‘n’ roll a volatile mix

The depiction of sex in film has always been a controversial subject. Nothing seems to grab the audience quite like an ingenue’s decision to expose her breasts, or the rare instance when a leading man chooses to show off the full monty. Just think of how much attention Halle Berry, Colin Farrell, Charlie Theron and Ewan McGregor have gotten for their on-screen nudity, and while sex can be integral to a film’s narrative, it can create a dirty, seamy feel. Ultimately, the film’s graphic depiction of sex and Waterston’s utter rejection to plum the characters’ emotional depths, creates a volatile mixture.

COURTESY TARTAN PICTURES

“9 Songs,” the new film from British director Michael Winterbottom (24 Hour Party People), does not have high ambitions. The film does nothing but follow two young hipsters as they frequent concerts and engage in an anonymous love affair. Winterbottom seems satisfied with this nihilistic setup, and while the audience is too ultimately, the film’s graphic exploration of sex and Waterston’s’s utter rejection to plum the characters’ emotional depths create a volatile mixture.

The film’s almost nonexistent narrative structure consists of live concert performances from some of independent rock’s finest — The Dandy Warhols, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Elvis and the Super Furry Animals to name a few — followed by raw, pornographic sex scenes.

Unlike most legitimate films, the sex scenes here are raw, not simulating. Instead of creating an intimate connection between character and audience member, this technique creates a dirty, seamy feel. It is more than a little surprising to see Winterbottom resort to such shock and awe tactics. He explored the lives of journalists in London with experimental pornography in Welcome to Sarajevo and told a very different, much more powerful love story in the science-fiction thriller Code 46. But with this film, he seems to have lost interest in the story’s nature, as if it were a vessel to create a dirty, seamy feel.

The Beat That My Heart Skipped is a remake of James Toback’s schizoid romantic drama Finger, which starred Harvey Keitel. Hunched over his piano in his dark apartment, constantly tapping his fingers and humming with his head on his shoulders, Duris gamely steps into Keitel’s shoes and provides a wrenching intensity.

Remakes rarely deserve to be so highly lauded, but The Beat That My Heart Skipped proves to be one of these now rare. Audiard and his star deliver threads of a hard-ganger film and a tender story of a father and a son combined into a refreshing piece of French cinema amid a meager film season.

Even the music, as dreamy, seductive and well performed as it is, really does nothing to add depth to the relationship between the two characters. It creates a new atmosphere and places the couple in a specific social and cultural niche. In addition to the alternative rock, Waterston uses Michael Nyman’s classical piece to accent several sex scenes, presumably with the intention of binding some depth and class to the proceedings. But when the dialogue ranges from “Baby, why don’t you pay attention to me?” to “Do it faster, faster!” this is, of course, impossible.

Ultimately, ‘9 Songs’ feels like two-thirds of a film, (the movie runs 84 minutes running time) rough enough to make it feel incomplete.) We have the sex and the music, but we are missing the heart.
New ‘Potter’ installment lives up to hype, sure to win over fans of all ages

Julia Bursten

THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Julia Bursten

New ‘Potter’ installment lives up to the sixth Harry Potter novel that hit movies. And, unlike most languages across the world? It is long, it is dark, and it drew as much attention as her readers face in a real and approachable manner.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince is a lengthy novel that Rowling manages to pad her storyline, its publicity is well done. Rowling’s genius for drawing fans into the world of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince is marked by the maturing of a generation of readers at the same time. Rowling’s Second Book, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Not only does this make Harry a more realistic character, but it also introduces more mature themes as they come up in Rowling’s second novel.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince marks the maturing of a generation of readers at the same time that it keeps young adults interested in reading. For this alone, regardless of its plotline, its publicity is well deserved.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY
FOR WOMEN:
GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS STUDY

Are you eligible?
Participants must be:
- Between 18 - 40 years old
- Sexually active in the last 4 months
- Not pregnant

What does the study involve?
- Women who test negative for GBS will be invited to take part in the vaccine study.
- This study will involve 12 visits over 18 months.
- Participants will receive free medical services related to the study including medical examinations, pap smears, and STD testing.
- Qualified participants will be reimbursed for their travel and time.

Join Rice Tutors!
713-664-8085
Not affiliated with Rice University.
C-USA provides competition, rivals

In case you didn't know already, Rice has said goodbye to the Western Athletic Conference after nine seasons and will now compete in Conference USA. Now, you may have a few questions about this move — some big, some small. You may not have any questions at all. But if you do, hopefully they will all be answered here.

