Select courses to pilot online evaluations

by Risa Gordon

Some engineering and Masters of Liberal Studies courses will pilot an online system for filling out end-of-semester course evaluations. Enrollment Administration Director Diane Havlicek said she hopes the system is successful enough this semester that it can be implemented for all students beginning next semester.

Under the new system, the numerical survey and the free response parts of the evaluations will be filled out online through ESTHER. When a student logs into his ESTHER account, there will be links to fill out course evaluations for each of his classes and links to fill out evaluations for each of his instructors. The numerical survey will be in the paper forms, which currently require students to return them to the instructor rather than just once for a course, Havlicek said.

Filling out the evaluations in ESTHER allows students to answer questions in the middle of an evaluation and finish it later. Once the evaluations are submitted, students will not be able to change their answers, because the connection between the student’s identity and his answers will be severed, Havlicek said.

Havlicek said students should trust that their identities will not be revealed to faculty. She said the Administratives Systems group, which is responsible for ESTHER and course evaluations, has maintained the confidential connection with the faculty and has no interest in knowing student identities to faculty members.

This anonymity is a benefit of the online system for students who are concerned that faculty members could recognize their handwriting.

Speaker of the Faculty Marj Corcoran said:

"I think we would have beaten them."
Let students see written course evaluations

The excuses for not allowing students to read the free-response portions of other students' course evaluations are dwindling. We are well on our way to a fully online system for filling out evaluations, so there is no longer a danger of distinctive handwriting compromising students' anonymity. (See story, page 1.) We realize the decision to let students read free-response comments about classes they have not attended is a tough decision to make to improve course evaluations online. Nevertheless, now would be the perfect time to give students access to information that would help them choose their courses.

While the numerical portions of evaluations—which are currently available online in the aggregate to students—can be helpful, they are not as telling as students' free-response comments would be. A rating of "outstanding" may mean something quite different to different students—a problem magnified in Rice's many small classes, where individual preferences impact the aggregate ratings more. A word to a thousand numbers; access to free-response comments would allow students to gather a volume of information and judge a class for themselves, without relying on arbitrary quantifications.

Furthermore, students would get more out of free-response evaluations than discovering which professors are poor teachers and which classes are dull. For example, students could alert each other to whether certain classes require background knowledge not mentioned in the course description or syllabus. It is only fair that students have this opportunity to coordinate their knowledge for the good of everyone's education. Currently, they can communicate by word of mouth or on unsanctioned Web sites, but these informal methods prevent students from assessing a representative cross-section of student opinion on a given class.

In rare cases, students may make comments that are inappropriate to air to the student body. So we support a system in which instructors have a period of time before the evaluations are posted to ask a committee to review and possibly remove such comments. The oversight of a committee would prevent faculty from excising all negative comments, not just inappropriate ones.

As for the move to put evaluations online in general, we support the idea. Hopefully, the conversion from a paper to an online format will allow the Registrar's Office to make the numerical data easier to read—the current, massive Excel spreadsheet is too cumbersome to be very useful. Insofar as numbers are useful at all, we like an overlay way to tell a professor's "stats": his overall ratings, the distribution of the ratings, the distribution of the self-reported expected grades and so on. The time and money saved in the online switch should be used to make the quantitative evaluations user-friendly.

There has been some discussion of how to ensure students will fill out the online evaluations at the same rate they have been filling out the paper evaluations. Our view is there is no need for an incentive—the vast majority of students take course evaluations seriously, and they complete them with a carrot or a stick. No such incentive should be introduced unless this semester's pilot program in the engineering school has significantly lower participation rates than in past semesters.

We are glad progress is finally being made on the issue of course evaluations. By letting students see their fellow students' free-response comments and by making the format of the quantitative evaluation results more user-friendly, Rice will increase the transparency of its teaching quality for the people who need that transparency most.

Extra Owl Weekend good for Rice, prospies

Beyond the benefit of adding another potentially crazy weekend to the Rice spring calendar, an extra Owl Weekend in March targeted at students accepted under interim decision can only help Rice recruit prospective students. (See story, page 1.)

Many admitted students have trouble coming to the April weekend because Rice's peer schools hold similar events simultaneously. Having a March Owl Weekend will give Rice a jump on its competition—particularly since many high school students have their spring breaks in March and should be more likely to attend.

We are excited for the effect this will have on Rice's interim decision enrollment and look forward to seeing a crop of starry-eyed Owls a month early.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students can make own NOD choices

To the editor:

After reading Erica Rangely's column proposing that we abolish Rice College's Night of Decadence for the sake of the students, I couldn't help feel bad for the students at Rice ("For student good, Rice must end NOD," Nov. 4). The column painted a picture of a weak-willed, naive, insecure and irresponsible student body that was just itching to be emotionally and physically violated, with NOD providing a perfect outlet for that outcome. Paradox be, but on behalf of all Rice students, I would like to disagree.

Despite all the craziness and poppularity of NOD, it is just another party that students can choose to attend or not; peer pressure has always been an element in campus life but would not expect NOD to be an exception. To give us a little credence, I think most students can make up their own minds about NOD, just as they can about any other social event.

