Saturday evening adventures in search of off-campus food may soon become an event of the past. Starting tomorrow, the North College and Hansen/Wiess College serveries will provide Saturday night dinners instead of Saturday breakfast. Additionally, all serveries will follow a six-week menu cycle, during which each entree will only be served once.

Director of Residential Dining, Angela Riggs said few students attended Saturday breakfast. "I always expected that they didn't serve meals on Saturday because it forced everybody to get out into town," Bratton said. "I'm afraid that it might cause people to just always hang around campus instead." Director of Administrative Services Eugen Radulescu said the North College shuttle service will remain the same unless ridership decreases significantly. Any changes would not be made before the spring semester, Radulescu said.

"We really want you to have a choice to go for shopping, dining and entertainment in the Village, so dining is only one piece of the puzzle," Radulescu said.

Shuttles currently run from the Village from 5:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with a shuttle leaving every 15 minutes. Will Rice College - See DENNER, Page 5

Offensive and defensive lines square off on Rice Stadium's new FieldTurf in preparation for the season opener at home against University of Houston football tomorrow night. Coming off a 1-0 season, are the Owls' new coach and new schemes enough for a football renaissance? See full preview, pages 9-12

Fire causes little permanent damage

by Sarah Baker

A house chemical bath caused a fire in the organic chemistry laboratory on the third floor of George R. Brown Hall Aug. 24. The fire started when the postdoctorate associate working in the lab left the room. There were no injuries.

Rice University Police Chief Bill Taylor said a smoke alarm detected the fire at 3:10 p.m., which alerted the Rice University Police Department dispatcher to call the fire department. When RUPD arrived, people had begun to evacuate the building. Taylor said the fire was put out within minutes after firefighters arrived.

"There was no secondary fire," Taylor said. "The one fire that was there was put out very quickly."

Director of Environmental Health and Safety Kathrin Cavender said the fire was contained to one side of the lab.

Water used to put out the fire caused most of the damage to the building, including carpet damage to the second and third floors. Cavender said, "There was some soil that was cleaned up from the hallways when they came in and wiped down the halls," she said. "All the fire damage was isolated to one bench in the lab."

Cavender said the fire department broke a window in the lab to ventilate the area. She said civil engineers, architects and a lab bench need replacement.

Risk Manager Renee Black said monetary damage assessment of the building are not complete.

"What we need to do is get a contractor in, and then we'll be able to put together a scope of work on what needs to be replaced," Black said. "After we have that scope of work, that will provide us with an indication of what the estimated damage will be."

Cavender said determining preventative measures for the future is difficult because she does not know the fire started.

"The problem is [not having a cause]," she said. "It's hard to change a procedure because we don't know what went wrong." Cavender said Blackman Mouring Steematic Catastrophes, Inc., the company hired to clean up the fire damage, finished by 8:00 p.m. the day of the fire. Rice hired another company, Scarf Earth Environmental, to handle the chemical damage. "Now we're just waiting for Blackman Mouring to hire a contractor to finish removing the cabinets from the lab," Cavender said. "Then we'll rebuild it."

Chemistry Professor Ed Billips, who runs the lab, said the fire destroyed all the instruments and reagents nearby.

"We lost chemicals and time," Billips said. "We recovered all of the information from the computers that were there, so in that sense, we didn't lose any work."

Billips, whose research involves titanium chemistry and organic chemistry, said his students will work other labs until the damage is repaired. "The lab is so clean and straightforward," Taylor said. "There was a fire, it was put out, and the lab is open. It always takes longer to clean it up than it takes for it to burn."
The newly revamped college courts should benefit partiers, non-partiers and administrators alike as long as chief justices work together to maintain consistent enforcement of their new responsibilities from college to college. (See story, page L)

The changes will allow colleges to handle minor alcohol-related infractions internally, preventing them from showing up on students' permanent disciplinary records and potentially easing the workloads of the Rice University Police Department. Additionally, chief justices will have the power to enforce the threats they are forced to make when parties become too rowdy.

However, we have a few reservations about the courts' abilities to organize themselves, create penalty policies and enforce the decisions that they make. Especially at the beginning of this new system, Chief Justices will have to work together to set uniform standards for each college's penalty framework. We believe regular communication between chief justices will improve the effectiveness of each of the courts and ensure that comparable penalties are being assessed at each college.

