**Campus power outage causes little disruption**

by Risa Gordon and Amber Obermeyer

Townsend editorial staff

All of campus lost power for about two hours Wednesday morning when three transformers shut down self camp. The power loss disrupted Internet and e-mail service for several hours after power was restored.

At 2:17 a.m., an insulator failed at Centerpoint Energy's Garrett substation, Assistant Vice President for Project Management and Engineering Doug Tomlinson said. The failure started one of the substations' four transformers, and another transformer shut down for safety reasons, Tomlinson said. Centerpoint restored power at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, Khan said.

Information Technology systems to function during brief power outage

Campus power outage

Paul Tomlinson  said.  Centerpoint  restored  September,  IT's  old Uninterruptable Power Supply units were replaced. UPS units allow IT systems to function during brief power outages — which Vice Provost for Information Technology Ramakanth Khan said have occurred six to eight times since the units were installed at the beginning of the fall semester. The UPS units can provide power for about 15-20 minutes, Khan said.

"It allows us to shut off some systems, so when the power does come back, the services or servers come up very cleanly," Khan said.

Most IT systems were restored between 5:30 and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Khan said.

"This is a much improved time for restoration of our core services," Khan said. "By 9 a.m., most services, including e-mail and Web, were available to the campus." However, Khan said backups IT will become more efficient at shutting off systems.

We worked able to do that better the first time, and we can do a better job of logging in remotely and dialing out of them," Khan said.

Khan said essential systems — such as the network, e-mail, Web services and administrative systems — are shut down and restarted first.

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**Masters reject Beer-Bike theme after complaints**

by David Brown

Townsend editorial staff

Baker College voted for "What would Jesus brew?" as its Beer-Bike theme Jan. 26, but Baker College freshmen Jose Aranda and Krista Coomer overruled that theme Tuesday after some students complained and no compromise could be reached.

"We ask that the Beer-Bike coordinators reopen the entire process for selecting a Beer-Bike theme," Aranda, an English professor, read from a prepared statement at the cabinet meeting Tuesday. "We wish them not to accept any theme that might prove significantly divisive for the college to entertain. "What would Jesus brew?" is not a viable theme."

Aranda also sent the statement to the entire college via e-mail after the meeting.

After discussions with the masters, the Beer-Bike coordinators announced at the cabinet meeting that Baker students could submit new theme ideas within 24 hours. The coordinators said they would send all of the proposed ideas to college members, who would have another 24 hours to vote on objections before any of the themes were placed on a new ballot.

On Wednesday night, the Beer-Bike coordinators sent the e-mail containing all theme ideas to the entire college via e-mail after the meeting.

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**Student detains suspected thief after backpack taken at party**

by Risa Gordon

Townsend editorial staff

A student detained a suspected thief Feb. 2 after an EMT shift at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Will Rice College junior Sabrina Bartlett went to the hospital, where she saw a man with a backpack talking on a cell phone near Duncan Hall. Bartlett said she recognized the backpack as hers.

"I've got into a rage and ripped it off the guy," Bartlett said.

Bartlett then held his shirt to prevent him from leaving, took his wallet, called RUPD and read his name to them.

"I had this death grip on his shirt, and I told him he wasn't going anywhere, because I was so angry," Bartlett said.

Bartlett said she held the suspect until RUPD officers arrived and handcuffed him.

Bartlett said the suspect had been another Rice student's cell phone to place to a call his friends, who then called the Rice Phone Office. But when the phone was returned to its owner, the student answered and found out where the suspect's friends were located on campus, Bartlett said.

Hassell said RUPD officers later arrested the friends. Two males were arrested for cocaine possession, and two females were given criminal trespass warnings and city citations for minor in consumption and curfew violations.

Hassell said the suspects — none of whom go to Rice — tested positive for cocaine in their noses but told officers they did not consume cocaine while at Rice.

Bartlett said officers found two other people's belongings in the backpack. Some of Bartlett's possessions had been removed from the backpack, but they were all eventually found.

Bartlett said she was so angry to see someone with her backpack that she did not consider the consequences before confronting him.

"I probably wasn't the safest thing to do, but I didn't really think about it," Bartlett said.

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**You've got a prayer against Memphis**

by Risa Gordon

Townsend editorial staff

Lockett College senior Jamal Moore drove to the basket for a lay-up against third-ranked University of Memphis Feb. 4 at Astro Court. The Owls were down 15 points in the second half but came within three points of the upset. (See story, page 14.)

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**Life on the light rail**

Students crowded onto the METRORail Feb. 2 to attend the annual 100 Days party, held at Opus nightclub. For more opportunities to hop on the METRORail and see the Houston scene, turn to the Lifestyles section, pages 11-12.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Huston Baseball Classic preview**

The Owls are off to a good start this year, and the team has the opportunity to prove itself in the Houston Baseball Classic this weekend. The Owls will face off against Rice community members and be available from the Women's Resource Center or at lunch.

**Sing and joke**

The Philharmonics and Spontaneous Combustion are performing tonight at Hamman Hall at 9 p.m.

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**INSIDE**

**Academic deadlines**

Today is the deadline to drop courses without a fee or to add courses. It is also the deadline to complete late registration. Be sure to talk to your major or divisional advisor to get your alternate PIN.

**Vagina Monologues**

Join in the global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women by watching the 6.60 Greta Monologues tonight or Saturday. The performances will take place in the Lovett Underground at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $5 for Rice community members and are available from the Women's Resource Center or at lunch.

**Weekend Weather**

Friday, 44-66 degrees
Saturday, mostly sunny, 33-58 degrees
Sunday, 37-60 degrees
the Rice Thresher

Baker Beer-Bike theme suggestions inconceivable

The diversity of the colleges is one of the most compelling reasons to have them. For almost 60 years, Rice has built a residential system that aims to be inclusive and supportive of all students. Without it, we might as well be living in faceless dorms or exclusive fraternities. But the lack of diversity for which the college's system suffers does not come automatically, as evidenced by problems with minority flight and the alienation of other non-majority groups—non-drinkers come to mind—from campus life. A diverse environment requires respect for fellow college members and a sensitivity to what may be offensive. And it requires student leaders who uphold these ideals. On Wednesday night, Baker College failed to meet these standards. (See story, page 1.)

After a contentious debate over the Beer-Bike theme — What Would Jesus Brew? — that won the college's vote and that offended some Baker students, the masters rejected the theme and asked the college to reopen the selection process. Students responded with 100 themes, which were compiled and sent by email to the college's mass e-mail resources to send official messages. Before they are disclosed to the college at large.

The executive committee of every college should — and must — have the power to veto offensive themes for any college-wide event before they are disclosed to the college at large.

Outage well handled

At around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, the first thought that crossed our minds was: "Crup. The power's out. We're going to be without campus Internet access for hours. Our Facebook accounts will go dormant and our WebCT assignments will be left undone." That was the first thought that crossed our minds because it is not the first time that we have had a campus outage. The first thought was "Let's forget Facebook and WebCT and go play flashlight tag for a while."

Bush: Give us a day off

Valentine's Day used to be something meaningful. It used to be a day when we could cuddle up with our significant others and gazing longingly into each other's eyes. It used to be about love. OK, that's a lie. Actually, the best thing about Valentine's Day was that it was a day when we didn't have to go to class. But now V-Day means something else.

As our midterm grades roll in, the Hallmark holiday falls on a Tuesday this year. Even if we wanted to use the evening for activities such as those described in our schmaltzy first paragraph, we wouldn't be able to do so thanks to homework, finals and class.

There is only one solution: President George W. Bush must declare Valentine's Day a national holiday, to be observed on a Monday or a Friday in a Labor Day-esque fashion. Then we will have time to make the day special, either by cannibalizing with a special someone or heckling UT (or both simultaneously).

While we recall a recent response from the White House, we encourage you to make the best of a less than ideal situation and take your date to the UT game on Saturday. Or OwlCon. Whatever floats your boat.