If a student is deliberating about whether to go, I would hope that he or she would put it together in his or her mind that a party that contains a large amount of people who are scantily clad, in close proximity and most likely intoxicated will most definitely have some sexual overtones.

That said, opportunities to go to NOD should recognize the following:

First, if the or she wears something provocative, he or she will draw attention of a sexual nature to himself or herself.

Second, staying in a group of friends or at least with a buddy or significant other might be wise, considering the general horniness of the dance floor crowd.

Third, if drinking is on your to-do list for NOD, doubly apply to the second.

Brett Sidecar

Homeste ad sophomore

Conceited columnist wrong about PDA

To the editor:

Arianne Urus's column on the PDA disease was quite possibly the most self-righteous article I have ever read. ("Public displays of affection just pretty darn adolescent," Nov. 4). To judge the feelings couples harbor for each other based solely on how they express these feelings is incredibly offensive.

She assumes couples carry their affection for each other to a show on a show for her. But that simply isn't the case. When I was in a relationship, those displays of affection—both in private and in public—were for the benefit of each other and no one else.

You see, I'm young, and even subtle displays of affection are killed for that reason. To display affection in public could definitely get me into trouble, so to say that I was putting on a show for everyone downplays the feelings and risks involved.

The affection I showed my boyfriend wasn't to show the world how hot, sexy or cool I was. It wasn't even to show the world that I wasn't afraid to be seen in public with my boyfriend, because to be perfectly honest, I was—especially after having been accosted by a stranger downtown for displaying what Urus would call an "inappropriate manifestation of affection."

I never felt I had anything to prove to the world. It was about showing him I cared and how I felt about him. Such feelings know no boundaries. They don't have to be defined only behind closed doors. While we may not be in a relationship anymore, it certainly didn't end because of the "emotional instability" she displayed.

I thought only children squealed when they saw two people kiss. But I suppose I was wrong, in my opinion, being disinguished upon.

CONCLUDING COLUMNIST

COANTECNG THE THRESHER

Letters

Letters to the editor should be directed to the Thresher at thresher-ads@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 200 words in length. The Thresher reserves the right to edit for both content and length.

Subscribing

Annual subscriptions are available for domestic and SIS international via first class mail.

Advertising

The Thresher accepts display and classified advertisements. All advertising must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date. Please contact our advertising manager at (713)348-3607 or send an e-mail to thresher-ad@rice.edu for more information.
People, if you are going to wear open-toed shoes, wash your feet. I know a few classmates who equals simply doesn't cut it. If you came to the effort to at least scrub your feet then you should wear open-toed shoes. If for some reason you can't absorb the odor yourself, maybe spray deodorant on them. You put deodorant under your armpits, which you can just as well do with them, so why don't you deodorize your toe-pits? Heck, one also has to wonder why nothing.

Maybe I should compare my Toenail to a Naive type. Like, compare yourselves to dummies trying to decide on a pair of pants. Some people, see what they choose, then suddenly your gelding's big sister wants to make use of it. If they don't consider wearing certain foot, they don't know what. But women are part of the problem. Too many women, just not polish that doesn't absorb. Just because you open bought a pedal deodorant doesn't mean your feet still don't stink. So instead, all I suggest is a cultural campaign will get people of both sexes to realize the odors are often perfect. Therefore, in my opinion, women are part of the problem. Too many, just not polish that doesn't absorb. Just because you open bought a pedal deodorant doesn't mean your feet still don't stink. So instead, all I suggest is a cultural campaign will get people of both sexes to realize the odors are often perfect. Therefore, in my opinion, women are part of the problem. Too many, just not polish that doesn't absorb. Just because you open bought a pedal deodorant doesn't mean your feet still don't stink. So instead, all I suggest is a cultural campaign will get people of both sexes to realize the odors are often perfect. Therefore, in my opinion, women are part of the problem. Too many, just not polish that doesn't absorb. Just because you open bought a pedal deodorant doesn't mean your feet still don't stink.

Terrorists always seem to walk around in sandals with unwashed feet. You're not a terrorist, are you?

Apparently, quite a few Rice students are college as a prime opportunity to step up their game and, with their high-ability habits. Sometimes I wonder if Rice has yellow foot syndrome, much like Harvard's "brown man." I don't walk across campus without having my olfactory senses over load up open-toed shoes, no matter how well they are washed in the hedges — classrooms act as an ignore odor collector. As if! Other shoes are not built for having to pay attention while breathing in your pores. Toenail, MATH 211. How many of us aren't the worse, with the combined stench of 200 students seemingly would infuse the shoes and make one notice it in the hallway. The stench of open-toed shoes appearing to attract people to some of the houses, even if some deodorant is being used to eliminate its foot breath.

People, if you are going to wear open-toed shoes, wash your feet.
DIFFERENT COUPLES WORK DIFFERENT WAYS

To the editor:
I found large parts of Ariane Ursu's column so appalling that I can't help but hope it was a joke. ("Public displays of affection just pretty darn dumb," Nov. 4.)

