Online course evaluation trial yields low response

by Beko Binder
March 26, 2006

A pilot of the online course evaluation system, which will replace the paper system this spring, yielded low participation rates in the engineering school.

The online response rate for the 159 engineering courses involved in the fall semester pilot was 32 percent. The response rate for Master of Dental Students, which had completed the program, was 74 percent.

Endowment Administration Brian Havlinek said the response rate for engineering courses is misleading because students in pilot classes also received paper evaluation forms.

"Several students contacted me and said, 'Oh, I already filled it out in class,'" Havlinek said. "I advised them 'no,' because at that point it's not fair that you get your wise board twice.'"

Havlinek said the engineering school had a combined online and paper evaluation completion rate of 55 percent in November. Register David Terence (PhD '97) said the response rate for paper-only course evaluations is about 50 percent.

Provost Eugene低下 said during the first week of online course evaluations, students might be offered incentives to encourage them to fill out the evaluations.

"I would hope that students care enough about the quality of their courses and the quality of their feedback that incentives will not be necessary, but maybe we'll lubricate the start-up a little bit," Leve said.

Havlinek said the advantages of online evaluations, such as shorter processing time, make the new format even if the response rate is slightly lower.

Outside company will gather ideas for new recreation center

by David Brown
March 26, 2006

This week Rice will announce the name of a company that will help determine priorities in a new recreation center.

The Board of Trustees has approved the recreation center, which will be built across the Inner Loop near Clayton Hall. The club sports to its Assistant Band Director Kelly Beckwith said the company is not being asked to design the building. Rather, the firm will determine what kind of building will fit on the site, the square footage Rice can afford and what kind of facilities the building should include.

"We have a difficult decision to make in terms of how to spend the money," Beckwith, the director of the Student and Recreation Centers, said. "The company will talk to students, staff — all users of the current facility."

Beckwith said major issues for the pre-design phase include whether or not to build an indoor track and how to design a new swimming pool.

"I think there will definitely be a pool," Beckwith said. "The current one is 50 years old. The question is what kind of pool — will there be more than one. Will it be a competition pool? An indoor pool? An outdoor pool?"

Beckwith said the varsity swimming team and possibly other varsity athletic teams will be included in discussions about the new facility. However, he said, the building will be focused on the general student population.

Sid Richardson College sophomore Pon- ney Palaniappan, the Student Association representative to the Rec Center Advisory Council, announced at Monday's SA meeting that the company will meet with the committee within the next month and that the company will eventually hold forums for interested students.

Beckwith said there is no concrete timeline for the design and building process but that he hopes the new Rec Center will likely be completed in four to six years.

Selection petitions due

Election petitions for blanket tax organization positions are due today at 5 p.m. at the Student Association office on the second floor of the Student Center. Positions on the ballot include SA officers, Honor Council positions and, everyone's favorite, Sammy the Owl.

Thursday, April 5

Pass/Fail conversion deadline today

Today is the last day to convert a Fall 2005 'Pass/Fail' grade to a letter grade.
The trial of the online course evaluation system this fall gave us an idea as much information is an abstraction-based high school education class. (See story, page 1.) The mixing of paper and online evaluations ensured that we have no reason to believe how many students will participate when the online system is fully implemented this semester.

But even if the 33 percent response rate in the engineering school is of questionable validity, it is still concerning. We do not want tenured decision making determined by only one-third of the student body, and neither should faculty members. Somehow, student participation must be higher this spring. We have two ideas how.

First, we reiterate that students are more likely to participate in an online course evaluation system if they are invested in that system. If the free-response sections from the official evaluations are viewable by students, there will be a positive incentive to contribute comments — the more contributors, the more complete the information for everyone.

Also, students who do not complete their online evaluations should have their grades withheld for an extra week. This is about the longest Rice can hold a student's grades, and it may not seem very threatening on the surface. But given the number of students who observationally check and resubmit EDITER IN late December and the middle of May, we think it would give students enough of an incentive to complete their forms.

Whatever the strategy, something must be done if online course evaluations are going to survive. With a response rate like this — assuming, of course, that we can believe the trial's data — we might as well go back to paper.

That said, we support the concept of online evaluations and hope a way to make them work can be found.

Insulting egg donor ad cannot be justified

To the editor:

I have recently become concerned about what is depicted appropriate advertisement by the Tester is. In the Feb. 3 publication, an ad gave this description of what makes an "exceptional" egg donor: "3/4" or "sweet and thin, athletic, build." Approving such a narrow-minded view as acceptable advertisement in a newspaper of higher education is demeaning to the student population. An editor of a newspaper knows how important the word choice is, and this particular advertisement is far from tasteful and is rather offensive. The editor in chief confirmed that an ad such as this one would not be accepted during our first week of publication (Nov Weekend or Vision Weekend). Since it has been acknowledged that this sort of advertising is contumacious and inappropriate, why is it then acceptable to run the ad during the rest of the term?

In the end, the question of running the ad or not running the ad is a matter of economics: run the ad since it pays or don't run the ad and forgo earnings. However, sometimes dignity, respect and ethics can be worth significantly more than potential earnings and can build a sense of reverence that is inestimable.

Therefore, if the ad must be run again, to avoid impudently, I must insist that the ad be modified. The "exceptional" candidate be omitted and replaced with the phrase: "Interested in becoming a sperm donor? "

Tiffani Abdallah
Wien sophomore

Columnist mistaken on Miss America facts

To the editor:

I am very sorry that many people are quick to judge Miss America, letter writer Robert McGarvey, Feb. 10. In my opinion, the Miss America misses target the standard of excellence, challenging women to a more detailed dedication — all habits that contribute to being a well-rounded student from her own state, regardless of whether she chooses to pursue her own talent professionally. The interview lasts longer than that, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview, the interview. The interview, the interview.