Unspecified editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.

Frustrated students should take action

To the editor: Every day I hear students moan about the futility of the Iraq invasion and criticize President George W. Bush's rampant abuse of executive power. I applaud Rice students for being informed about current events and voicing their opinions, but unfortunately such table-top conversations are not productive. If you disagree with the U.S. policies, do something about it.

In the 1970s, evangelist Christians heated the United States' liberal policies. Not only did they vote for conservative politicians, but they also galvanized their supporters to impact politics at the grassroots level. For example, Phyllis Schlafly mounted the successful campaign to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment. Although I disagree with the religious right's message, I admire that group's tenacity toward its cause — within Britain the religious right capitalized on grassroots power to control all three branches of government.

Politically disgusted Rice students should emulate the tactics of the religious right. Political change is possible but only if students get involved.

There are numerous Rice clubs dedicated to impacting politics but practically no club members. Although many students are against the war and despite the dedication of the club's leadership, Rice for Peace is practically defunct because so few students bother to attend meetings.

Apathy is common among many liberal clubs. As the ACLU president, I am frustrated by Rice students' lack of desire to volunteer within the Houston community or even attend one-hour on-campus meetings. In lieu of complaining, take action.

Jordana Mastro Rice ACLU president Will Rice senior

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Separate church and state, not culture

To the editor: Our government mandates a separation of church and state, not church and pop culture. If someone can use the Napoleonic Dynasty phrase as a Catch 22 for the Beer-Bike, why is it a problem for him or her to use it as a catchy way to express religious beliefs? "God good and Jesus, evil," or "groups, Feb. 17" meant Christian and I would not necessarily design or buy a shirt that says "Jesus died for Pedro." I do not see why it is a problem if someone else does.

I do not mean to sound dichotomous, but propriety-free Espn-in-a-box is not for my country and that means people will be offended. For example, the 2004 Wiess College Night of Decadence theme "NOID Bless America" bothered me, but I do not feel I have the authority to tell the NOID planning committee that they must exclude all religious references when coming up with a theme.

The use of a pop culture phrase in a religious context does not weaken the image of the Christian church. Some people expect Christians to live up to this "higher than thou" ideal. We have fun, too. Many of the youth church retreats I have gone to use themes that relate to pop culture because the youth can relate to them. It makes the image of the Christian church stronger because it shows that in society changes with time, the same convictions of the Bible are still pertinent in our lives today.

Donna Olei
Loretta Juniper

Columnist mistaken on Jesus' thoughts

To the editor: Please correct Julia Botzian's column, which implies that Jesus had in mind anyone in particular as he walked through Jerusalem carrying the cross. It was the early church — not Jesus — that depicted him as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Please let her know that there are Protestants who believe that Jesus' death was not his idea — or God's idea — at all.

In fact, Jesus died away with the entire sacrificial system of the Temple — rendered it moot — but that's another story. Actually, I liked Bariton's column. I think Pedro should be left fictitious. And Jesus should not show up on T-shirts.

Nadine Hundertmark
Mother of a Loretta freshman

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters
• Letters to the editor should be signed and include college and year if the writer is a Rice student.
• Letters should be no longer than 350 words in length.
• The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

Advertising
• We accept display and classified advertisements. Advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.

• We do not accept advertising for alcoholic beverages, political campaigns, private clubs or illegal activities.

• Contact our advertising manager at (713)346-3967 or thunder-advertising@rice.edu for more information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Miss America misses target of promoting meaningful scholarship

For most of my generation, the Miss America Scholarship Program is just another beauty pageant, a contest in which beautiful women and reality TV show qualities are measured to enact new writing policies that come from the Constitution. What he means, according to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, is low-ball lobbying, which is a new way for Congress to influence the policy-making process. Essentially, the president would have to pass a law that would be a law based by Congress while striking continued major decisions that pertain to our social and domestic policy decisions five years later.

Furthermore, Bush has been asked to work to the advantage of the individual. Essentially, the president would have to pass a law that would be a law based by Congress while striking continued major decisions that pertain to our social and domestic policy decisions five years later.

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Vagina Monologues

Vagina Monologues galvanizes women's expression, hope

This weekend, in honor of V-Day, Rice students are using the Vagina Monologues to spread awareness and support advocacy in their community and beyond. The Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler that consists of monologues performed by women from around the world. The play is based on real stories of female empowerment and transformation, and it has been performed in over 5,000 theaters in 40 countries. The show is presented by the Rice University Women's Center and the Department of Theatre and Dance, and it features a cast of over 200 students from Rice University. The show is directed by Kirti Raval and features costumes and sets designed by Sarah Mitchell. The performance is open to the public and donations are accepted to support the Rice University Women's Center and other organizations that support women's rights and empowerment.

Rice Voices

Bush's poor logic fails to connect the dots

I remember the workbooks we had in school were for coloring, some pages were for coloring pages for Miss America's pageant, some pages were for coloring pages for connecting the dots. Perhaps the president needs to do more research to see why he can't connect the dots. Then we could better understand him.

When I listened to his State of the Union address, I hoped he would connect some of his policies to the ones I was hearing on the radio for me. Instead, I'm even more confused after I finish before the speech.

Where is the connection to the intent of the Constitution and expanding executive power? The president appears to have no authority to enact his new warping policies except for what he can get away with. At least the president was the chief of police, and he felt that he had the right to speak.

And now that the president has negotiated the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution to give him the right to strike down any law that he doesn't have time to read. The Boy Who Cried Wolf. The United States has been accused of oiling for over the past five years. The president's speech was peppered with heavy words: values, morals, courage, freedom, enemies. He said the delays of the past do not matter and that the only option is to continue the fight. When members of Congress, specifically the president's supporters for years, are to war to war of the past, we are told history holds no lessons for us. It worries me that if the congressional option is to fight, my questioning the logic of our leaders makes me a coward. To me, courage is thinking—not with a herd mentality—but with individualism, a value on which this country was founded.

I respect those with different opinions as long as they justify them. There is no justification, then there can be no real debate. All I want, as a democrat and more so, as a citizen, is to have a president who has made it clear that his legal political policy might not always agree with it, but at least be consistent with it. I think I will have to send Bush an accomplished book for his birthday. If the president wants to be a good Arab, he should value human rights—even Republicans like me.

Rice Thresher

Guest column

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proposed themes to the Baker list. There were 100 in total, and about 70 of the themes referenced either Christianity or the complaints about "What would Jesus brew?" Proposed themes included "FUN-damentalism bike," "My way or the highway bike," "What wouldn't Jesus brew?" and "Jesus drank beer bike." Also included were unrelated themes such as "Little shots of horror" and "April Insanity.

Baker Beer-Bike Coordinator Patrick Steed, a sophomore, said he and the other coordinators were surprised by the number of theme suggestions. Steed said they decided to forward most of the list to the college because the coordinators had said they would include every proposal. Baker President Ryan Peacock said he also saw the list of themes and approved of the coordinators' decision. He said some suggestions were removed from the list.

"There were a couple that were submitted as a joke and were clearly not going to have any chance of passing," Peacock, a senior, said.

Comer, an honors English professor, said she and Steed were disappointed that the e-mail contained offensive themes.

"We explicitly asked people not to submit divisive themes at cabinet," Comer said. "We were concerned about it.

"We almost didn't want the theme to win," Spitzfaden, a sophomore, said. "We were concerned about it."

After speaking with Spitzfaden, a Marriotte College junior, and Velasquez, a Marriotte senior, the Baker coordinators announced the theme at the Jan. 30 cabinet meeting. In an e-mail to the college's listserv, asking for ideas again and an e-mail expressing opposition to the theme before the vote, he would have taken it off the ballot.

"The real problem was apathy from the people who didn't like the theme," Peacock said. "The theme was well publicized, and we had a vote. Up until that meeting most people [opposed hadn't] said anything.