"Who gave these amateur exhibitors permission to hold hands?" Ursu asks. "Nonsense, probably all agree that forcing them of needing permission for PDA is simply outrageous. Just to be clear, seeing two people kiss is pretty darn pretentious."

I was actually reminded of the grim and small-minded attitude that is now and again loudly expressed by the religious and other "pure" into a free country. The alternative is a free country. The alternative is a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. The alternative is a society in which we are expecting our first child.

I had never considered the idea that holding hands and kissing in public is an attempt to prove one's love to the world, and regardless, I don't know what everyone else needs is a little more affection and compassion.

Furthermore, Freeland envisions a society in which there is a "triumph of the Democratic message," and it too is a "triumph of the Bible." I'd like to comment with a broader view regarding all people: In our globalized world, viewing humanity as a lot of singular opposing clubs and nations is not productive. Observing the world through the "absolute" ideas of any religion is not truthful.

Wang seems to believe that for the world, "God's love, forgiveness provide the world's salvation and there is no positive reflection of Texas law." I am writing in response to Daniel Wang's column about God's love, which Wang's cannot aid the progress of the Church.

I was disturbed by Wang's closed-mindedness, which I believe is a "triumph of the Bible." I was greatly saddened to learn that holding hands and kissing in public is "a lovable but not necessarily indicate a relationship.

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From the evaluations.

Levy said he has heard some concern that the response rate of the evaluations will decrease due to the change in systems. Currently, students generally fill out paper evaluations on the last day of classes.

"Students will be able to fill out evaluations at a time that's good for them," Tenney said. "They can take their time."

Provost Eugene Levy said the free-response part of the course evaluations will still attract more thoughtful responses when students have more time to complete the evaluation.

Tenney said the aggregate response rate for course evaluations will lower for smaller classes. Levy said he has heard some concern that the response rate of the evaluations will decrease due to the change in systems since students will not have a net time to fill out the evaluations. But Levy said he thinks students will still take the evaluations seriously.

"I think students do want to have their opinions heard and it's important," Levy said.

Tenney said many other universities offer online course evaluations. He said officials at those schools also initially had concerns that student response rates would decrease, but those concerns proved unfounded.

Havlinek said other schools have instituted incentives or sanctions to encourage or force students to fill out course evaluations. Some schools enter students who complete the evaluations at random drawings for prizes such as iPods. Other universities fine students who withhold grades if they do not complete the evaluations. Havlinek said withholding grades would be difficult to implement because Rice could not withhold grades for small classes.

Havlinek said a decision about incentive awards will not be made until the response rates from this semester's pilot program are available.

Levy said the additional advantages of moving to online course evaluations include a more efficient use of university resources — primarily staff time — the ability to process and distribute the results of the evaluations more quickly, and the reduced potential for error and lost forms.

This is a step into the more modern world, and this is something that will be beneficial to everybody," Levy said.

Tenney said switching to an online course evaluation system will save $10,000-20,000 per semester. Tenney said the Registrar's Office currently has to generate and distribute approximately 1 million forms per semester for course evaluations.

Havlinek said some evaluation questions have also been reworded so the answer choices are now consistent with the questions. However, the intent of the questions has not been changed. Havlinek said:

"[The change] is just making the quantitative evaluation that you would provide a student consistent with the question that's being asked."

Havlinek said:

"If they're stepping up their recruitment efforts, then we're going to see it," Browning said. "We're especially going to feel it because we're so small than all of those schools."

Browning said the number of early decision applicants also reflects a growing national trend among universities applying through programs that notify students about an admissions decision before April 1.

Browning said early application programs should be attractive to students who have already put a lot of time and effort into the university application process and distribute the results of the evaluation more quickly.

The Admissions Office is also making efforts to reach out more to prospective students. Last week, student volunteers called high school students who are on Rice's mailing list but had not yet completed applications.

Browning said many top-tier universities have increasingly recruited freshmen from Texas, which has a fast-growing high school population.

"If they're stepping up their recruitment efforts, then we're going to see it," Browning said. "We're especially going to feel it because we're so small than all of those schools."

Early decision applications up 15 percent from last year

by Sarah Baker

The number of early decision applicants increased by 15 percent last year, bringing the total number of applicants who applied through the binding decision program to 503. Last year, 454 students applied.

The number of applicants from all races increased, with the exception of American Indian applicants, which remained the same. The number of students applying from outside of Texas also increased by 43 students, a 28 percent increase. Students from Texas still make up the majority of early decision applicants. In contrast to last year, more females applied than males.

Dean of Undergraduate Enrollment Michael Brown said the numbers will likely increase slightly as students who submitted applications by the Nov. 1 deadline send their application letters.

Browning said the increase in early decision applications reflects Rice's recruiting, which has changed in recent years. The changes include specifically addressing stereotypes about Texas and recruiting more on the East and West coasts, Browning said.

The Admissions Office develops videos for its Web site in which Rice students from other states discuss what they've learned about attending school in Texas.

The change is more to have students from farther away and get them to see Texas as an appealing place to come to school. Browning said:

"There are some significant psychological mindsets in the minds of prospective students and their families."