Each question is to be asked at the same time, and the contestant must give a longer answer — because being tall, title, especially state-wide or national, is the equivalent of a paid full-time job. The interview is made up of questions about beauty and outlooks, current events, discussion of talent selection and opinions on politics and current events.

The other scored portions, Evening gown and Evening Question, are also very long and challenging. The pressure. Also, each contestant must submit a transcript of grades from her university coursework. What's more, any contestant within the first two or three minutes. In fact, the interview is based more on talent, which is one of the characteristics that make a sense of reverence that is inestimable.

Kathina Mitchell
Office of Student Affairs, California, 2002

Students should get over Sid satire

To the editor:

I cannot believe it is happening all over again ("Sid names subject of harassment complaint," Feb. 3). I was a freshman at Sid in 3000 when the secretaries got in trouble for offensive jokes. They happened to be two good friends of mine, and I was forced to see them go through legal battles and battles with the university, get suspended, get their jobs reduced and ultimately, complete numerous community service hours before they could graduate. For what? And a crude joke? In what?

You can turn on the television any night and watch late night television shows that have people in the same manner. Those hosts don't get sued. They might upset some people, but that's a natural side effect of being a humorous public figure. In the microcosm of the real world, the college secretaries are public figures of current events — and in doing job they might step on some toes.

In the real world, people constantly have to deal with offensive remarks, gestures and stories. An ad about black jokes is the real world, as it is true that they are in college. You are not an adult and it's time to have some exposure to the real world — it's time to get worse and more difficult to deal with from here. Grow up and deal with it. Best of luck to the Sid secretaries. If history repeats itself, they are going to need it.

Kelly Lilliendahl
Sid '06

icient introduction

Do you feel like Facebook has taken over your life? There is Help! Just log on to www.facebook.com and join the group "12 steps to beating your Facebook addiction." Join today!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hank's review offers delicious alternative

To the editor:

Your review upon Hanks Ice Cream captures the first entertainment article that I have readful for months 

"Hank's Ice Cream scoops up tuna treasure of flavors," Feb. 10. I will be sure to visit them soon.

Please include more stories that introduce Rice students to cool, under-the-radar places in Houston like Hank's. Disgusted reviews of terrible movies don't do much for me, and with the recent history of negative reviews, they have become too monotonous.

Van Nagelides
Hano
der writer

Hey RMC, what time is it? Time to fix the clock

It's 10:50 a.m. Students and faculty are scurrying across campuses to their 11:00 classes. Suddenly, the Campanile clock in the Rice Memo-

Next Rec Center should go beyond basics

We are excited for a long-overdue Rec Center. (See story, page 1.) Besides the standard amenities, we hope the planners will consider the following additions:

• Most importantly, the new facility needs many treadmills and el-

cipical trainers and adequate space to house them. Right now, we have no idea of a good time to go to the Rec Center and actually find an available cardio machine.

• Put weight training facilities in one large, open room with plenty of space, instead of spreading them around in smaller rooms. The weight room should also include ample space for mats — both for sit-ups and back exercises.

• Put in a pool that students will consistently be able to use and enjoy — one with an easily controllable pH level.

• Add a rock-climbing wall. We have seen them elsewhere and think it would be a perfect fit for quirky Rice students.

• Make racquetball and squash equipment more available, and build glass racquetball courts.

Unsigned editors represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.
Rice Voices

Evangelicals warm up to climate change crisis

For those who regularly read Broker opinion columns, it is no secret that the great faith debate has been raging for months. From intelligent design to the use of religion as a political tool, Rice students seem to be more polarized by religion than ever. As the leaders of the Christian evangelical community who have united on an issue that is rarely mentioned in the context of climate change, which the leaders acknowledge is ignored by the students of Rice University.

There is no formula.

Amber Guercio

Editor in Chief

NEWS

David Axel

Guest columnist

Rice is not Columbia Law School. And the goals for Rice are not the same. We should not be pursuing Rice students for whom Rice uniquely meets their educational and personal needs, and trust that students who belong here will continue to find their way to Houston.

National reputation and a high ranking are certainly desirable, but a great Rice education is about much more than the university's name on a diploma.

As such, we should not aspire to be something different, but have a vision that should include the scholarships some-what more than the university's name on a diploma. It is about how we grow in four years inside the gates and about what we give to the world once we step through the light of the sun. It is already embraced in this vision, which should be excited in an informed attempt to be something better. Unfor-

There is another glaring omission in the vision statement. Both the Call to Conversation to the Second Century Great lengths

Rice is already unparalleled in this vision, which should be taken lightly. It is the call of evangelical environmentalists, skeptics and those who

1. I have already met a number of students with the potential to become Rhodes or Marshall scholars. For the students who are in the neighborhood of the public service, each of these positions move on other criteria. 4.0 does not really make you much more competitive than a 3.8, and a student with outstanding extracurricular activities will be competitive with a 3.3.

Finally, in my opinion, that "leader-

ship" and "public service" are not啧 the best environments for holding offices in student organizations. Instead, be the one who has the vision and man-

ages the new project. Pick one or two things to devote yourself to completely, and let hobbies just roll in. I have no personal experience to tell you that I have been on a number of students with the potential to become Rhodes or Marshall scholars. for the major fellowships but 100 percent of the most

fulfill them will make themselves known. But neither are Rhodes or Marshall Scholars. But neither are Rhodes or Marshall Scholars. They are not Rhodes or Marshall Scholars. But neither are Rhodes or Marshall Scholars. The vision statement that I agree with at Rice is the one that should be something better. If we truly seek to be leaders in education, we should not be leaders of the future. We should be asking ourselves what can be done to improve the education in this country and then lead by example to make that change.