"People came to speak with us one-on-one and then there were group-e-mails," Comer said. "There got to be what we considered a large enough number to be in need of a meeting, because there were too many to field one-on-one.

Baker junior Russell Schafle had his objections to the theme in an e-mail, which he said reflected the views of several other Baker students.

"While the intentions of the college members who voted for this theme were probably benign, this group of religious traditions should be treated with respect by Rice University and Baker College," his e-mail states. "Because this theme is offensive to those students holding Christian beliefs, it will divide Baker as a college... A theme that pokes fun at Jesus Christ isolates many Christians who feel uneasy about rallying behind a theme that belittles their beliefs."

The Monday meeting included the masters, students who had voted concerns about the theme, Peacock and the Beer-Bike coordinators.

Comer said a debate emerged between Christians who approved of the theme and those who did not.

"It was between people who have different views of how to lead a Christian life," Comer said. "Some people thought it was sacrilegious, and other people thought it was satirical.

Aranda said he had originally hoped the students would find a solution themselves.

"When the theme was voted on, we were concerned about the implications," he said. "It was entered into our minds that we would step in. We were completely confident in the coordinators' ability that the theme would not violate anything through this controversy."

Peacock said he was surprised by the number of people who attended the meeting.

"Unfortunately, word got passed around, and instead of a small group about 20 people showed up," Peacock said.

He said many of the people who showed up at the meeting opposing the theme should have expressed their opinions sooner. He said the coordinators had done everything they could be inclusive.

"[The debate] was between people who have different visions of how to lead a Christian life. Some people thought it was funny, and other people thought it was sacrilegious."

— Krista Comer
Baker College master English professor

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When Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi denounced the U.S. invasion of Iraq Friday, the auditorium in the School of Engineering and Science Hall erupted in applause.

"When Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi denounced the U.S. invasion of Iraq Friday, the auditorium in the School of Engineering and Science Hall erupted in applause. "The Western countries should not misuse democracy and human rights in order to attack and invade other countries," Ebadi said, according to an interpreter at this semester's second President's Lecture Series address. "Human rights cannot be dropped on people with cluster bombs. The export of democracy is like a commodity to other countries. Democracy and human rights are only achievable by the will of the people."

"The audience applauded throughout the event, sometimes clapping before the interpreter could translate Ebadi's sentences."

Ebadi, an Iranian judge and internationally renowned human rights advocate, became the first Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003. She won the prize for her support for the rights of women, children and political prisoners in Iran.

She did not focus her speech on her sharp and well-received critiques of U.S. foreign policy but rather on perceptions and misperceptions of Islam.

"The duty of each intellectual Muslim ... is to paint the true face of Islam, which is saturated in compassion."

"Our challenge ... is to be practical and demand the impossible."

Following the lecture, an audience member asked what Iranian-Americans should do. Ebadi said Iranian-Americans should work to set up Iranian studies centers at U.S. universities — she had said in her speech that she hoped Rice would soon have such a center. Ebadi added that people should voice their opposition to the Iraq war, again drawing applause.

Another attendee asked what Iran could do to keep an Islamic country from terrorism. Ebadi said she believed that the U.S. should counteract the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The attendee then asked, "What about terrorism attacking the United States?"

"Who they kill and when they kill gives the world the hand of governments to order human rights," she said.

"Islam is the religion of fraternity and equality. ..." In this area, all creatures are equal before God, and there is no distinction between them," said Ebadi, adding that people should not conclude that Islam is inherently undemocratic because some Islamic countries are not democracies.

"We see ideologues who argue that the entire world is contradicted to democracy," she said. "But in some other countries like Malaysia, there is a relatively advanced democracy."

"The problem in Islam is being misrepresented to serve malicious ends," she said.

"A lot of governments have been hiding behind the shield of Islam to justify their suppression ... with the wrong interpretation of religion," Ebadi said.

And at the same time, enemies of Islam — that we are not a terrorist-oriented religion and that our religion has to be earned," Ahmed said. "If you shout a child, it's not going to have good consequences."
Rice Engineers Without Borders to host national conference

The Rice chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) International Conference at McNair Hall Feb. 16-18. About 300 students from around the world will attend the three-day conference, which will give Rice some national engineering experience.

"The experiences EWB offers are one-of-a-kind — they simply cannot be had elsewhere," Gordon said. "We work and build together for a town that has no electricity. This allows them to use the church building as a community meeting place."
“Those are the key things that everybody needs,” Khan said. “When people wake up, the first thing they want to do is get to their e-mail.”

Khan said IT staff members were on site when power went out.

“We have operations people who work here—they were working法兰西as inconveniences with everybody,” Khan said. “That’s just the nature of their position. They have to be here when something like this happens.”

**Facilities**

Tomlinson said the campus emergency generators came on as expected, and the outage did not cause any long-term damage. However, boilers were without power, so there was no steam present—nor therefore hot water or heat—in campus. Tomlinson said starting a backup generator large enough to power the site is complicated. He said Centerpoint Energy employees continually told Facilities, Engineering and Planning workers that the power would be restored shortly, so he did not start the generator.

“Do we know it was going to be two hours [without power]—we might have made the decisions differently,” Tomlinson said. “But when [Centerpoint] kept telling us, it’s going to be fine, but give us a few minutes, it was not worth it to go through all that effort.”

Tomlinson said there were problems fully restored by about 6:45 a.m. the next morning going, and people could and people could continue to do business.”

“Hey, the power’s down—I wonder what happened,” Khan said.

**Future**

The phone system runs on a backup generator during a power outage, and Khan said he is in the process of securing funding for a similar generator for the network and email systems.

“If we want to get a generator the same size as the one for our phone system,” Khan said, “then we can keep critical systems up, so they will never go down during an outage.”

Rice, meanwhile, was monitoring backup data center downtown since the fall semester, and Khan said the site would be used during an extended power outage.

“Rest assured, we have people here 24 hours a day, so we didn’t have to wait for someone to show up at 7:00 [the next] morning going, ‘Hey, the power’s out—I wonder what happened,’” Tomlinson said.

“Did we need that in the case of a major event that would disrupt services, like a power outage—say—a day or more,” Khan said. “The other one was that the replicated data, and people could continue to do business.”

“Hey, the power’s out—I wonder what happened,” Tomlinson said.

**POLICE BLOTTER**

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Feb. 2-6.

**Residential Colleges**

Jones College 
Feb. 4

Jones College 
Feb. 4

Lovett College 
Feb. 5

**Academic Buildings**

Seawall Hall 
Feb. 3

Geoge R. Brown Hall 
Feb. 3

Alice Pratt Brown Hall 
Feb. 4

Hall

**Other Buildings**

Lovett Hall 
Feb. 3

Mead Hall 
Feb. 3

Parking Lots

Continuing Studies 
Feb. 3

Parking Lot

**Other Areas**

Entrance 13A 
Feb. 2

Laboratory Road 
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Entrance 13A - Feb. 2

Laboratory Road - Feb. 3

A gala tent was set up east of Alice Pratt Brown Hall for the Feb. 4 Shepherd School event.

**VIOLINIST PERLMAN HELPS SHEPHERD SCHOOL RAISE $2.2 MILLION AT GALA**

Violinist Itzhak Perlman helps Shepherd School raise $2.2 million at gala by Ted Wiener

The Shepherd School of Music celebrated its 20th anniversary Feb. 4 with a gala featuring world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman. Perlman conducted and played with the Shepherd Symphony and Chamber orchestras in Music Hall Concert Hall.

The sold-out gala raised $2.2 million, which will be used to endow scholarships for Shepherd School students. Shepherd School Dean Robert Yekovich said. Tickets were priced from $500, although Shepherd School student received free admission. The concert was followed by dinner and dancing in a tent east of Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

Associate Shepherd School Dean Gary Smith said he was pleased with the gala's musical and financial performance.