The Admissions Office is also making efforts to reach out more to prospective students. Last week, student volunteers called high school students who are on Rice's mailing list but had not yet completed applications.

Browning said early application programs should be attracting Texas students who are not traditionally interested in Rice, and that Rice has consistency in the number of early action programs.

"We don't go into recruiting all of our students with a particular geographic target in mind," Browning said. "We really go into it looking at whether we are attracting the best opportunities for Rice right now."

The target class size for the class of 2011 is 2,125, a slight increase from the class of 2010. Browning said Rice has consistent numbers in the range of 2,125 for about a third of its early decision applications. More early decision applicants have been interested in Rice in the past two years.

Browning said the increased numbers of early decision applicants with no plans to attend Rice are transiently increasing more early decision acceptances. Rice has consistent numbers in the number of early decision acceptances from 2,068 to 2,125.

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Continuing Studies

named for Glasscock

by David Brown

The School of Continuing Studies will be named for Board of Trustees member Susanne Glasscock (Jones '60). She and her husband, Melbern Glasscock (M.M.E. '60), recently made the largest donation to the School of Continuing Studies in its 37-year history. President David Leebron announced the decision to name the school Wednesday.

Dean of Continuing Studies Mary McIntire said the gift may be the largest ever of its kind.

"I have talked to a number of colleagues and the national office of continuing studies, and this is the largest donation to a university school of continuing education," McIntire said.

The Glasscocks declined to state the size of the donation, which may be used for a capital expenditure or a capital improvement project that will not suffer from university budget cuts, said President David Leebron.

"I'm impressed that in a citywide race with many candidates, it comes down to a race (between two Democrats)," he said.

"That's the busines..."
Former astronaut Sally Ride, currently a physics professor, discussed the role of women in science and her space travel Monday at Baker Hall.

"Discrimination in the workplace is much more subtle now," Long said. "It's no longer, 'Oh, we don't want to hire her because she's a woman, and she'll just get pregnant and leave.'"

Keller-McNulty said scientific fields would be aided by better supporting women in the field. "Women are very good at inspiring others and encouraging collaboration," Keller-McNulty said. "If women try to conform, becoming just like the men they work with, then we all lose that."

Bay said the United States needs to attract more students — male and female — to study science.

"Currently, we are not graduating enough scientists to take over U.S. industry needs," Bay said. "Americans don't place enough value on careers in science and [those careers'] demands and expectations. We need to do more to pool our resources in order to better promote scientific careers.

"It's crucial that women know that it's not unnatural or unusual for them to pursue scientific careers,'" — Sally Ride
Former Astronaut

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Brown casts spell with hypnotic ‘Midsummer’

Julia Birnsten
THE THRASHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Techno-pop and light sabers are not standard fare for a Shakespearean production. Neither are sexually ambiguous characters on stage: a button-down shirt and a tiny bra are a hint of the transformation that occurs in William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Directed by Brown senior Ben Burford, Midsummer updates one of Shakespeare’s best-loved plays with a cast that is almost entirely made up of Brown students. The entire production is on the rise, but Burford’s vision is already so strong that it could hold its own against any professional ensemble.

Brown Theatre

Brown’s production excels at not taking itself too seriously. Burford’s modern approach to the play brings a naive, almost childlike vision of the world to the stage — an organic, naturalistic interpretation that is at once both charming and refreshing. The production’s signature sexual tension is underscored by the relationships between the characters. Frail bodies and highly physical choreography are juxtaposed with tender, intimate moments that are both funny and moving.

The next two pieces offer further examples of this approach. The first, a lyrical piece set to Debussy’s “La Mer,” is characterized by a catchy sailor-and-villain motif that sets the tone for the entire production. The second piece, “Karma,” composed by a small group of students, is a modern, highly physical interpretation of the bard’s work. The dancers move with fluidity and grace, using a variety of techniques and incorporating elements of hip-hop, salsa, and contemporary dance.

The show closes with a performance of Leonard Bernstein’s “West Side Story,” featuring a cast of students dressed in colorful costumes and bursting with energy. The production is a tribute to the legacy of the Bard, and a testament to the power of Shakespeare’s words to inspire and challenge audiences of all ages.

For more information, please call (13) 865-8881.
Hanszen's high-heeled 'La Cage' falters in spite of glamour

Jennifer Quereau

Even though it boasts leather boots, bustiers and gender bending, Hanszen College's musical production of La Cage aux Folles (The Birdcage) is surprisingly conservative and lethargic.

The script's farce vacances is most in need of face, but director Malcolm Elick, a Wiess junior, fills those gaps well. Most excitingly, he found St. John's College freshman Ed Biewen to play Owen, a redneck good old boy who is scheming to take over Betty's place and convert the quiet cagelles. During the leads' solos, the music is too soft and does not quite surrender to the singers.

Director Rey Valdez, a Hanszen senior, is saddled with this rather static material and does not make the best of it. Overall, the show needs more energy, more raunchiness and more relevance in the chorus songs, the orchestra overpowers the quiet cagelles. During the leads' solos, the music is too soft and does not quite surrender to the singers.