Catering to the desires of students who seek Rice after being rejected elsewhere is detrimental. We should be striving to serve the students for whom Rice uniquely meets their educational and personal needs, and trust that students who belong here will continue to find their way to Houston.

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O'Connor House renovations begin

by Perry Factor, The Rice Thresher

The exterior and interior of O’Connor House began Monday. When renovations are complete in July, the Career Services Center will move to the first floor of the former president’s residence, and the Alumni Affairs Office will move to the second floor.

The renovations and new furniture will cost about $2 million, Project Manager Eleon Barzouka said.

“We want to create a professional and polished atmosphere,” Barzouka said.

The house’s exterior will not change, but interior renovations will convert the structure into an at-home office building, Barzouka said. “It will be a very efficient office, but it will keep the house atmosphere,” Barzouka said.

Currently, the O’Connor House in undergoing asbestos inspections. The interior of the house will be demolished, and new interior walls will be constructed. The house will also be enlarged by 100 square feet, Barzouka said.

The building will include interview rooms, conference rooms and a waiting room. Career Services Director Cheryl Mattherty said these rooms will be larger than the analogous ones in Career Services’ current office, which is located on the second floor of the Student Center.

Mattherty said Career Services will benefit from increased collaboration with Alumni Affairs. The house’s patio and garden will be used for networking events.

“We want to create a professional and polished atmosphere, yet (one) the staff will still feel comfortable ‘cutting into,” Mattherty said.

Assistant Vice President of Project Management and Engineering Doug Tomlinson said no decision has been made about what will move to Career Services’ and Alumni Affairs’ current offices.

Tomlinson said Facilities, Engineering and Planning and representatives from the relocated offices collaborated in designing the new offices.

“We’ve worked with them on configuring the building to fit their needs,” Tomlinson said.

Assistant Director of Career Services Tomlinson said an increase in office space will be the only visible impact during the renovations.

More-DeRidder Constructions, which also built Martel College, will do the renovations.

O’Connor House was the president’s residence from 1949 to 2004.

Nobel winner Sen: Aim for justice

Finding and agreeing on a perfect theory of justice may not be realistic, but that should not stop people from finding ways to make the world more fair, Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen said to a full audience in McMurtry Auditorium at Duncan Hall Feb. 9.

Sen, whose speech was entitled, “What do we want from a theory of justice?” was the Nobel Memorial Prize in economics in 1998 for his work on welfare economics. He is also known for his essay on famine in India and for founding the International Association of Feminist Economics. Sen is an economics and philosophy professor at Harvard University.

“May we not be able to understand what justice demands, even within a given society.” — Amartya Sen

Nobel Memorial Prize winner

Sen first explained why he thinks a theory of justice is necessary. He argued that ordinary people face moral dilemmas everyday, just as those in power do.

“If you’re interested in making policy, then some idea of the demand for justice must be raised,” Sen said.

“In our personal lives, we are not always aware of the question of what is the right thing to do,” Sen said

Sen said that while seeking justice, people should be aware of their actions’ possible unjust consequences, which are often ignored.

People don’t explain the rules of the games that cause injustices,” Sen said. “They don’t tell others when they are being unjust.”

Sen also said people are too often preoccupied with determining the ideal just society, which causes soluble injustices to be neglected. Sen said agreeing on an ideal theory of justice may be impossible.

“We may not be able to understand what justice demands, even within a given society,” Sen said.

Even so, Sen said, people should address what they see as unjust to make society better. Sen said the search for justice should be like people arguing over art. They can converse about two paintings and decide which one is better without knowing what the perfect painting would be.

“Don’t wait until the perfect system emerges,” Sen said. “You can focus on comparative issues.”

Jones College sophomore Hrishi Hari said he was glad Sen gave a concrete analogy.

“The rest of the speech was abstract, so the art metaphor gave me a frame of reference, which was nice,” Hari said.

Sen intended to discuss human rights, but he cut his speech short to answer questions from the audience. Responding to one question, Sen said everyone will have different ideas about how to achieve world-wide justice. These differences, however, should not prevent people from seeking justice, he said.

When asked what role students should play in working toward a just society, Sen said the line between theory and practice is not as insurmountable as it may seem.

“I think the object of a good education — as you might get at an institution such as Rice — is to broaden your business on such things as justice,” Sen said. “Then you can put them to use.”

“People don’t explain the rules of the games that cause injustices.” — Sen

Sen was in Houston to speak to the Houston World Affairs Council on his latest book, The Argumentative Indian. His speech at Rice was sponsored by the President’s Office, the Center for the Study of Cultures, the economics department, the philosophy department and the School of Humanities.

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12:00pm - CSC Conference Room

“Rice Alums Doing Good Work”
Panel Discussion and Networking Opportunity
4:00pm - Miner Lounge

Tuesday, February 21

“The Basics of the Nonprofit Job Search”
1:30pm - Farnsworth Pavilion

“People Power: Networking to Make a Difference”
2:00pm - Farnsworth Pavilion

“Careers in Public Interest Law”
4:00pm - Farnsworth Pavilion

Co-hosted by:
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• Career Services Center
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• Meet organizations hiring at career levels including internships and volunteer opportunities!
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Student criticizes Rice Police after being removed from class

by David Brown

Will Rice College senior James Callahan was removed from class Feb. 23 by two Rice Police officers. Officer Yolanda Avalos thought she matched the description of a suspected burglar seen earlier that day in the Humanities Building. Like the suspect, Callahan is black, was wearing black pants and a gray shirt and was carrying a black backpack. However, Callahan is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and the suspect was reported to be 6 feet, 2 inches.