"We felt it was a success from every standpoint," Smith said. "It was a highlight in the 30-year history of Shepherd. It was one of those nights everyone affiliated with the Shepherd School will always remember."

At the gala, Yekovich also announced the creation of the Itzhak Perlman Scholarship in Violin, an award that will be given annually to a top returning violin student. Yekovich said Perlman was surprised by the sorority scholarship.

Perlman — whose daughter, Ariella, is a Jones College senior — agreed to attend the gala after a conversation two years ago during a visit to the Shepherd School, Yekovich said. Perlman's decision was partly based on the amount of respect he had for the Shepherd School orchestras, Yekovich said.

The Shepherd Symphony Orchestra began its performance with Christopher Rowe's "The Internal Machine," conducted by Music Director Larry Rachleff. Perlman performed next as the school in Mozart's Violin Concertos No. 3 in G Major, accompanied by the Shepherd Chamber Orchestra. For the final piece of the evening, Perlman conducted the Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor.

"Playing with Itzhak was one of the greatest experiences a student could have," McDaniel said. "It was — an experience that none of us will ever forget."

**HEAVY Menstrual Bleeding?**

**Do you experience 2 to 5 days of heavy bleeding?**
**Does heavy bleeding keep you from your normal activities?**

If you answered yes, you may qualify for a research study of a non-hormonal investigational drug for heavy menstrual bleeding.

You must:

- Be between 18 & 49 years of age
- Have regular cycles with heavy bleeding
- Be healthy and not have any bleeding disorders

Qualified participants will receive study drug, a physical & eye exam at no cost.

Compensation is provided for time & trouble.

**ADVANCES IN HEALTH, INC.**
713-795-5964
**Monologues addresses squirm-worthy subject with simplistic straightforwardness**

The graphic nature of this and each scene contrives strictly with the minimalist set and costuming. The cast dresses almost entirely in black on a black stage floor. The only disruptions to the monochromatic scheme are the red or pink ribbons each character wears, the red velvet stool on which many of them sit and the abstract pink, red and black panels that serve as an undefined but aesthetically pleasing attempt at scenery.

The Virgin Monologues does not exactly make light of the evening’s entertainment, and those with inhibitions about graphic discussion of the vagina may want to steer clear. But the play sends an empowering and important message to audience members of both genders.

After intermission, the cast introduces another controversial issue: LESBIANISM comes up explicitly in two monologues.
Iranian culture, art revealed at film festival

After paying my $5 admission, I was promptly dropped into the Persian Sea, just off the coast of Iran. There, I braved the dank, acrid aroma of several foreign films featured at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's 13th annual Iranian film festival.

I was struck by the subtle presence of war in the film. A teacher used chalk marked from bullet casings and children asked questions about light in the "enemy" seeing the subject discussed in the open and paired with an innocent setting of a riveter and sometimes-amateur boxer. Then, quick cuts through a climactic boxing match between Jake and Cole. The movie begins with Jake's dull life as a riveter in the midst of this disaster. The movie's only accomplishment is that it is the testosterone-laden equivalent of a made-for-Lifetime original. Even more disappointing, though, is that the same person who created the gushy film Better Luck Tomorrow directed it.

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Annapolis: painfully dull, predictable disappointment from capable director

Margaret Tung
THIRD IOWA FESTIVAL STAFF

Going into Annapolis, there were red flags that it would be a utter stale, flat "hero" in underdog Jake (Hart's Shannon). A more intimate with them. Meanwhile, an old decrepit ship, the "enemy" seeing the subject discussed in the open and paired with an innocent setting of the riveter and sometimes-amateur boxer. Then, quick cuts through a climactic boxing match between Jake and Cole. The movie begins with Jake's dull life as a riveter in the midst of this disaster. The movie's only accomplishment is that it is the testosterone-laden equivalent of a made-for-Lifetime original. Even more disappointing, though, is that the same person who created the gushy film Better Luck Tomorrow directed it.

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NEW SHUTTLE SERVICE

RICE UNIVERSITY TO TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

EFFECTIVE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

SERVICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 8AM-4:30PM, EVERY 30 MINUTES

(Detailed schedule and bus stops are shown on the map)
OwlCon, Rice's annual gaming convention, begins today at 8 p.m. and lasts until Sunday at 8 a.m. Funded by Rice's gaming club FastWarp, the convention has taken over parts of campus annually since 1981.

This year, the event will include approximately 350 events and more than 500 attendees. OwlCon director Angelo Benedetto (Ph.D. '00) said, "The convention began during the national gaming fervor of the 1980s as a means to bring together large groups of D&D and role-playing game fans.

As the gaming craze died down, OwlCon had a near-death experience in the late 1990s. FastWarp president Matt Drwenski, a Marshall College sophomore, said. In 2000, the shrinking convention passed to unknown to many Houston gamers, including Benedetto and Michael Casavant (Ph. D. '02).

Benedetto said he and Casavant, then both graduate students, revitalized the convention beginning in 2000. Now OwlCon is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and this year's convention offers more than 140 varieties of games in six major categories — card, board, RPG, miniatures, live-action role-playing (LARP) and video.

To read more about the types of games, move forward one space.

To read more about this year's convention, move forward two spaces.

To save yourself the trouble of making a decision, roll the die. If you roll an odd number, move forward one space. If you roll an even number, move forward two spaces.

OwlCon is a open to the public and free of charge. However, participants must pay admission to participate in scheduled events.

General admission is $16 for the weekend or $14 per day in advance. At the door, admission is $20 for the weekend or $16 per day.

All students receive 50 percent off admission fees, and Rice students receive an additional 50 percent off student admission prices. To participate in certain Role Playing Games/Association events, an extra fee will be charged.

More than $4,000 in prizes have been donated to this year's OwlCon, and individual event prizes are worth $5-50, Benedetto said.

The highest-placing team of Rice students in Friday's Halo 2 tournament will receive transportation and lodging to at-tend a national tournament at Austin's South By Southwest music and film festival.

Move forward one space.

LIFEStYES
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How to appreciate art as a socialite

Marshall Robinson

Editorial Staff

It was the best time, it was the worst of times... It was a Friday night on campus, and while bars were great for going beyond the hedges, no one wanted to splurge on concert tickets or fancy dinners. The solution is closer than London or Paris. It is still possible to go out in Houston for free or for very low prices, and find free details and hours of events. Multiple public and private art galleries open new exhibits practical every weekend, and most of them happen to be near Rice. These events allow people to experience a broad range of art—from top to traditional ethnic and from brilliant to dreadful—and have a good time doing it.

As with any social scene, people need to know what they are getting into before just showing up. When done right, a night hopping from gallery to gallery can be just as engaging a night of highbrow bars, minus the 21-and-up restriction. Even the primer contains everyone needs to know about partying with Van Gogh before getting in the van and going.

Art appreciation is a new form of entertainment for many students. Gallery exhibits in any form can be intimidating, and some students may not think they understand the art as well as some snotty old man with a monocle on his nose. Openings, which are generally more relaxed, pleasurable and occasionally free, provide a more casual and fun way to experience art than an austere museum full of artifacts. That does not necessarily mean you have to change out of your O-Week tier; it would just pass quite well for a struggling artist’s attire. But if you were an economic plan on some perfume or ties—or both—a hop can become a haute-couture event. No matter how you dress, a pack of students can shoulder-slash with Houston’s artsy elite, which makes for a less intimidating scene if the exhibit itself gets dull.

Once you get dressed and to the galleries, make sure you hear more than what the armchair art critics have to say about the art. Try to meet the artists behind the exhibits. Many Houston galleries feature living artists’ works and often, at gallery openings, the live artists who created them. So capital, bold, beautiful students may go to an artist’s work and say why they painted her father as a cat.

Exploring the METROTRail: Preston Stop

Jennifer Queeran

This is the first in a series of lifestyle reviews. Each review will focus on student-friendly places at a Houston METROTRail stop.