The policy of handing out monetary fines for minor, alcohol-related offenses makes perfect sense. It is a concrete threat that should get the immediate attention of intoxicated students, and if it is enforced correctly, the policy will hopefully result in campus-wide benefits.

This sudden power and responsibility may overwhelm unused courts and underworked chief justices. Colleges should make sure to fill these positions wisely. But with proper formation and leadership, these courts can provide an increased level of self-governance campus-wide for colleges.

Saturday meal swap unhelpful to students

Housing and Dining's proposal to eliminate Saturday breakfasts and instead offer Saturday dinners concerns us. Saturday evening servery closures drove students off campus. While some saw this as an inconvenience, the weekly exodus from the hedges forced students to explore Houston. And weekend shuttles to the Rice Village, coupled with 13th Street's Saturday evening scene, provide a central issue with colleges.

We hope H&D will reconsider its decision and restore the Saturday meal swap. It will not be needed, the eliminated breakfast will be missed. While not that many students actually use this early morning breakfast, going out on the town for a bowl of cereal is not as easy as heading out for dinner.

We hope H&D will reconsider its decision and restore the compulsory Saturday night out that is part of Rice students' culture — and restore the nutritional breakfast early risers need to have a healthy, productive morning.

Go to football game this Saturday

Rice students have a habit of ignoring football games, but this Saturday's game may prove to be something worth seeing. With a renovated stadium and reorganized team, it will be a whole new game — so if you have never been to a game, now is the time. Visit the beer tent, eat a hot dog and cheer on that big guy who sits next to you in class.

Unsung editors represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff

Power to the college courts, with caution

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Saturday night outings have become a central issue with colleges.

We hope H&D will reconsider its decision and restore the Saturday meal swap.
Guest column

Rice should rejuvenate film studies program

In light of my recent experience overseas, I feel that Rice’s study abroad program is the best thing Rice has to offer. However, there are many things that could be improved, and I believe this is the perfect time to show how much we need to rejuvenate our film studies program.

As they persevere the course catalog, new students will be confronted with a cornucopia of courses, an abundance of academic opportunities for the taking. New four-letter words, and not just the usual course offerings, are starting to ring in the ears of students. There is also the issue of choosing the right course for the right student. Rice students, therefore, must be able to choose the right course from the right catalog.

The Department of Rice University Art History, with its courses in film and art history, could easily be the best thing Rice has to offer. The art history department is already well endowed with course offerings, but it could be improved even further by adding new courses in film studies.

Rice has a large number of students who are interested in film studies. However, there are very few courses offered in the art history department that cover film studies. The film studies courses that are offered are often taught by the art history department, and they are not always taught by people who are experts in the field of film studies.

Steve Dictor, a student of film studies, has found that the film studies courses offered by the art history department are often taught by people who are not experts in the field of film studies. He has found that these courses are often taught by people who have not even seen the films that they are teaching about. This is simply not good enough.

Rice should rejuvenate its film studies program by offering more courses in film studies. This will allow students to have more options when choosing their courses. It will also allow students to have more opportunities to learn about film studies.

The film studies program at Rice is in its infant stages. I believe there is a need for more courses in film studies. I believe that Rice should offer more courses in film studies to allow students to have more options when choosing their courses.

Guest column

Rice should rejuvenate film studies program

New college squeeze ruins paradigm of Northness

Perhaps students haven’t noticed, but over the summer President Leebron and his plans for expanding Rice will not be noticed, since the latest plans for film studies are being made for two new college buildings in the same area. There is a total of five colleges to be expanded, one for film studies, another for engineering and a third for the social sciences. These plans will be implemented in the next five years, making Rice the next university to have a complete educational complex.

However, a recent exodus of students abroad for the summer, when Art History Professor Hamid Naficy decided to leave Rice for Northwestern, his move, and the fact that he will have taught this academic year, including HART 280: History and Aesthetics of Film, Naficy is a world-class scholar and writer in the field of film studies. His work has been widely recognized, and he has received many awards for his contributions to the field.