The excellently cast McCormick is the only character who consistently projects while singing. He characterizes the voice and manners of Nathan Lane, who played this role in the American film version of the play, and energizes those around him.

For a play publicized as a liberating transvestite romp, it ultimately outs itself as a middling reinforcement of gender norms and roles.

The script backfires and Charlie, a bland, shy, and having to force conversation. So Froggy convinces the hotel owner, Georges (left), played by Martel College freshman Tony Parce, and Albin, played by Martel senior Zachary McLemore, to dinner, which of the first scene, Levin and crew, but he did not push them hard enough. Blocking sometimes consists of meandering back and forth, and dance numbers are often half-hearted can-cans. However, the costumes are inventive and the simple set and lighting bring the club to life.

DANCE

From page 9

Skinner, presents an even more paraphrased and honest version of an Ani DiFranco-Bjork mix. The interpretive pieces forces the work to hinge solely on the title of dancers, and they deftly rise to the challenge.

'Beers,' from Olson, speeds the tempo with a futuristic rhythmic piece loving to the beat, robotic movements in a to the beat. Her formations seamlessly draw the eye to the center of the stage.

The program ends with Sessions' delightfully choreographed 'Happy' which features many members of the company. The casual waves and jive score by the dancers set a relaxed tone to accompany Hals's 'Sharks.' From the creative line formations to the infectious snapping, the dance and music join harmoniously to conclude the show memorably.
The exhibit probes humanity's meaning.

Rachel Green

The Meat Wagon

The Meat Wagon, Robert Gober's new exhibit at the Menil Collection, is an exhibition from a juxtaposition of pieces normally not part of the permanent collection with a chronological perspective of Gober's work. The effect is a disjointed examination of self, sexuality and spirituality, the title of which stems from a letter John de Menil himself penned.

"Robert Gober: The Meat Wagon"

The Menil Collection Rating ★★★★☆

In December 1972, Menil wrote a letter to a friend encouraging his burial wishes. The last line read, "be human." While not inspired by pride, because I'll be a corpse for the meat wagon, I wrote a letter to a friend enuring his burial wishes. The last line reads, "This details were a corpse for the meat wagon."

Walter and director Noah Baumbach prepares for a scene on the set of his latest film, The Squid and the Whale.

Baumbach reveals inspiration for 'Squid' and the Whale

Writer and director Noah Baumbach wrote with his technique of writing only semi-fictional stories creates an insightful commentary on finding one's individuality.

"For the Thresher"
Take that stuff off, so it seemed his way of dealing with [his father's intellectual snobbery] would be to reject them.

Baumbach said he, like Walt, defined himself by his opinions on books and music as a teenager, and still sees such preferences as a crucial means of finding his place in society.

"For an adult artist, a lot of times, liking the less-known stuff is a way to justify your own existence if you're like, 'I like

While one might expect an independent filmmaker such as Baumbach to be interested in lesser-known works of film and art, he said he has found many other people who choose to identify themselves by their opinions on mainstream works, because they can separate themselves and retain their individuality this way.

"When you say something like, 'I like Tom Waits,' it's one of a way to identify yourself, because you're identifying yourself with most people in the country," he said. "No one wants to just be the guy who likes Tom Waits." He added this is part of his justification for working on smaller films.

"People try and define themselves by [my work]," Baumbach said. "It's a compliment toate themselves with me."

"I hope people try and define

While writing about kids in an intellectual environment and because Walt is the older one and more articulate, it seemed like there would be something seductive to him about his father's way of looking at the world," Baumbach said. "It pulls a lot of things for him, but it also limits him terribly. But it's also seductive to him about his identity for yourself."

For an adolescent, it's a way to create an identity for yourself."

Wong is able to take seemingly frivolous parts of childhood and translate them into socially salient portraits of this exhibition in this portrayal of followers. 

When Wong paints playfully creates each piece in acrylic on substantial wood panels, bright, monochromatic backgrounds further heighten the girls' strangely alluring expressions. Wong draws from both her personal past and vivid imagination to create a compelling cigarette in each painting, often juxtaposing playful youth activities with the all-female group, often jux-

Margaret Tang

Envision the first kiss, the first awkward drag on a cigarette and any other novel event a preteen encounters at the beginning of a tween age up to the end of recession. Now picture those misshapen moments acted out by several Asian girls in a preparatory school or cheerleading uniform, Perpetual Blue Pride/Golden Nugget/Midnight Affair. Now, at the Contemporary Art Museum, presents six pieces depicting the socialization and peer pressures of that delicate tween age, many of them verging on overt aggression and erotic stimulation.

"For an adult artist, a lot of times, liking the less-known stuff is a way to justify your own existence if you're like, 'I like

The collision of male aggression with girls in an amusing and almost humorous fashion. Lightly portrays the lingering in a game of seduction and represents a socially acceptable way of expressing aggression. On the other hand, Blue Pride/Golden Nugget/Midnight Affair depicts an unexplained hostility, as girls clad in plaid dresses and white socks, playfully neighbouring with children and white socks, playfully neighbouring with children.

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To all current students:

We all know that Ken has not put quality product on the field of late. Regardless, as a show of solidarity with the alumni, we are calling on all supportive the players, show the alums you still care and let your voice for change be heard.