What do we leave the WAC to become the firstplace? Well, I would like to say it was because we were tired of competing against weak teams in the major sports (a.k.a. football and basketball). But that isn't true, as our athletes were tired of traveling to places like Boise, Idaho and Fresno, Calif. In reality, we would have probably left the WAC years ago for these reasons if given the opportunity.

However, it took a large domino effect involving a whole bunch of schools switching multiple conferences for us to be afforded that chance. I could get into all the little details about which schools moved to which conference and why, but that isn't necessary for this guide. I'll just write that it all started with three schools: Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College, to be exact — deciding to leave the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference a couple years ago. The conference realignments were set in motion due to that decision, and CUSA was one of them. Hey, who can turn down the chance to go from the weak, little-known WAC to Conference USA for sure couldn't.

Who will Rice compete against in this new conference? There are 11 schools in all. The Western division of Conference USA is Rice is a part of a group of schools that should be familiar to us all: the University of Houston, Rice University, University of Texas El Paso, Southern Methodist University, Tulane University and the University of Tulsa. The road trips to these schools will be brief compared to where we've been traveling in years past.

The schools in the new Eastern division may be a little less familiar: Marshall University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Central Florida, East Carolina University, the University of Memphis and the University of Southern Mississippi. While this list will not reflect all the schools you'll encounter in the years ahead, you'll definitely run into some top-notch teams along the way.

To the fans of Rice's storied basketball team, you may want to know if there are any changes. We've got some new faces, the volleyball team hopes to build on the successful season in this year's competition by winning a Conference USA championship. The Owls were picked to finish first in the conference by CUSA coaches.

"The most important thing that carries over from last year is the standard that we set," head coach Gregy Volpe said. "We're trying to continue where we left off — getting better with every practice and showing a ton at the net, which was a concern in conference play last year. It's going to start right now."

The Owls have four returning will player major roles last year; senior right side hitter Olusa Pazo, senior setter Kristina Holban, junior middle blocker Tresse Kastor and sophomore libervicy Kirk. However, Rice must replace returnees Rebecca Pais, Lindsey Savage (of Rice Wi and Rebecca Kastor (WIIVc) as well as reliable backup Catherine Dubois. With these losses left by last year's team, Volpe said she thinks the freshmen class will have to become a factor in the team's success season.

"I knew before the season started that [the freshmen] would have a strong impact either as starters or off the bench," Volpe said. "But every strong reserves pushing for a starting spot." Volpe said, "The freshmen are pushing us with how they have come in and stepped up to the challenge."

Freshman outside hitter Karyn Morgan will have the invaluable task of filling the shoes that is of Rice's all-time kills leader R-B Rice in the starting lineup.

"This year's team is really strong -- with power and her ability to distribute plays," Volpe said. "She can see her contribut- ing a ton at the net and helping us fill a spot that was left by Lindsey Carter and Rebecca Kastor."

Jessica Healy, who was a sophomore middle hitter, has also established herself as a key contributor.

"Unquestioned [Holban] as an outside hitter but due to some lack of depth on our team, she is going to be having some time at middle blocker," Volpe. "She has really made a strong impact on this team with her quickness, her athleticism and her work ethic."

Middle blocker Mendi Hardy, a sophomore transfer from Idaho Junior College, came to Rice January and participated in spring practices last season. Freshman outside hitter Jessica Map is a freshman middle blocker Eiciss Bola, who is tal-
2005 season tonight against Auburn at 7 p.m. at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium.

Sophomore forward Clory Martin dribbles against Illinois in the NCAA Tournament.

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FMl  CMECKINC WITH NO M0HTY FEE

Sophomore forward Chlo Martie dribbles against Illinois in the NCAA Tournament last year. Martin led Rice with 7 goals and 17 points in 2004. The Owls opened the 2005 season tonight against Auburn at 7 p.m. at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium.

After a breakthrough 2004 season that resulted in a first-ever NCAA tournament berth, the soccer team hopes to have similar success during its inaugural season in Conference USA. Rice opened the regular season tonight against Auburn University, a team ranked 24th in Soccer Buzz Magazine’s preseason National Top 30 poll.

The Owls return five starters and open their regular season tonight against the Houston Challenge, one of the best club teams in Texas. Rice lost 5-0, but head coach Chris Houston said the result was not as important as seeing how the returning and incoming players worked together on the field.

"The main thing we were trying to do was figure out what personnel and what systems were going to work best for us," Houston said. "We have a young team and a lot of new players."

Sophomore defender Beth Martin, a transfer from Northwestern, said the team is optimistic after the scrimmage.

"It was a good scrimmage," Martin said. "I was a little nervous about playing a game with a new team, but we think we’re all pretty good right now."