Rice students have a lot to be proud of, and I believe that they should be proud of the fact that they have a world-class professor in the field of film studies. However, there is a need for more courses in film studies at Rice. There are very few courses offered in the art history department that cover film studies. The film studies courses that are offered are often taught by the art history department, and they are not always taught by people who are experts in the field of film studies.

Steve Dictor, a student of film studies, has found that the film studies courses offered by the art history department are often taught by people who are not experts in the field of film studies. He has found that these courses are often taught by people who have not even seen the films that they are teaching about. This is simply not good enough.

Rice should rejuvenate its film studies program by offering more courses in film studies. This will allow students to have more options when choosing their courses. It will also allow students to have more opportunities to learn about film studies.

The film studies program at Rice is in its infant stages. I believe there is a need for more courses in film studies. I believe that Rice should offer more courses in film studies to allow students to have more options when choosing their courses.

If Leebron and the Board of Trustees will not consider spreading the north colleges a little more thinly, I ask Rice students to band together and do what great Americans have done in times of strife — complain.

Most of all, I will not even touch the fact that the five north colleges will be in such close proximity to each other. A large of one mile away will not talk about how diminishing the Abercrombie parking lot will have the north colleges and their students by parking with only 37 parking spaces. Finally, I will not note that the entire backstretch of the Abercrombie tennis court will be demolished in order to make way for a new service window of five colleges without even moving.

I am sure that building two new north colleges in their present layout will not be good news to the other colleges. The most significant problem is the north — my own — campus. If this expansion call for the most immediate, unfortunate, Jones is already way too anomalous.

Constructing college buildings directly next to Jones and Martin will exceed the physically allowable level of overwhelming coolness for one area. It is like having John Wayne and Clint Eastwood in the same Western — it just can’t be done.

The north colleges rack the south colleges at literally everything we do. Capture the field, we are there. Of course, it is very nice to say: we have the newest buildings, the best food. Plus, we get to live right next to Rice students.

However, why don’t we put one of the new colleges there? It is not as big as the Abercrombie lot. And, if we don’t, we could park in Leebron’s driveway. Better yet, we’ll blow up the north college right on his driveway. No, that would be too hard. In their right mind would stack two colleges such as a tiny area. I dunno...um...I am no Henry Kissinger.

I think there are definitely better places to put the new college — next to the Abercrombie parking and lot and not quite as close to the three amnesias of the north. And, I believe that the Board of Trustees will not consider spreading the north colleges a little more thinly. I ask Rice students to band together and do what great Americans have done in times of strife — complain.

I challenge you to join me in my protest of the administration’s mind to the north colleges. The north colleges are a vital part of modern academic life and need to be supported. I ask Rice students to band together and do what great Americans have done in times of strife — complain.

Zach Marshall is a Martel College senior.
700 students register on improved network

by Risa Gordon
Managing Editor AS'07

With the help of an improved network, all new students registered for classes simultaneously during Orientation Week for the first time. In the first 15 minutes of registration Aug. 25, about 700 students logged on to ESTHER without a system slowdown, Associate Registrar for Student Records Ellen Everett said.

However, students had trouble registering for LPAP courses, as well as freshman seminars and they have more Advanced Placement credits.

Registrar David Tenney (Sid '87) said registration ran smoothly in part because O-Week advisers and coordinators helped familiarize new students with ESTHER before Friday. By logging on earlier in the week, new students knew their PINs and could identify any account holds.

"One thing that was dramatically different this year...is the fact that we had such help from the O-Week advisers," Tenney said. "They helped us by encouraging the freshmen to log on early in the week."

Only 17 new students had not accessed their ESTHER accounts Thursday afternoon, Everett said.

In addition, the Registrar's Office gave college coordinators, O-Week coordinators and Peer Academic Advisers cards to help students who were new to campus.

"Students could go right to the source of the hold and could figure out what the problem was," Everett said.

New students were unable to register for LPAP courses early in the day. During registration in the spring, courses were capped below capacity to save spaces for freshmen. However, the cross-listed for-credit LPAPs were not unwrapped by the start of registration, preventing registration in any LPAP. Everett said the problem was resolved by 10 a.m.

Students who entered with 30 or more AP credits were classified as sophomores and denied registration for freshman seminars. Tenney said from speaking with professors, he understands that all freshmen who could not register for the seminars due to credit hours were allowed to add those courses with special registration forms.