Houston’s neonatal light rail system does not often come to the forefront of most students’ social calendars. Common criticisms include METROTRail’s limited hours of operation and the sketchiness factor associated with waiting around at a rail stop.

But the light rail has a lot going for it. It saves money and liberates car SMART card holders from haggling off friends. It winds between two of Rice’s most popular and atmospheric modes: the museum and theater districts. And for students of legal drinking age, the rail system provides a cost-free designated driver and access to the densest concentration of bars and clubs in town.

To help students take full advantage of the light rail, the Thresher details five activities accessible from the light rail stops, beginning with Preston in the heart of downtown. Not many students can go out every night of the week, but everyone needs something more active than Facebook commenting once in a while.

1. Monday: Cheap date night at the Angelika Film Center

Every Monday, the Angelika includes free large-popcorn and large sodas in its already inexpensive student price of $6. Not only is it cheap, but the movies are more interesting than what your average Complexes provides. The Angelika selects independent and art films as well as critically acclaimed films from major studios.

This week’s film is The Qun, a Marvins, Good Night and Good Luck, Miss Stevens, The Trans American, Three Burials, Match Point

2. Tuesday: Trivia night at Flying Saucer opening at 7:30 p.m. Get a team of up to five friends together and get into the swing of things.

While the Red Cat has jazz seven nights a week, Tuesday is the only night you can test your own horns. The no-cover jam night allows artists 18 and older to get a little live performance exposure. Silos are not ready to pick up the groove yourself, you can at least witness the spontaneous collaboration of musicians from around Houston and New Orleans. Valentine’s Day hit. Have musical talent? Think about taking your Valentine to the Cat and sing him or her something sweet.

3. Wednesday: Live disc jockey at Dean’s Credit Clothing

Dean’s has a smooth, hipster-friendly atmosphere and smooth, wallet-friendly cocktails. Mainly a bar with moderately priced beer, and Bud Light to attract college students and recent graduates. The garnet walls sport graffiti and hip hop influenced artwork, which seems only a little tacky considering a few hours’ dancing to Top 40 hits from the last few years. If the dance floor cools of, it can be just as entertaining to people-watch from the patio overlooking Main Street.

4. Thursday: Ruby Room

Pass through the fratty Beta Theta Pi, which is the Ruby Room on the right. This tiny dance bar has a Thursday night special of $2 Red Rocks and Bad Light to attract college students and recent graduates. The sunset walls sport graffiti and hip hop influenced artwork, which seems only a little tacky considering a few hours’ dancing to Top 40 hits from the last few years. If the dance floor cools of, it can be just as entertaining to people-watch from the patio overlooking Main Street.

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6. Thursday: O’hookah and rooftop bar

After you have gotten your fill of the generous drinks at Ruby Room take a deep breath at O’s, an oxygen and hookah bar. Each inhalation costs $10 for a given amount of time and comes in multiple fruity flavors. O’s also has a regular bar with a punchy owner who will encourage you to take extremely weak $2 rail shots. The main room is tiny, but something in the air of O’s makes you feel sociable and friendly instead of cramped. The crowd is eclectic and casual — the small space forces dancers to groove to the upbeat tunes four feet away from each other’s hooksah smokers.

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Gaming guru Steve Jackson returns to Rice

Julia Bursten
THE RICE THRESHER STAFF

This year's OwlCon will feature a special, tongue-in-cheek face familiar to campus and to the gaming industry: Steve Jackson, founder of the satirical and creatively titled strategy game company Steve Jackson Games, will be playing his and other games alongside convention attendees. Additionally, Jackson said he hopes to use OwlCon participants as a test audience for some of his newer games.

When asked where he gets inspiration for such comical aspects of a game's design, Jackson said, "It's what I do. I'm a smartass."

This year will be the first time Jackson returns for the convention. Jackson said he tested one of his earliest board games, Car Wars, using volunteer players at one of the earliest OwlCons, which was a positive precedent for his future experiences there.

"The Car Wars play-test was good enough that we illustrated the winner as a crowned driver on the back of the first edition of the game," he said via e-mail.

Originally published and distributed in Ziploc bags, Car Wars has come a long way and has a history as long as OwlCon itself. It was named Science Fiction Board Game of the Year in 1981 and has since been released as the computer game Autofold and as a role-playing game using Steve Jackson Games' Generic Universal Role-Playing System (GURPS).

Jackson early on collaborated with the foundation of his enterprise in 1980, which Jackson said rendered his degree in biology and political science degree less useful than his extracurricular activities—working for the Thunder and war gaming.

Currently, he divides his time evenly between company administration and game design. Jackson said the game designing process for his company's products varies greatly from game to game, even within a given genre. However, he said, designing board, card, miniature or role-playing games takes a much smaller team than designing a computer game. A production team usually consists of a designer, a developer and troubleshooter, a few illustrators, a graphic artist and volunteer gamers to test the creation.

Jackson's early successes with such teams ensured the enduring presence of games like Car Wars and his 1977 board game Ogre. His more recent collaboration with illustrator John Kovalic, author of the Dark Tower comic series, produced a new wave of parodies games—most notably the award-winning Geek and Munchkin game sets and expansions.

The cards in such games double as single-frame comics with scenes of humor, seemingly influenced by everything from "Calvin and Hobbes" to J.R.R. Tolkien to Monty Python's Flying Circus. For example, one of Munchkin's treasure cards is a bonus that allows a player to use "The Books of Burning Real Fast!"

When asked where he gets inspiration for such comical aspects of a game's design, Jackson said, "It's what I do. I'm a smartass."

A representative of Steve Jackson Games will run OwlCon events Friday at 10 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and Jackson will be at the convention all weekend.

Hank's Ice Cream Scoops treasured trove of flavors

Janine Moreau
THE RICE THRESHER

Hank's Ice Cream parlor is one of the best—and best kept—secret spots in Houston. Five Rice students frequent the tiny, family-owned business that has been open since 1982. But most of us like to learn new flavors, and Hank's is always a good place to do that.

Hank Wiggins will create custom flavors on request. "Hank's has the fresh-roasted pecan halves that my family roasts in the store. These are named. For example, Hank's sweet potato pie ice cream, made with real sweet potatoes, tastes just like the pie on my dinner table Thanksgiving," Wiggins said.

While [Hank] Wiggins goes great things with traditional ice cream flavors, he specializes in ECCENTRIC tastes.

The final product's great taste comes from the care and attention Hank and the family put into the ice cream-making process. One of my favorites, Hank's butterscotch pecans, contains pecans that the Wiggins family roasts in the store.

And unlike Hank's and Robbins' and grocery store butter pecan ice creams that contain only a few pieces of pecans—if any—Hank's has the fresh-roasted pecans in every bite.

Hank Wiggins, owner and namesake of Hank's Ice Cream Parlor on Main Street, scoops a waffle cone full of sweet cream ice cream and hands it to a customer. Hank's specializes in serving homemade French pet ice cream in bizarre but popular flavors, such as Guiness and orange chocolate chip.

They all have a rich and creamy, homemade French pet texture and taste exactly like the variety of foods after which they are named. For example, Hank's sweet potato pie ice cream, made with real sweet potatoes, tastes just like the pie on my dinner table Thanksgiving.

With its primary location not far from the indispensable Main Street Super C Market, Hank's is never short on customers despite the drought of students. Peering over the ice cream counter, elderly ladies take a look on the wall, observant customers will see they are littered with pictures of famous faces, including the idiosyncratic ice cream lover's taste buds.

When asked if he had a favorite regular customer, Wiggins said the international pop divas of Destiny's Child are named. For example, Hank's sweet potato pie ice cream, made with real sweet potatoes, tastes just like the pie on my dinner table Thanksgiving.