Callahan was released to class after a witness confirmed he was not the alleged thief.

Rice Police Chief Bill Taylor said the alleged thief was spotted rummaging in a Humanities Building office but that he escaped before he could be caught. Witnesses’ descriptions of the suspect were placed at the police radio. Avalos, who was monitoring an event at Baker Hall, saw Callahan walk into the building for his 1 p.m. class. She contacted Sergeant Tina McDaniel, her supervisor, and the two entered the classroom at about 1:15 p.m. to ask Callahan to step outside.

Callahan said the officers told him to stand on the steps of Baker Hall with a witness about 30 yards away. The witness initially said Callahan could be the suspect but changed her mind when the officers walked him closer. Callahan said the officers then let him return to class.

Callahan said he thinks RUPD handled the situation improperly and that he has complained to Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman and Rice Police Chief Bill Taylor.

"It was embarrassing to be pulled out in front of my peers like that, knowing what the professor was thinking," Callahan said. "It was very disrespectful. I've never said anything, and he accused while sitting in class, trying to get an education, it's kind of crazy."

Taylor apologized to Callahan and his class, ECON 341: Industrial Organization, Wednesday. But Callahan said he was unsatisfied with the apology because he wants personal apologies from Avalos and McDaniel.

Callahan said the officers could have questioned him before class began.

"I definitely should not have been pulled out of class," Callahan said. "They could have stopped me before class and gotten me right at the beginning. They could have asked for my ID and could have therewith me if I was a real student. I still would have been upset, but it wouldn't have hit me as much."

"I've never stolen anything, and to be accused while sitting in class, trying to get an education, is crazy."

— James Callahan

Will Rice College senior

Taylor said the officers did not violate any procedures. He said witnesses’ height estimations are generally not perfectly accurate. Taylor said students have taken in the post, so Callahan’s prying he was a student would not necessarily have eliminated him as a suspect.

"They were within acceptable procedures based on circumstances," Taylor said. "But that doesn't mean we might not have a better way of doing it."

Taylor said that out of his discussions with Callahan, he is developing guidelines for officers to use in similar situations in the future. He said one option is for officers to wait until the class is over, but that doing so could pose a threat to other students. Another option, Taylor said, would be for an officer to notify a staff member, who would enter the classroom and tell the professor to ask the student to leave the room.

"We try very, very hard to treat everybody the same way, and I think we do."

— Bill Taylor

Rice Police Chief

Forman said he has spoken with Callahan and Taylor and has called the President’s Office in an attempt to find a solution that is satisfactory to Callahan.

"I appreciate the fact that the police always have to make judgments in the moment, but I really would have liked to see this handled differently — in a way that would not have created such an awkward and uncomfortable experience for (Callahan)," Forman said.

Callahan said he thinks RUPD officers have wrongfully suspected black students of crimes in the past.

"They were not always being treated with sufficient sensitivity by the Rice Police," Forman said. "My sense is, as a community we have made significant progress in recent years. That's one reason this event is unsettling. ... It brings memories of past events to the surface."

Taylor said he was not concerned that the incident was discriminatory.

"We weren't trying to classify looking for a black male," Taylor said. "It is a touchy situation because we try very, very hard to treat everybody the same way, and I think we do. If the description had been of an Asian female, the officers would have done the same thing."

Knowledge is bliss

Brown College freshmen Harriet Gay and Jessie Wilburn enjoy "What seniors wish they knew as freshmen," sponsored by Career Services Feb. 7.

The RICE THRESHER NEWS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006 5

International Programs Study Break

Thursday, Feb. 23 at 8 pm in Kelley Lounge, RMC

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Want to fund your abroad experience with financial aid and/or scholarships?

Want to earn credit toward your Rice degree while abroad?
Interim Decision admits up seven percent
Out of state, international students behind increase in applications
by Risa Gordon
THE RICE THRESHER
THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Texas International Geographic Male Asian American Hispanic Caucasian African American Total
Applicants submitted 3,333 Interim Decision applications this year, 10
percent increase over last year. Two years ago, a record 3,588 students
applied under Interim Decision.
Browning said the number of Interim Decision admission offers increased to allow more students to
visit Rice during one of its two Owl Weekends, the first of which will occur
in March. Browning said she hopes current students will not advise admit-
ted students to wait until the April Owl Weekend but instead allow them to
choose which one to attend.
Out-of-state students submitted 1,803 applications, a 17 percent
increase over last year. California, Florida, New York, Illinois and New
Jersey had the most out-of-state stu-
dents admitted.
Browning said the admission rate for international students was about the same.
Out-of-state students admitted almost doubled from 17 to 34, after the number of international applicants increased by 64 percent. The admission rate for international students was about the same as last year.
Browning said she thinks the increase in minority students admitted was due to the increase in minority applicants received.
Interim Decision is a non-binding decision plan in which applications are due Dec. 1 and applicants are notified of an admission decision by Feb. 10.

Advancing screen on Thursday, Feb. 23.
Free tickets available on a first come, first serve
basis while supplies last. Limit one pass per person.
To pick up tickets please see your college RPC rep.
16 Blocks opens in theaters March 3.
EVALUATIONS
From page 1

"(Professors who are evaluated online) should get their data within a month of the end of the semester, whereas right now it takes four or five months to get the information back on the written evaluations," Havlinek said.

Havlinek said there are still a few problems with the online system, primarily involving independent study courses.

"If, for instance, there is an independent study course and there are 20 people taking it but they each have different faculty instructors, right now we register all 20 people in one class," Havlinek said. "There's not a way to link-up people properly in independent study-type courses, so we have to address what to do with that."