Starting with Spring 2007 registration, students will qualify for special classes, such as freshman seminars, based on matriculation year rather than number of credit hours. Tenney said. However, students will still begin course registration based on credit hours, he said.

Prior to registration, the Registrar's Office load-tested the system and determined that it could handle such a high traffic volume. Registration began at 8 a.m. In the past, colleges were allotted registration times by lottery.

The Registrar's Office set up a hotline to Health Services to resolve any Health Services hold on student accounts. In the past, students did not have to walk to the Wellness Center from the Allen Center. Everett said. Health Services holds are issued for health issues such as lack of insurance or immunizations.

"Students [could] go right to the source of the hold and could figure out what the problem was," Everett said.

INFRACTIONS

From page 1

implement the change. Many of the chief justices said they would like to set up a consistent fine structure across colleges.

Lovett College President Anish Patel, a senior, said the college leadership has been looking at Lovett's Constitution. He said the college hopes to have a system in place within a few weeks.

"We've been in progress this year, Ostdiek said. "We've been successful in my book," Ostdiek said.

The colleges have to want to do it and have to decide themselves how to do it."

On the campaign trail

Jim Henley, a Democrat running for the House of Representatives in Congressional District 7, explains his opinions to Will Rice College freshman Joyce Yao at a campaign event for Texas candidates. The event was organized by the Rice Vote Coalition and held in the Grand Hall on Wednesday evening.

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We are located 2 miles directly west of campus, 6218 Auden between University and Rice. Free round-trip shuttle service is provided each Sunday morning leaving at 8:15 AM and 9:15 AM on the loop in front of Rice's Allen Center. See www.wubc.org for more details, or call 713-668-2319.

Contemporary Worship: 8:30 AM
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Traditional Worship: 11:00 AM
**Ostdiek updates Alcohol Policy; Party approval process goes online**

by Risa Gordon

In the annual revisions to the Alcohol Policy, Assistant Dean of Student Judicial Programs Dena Ostdiek — after consulting with students and staff — centralized party approval to his office and altered the Alcohol Policy Advisory Committee.

Ostdiek said college presidents and chief justices wanted the public party approval process to be less burdensome. Beginning next week, a Web site will allow party planners to submit their proposed parties online. In the past, students had to use a paper form to obtain approval from the assistant dean, the Rice University Police Department and the Wellness Center. Planners also had to consult with the Environmental Health and Safety Department. Organizations had to get a signature from the Student Activities Board.

Now, students will submit the online form to Student Judicial Programs, and Ostdiek will decide whether other approvals are required. A master's approval is still required for events at a college or sponsored by a college.

On the Web site, party planners will provide the names of certified alcohol servers, caregivers and hosts, as well as a security plan and description of how alcohol will be purchased. The planners must also include how IDs will be checked and what types of alcohol will be served.

As in the past, Rice funds — with the exception of the per capita funds provided to each college annually — are not allowed to be used for alcohol. In an addition to the Alcohol Policy this year, a statement explicitly prohibits misrepresenting how funds are used. The policy states that the assistant dean can require information after an event to show plans and the policy were followed. The online form states that alcohol receipts will be required.

Ostdiek said the more extensive form will require colleges and organizations to plan events more carefully. For planning large parties, college leadership, the masters, the chief justice and college RUPD officers should be involved, Ostdiek said.

"It was [previously] viewed as a bureaucratic exercise instead of a way to plan a safe and sensible party," Ostdiek said. "Now there's more focus on the college deciding and knowing what it's going to do other than running the form around. That's a big change."

Ostdiek said he consulted students, Rice University Counseling Center Director Lindsay Doran, RUPD officers and Wellness Center staff about the general concepts in the changes, but did not consult them about the exact language of the changes.

"Some of them had input on the specific language," Ostdiek said. "But it was all brainstorming input on what they wanted to have happen." Ostdiek said.

The policy also changes the Alcohol Policy Advisory Committee's role. In the past, the policy required APAC — which was composed of three masters, seven student leaders and staff members — to meet annually to review the Alcohol Policy. The current policy states that the document should be reviewed annually but does not specify by whom. The list of people who make up APAC has now been diminished, and instead, the Dean of Undergraduates has the authority to convene APAC to give input on policy implementation and revisions.