When he went into business, Wiggins asked his family if he could serve the great ice cream parlor flavors of the south—like Oreo cookie, Black walnut, Lemon, Guiness and Mocha—so next time a sweet tooth hits before Thanksgiving, you can call Hank's instead of the traditional Ben and Jerry's or Cold Stone Creamery.

Customers have a hard time finding anything to critic about the beloved ice cream shop, but Hank could benefit from more seating. And its appeal to the student crowd would increase if it were open 10 hours.

But the ice cream is worth standing up for, so let us keep that great treasure together. Thanks, Hank, for your dedication to keeping the sign in the parlor says, "It's all good."
Women's basketball can still claim C-USA

A funny thing happened at the women's basketball game against East Carolina Monday. The Owls held a 14-2 run with about eight minutes remaining in the second half, and with the Pirates shooting somewhere around 25 percent from the field, it looked like the ball was only going to increase. Having already witnessed a 5-inch Texas Tech shot that eluded another blowout. I told a friend of mine at the game that Rice would score 70 points before the Pirates make another basket.

East Carolina then went on a 10-2 run to cut the lead down to 67-61. So much for my prognostication skills.

The final event represents the story of Rice's season, a rollercoaster ride that included five wins of 10 or more points, four losses of 10 or more points, three players going down during the season with leg injuries, two wins away from Autry Court and one loss at home against a team that won the [name] Atlantic title last season. That player, junior forward Aneesa Nevers, is averaging 15.7 points and 10.6 rebounds per game, both improvements on her averages from a season ago, when she averaged second team all-WAC honors. Nevers has averaged 22 points in Rice's last three games.

I remember writing in December that "the Owls should be in the hunt for a championship in Conference USA, especially against teams with a lot of experience. Our defense can be outstanding, our offense can be explosive, and we have the potential to take down any team that we play."

Looking at this team three weeks ago, it seemed like the season was lost. Rice was staring near the bottom of the C-USA standings, beginning a four-game homestand and in the midst of a four-game losing streak. But true to form, the Owls won three of four games at home, and in that one loss Rice led by 12 points in the second half.

Heading into a short two-game road trip this weekend, the Owls sit in the middle of the pack in the C-USA standings, three games behind conference leaders Rice and with a lot of games left in the season, the conference is still very much up for grabs. The Owls, who have already shown that they can beat teams at their place and eventually close the gap with Rice, shouldn't be written off.

Stephen Whitfield is a Sid Richardson College sophomore and co-sports editor.

Men's basketball defeats Marshall in 78-75 in OT

by Matt McCabe

Senior Luna leads offensive charge in season-opening wins with 3 HR, 6 RB

After solid wins against Central Missouri State University — the No. 2 team in Division II — and McNeese State University at Reckling Park last week, the baseball team will set its sights on one of the largest regular-season tournaments in the country. The Houston College Classic at Minute Maid Park will feature perennially strong Texas University, Tulane University, University of Houston, Texas Christian University and the University of Texas.

“We don’t expect [Luna] to carry us all the time, but there’s no questioning his ability.”

— Wayne Graham

Head baseball coach

Rice (2-0) will open the College Classic with a 3:30 p.m. game against Texas Tech (3-0) this afternoon. Texas Tech is coming off of a three-game sweep of Louisiana Monroe in which the Red Raiders scored a total of 40 runs but gave up 20 in 28. In two games, Rice has given up just two runs while scoring >15.

But the marquee matchup of the weekend is a clash between ranked Owls and seventh-ranked Red Raiders, the defending national champions, at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Owls are riding a four-game winning streak, the longest streak in the country since San Diego State, and are 3-0 in Texas game. It's always a shootout.

Rice faces a tough opponent in Texas Tech, which are up there with a team at its place and eventually close the game. Rice should be able to win the game.

Rice played in a near-empty stadium, forgoing the Tigers-half third of the fans on the right. Rice was down by 15 points midway through the second half, but a return to a different area and an increase in fans and intensity brought Rice within three points with 2:03 remaining in the game. Senior Aaron J. Harrison hit a jumper that brought the score to 67-75, but the Owls would get no closer down the stretch as Memphis went up by four from the charity stripe to close out the game.

“Throughout the game we were never satisfied, the guys who were out there were outstanding, the guys who were out there were outstanding, the guys who were out there were outstanding, the guys who were out there were outstanding, the guys who were out there were outstanding.”

— Tony Orlando

Men's tennis vs. Miami (Jake Hess Tennis Stadium)

by Chris Pasich

Men's basketball vs. East Carolina (Autry Court)

Kyle McAlloch, who was hit by the ball with a fine-throw.

“[Almond's] been doing a good job of distributing the ball. I feel that, in any game that we play, we should be able to win the game.”

— Matt McCabe

Head baseball coach

The Owls were ahead by three points with 2.6 seconds remaining in the game. Senior forward Mike Williams had 14 points to go along with eight minutes to go, I just told every other player on the floor to carry us all the time, but there’s nothing physical that we’re down right now, but we have a run in us,” said Williams. “Eventually, shots started to fall, we started to get stops, and we found ourselves back in the game.”

Harrison had 20 points on the right and Rice with 6 rebounds. "Apparently, Harrison and Williams, who led the Owls in points, rebounds and assists combined, have been the catalysts for the Owls this season.

“That's our job,” said Abnow. "We're up-tempo. If not us, who? Consistency is a big thing. We just have to make sure we have our mind correct each and every night."

“[Almond] is playing a good job of putting the ball in the hole for us,” said Williams. “It's something that we needed. For me, as far as scoring, I don't look to score too much — I just look to distribute the ball. I feel that, in any game, I can get eight assists, we should be able to win the game.”

Rice ended Monday's game with a 7-1 run, with the Thundering Herd making a 7-1 run at the conference title. junior guard Krystal Frazier, for the season — you can be outstanding, our offense can be explosive, and we have the potential to take down any team that we play.

Stephen Whitfield is a Sid Richardson College sophomore and co-sports editor.

OWLs — THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Men's tennis vs. Miami (Jake Hess Tennis Stadium)

by Matt McCabe

Average from a season ago, when she earned second place in the USA this year, provided they don't lose any more starters remaining from a team that won the Western Athletic Conference title last season. That player, junior forward Aneesa Nevers, is averaging 15.7 points and 10.6 rebounds per game, both improvements on her averages from a season ago, when she averaged second team all-WAC honors. Nevers has averaged 22 points in Rice's last three games.

I remember writing in December that "the Owls should be in the hunt for a championship in C-USA, especially against teams with a lot of experience. Our defense can be outstanding, our offense can be explosive, and we have the potential to take down any team that we play."

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OWLs — THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Men's tennis vs. Oklahoma State (Jake Hess Tennis Stadium)

Women's tennis vs. Mississippi State (Jake Hess Tennis Stadium)

Baseball vs. UT (Minute Maid Park)

Men's tennis vs. Miami (Jake Hess Tennis Stadium)

Baseball vs. TCU (Minute Maid Park)

Men's basketball vs. East Carolina (Autry Court)
Women's basketball falls to UH, beats ECU

by Anthea Gehrke

Women's basketball began its weekend on Friday with a 79-72 loss to the University of Houston. The Owls (12-10, 7-3) and Cougars (12-10, 7-3) played out an exciting game, with both teams trading leads throughout the contest. However, Rice was unable to hold on to their lead in the final minutes,最终以79-72负于University of Houston.

Sophomore guard Kadie Riverin was the leading scorer for the Owls, netting 20 points in the game. Despite the loss, Riverin's performance was notable, and she will be looking to build on her strong showing in future games.

On Saturday, the Owls faced off against Tulane University (10-9, 4-6) in a close game, which was decided in the final moments. Rice was able to secure the victory, with a 51-point win against Tulane. This win moves the Owls closer to the top of the Conference USA standings - 8 of the league's 14 teams have four or six losses.