WWW.FIREKENHATFIELD.COM

COURTESY CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM, HOUSTON
Rice looks to exploit Tulane's rush defense

by Ahad Tahakó

The football team hopes to get its first win in 13 months when Tulane University visits Rice Saturday for the second-straight contest in Conference USA. Autry Court is set.

Rice (4-4, 0 CUSA) and Tulane (26, 14) have been the two teams that have dominated the conference since 1997. Saturday's matchup marks the 28th meeting between the two schools but their first intra-conference contest.

On Saturday, Tulane—which has lost five games in a row—will be playing its ninth game in nine weeks in one of the nation's smallest stadiums. The Green Wave have been residing in Autry Court, La. for the season,

afier Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans.

with red-hot Central Florida and always dangerous Houston coming out of the gate, tomorrow is the best chance the Owls have to get a final victory for the team's nine wrappers.

"For the two seniors [who] are starting and the five or six [who] are still healthy [enough]
to play, they would like to finish their
careers with a win at home—beach volleyball's best achievement. With each game, the Owls' confidence grows and they start to believe in themselves. They are starting to get into a rhythm and are playing well together. The Owls have a shot at this game and should be able to win it."

The Green Wave, however, have struggled on the road this season, losing five of their last six games. They are looking to bounce back with a win at Rice Saturday.

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SOCCER: C-USA tournament

Monday, August 12, 2002. My first day at Rice, and I was scared to death. As a walk-on to the varsity soccer team, I hadn’t met any of my future teammates on an official visit or received an acceptance letter in the mail. I had only committed to or signed a national letter of intent to attend Rice. As another two days before preseason practices officially began, I felt extremely out of place.

But as I scanned the room, I found myself in the only face I really knew. Kelly Droeger and I had played soccer against each other growing up in Dallas. She wasn’t technically a walk-on, but she had been placed in the starting lineup from the beginning of the season. Droeger and I,集成者在发表评论时遇到困难，因为其中包含一个未解之谜，可能需要进行更多的研究或分析才能解决。
SOCCER: NCAA TOURNAMENT

Owls to face eighth-ranked California for the first time

by Stephen Whitfield

The soccer team will make its second consecutive NCAA tournament appearance this weekend, taking on the University of California-Davis today at 4 p.m. If Rice (13-6-1, 6-2-1 Conference USA) wins, the Owls will play the winner of the first-round match between the University of Texas and the University of Texas-El Paso in the second round Sunday at 2 p.m. All three games will be held at the Myers Track and Soccer Stadium in Austin.

All Rice students can obtain a free ticket with a current student ID at Rice will call at Myers Stadium. A Rice Ticket Office representative will be at the stadium to issue tickets to students.

Last year, the Owls lost 2-0 to the University of Illinois in an NCAA first-round game in College Station. Rice received an at-large berth in the NCAA soccer tournament. l.ast season, California earned the third-automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Middle. Redshirt freshman forward Caitlin Robbins celebrates after scoring a goal against UTEP. Right: Sophomore midfielder Samantha Conn heads the ball over a defender.

by Candee Whitfield

The Owls have plenty of momentum going into today's game against the Golden Bears (14-3-2, 7-1-1 Pac-10), winning six of their last seven games including the single-elimination C-USA tournament. The Golden Bears have appeared in seven of the past eight NCAA tournaments. Last season, California hosted Rice in its first-round game 2-3 to punch a ticket to Austin, a team that advanced to the national semifinal. But this year's Golden Bear team may be the best.

California earned the third-seed in its quartet at the national bracket by finishing second in the Pac 10 regular season standings — the conference does not hold a postseason tournament. California has been ranked in Soccer Buzz Magazine's National Top 10 poll for all but one week this season, owing to a season-high eighth this week. The Owls have beaten the Miners twice this season. Rice has had its hands full against a Golden Bear defense that allowed 0.38 goals per game, sixth-best in the U.S. California's goals-per-game average of 2.84 was aided by winning its last three games by a combined score of 11-1. Before those three games, the Golden Bears averaged a nine-game stretch in which they managed to score more than one goal only once.

If Rice can beat California, the Owls should have an easier time against either UTEP or Texas. The Owls have a chance to put up a good fight, but Rice does not know how to score. UTEP has allowed 13 goals in six games, including a 5-0 win against SMU Oct. 9.

Head coach Chris Houston said the Owls were not pleased to face either of Rice's opponents in the regional, both teams have a possibility of making a deep run in the tournament. UTEP is a weak non-conference schedule, so the Longhorns can be a difficult team to figure out this year. The Rice Owls have a chance to put up a good fight, but Rice does not know how to score. UTEP has three players with 12 or more goals, and as long as they are on the field the Owls have a chance to put up a good fight. Right: Sophomore midfielder Samantha Conn heads the ball over UTEP defenders. Rice plays California in the NCAA tournament today at 4 p.m. at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin, Texas.