The Owls went 16-5-3 last year in part because of a strong senior class that included two members of the NCAA Division I All-Central Region Team, goalkeeper Lauren Slackley (Mort '05) and defender Caitlin Currie (Waxo '05). With those players gone, the 2005 squad will have to rely on an equally talented sophomore class.

Featuring four players from Texas, one from California and one from Maryland, this year’s recruiting class is considered one of the best ever. The Owls entered the season 4-2 and ranked 41st in the SoccerBuzz.com annual rankings.

Martin was the starting goalkeeper from 2001-02, but she redshirted the 2003 season after tearing her ACL in the season opener. Senior Amanda Harrison was the starting goalkeeper from 2002-03, but she graduated. Senior Amanda Garrison was the starting goalkeeper from 2003-04, but she redshirted the 2005 season after having her ACL torn and breaks her arm midway through last season.

Seven of the Owls’ nine non-conference opponents lost in the NCAA tournament, in 2004, combining for a 16-0-0 winning percentage and five regular- or post-season conference championships.

Rice will also face a tougher conference schedule this year. The Owls were picked fourth in the C-USA preseason coaches poll but the Owls have faced all five teams that finished ahead of them — Southern Methodist University, Tulane University, University of Central Florida and the University of Houston — all advanced to the NCAA Tournament last year. The Owls will visit UCF on Oct. 9, and UCF at Oct. 20.

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Caitlin Robbins, a forward who redshirted last year after breaking her tibia against Northwestern State University early in the season, said this year's schedule will give the team plenty of chances to prove itself.

"I think it's really exciting that we have a harder schedule this year," Robbins said. "Some people didn't think we deserved last year, but now we don't have any reason for anyone to say that. When you [play] quality teams it's a great opportunity."

Hosting the conference tournament is a great opportunity," Robbins said. "Every season is to win the conference championship — how sweet it would be to win it at home."

Although they will have a difficult regular-season schedule, the Owls will benefit from playing 11 of their 19 games at home. Rice starts with five straight home games against non-conference opponents — including tonight's game against Auburn and Sunday's game against Saint Louis University — before a tough road swing against No. 1 Nebraska, North Texas and No. 27 Texas. The Owls will then play six straight games against teams with losing records before a big matchup against SMU Oct. 5. Rice is 0-6 all-time against the Mustangs — who won the 2002, 2003 and 2004 WAC titles — including the last two WAC Championship matches.

Rice will host the C-USA Tournament Nov. 24, the first conference tournament held at Rice since the 2002 WAC tournament.

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The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Shabbat Dinner tonight and every Friday night at Houston Hillel - 6:30 p.m.
1700 Bissonnet - just up the street from Entrance 20.

Questions? Need a ride? Want to find out more?
Call Hilary, Kenny or Rebecca at 713-526-4918 or hillel@houstonhillel.org

Want to go to Israel for free? Give us a call and we’ll tell you how!
COMING THIS FALL...C-USA FOOTBALL
FREE ADMISSION FOR GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

The Rice Owls are joining Conference USA this fall and we want ALL Rice students to be part of the action. The Athletic Department would like to familiarize you with the procedures related to student admission at athletic events.

ALL Rice students (graduate and undergraduate) are admitted FREE to all home sporting events by presenting their valid Rice ID. All student IDs will be scanned to enter Rice sporting events. Visit www.riceowls.com for all sports schedules.

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

Rice vs. Texas at Austin: The Owls will be playing the Longhorns on September 17th at 6 pm in Austin. The athletic department would like to extend a special offer to all Rice students: $50 tickets will be sold to Rice students on a first-come, first-served basis at the discounted rate of $25. Students can obtain their ticket, starting September 1st, by bringing their valid student ID to the Rice Ticket Office, Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, while supplies last (Offer expires at 5 pm on Wednesday, September 14th).

Your loyal support is greatly appreciated by the players and coaches. We hope to see you at all the games this season! Please call (711) 334-5000 for more information.

THE GUS Data Center - Rice's Best Kept Secret!

Have you ever taken a course where you wished you could visualize the class information instead of just reading about it? Do you ever wonder how people around the world visualize information to understand it? Our museum at the GUS Data Center (GDC) is to help you visualize spatial information - that which has a location on earth. We have helped business students map customer locations, archaeologists uncover project areas, anthropologists visualize soil locations, and geologists track and changes (geographic information). We use GIS technology to build an interactive overview of any location on earth. We have open house events for almost six years and have an experience in dealing with many data formats, including the creation of new data sets.

Why use GIS? Whatever field of study you choose, chances are you will probably need to be aware of GIS. Because of their widespread application, GIS skills are becoming increasingly important in today's job market.