Two freshmen that have contributed significantly to the Owls' success this season have been junior Krystal Frazier and sophomore guard Andrea Richey. The Owls have benefited from the experience and energy these newcomers have brought to the team.

Head women's basketball coach Greg Williams (Hanszen '70) said, "I'm happy with how I did last week. But I definitely feel, given the chance, that I could have an even better performance.'

Fumi Jimbo, Senior pentathlete

The Owls travel to Seattle this weekend to compete in the Husky Classic Saturday. Dempsey Indoor Stadium at the University of Washington is known for having one of the best indoor track facilities in the nation. Head coach Jim Bevan said he is looking forward to both the new venue and competition.

"Three of the last four weeks we've seen similar teams. It'll be good to get out and see some fresh faces,' said Bevan. "I think it'll be good to get out and compete against fresh faces.'

Rice will be beaten again this weekend, this time by Rice University. Both teams are strong contenders for the Conference USA title, and the Owls will need to continue their winning streak to maintain their position at the top of the standings.

The Owls' performance in the last two weeks has been impressive, with a 6-0 record against conference opponents. This success has earned them a No. 8 ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll. Head coach Greg Williams (Hanszen '70) said, "We're getting better every game, and we're really going to be able to compete with the best teams in the country.'

Jimbo, who was named the C-USA women's track and field athlete of the week for her performance at UH, was disappointed with her results. "I'm happy with how I did last week,' she said. "But I definitely feel, given the chance, that I could have an even better performance.'
baseball

beating them. I didn't think they were really that good last year. They were at the right time."

In the bottom half of the inning, StClair both have the ability to pitch one, two innings of relief, said Graham. "If they command their pitches, they can beat anybody. Cox can make it a lot and I think they have in the past. If [batters] don't pick it up, we can keep them off the bases in the right frame of mind. We're going to be hard to beat those two at the end of a ballgame." On Saturday, Rice opened its season with a convincing 4-1 victory over Central Missouri. The Owls pounded out 14 hits while allowing just three behind the pitching of sophomore left-hander Joe Savery, senior right-hander Eddie Doger- man, StClair and Cox. Savery got the win, allowing just one hit while striking out six in Rice's 6-2 victory.

In a battle of unbeaten teams, GSA (0-1) lost to wins (2-2) by a 2-0 score Friday in Premier Division action. The win puts GSA alone at the top of the division, tied for the win, allowing just one hit while striking out six in Rice's 6-2 victory.

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Ark. It is Rice's final meet before Solares breezed past the competition. Solomon won the first race of his heptathlon, freshman Alex won the pole vault and hurdles and in the mile relay with Solares, senior Bahnsen Miller, and senior Eric Sprouse. Head coach Jon Warren (Jones Football Stadium) said the decision of where to run Whitham at the C-USA meet will be difficult. Solomon's finish in his first mile race of the year — 9:25 seconds, almost four seconds faster than second-place Westley Keating of UT Fan Americans — was somewhat unexpected. The real surprise came from Solomon, who took over the lead in the 5,000 at the 2,000-meter mark and did not relinquish it winning with a time of 15:51.81. Solomon may have benefited from a weaker field. Many of the stronger runners participated in the 3,000 meters earlier in the day, including sophomore Charles Hampton and senior David Anderson, who finished fourth and fifth in that race, respectively. Warren said Solomon's performance was still very impressive.

"I am confident that the team is in shape and mentally prepared to compete."

— Medeja Edic
Senior tennis coach

Against LSU, the Owls dropped all three doubles matches by a score of 8-4 before improving their play in singles. Senior Blair DiSesa provided a highlight win at the third position with a straight-set defeat of Merckal Hidberg, and sophomore Tiffany Lee and Egic won in three sets at the fourth and fifth spots, respectively.

"It's hard to feel the value of a good match when you don't come home with a win."

— Roger White
Head women's tennis coach

However, sophomore Christine Podolsky at the second position, and freshman Alana Rodgers fell in straight sets at the third spot. The Owls still had a chance for an upset, but LSU's Camilla Cattari defeated sophomore Kimberly Patenaude at the sixth position to secure the win for LSU.

"I think that everyone showed a lot of heart, which is a great stepping stone for the rest of the season," BScox said.

The LSU match should provide valuable experience for the Owls, who now face six straight matches against ranked opponents. "I think that both teams played fair, and it was a nice opportunity for us to compete," White said. "But it's hard to feel the value of a good match when you don't come home with the win."

Two weeks ago, Rice lost at UCLAand Pepperdine, ranked 15th and 25th, respectively.
Men's tennis splits road dual matches

by Dylan Farmer

The men's tennis team lost a dual match for the first time this season last weekend, losing at the University of Michigan before rebounding to win at Michigan State University and improve its record to 4-1 on the season.

This weekend, the 48th-ranked Owls lost a pair of tough dual matches at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium. Today, Rice faces 22nd-ranked Oklahoma State University, a team that has suffered a few key injuries but has won its only dual match this spring. On Sunday, the Owls take on 30th-ranked University of Miami, an Athletic Coast Conference power whose 2-1 record in ACC play might provide the Owls an opportunity to erase last weekend's loss or just decide to get the season that much longer.

"It was a weekend that either erased last weekend's loss or just made the season that much longer," assistant coach Ed Ustundag said. "We'll get it on the right track."

In Ann Arbor, Mich., last weekend, the Owls opened the match against 38th-ranked Michigan with a lethargic start and never recovered, losing to the Wolverines by a final score of 5-2. After the 38th-ranked team secured the overall doubles point with a 6-4, 6-2 win, Searle and Tony Haerle lost at No. 1 doubles, the Owls other two teams both won their matches, giving the Owls the doubles point.

"We lost the doubles point the first day and that was very close to losing it on the second day, so it's something we need to work on," Ustundag said. "We have a good six players (in the doubles positions), but the teams will take a little while to gel."

Rice dominated singles play against the Spartans. Searle, Haerle and Zivojinovic all won in straight sets, while junior Ben Harknett came back from a 2-0 deficit to win his match in a tiebreaker.

"I think we responded well [to the weekend with a 1-1 record]," Ustundag said. "But as far as results go, it's disappointing to come away from the weekend with a 1-1 record."

The Owls will finish the regular season at the MaidofTexas Invitational on March 28-29 at the University of Texas, an event that should provide the Owls a chance to erase last weekend's loss or just decide to get the season that much longer.
CALENDAR
FEB. 10-17
FRIDAY

Beautiful day for baseball — let's play three.
The first game of three for the Owls is in the Minute Maid Classic against Texas Tech University at 3:30 p.m. at Enron...crp...Minute Maid Park. Tickets for students with a Rice ID are $4 for any of the three days. Rice plays UT at 7 p.m. Saturday and TCU Sunday at 6 p.m. With weather the way it's been lately, do you really have an excuse not to make at least two?

Vagina's, anyone?
Both Friday and Saturday (and Thursday if you have a magic time machine), you can see the Vagina Monologues at 8 p.m. in the Lovett Underground and hear anything and everything about vaginas. Tickets are $3 for students, $8 for others in advance ($7 and $10 at the door), and all proceeds benefit the Houston Area Women's Center.

You sunk my battleship
The 1st game of three for the Owls is in the first sport of baseball in the Minute Maid Classic at 7 p.m. While this may have been mentioned in the Friday section, it should be noted that this game is against No. 1 UT, and attendance should reflect this. Tickets are $6 for students with a Rice ID. If you can heckle better than I can, I'll buy you a cookie, or maybe a pizza or maybe even a car.

This just in: Descartes is still dead
Tuesday morning, when the women's basketball team faces Conference USA and in-state opponent SMU at 7 p.m. at Autry Court. Instead of trying to get that laundry done before the Sunday masses hit the machines, you should come out and watch.

Learn them kids good
If your grammar is better than that and you want to do the world a favor, you should apply for Teach for America. Friday is the deadline. Contact Lulu.Roller@teachforamerica.org with any questions.