Once all students begin using the online evaluations, the Registrar's Office will no longer handle the distribution and organization of the forms.

Instead, Administrative Systems, which is responsible for ESTHER, will set up the evaluations and send the results to the Information Technology department.

Computer Science Department Chair Keith Cooper said rapid release of evaluation results will make salary and tenure decisions easier. However, he said evaluations may not reflect the sentiment of a class.

"Personally, I would favor — if we went to online evaluations — saying that we won't release the student's grade until he or she fills out the evaluation in the class," Cooper said. "That would guarantee that we get a representative sample of students."

Jones College senior Scott Esterholm said online course evaluations would be better than paper evaluations because students would not have to sacrifice class time filling them out.

"I think it is better to have [the evaluations online], so that we can use that time for class instead of filling out the course evaluations," Esterholm said.

Lovett College senior Derek Leach said filling out course evaluations online was convenient last semester.

"It's very well suited [to be online]," Leach said. "It worked very well."

NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Sara Zampierin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Sarah Hampton</td>
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<td>Hanszen</td>
<td>Stephen Rooke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lovett</td>
<td>Anish Patel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Rice</td>
<td>Brian Schwab</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Jones, Martel, Sid Richardson and Weess colleges will elect their new presidents within the next two weeks.

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

Rice Engineers Without Borders
Welcomes
The 2006 EWB-USA International Conference to Rice University

Rice University Engineers Without Borders
El Salvador Water Project: Rice Engineering in Action


Thursday, February 23, 2006
4 pm
Duncan Hall, McMurtry Auditorium

A reception in Martel Hall will follow the presentation.

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are invited to this free event
Museum revokes tradition to invite dancing, hip-hop

Bryce Grau

THRESHER STAFF

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is usually the perfect place to kill off an evening or a nagging weekday. It's one of those places that allows you to wander hours exploring the galleries' pristine hallways, losing yourself among priceless works of painting and sculpture. Unless your visit consists of a lecture or a viewed middle-school field trip, the MFAH is dominated by the chatter of small children.

This silence was shattered at SAT.

The thrum of00ered small chats and the shuffle of spinning turnstiles reverberated through the museum's main gallery. The hall of the museum's Caroline Wiess Law Building underwent a unique Jeely and Hydrate transformation, turning upside down for the final installment of the Beats of Basquiat.

While a screen greeted me as I entered the entrance, the Velvet Underground's "White Light/White Heat" played softly. The video projection was followed by a model of Arthur Rimbaud that was later performed on the dance floor. There were two groups of people dancing outside the gallery, which included a mix of hip-hop and hipsters.

When the doors finally opened the crowd started to rush. They rushed to the walls to get a better view of the space. The Velvet Underground's "White Light/White Heat" played softly and the floor became more crowded.

While I was observing the crowd, a man walked into the urbane, Twenty short hours after the MFAH opened for the first time, the space was filled with the sounds of the club. People were dancing, drinking, and having a good time.

It was not hard to understand their concern — drinkers danced, stumbled perilously close to irreversibility and the paintings simply refused to run out of steam. The disarray of the Beats of Basquiat exhibit party Feb. 11.

A break-dancer shows off strength and skill on the floor of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's lower gallery. Groups of break dancers gathered intermittently in the thick crowd during the hours leading up to Grand Master Flash's arrival at the Beats of Basquiat exhibit party Feb. 11.
Finicky foreign flop shows some films should stay unseen

Tasha Champenail
THE TRUSHER STAFF

Something old, something new, something borrowed ... from the Bible? No, movemaking Eden. The Daenerys of Adam & Eve presents an idiosyncratic and fascinating take on history's first and most infamous couple.

MARGARET TUNG
THE TRUSHER STAFF

"Searching for Eden"

Playwright James Still's script combines the familiarity of the biblical tale and the relevance of modern-day relationship myths. The result is a hilarious and touching story of two people doing things they have never done before and becoming comfortable with how.

The first act, "The Beginning of Time," features a whimsically decorated set with vibrant colored card board and simple representations of the primordial garden. Opening the play with an individual animal with the inability to keep still, Adam, played by Thomas Price, is captured and an introduction to the carefree nature of the first man. Not too out of the way. Eve, played by Deborah Hogue, moves through the stream of alphas and betas of a Waterfall and immediately begins促成 the first act.

Before the two meet, the dichotomy of their personalities emerges in comical fashion - Adam is satisfied with just himself and the creations of the garden, but Eve seeks loneliness and wonders why she is the only animal that does not come in a pair. When they finally do meet, the shock of seeing another human precursor both to Eve. As their courtship develops, viewers are left to wonder how Adam and Eve feel about one another. Although the play itself may sound trite, the actors and the playwright deserve our respect, because nothing in this story is boring or dull. Still reintegrates the romantic comedy genre by centering the story around only two characters. This focus allows more time for the characters to develop and makes their arcs more believable.

For its overall tone also matures in the second act, the jokes in the second act are more subtle. Still evokes satire, Hollywood-esque imagery with constantly ringing cellular phones and costumes - the couple "E" robes at the resort because phones and costuming - the couple has caring about the accused stalker and his family than about the sup- posed victim. The most believable performance comes from Willem Dafoe's, who plays the son-in-law role. His brief speech in defense of his father makes his small role the bright spot in this dreadful excuse for entertainment.

It has a beginning, a semblance of a middle and no ending. It is entirely unclear what the audience is sup- posed to take away from viewing the film.

The acting is uninspired. The plot is uneven, The film is un- inspired. Cache should have been kept hidden.