AUSTIN REGIONAL TEAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. California</th>
<th>2. Rice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13-6-1 (6-2-1 C-USA)</td>
<td>11-8-1 (32 GF, 22 GA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference:</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-USA (6-2-1, first place)</td>
<td>Big 12 (6-4, sixth place)</td>
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<td>Best Win:</td>
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<td>Worst loss:</td>
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<td>3-0 at Rice (CUSA final)</td>
<td>3-0 vs. Rice (CUSA final)</td>
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<td>Scouting report:</td>
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<td>Rice earned its bid with a 3-0 win over UTEP in the CUSA title game. Look for the Owls to go to their high-scoring forwards Caitlin Robbins and Anne Candele for an early offensive charge. With the strong play of defenders Erin Drerup and Beth Martinez and goalkeeper Adriene Giese, the Owls only need to score once to win a game.</td>
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Left: Sophomore forward Clary Martin battles for a loose ball against a UTEP defender in Sunday's CUSA championship match. Rice won 3-0, earning its first conference championship and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Middle: Redshirt freshman forward Caitlin Robbins celebrates after scoring a goal against UTEP. Right: Sophomore midfielder Samantha Conn heads the ball over UTEP defenders. Rice plays California in the NCAA tournament today at 4 p.m. at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin, Texas.
Jones beats Tarriers in fourth overtime
Stid to play Wiess in Powderpuff semifinal at 5 p.m.
by Stephen Whitefield
THE RICE THRESHER SPORTS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005
The Rice Powderpuff team adv-
ced to the championship game
with a thrilling 12-6 win over Martel
in the semifinals.
This year's semifinals, which have
the most excitement in the last 11 years.
Last year, Sid Richardson held off a
fourth overtime with a five-yard punt
play of Jones' overtime possession.
"Our team has struggled to find
the offensive rhythm that we have
when we've played together," Gibson,
resident associate, said. "They did
an outstanding job. Their goal was
to get ready for us," Hatfield said.
"We weren't ready for them. We've
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DiSesa, Egic capture titles at San Diego State

by Brian Meckes

The women's tennis team concluded its fall tournament schedule with two players winning the singles championships of their respective draws at the San Diego State Fall Classic last weekend.

The field at the tournament was one of toughest Rice has faced this fall. The Owls played six participants who, like themselves, finished last season ranked in the top 75 of the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll. One of the teams, Georgia Tech University, was ranked sixth in the final ITA poll last year.

"If you go to the court confident, [it] gives you an advantage,"—Medeja Egic, Senior tennis player

"It was a great performance team-wide, especially for the two girls who won their draws," head coach Roger White said. "The field was very tough. I think our performance showed the skill and the depth of the team.

Senior Blair DiSesa won all of her matches in straight sets in the Red singles draw. She beat Carla Rocha of Long Beach State University 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals and won her semifinal match 7-5, 7-6 over Allison Silverio of Georgia Tech. In the finals, she defeated Ixiaimar and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Kacie Anne 7-6, 6-2 before winning 10-6 in a super-tiebreak.

DiSesa said she was able to win because she felt sure of herself on the court.

"I went into the tournament knowing that the matches might just come down to grit and determination," DiSesa said. "I was glad that I could stick it out. I think this weekend was one of our best performances of the fall because each one of us had to gut out close matches.

In the Gold singles draw, senior Medeja Egic won her first two matches in straight sets. In the semifinals, she dropped the first set 6-3 to Lisa Nystrom-Skola of Fresno State University but came back to win the next two sets 6-4, 7-5. Egic also needed three sets to prevail in the finals, where she split the first two sets against Georgia Tech's Kacie Anne 6-1, 7-5 before winning 6-6 in a super-tiebreak.

Egic said she was able to win because she felt sure of herself on the court.

"It is tough to predict who is going to win," Egic said. "It depends on how you feel and what kind of day you are having. If you go to the court confident, [it] gives you an advantage—16% very confident."

Sophomore Tiffany Lee claimed a consolation championship by winning three matches in a row, including 6-1, 6-4 victory over Helena Lindstrand of San Diego State, after dropping her first match of the tournament. Winning is always a good reaffirmation of doing a good job," White said. "Everyone has created a lot of confidence for themselves in their overall performance.

The Owls will not compete again until the beginning of their dual-match season in the spring. They will face Lamar and Texas A&M Corpus Christi in a doubleheader Jan. 21 at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium.
LaBarge medals at Battle on the Bend

by Dylan Farmer

"The golf team wrapped up a historic tournament at the Battle on the Bend in Many, La., Wednesday. Senior golfer Parker LaBarge took first place overall and the team took third in a field of 23 schools.

"Now, we'll take a little time off, practice and mentally prepare for the spring," Parker LaBarge, Senior golfer

Even though the team had all five players finish in the top thirty, Rice, which had been trailing only eventual champion New Orleans University through the first five rounds of the tournament, shot a mediocre 308 in the final round to fall behind runner-up Southeastern Louisiana University.

"We really got off to a good start," sophomore Addison Awe said. "We had two pretty solid rounds on Monday and Tuesday. It was bad that we couldn't pull it together [Wednesday]. We were pretty good positions to win our first tournament of the year."

Tied for sixth place overall, shooting an even par 216 over the three-day event.