Hoop it up
The women's basketball team faces Conference USA and in-state opponent SMU at 7 p.m. at Autry Court. Instead of trying to get that laundry done before the Sunday masses hit the machines, you should come out and watch.

SATURDAY

Best Texas
The Owls take on the University of Texas in the fine sport of baseball in the Minute Maid Classic at 7 p.m. While this may have been mentioned in the Friday section, it should be noted that this game is against No. 1 UT, and attendance should reflect this. Tickets are $6 for students with a Rice ID. If you can heckle better than I can, I'll buy you a cookie, or maybe a pizza or maybe even a car.

MONDAY

Mark your calendars
No, not this calendar, silly — the calendar on your wall. Four weeks from today, you will be on spring break.

TUESDAY

Give me some candy
It's not Halloween, but rather the much more socially acceptable candy exchange holiday: Valentine's Day. Ask that fly honey or radical bro out to dinner and a movie, or a movie and dinner, or some other exciting evening pursuit. Anyone in need of a Valentine's date? A friend of mine likes long walks on the beach, small romantic lollipops, poppies and a good game of boogie.

WEDNESDAY

Rip clip, clap C-E clap, clap
Uncle Sammy wants you to join the Autry Army at Autry Court at 2:00 p.m. when men's basketball takes on East Carolina University. Students who have made the last few games understand how much fun the Army has become. So come wear navy blue with pride, and give the team a true hometown advantage.

THURSDAY

Pencils down
Today is the last day to submit anything to the Rice Review, a literary magazine. Submissions should be in by 5 p.m. to the English department office on the second floor of Herring Hall. Try to hold off on the bad haikus.

FRIDAY

Get out now
Today is the last day to add a class, or drop one without a fee. Students taking more than 15 hours should drop a class now or seek professional help.

What is a Sooner anyway?
Actually, it's some sort of squat teddy bear celebrated in Okie lore for his endurance. At any rate, head over to Rocking P Bar at 4:30 p.m. to watch Rice base- ball defeat yet another Big XII team. Uncle Sammy wants you to join the Autry Army at Autry Court at 2:00 p.m. when men's basketball takes on East Carolina University. Students who have made the last few games understand how much fun the Army has become. So come wear navy blue with pride, and give the team a true hometown advantage.

Full salary and health benefits. Seeking all academic majors.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. prior to Friday publication.

Submission methods:
Fax: (713) 348-5238
E-mail: thexter-calendar@rice.edu
Campus Mail: Calendar Editor
Thresher: MS-524
Submissions are printed on a space available basis.

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OUR GENERATION MUST TAKE ON THIS ISSUE.

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http://duffybooks.com
Looking for a date this Valentine’s Day? Well look no further! Take this Backpage test and find which Thresher editor is right for you.

1. What is your idea of a good first date?
   a. Out of the office
   b. You free press passes to a crummy movie.
   c. Go to a Rice football game so we can be alone.
   d. Pittoine exhibit at Houston Museum of Natural Science.
   e. Hook up at Ultimate Frisbee tourney in Las Vegas.

2. What do you think of making love?
   a. Keep a pica between us at all times.
   b. You get three stars just for trying.
   c. If you don't do well, you can hear about it.
   d. A time and place for everything, and it's called college.
   e. As long as someone takes pictures.
   f. I need a good beard to get to anywhere.

3. You oversee when someone says...
   a. That is work!
   b. Annoyance.
   c. Something new.
   d. Whatever they damn well please.
   e. Creepy things.
   f. Something racy.

4. At a party, you ...
   a. Sleep.
   b. Swoon off under the breathers and smoke cigarettes.
   c. A random Baker Institute speaker.
   d. The condom of social awkwardness.
   e. You should go on a date with.
   f. You should go on a date with.

5. What is your favorite music?
   a. Neutrogena
   b. Lifestyles.
   c. Whatever is on the iPod.
   d. The Mathletes.
   e. IPOD make-out playlist.
   f. Tom DeLay purity test.

6. What is your favorite Backpage...
   a. The P.C. Backpage of Lovett Hall.
   b. Ode to E. Wayne Leebron.
   c. Anything with the Lama.
   d. The cars that were just published due to censorship.
   e. Ones that used a lot of Photoshop.
   f. Tom DeLay party.

7. What sort of birth control?
   a. Monostay.
   b. Birth Control Pill.
   c. One that works, damn it!
   d. The condom of social awkwardness.
   e. Creepiest and mostronxisly.
   f. Mere thought of parenthood.

8. What are you looking for in a Valentine’s Day Card?
   a. Proper spelling.
   b. Something pretentious.
   c. Something with balls.
   d. A rocketship joke.
   e. A good picture.
   f. I hate Valentine’s Day.

If you chose mostly...
1. You should go on a date with editor in chief Amber Obermeyer. She’ll be mean and tell you to do things. Luckily she’s already taken.
2. You should go on a date with M&E editor Julia Forsmen. Not nearly as awesome as Jon Schumacher, but she’ll have her fun. She will also a stupid fatty fat head.
3. You should go on a date with sports editor Matt Cagle. His brute, rude demeanor will win you over... or not.
4. You should go on a date with opinion editor Evan Minta. You are probably crazy or desperate.
5. You should go on a date with photo editor Marshall Robinson. Maybe he’ll take you somewhere hipper before hitting on someone else.
6. You should go on a date with co-editor David Brown. He judging by the number of times he’s made me change this, he must be really desperate to look good for women.

Classifieds編集

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Backpage: The Gathering

Booster Pack I

Some of you may remember the Thresher, Class of ’99. Well, in honor of OwlCon, here is a special limited edition Booster Pack of former Thresher editor-in-chief and calendar editor (which was on the Backpage) Steve Jackson.

Volunteer Mentor

The Backpage

Dr. DUNGEON DRAGONS

character record sheet

Welcome Male

Physical Strength

Charisma

Poker

Dungeons

Dragons

Volunteer Mentor

The Backpage

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

The “Keen Bastard Sword” Misclass

“I learned how to dance! It’s really simple, call: /users/random /users/ Evan. —Anonymous student proving Rice has the biggest nerds in the world

“Do I see Lee on Herndon - that’d be different from different from Evan.” —president, who apparently likes to have fun buildings

“Back my monkey!” —Overheard in HIST 370

“I’m so sick of vagians! I’m about ready to just give a penis!” —Anonymous Vaginas Monologues address

“Would you like a protein boost with that shake...?” —A random Baker Institute speaker.

“An ex-Smoothie King employee while unzipping his pants.

—An ex-Smoothie King employee while unzipping his pants.

“Suck my monads!” —Anonymous SA

“pee on buildings

—Anonymous SA

“Out of the office.

—Anonymous SA

“Looking for a date this Valentine’s Day Card?”

f. I hate Valentine’s Day.

If you chose mostly...
1. You should go on a date with editor in chief Amber Obermeyer. She’ll be mean and tell you to do things. Luckily she’s already taken.
2. You should go on a date with M&E editor Julia Forsmen. Not nearly as awesome as Jon Schumacher, but she’ll have her fun. She will also a stupid fatty fat head.
3. You should go on a date with sports editor Matt Cagle. His brute, rude demeanor will win you over... or not.
4. You should go on a date with opinion editor Evan Minta. You are probably crazy or desperate.
5. You should go on a date with photo editor Marshall Robinson. Maybe he’ll take you somewhere hipper before hitting on someone else.
6. You should go on a date with co-editor David Brown. He judging by the number of times he’s made me change this, he must be really desperate to look good for women.

Classifieds編集

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Backpage: The Gathering

Booster Pack I

Some of you may remember the Thresher, Class of ’99. Well, in honor of OwlCon, here is a special limited edition Booster Pack of former Thresher editor-in-chief and calendar editor (which was on the Backpage) Steve Jackson.

Volunteer Mentor

The Backpage

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