Eden reveals paradise of theatre satiric

Margaret Tung
THE TRUSHER STAFF


"Eden"

The few shocking scenes in the storyline break up the monotony of the still slow paced plot. These sensationalistic shocks capture the audience's attention, but they do not make a movie.

Numerous scenes are entirely un- necessary. After waiting patiently for George to become significant to the story, it becomes apparent they have no meaning. The protagonist Georges (Pourquoi) is a trial of viewers' willpower.

The tapes show the family entering and exiting their home - which although not particularly meaning- ful is still disturbing for Georges. Wrapped around the tapes are ob- scure children's drawings that trigger disturbing memories.

Initially, the tapes appear to be from a fan of Georges' round-table discussion show. But soon the draw- ings lead the home intruder prema- turely - and even less fortunate view- ers - to the home of a childhood acquaintance, and Georges' past comes out of hiding. He believes his friend is embittered about his role in preventing his adoption. Georges becomes embroiled in trying to escape from his past and in the process alienates his wife and son.

From the opening credits, when the name of each producer, director and lead is painstakingly typed onto the screen letter by excruciating letter, Cache is a trial of viewers' patience and loyalty with these visually tiresome tableaux.

In the final scenes exists. Plotlines get more involved, and Auteuil and Binoche are the careful couple. Auteuil gives Georges, who is not especially com- fortable as Adam in the second act than in the first.

Adam is a therapist, while Eve is a multi-tasking Mogul in the entertainment industry.

The play's surprising conclusion comes from the distant and the present contributes most to its captivating formula. The play can go from the- rae beginning of time to a cynical "Thousands of Years Later" because that is the story's meaning - the differences be- tween men and women, finding love and relationships - have not changed much at all.

Props and costumes may come and go, but searching for significant other has always been both challenging and rewarding.
**Owls fall to Longhorns on walk-off homer**

by Matt McCabe

The baseball team was one out away from returning to Reckling Park this weekend with an undefeated record, but a two-out, two-run home run by UT freshman Kyle Russell off senior right-hander Bryce Cox, the Owls closer, gave the Longhorns a walk-off 4-victory Saturday in the Houston Classic at Minute Maid Park.

"Basically, we're left out for a long spring," assistant coach David Purce said. "Kyle Russell ran into a pitch and beat us. (Bad) overall, I think the weekend turned out solid. We finished in a strong note."

The Owls now set their sights on the Coca-Cola Classic, the first of two tournaments they will host. Rice (4-1) has given up a combined 101 points to 11 games against the top 25. Toronto Raptors. Basketball pundits everywhere are asking what's going on, whether or not Bryant can score 100 points in a game before he retires. And I think that he said that Bryant will do so before he is done. This kind of talk was completely ridiculous just six months ago.

But it's not like you might not see a lot of similarities between what Bryant is doing this year and what the Lakers are doing with our men's basketball team. For one, I highly doubt that Bryant will score as many as 45 points in a game, much less 114. Rice does not have a coach who has won nine championships like the Lakers' Phil Jackson. The Owls do not run Jackson's triangle offense and Almond is average 21.6 points per game, compared to Bryant's 40.4.

Two, the Lakers' defense is not as good as Rice's defense. Shocks shot clocks, slows offense, and forces sthat are averaging 40 points per game, compared to Bryant's 51.4.

Three, the Lakers are a much older team. Shorter bench players are usually settled in mid-range jump shots. Their three leading scorers are a point guard who makes no game in trash that can be a little erratic at times. Sound familiar?

I am not saying Almond is going to be the next Kobe Bryant. Those types of comparison games are silly. But I am afraid that, like the Lakers, the Owls have fallen into the trap of sacrificing long-term development for short-term success.

The lack of effective options the Owls have, if Almond shoots poorly, Rice can kiss any chance of winning goodbye. Last week, the Owls scored 15 points from Almond to pull out a three-point overtime win against a mediocre Marshall team. And even Almond's high-scoring does not guarantee victory. He has scored more than 25 points in four of Rice's five conference losses.

Perfectly存款 time, the Owls are coming into the fold this week. I thought this weekend would provide the chance to rest the offense and work some of the younger guys into the lineup. At the beginning of the season, it looked like this would happen, and it may still happen before the year is out. So far, though, the Owls have not progressed much.

The four freshmen who have played at least two games are averaging a combined 9.6 points and 5.5 rebounds.

Barely over .500 in Conference USA with a 5.5 record. The Owls are 5-5 in the conference. The Owls are 5-5 in the conference. They are ranked 15 in the country. If they catch a lot of breaks and win the C-USA tournament in March — just in time for the Lakers to make their playoff push.

Senior right-hander Eddie Degerman will start. Degerman earned his first win of the season with a 5.2-inning effort Saturday afternoon.

"We fell short in both situations, but the fact that we came from double-digits behind in the second half to get back in those games gives us a lot of confidence going into playing against SMU," Williams said.

Junior forward Lauren Neaves has emerged as the Owls' go-to player over the last six games — she has been the leading scorer in all but one game where she played just 26 minutes last week in the Owls' 51-point win. Rice has averaged 112.1 points in five games since, but she will face better competition at the post this weekend. SMU's Janice Bolden average 17.4 points per game, is third in the league, although Rice tied for 14 points at 5.4 shooting earlier this year.

Tulsa's Jillian Robbins leads the league with 16.8 points and 11.1 rebounds per game, and she and Neaves have traded West ern Athletic Conference and C-USA honors since both were freshmen in 2003-04.

"There's no selfishness at all — we're always looking for the open player. I think we're playing better than we have all season right now," Williams said.