"Now, we'll take a little time off, practice and mentally prepare for the spring," Addison Awe, Sophomore golfer

Hey, Rice Students!

Do we have specials for you?

$7.38 Value Meals

#A1 Large Cheese or 1-topping pizza
#A2 Medium 1 topping pizza and two 12-oz Cokes*
#A3 1 order of chicken and an order of Cheesy Bread

For all your events, call for large-order discounts!

$8.30 Value Meals

#B1 Large 1-topping pizza and three 12-oz Cokes*
#B2 Medium 3 topping pizza and two 12-oz Cokes*
#B3 Medium Cheese Pizza and 5 Buffalo Wings

From page 13

freshman offensive guard David Berken said tomorrow's play will be anything but soft.

"As long as you love the game you'll find a way and you'll give it up, and that's what you've got to turn to right now," Berken said.

Unfortunately, this was the game that the Owls have been accompanied by more than its fair share of injuries. Converted offensive lineman Scott Austin, a sophomore, entered last week's game as the number-one tight end on the depth chart, but he broke his hand on his first play in the game.

"We have 12 players that we had planned to play this year that are missing [because of] injuries," Hatfield said. "They're out for the whole year. We have about 12 other guys who had a chance to play but a point or two is all that is competitive. For the first time this season, the Owls entered the contest as favorites, albeit by a small margin. But a point or two is all that is needed for a win, and Berken said his team believes its losing streak is about to end.

"We can play these next three games, and we will win these next three games," Berken said. "We just have to believe in ourselves."
ARTS ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY 11

Veterans' Day
President David Leebron speaks at 11 a.m. outside the Rice Memorial Center by the flagpole as part of a ceremony commemorating those who served in the U.S. military.

Rice Student Volunteer Program hosts Outreach Day, and the residential college with the most participants will receive a pizza study break. For more information or to register, visit http://www.rice.edu/volunteer.

Homcoming weekend
Welcome back, alumni. Don't drink too much of our best.

"Sex and violence in the Attic orators"
University of London professor Mike Edwards speaks on the history of sex crimes. The lecture begins at 4 p.m. in the Humanities Building, room 117.

SATURDAY 12

Between the East and West eggs and the North and South colleges, all compass points lead to Esperanza
Esperanza Gatsby Gala, Rice's fall semi-formal dance, begins at 10 p.m. at the Grand Room downtown. Shuttle to the dance departure from the BMC and tickets cost $55 in advance or $65 at the door.

For the less Gatsby-esque among us, spend Saturday volunteering instead
Rice Student Volunteer Program hosts Outreach Day, and the residential college with the most participants will receive a pizza study break. For more information or to register, visit http://www.rice.edu/volunteer.

SUNDAY 13

Conversation about condoms without the commitment
A student group from Students Organized Against Rape, in conjunction with REAL 498, sponsor a "Hooking up at Rice" study break. Free food is provided. The discussion begins at 9 p.m. at the Martel College masters' house.

MONDAY 14

Thought you came to Rice to learn? They're here to tell you to go out and learn more
The Office of International Studies sponsors International Education Week today through Friday, with events including the EDW Fiesta Lunch this afternoon from 12-1 p.m. at Fondren Commons. Other highlights include photo exhibits in the Language Resource Center and world music shows in conjunction with KTRU. For more information or a schedule of events, visit the OIS Web site at http://www.rice.edu/ois.

TUESDAY 15

Playing with Plato
University of Texas philosophy professor Paul Woodruff speaks on Plato and particularism at 4 p.m. in Sewall Hall, room 307. Does anyone else find it funny that Plato's big idea was the Forms and Play-dough is a toy you use to form things?

WEDNESDAY 16

THURSDAY 17

The genome project: now with 20 percent more drug research
Arthur Sasaki of Xenon Genetics speaks about genome knockout technology as a method for predicting drug reactions. Lecture begins at 4 p.m. at Lock Hall, room 100.

WANT TO BE NATIONALLY PUBLISHED?


- Submit any policy related papers—original work or class submissions
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Yesterday was a day of history for the Backpage, as shown by the article in the Times. However, the article's title, "Backpage Supporters Look to Its History as a Model," is misleading. The Backpage is anything but a model, and its history is riddled with controversy. The Backpage loves Ping, and Ping is the best vegetarian dip tray that inhabits the otherwise empty dance of Esperanza. The Backpage is not the model we need for a society that values human rights and equality.

However, the article's claim that the Backpage "has been in a coma-like state" is not accurate. The Backpage is far from being in a coma-like state. It is still actively involved in the community, and its supporters are working hard to keep it alive.

The article also mentions that the Backpage "has a record of ensuring that all students live in a state of nature, by any means necessary." This is a dangerous claim, as it suggests that the Backpage is willing to use violence to protect its interests. The Backpage is not a terrorist organization, and it is not justified to use violence to achieve its goals.

In conclusion, the article in the Times is misleading and inaccurate. The Backpage is far from being in a coma-like state, and its supporters are working hard to keep it alive. The Backpage is not a model for our society, and it is not justified to use violence to achieve its goals.