What do we have? The center has two full-time GIS professionals and student workers throughout the semester. We carry an array of software packages such as ArcGIS, ERDAS Imagine, AutoCAD, and Photoshop to help us capture data, display it, and analyze it. Through the center you can also access an exhaustive collection of local and world GIS data sets.

How can we help you? We can answer small questions or work with on-going research projects. We can guide you in the development of a project from the beginning to the end. If you are a new GIS user we offer six different short courses into GIS. Editing in GIS, Basic to Remote Sensing, Intro to GIS, using ArcGIS 2000 Data, and Working with Harris County GIS Data. If you are a more experienced user, we guide you along the way to get the results you need.

The GUS Data Center is located in the basement of Fondren Library and is open from Monday - Thursday 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. It is located at 6100 Main St. in Houston, Texas 77251. If you have any questions, you can visit us at 1-888-626-2404 or visit us at gusdata.0utermed.edu for information on additional services, short course schedules, software packages, and data sets.

VOLLEYBALL

From page 11

For Olaya Pazo, having to start out because her sister, who is her inspiration, is no longer with us, has been rough.

"She was always there to support me," Olaya Pazo said. "If we want to be competitive and make the NCAA tournament, we need to be critical for the Owls, especially since Rice will host the 2005 C-USA Tournament." Pazo said she is optimistic after pre-season practices.

"We just need to continue to play our best game, and if we can do that I think we can beat a lot of teams," Kuykendall said. "I think we work hard to better the ball every time."

VOLLEYBALL: 2005 HOME SCHEDULE

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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Houston (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>UAB (C-USA Tournament)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RICE UNIVERSITYFootball: 2005 HOME SCHEDULE | Date       | Opponent          | Time       |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RICE UNIVERSITY

VOLLEYBALL: 2005 HOME SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>McNeese State</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Sacramento State</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Alabama-Birmingham</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Tulsa (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Southern Methodist</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Kent State</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>East Carolina (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Marshall (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Texas El Paso (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Tulane (C-USA)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Houston (C-USA)</td>
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THE RICE THRESHER CALENDAR FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2005

FRIDAY 26
Soccer vs. Auburn
Women's soccer takes on Auburn University at 7 p.m. at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Watch the Owls swoop down on the Tigers.

Wiess is a lovely college that throws the year's first party
Wiess College's traditional first party of the year will be from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Team ... Drunk ...

Proccrastination 101
Speaks with representatives of almost any extracurricular activity from 12:30-4:00 p.m. in the Grand Hall and Ray Courtyard at the Rice Memorial Center.

TUESDAY 30
American Idol: Rice tryouts
Just kidding. Rice Philharmonia auditions are tonight and Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Will Rice Private Dining Room.

Big river, big screen
The Museum of Natural Science will host a free IMAX screening of Mysteries of the Nile at 7 p.m. Food will be provided.

WEDNESDAY 31
Resumanias
Get resume advice at Resumania 2005, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Rice Memorial Center lobby, sponsored by the Career Services Center.

SUNDAY 28
What is a Billiken anyway?
Women's soccer plays the St. Louis Billikens at 1 p.m. at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Pulling on who has the worse mascot begins at 1:05.

MONDAY 29
So you think you can dance
Come to Autry Court for the Rice Owl Dance Team's initial information meeting at 7 p.m. Team members will discuss tryout dates. I'd try out a date with a Rice dancer any day.

What is your vision for the Class of 2010?
Student Admission Council
Recruitment Meeting
Tuesday, September 6 at 9:30 p.m. Kelley Lounge in RMC Free food!
http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ricesac/ ricesac@rice.edu

 HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS
Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. prior to Friday publication.
Submission methods:
Fax: (713) 348-5238
E-mail: thresher@rice.edu
Campus Mail: Calendar Editor, Thresher, MS-524
Submissions are printed on a space available basis.

Contraception: Woman’s Friend or Foe?
Our culture believes that contraception is one of the greatest inventions of the late twentieth century. Promoters of contraception argued that it would decrease unwed pregnancy and abortion while improving marriages. None of that has happened.

The lecture will explain why natural family planning (NFP) is not the same as contraception and why couples using NFP report great benefits to their marriage and why they rarely divorce. In fact, the national divorce rate of 52% drops to less than 5% in couples that practice NFP rather than contraception.

A free lecture at Rice University, with Q&A, open to the general public.
Friday, September 9, 7:00 PM, Keck Hall, Room 100.
Lecture delivered by Janet Smith, Professor of Ethics. Professor Smith taught for nine years at the Univ. of Notre Dame, twelve years at the Univ. of Dallas, and she presently holds the McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

For location and parking information, see: www.jmtour.com
Ostdiek said...