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Men's basketball team defeats ECU 62-54

By Chris Pasch

The men's basketball team split its last two games, losing to the University of Alabama-Birmingham earlier this week and then winning at East Carolina last weekend. The Owls defeated the Pirates 76-66 at the多人球场 in the Owls' second home win in conference play.

At the game will receive tickets to the Conference USA Championship. Almond scored 31 points in the game for the Owls and also tied for the team high in rebounds with six. He was named the Most Outstanding Performer at the event.

Almond said, "With my size, it's one thing I can bring to the table — I can get in there and get over people."

Senior forward J.K. Harrison also had a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds on the night. Harrison logged 32 minutes off the bench after missing minutes Saturday.

"It's a good feeling to rest my body," said Harrison. "It's been a long week of playing hard. But I came out, and my legs were fresh tonight, so I just hit the boards."

Rice played a sloppy first half, turning the ball over 12 times. East Carolina led 26-24 at the half. But in the second half, the Owls dominated. Rice held the Pirates to just 24 points in the second half, but the Owls remained close on the last four minutes, when Almond scored 15 straight points to put the Owls up 59-38 at the end of the third quarter.

Almond said, "I felt we were coming along behind and put a dominant second half together without any lapses."

Although the Owls have been a better team in overtime this season, the Owls lost a close overtime game to UTEP Saturday night. The Owls dropped Rice to 1-2 in the conference play.

"Eventually we've got to start turning some of those close games into wins."

— Morris Almond

Junior guard

Almond scored 31 points in the game for the Owls and also tied for the team high in rebounds with six. Junior guard Lorenzen Williams added 15 points, and Harrison played 40 minutes in his second meet of the season.

"It's a big, big part of what we do," said Williams. "We have a lot of quickness and experience."

At the conference meet, head coach Jon Warren — the former head coach of the Owls — said a more realistic goal was to finish in the top three.

"We know you're not going to be contenders to win the conference title, but you'll be contenders to win the conference title if they can get a legal mark," Warren said. "But that's the mindset that we want to have."
The women's tennis team snapped a three-match losing streak last weekend, defeating the 66th-ranked Mississippi State University 4-2 at the Downtown Met and to 24th-ranked Florida State University 4-2.

The 40th-ranked Owls have now lost three of their last four matches, said the team will be ready when the season begins.

"It will be good for our bodies to get some rest this weekend," DiSesa said. "The Owls will be rested and ready to play."

The Owls are riding a wave of confidence after 11 runners set school records at the University of Kentucky. said the team will be ready when the season begins.

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"It will be good for our bodies to get some rest this weekend," DiSesa said. "The Owls will be rested and ready to play."
At UTEP (14-11, 6-7) Friday. With Frazier’s playmaking ability gone, the team has had a more pass-oriented offense. The team’s three highest assists in the season have been Jim Jones (26), Malcolm White (21) and Larry Williams (19). The offense failed to score in the first half, scoring just 27 points.

Frazier’s playmaking ability gone, the team has been able to use their offense to score 68-56 win over Tulane University (11-10, 5-7) Sunday. Inside of Neaves, the team’s points come from different players every game. But the Owl’s defense has been a constant since Frazier, one of the team’s best perimeter defenders, went down. Rice has held its opponents to just 33 percent shooting on the year — which is tied with Tulsa for the conference lead — and both the Miners and the Green Wave shot worse than 30 percent last weekend.

“Roles have changed dramatically, and everybody is really stepping up, everybody,” Loggins said. “There’s no selfishness at all. We’re always looking for the open player. I think we’re playing better than we have all season right now, which is kind of weird because we have so few people.”

Outside of Neaves, the team’s points come from different players every game. But the Owl’s defense has been a constant since Frazier, one of the team’s best perimeter defenders, went down. Rice has held its opponents to just 33 percent shooting on the year — which is tied with Tulsa for the conference lead — and both the Miners and the Green Wave shot worse than 30 percent last weekend.

“We had to take her in a wheelchair to the bus. But she’s just such a tough kid,” Williams said. “I can’t say enough about her.”

Williams said Wednesday that everyone is stepping up and playing, “in the team’s first 15 games of the year and 10.5 over the Owls’ last six games, according to Rice’s statistical analyst. Williams would be available this weekend, and played really well.”

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Stovall said the game was being played at UTSA and Texas Tech combined. The Owls have been battling a nagging knee injury throughout the season, but the player a combined 36 minutes last weekend, including 29 against UTEP.

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Brown, Wiess battle for playoff berth in men's soccer Premier Division

The winner between Wies (2-3) and Brown Saturday will be the second representative from the Premier Division. Should the

College Sports Roundup

Brown, Wiess battle for playoff berth in men's soccer Premier Division

controls its own destiny in the over Baker (0-3), Brown (1-1-1) playoff picture. Should the

Joel combines three major strengths, Marital (3-0) earned its first win of the season with a 1-0 shutout ofainless

Women's soccer

GSA (2-0) took commanding lead in the Saturday League with a 2-0 win over Brown (1-0) and is assured of a playoff berth. The Sunday League featured two blowouts, with Sid (2-0) routing Harris (0-1-1) by 47-0 and Lovett (1-0-1) recording a 60-0 win over Wies (0-2).

Women's softball

GSA (9) was the recipient of two forfeits wins at the hands of Marial (1-0) and Lovett (3-0) in the Cactus League, rendering those two teams ineligible for the postseason. Jones (3-0) squared out a victory over Brown (0-5) by an 8-7 margin.

In the Grapefruit League, defending champion Hansen (2-0) continued its winning ways with a 5-2 victory over Sid (1-1). Will Rice (2-1) destroyed a short-handed Wies (0-2) squad 27-0. If Hansen beats Wies, the winner would win the top spot in the Saturday League.

Men's flag football

Open men's flag football season with a 25-12, 25-17 victory over Brown (1-2) got in the win column.

Women's volleyball

Brown opened its title defense with a 25-10, 25-12, 25-17 victory over Johnson (1-3) in the Saturday League action. Sid also was a winner Monday afternoon to decide the two post-season teams from the League. If Jones won, Jones and Wies would represent the league, but if Lovett won, the playoff teams would be decided by point differential between Jones, Lovett and Wies.

Men's flag football

Open men's flag football season with a 2-0 victory against GSA in the Saturday League. Sid won the championship last year over Marial, which joined Sid in the win column with a narrow 24-22 victory over Will Rice.

Women's volleyball

Brown opened its title defense with a 25-12, 25-17 victory over Jones in Monday League action. GSA also was a winner Monday afternoon to decide the two post-season teams from the League. If Jones won, Jones and Wies would represent the league, but if Lovett won, the playoff teams would be decided by point differential between Jones, Lovett and Wies.

In the Blue League, Hansen (3-3) knocked off Baker (0-4) by a 2-1 score. Wins (5-1) won 90 against previously unbeaten Lovett (2-1), and Lovett faced defending champion Jones (3-0) yesterday to decide the two post-season teams from the League. If Jones won, Jones and Wies would represent the league, but if Lovett won, the playoff teams would be decided by point differential between Jones, Lovett and Wies.

Women's softball

GSA (9) was the recipient of two forfeits wins at the hands of Marial (1-0) and Lovett (3-0) in the Cactus League, rendering those two teams ineligible for the postseason. Jones (3-0) squared out a victory over Brown (0-5) by an 8-7 margin.

In the Grapefruit League, defending champion Hansen (2-0) continued its winning ways with a 5-2 victory over Sid (1-1). Will Rice (2-1) destroyed a short-handed Wies (0-2) squad 27-0. If Hansen beats Wies, the winner would win the top spot in the Saturday League.

Men's flag football

Open men's flag football season with a 2-0 victory against GSA in the Saturday League. Sid won the championship last year over Marial, which joined Sid in the win column with a narrow 24-22 victory over Will Rice.

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Brown opened its title defense with a 25-12, 25-17 victory over Jones in Monday League action. GSA also was a winner Monday afternoon to decide the two post-season teams from the League. If Jones won, Jones and Wies would represent the league, but if Lovett won, the playoff teams would be decided by point differential between Jones, Lovett and Wies.

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Beat the ponies

Rice women's basketball takes on the SMU Mustangs. They really do call themselves the ponies — I can't make this stuff up. They make this ridiculous hand sign with both hands, they say "Go Ponies" and ... I digress. Tipoff is at 7 p.m., at you guessed it, Autry Court.

Make a difference

Not the subtraction kind, but the kind that helps somebody out. Teach for America sends college graduates to low-income communities to teach. The graduates to low-income kind that helps somebody out.

Motion to run

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Leebron accidentally shoots Board of Trustees chair
James Crowover takes light rail to go duck hunting in Hermann Park, gets shot in face

President David Leebron shot Board of Trustees chair James Crowover (Hermann W.) during duck hunting trip in Hermann Park. Jimmy C. and other known locals to the Backpage, to the intensive care unit of Memorial Hermann Hospital.

While the Leebron administration has attempted to cover up the severity of the injury, doctors on the case have not been as optimistic.

"He got shot in the face!" Dr. Goldbergman said. "I don't think I've put it much simpler. Bam! Shotgun right in the freakin' knoer! That's OK, what's wrong with you people — I feel like I'm taking crazy calls. He got shot in the face!"

However, Leebron's spokesman, Maryana Iskander (Wise '97), has attempted to downplay the situation.

"Now, no one pay attention to the fact that Leebron didn't have a hunting license and that he was hunting ducks at Hermann Park or that he had a few beers beforehand," Iskander said. "Because we all know who the real shotguns, to which they simultaneously respond. "DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?!"

"Killing is like masturbation. You're supposed to know he's the president he is always right. If he shot you, it is your fault for standing in the way. Besides, Jimmy C. might have been hiding kegs of mass intoxication."

Supporters of the Leebron administration have brushed off the shooting as merely a graduate student with a pellet gun and have expressed concern for the emotional state of the president, while opposition holds that Leebron shot someone in the face with a shotgun.

However, the Leebron administration still maintains that it was a big misunderstanding in around here, Dr. Goldbergman said, "Not my fault." Leebron said. "He was standing in front of me completely still, not shooting or anything. How was I supposed to know he was there? I'm praying for his health. I mean, sure, I feel horrible. I know he must feel bad, but I feel worse. This is the worst day of my life. I'm so sorry, it's all my fault, please feel bad for me!"

"These were two responsible adults shooting ducks until one of them got dangerously shot in the face, a perfectly excusable mistake."

Look out Jimmy, Leebron's packin' heat! Leebron goes duck hunting at Hermann Park with Jim Crowover. Remember, since he's the president he is always right. If he shot you, it is your fault for standing in the way. Besides, Jimmy C. might have been hiding kegs of mass intoxication.

"It's not like these were two irresponsible lacrosse players doing shots until one of them got dangerously shitfaced — they deserve to be severely punished," Iskander said.

"Although a low-resolutions perception of duck hunting makes it seem like only an idiot could mistake a run for a duck. Higher resolution makes the satisfactions more obvious — allowing one to understand how Leebron could accidentally shoot Jimmy. Remember, watch to pitch if he gets too far away. Just hope he doesn't have a suicide grenade."

Artists' renditions of what Leebron saw before shooting Jimmy C.

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