Other changes to the Alcohol Policy include expanding Ostdiek's discretion about the fines that can be assessed if colleges try to get around public party approvals by holding many large private parties. The fines were changed from a minimum of $250 to "significant fines." Changes also allow Ostdiek to use his discretion in assessing required dry periods to colleges due to a second violation.

Another change that Ostdiek said will consult with RUPD to determine the number of RUPD officers required for an event. The Alcohol Policy used to require that RUPD determine whether at least two uniformed officers were required for any party expected to exceed 200 attendees.

Ostdiek said the change resulted in part from a discussion with presidents and chief justices about requiring officers at Pub nights. Ostdiek said he would assess whether an officer needs to be stationed outside Witt's Pub during college pub nights rather than always requiring an officer to be present.

Ostdiek also added language to the Alcohol Policy that points to the role students have in enforcing the policy.

"In addition, the Rice community supports the concepts of shared responsibility and shared governance with students," the policy states. "Therefore students will have an important role in the execution and enforcement of this Policy. The role of college leadership ... is vital for this policy to succeed."

The policy also addresses the problem that Rice does not condone underage drinking.

"The Rice Alcohol Policy does not and has not allowed students under the legal drinking age to consume alcohol ... Thus it is the university's policy to prohibit consumption of alcohol by those under 21," the policy now states.

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**The Office of the Dean of Undergraduates Presents CONVERSATIONS ON THE COMMON READING**

**Sept. 5: Thomas Haskell, Samuel G. McCann Professor of History: A Conversation on Objectivity and the University (7:00pm, McMurtry Auditorium)**

**Sept. 6: Christopher Kelty, Assistant Professor of Anthropology: “The Influence of Technology on Scientific Theory” (7:00pm, Herzstein Hall 210)**

**Sept. 14: Neal Lane, Malcolm Gillis University Professor and Professor of Physics and Astronomy: “Scientific Theory: The Practitioner’s Perspective” (7:00pm, McMurtry Auditorium)**

**Sept. 13: Thomas Haskell, Samuel G. McCann Professor of History: A Conversation on Objectivity and the University (7:00pm, McMurtry Auditorium)**

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*To take full advantage of this opportunity, please refer to the Common Reading at [http://riceowEEK.com/undergrad.cfm](http://riceowEEK.com/undergrad.cfm)*

*For more information, contact Matt Taylor (x4997; ptt@rice.edu)*
Beer to be sold outside Rice Stadium

by Risa Gordon

THRESHER STAFF

Beginning this season, beer will be sold outside Rice Stadium for two hours prior to home football games. The beer will be available in a tent called the Roost adjacent to the West Lot stadium gate.

The concessions contractor for Rice athletics events, Hospitality Food Services, will manage the tent, Senior Associate Athletic Director David Sayler said. The revenue will be split between the concessions contractor and athletics, he said.

Associate Vice President of Housing and Dining Mark Ditman said the tent will also have a grill similar to the one at Reckling Park. Alcohol will not be allowed in the stadium or outside the tent due to NCAA policy, Sayler said. Ditman said the beer will be priced similarly to beer sold at other Houston sporting events, although it may be slightly less expensive.

He said the sale of alcohol will also help the concessions contractor, which has difficulty covering concession expenses at football games. The contractor will also provide security for the tent, Ditman said. In another change, students will also be able to use Tetra points to purchase food at the concession stand closest to the student section.

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All are welcome.

Thursday, September 7th.
8:00pm in the Farnsworth Room
of the Rice Memorial Center
Theater added to visual arts major

by Beko Binder

The Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts at Rice University is adding a theater program to its offerings, giving students the opportunity to pursue a double-major track.

Students majoring in VDA can now choose to take a studio arts or a theater major track, both of which require 12 courses. Regardless of their major, VDA majors must take six of the same courses, such as basic drawing. The two tracks also have abbreviated double-major requirements.

Visual and Dramatic Arts Department Chair Karin Broker said she and Theater Program Director Trish Rigdon decided to pursue the new department in April because of the overlap between the programs. She and Rigdon presented the idea to the English and Visual and Arts Department faculty, who voted unanimously to move the theater program to the Visual Arts Department. Rigdon said the faculty was ready to make the transition.

Broker said the theater major will better prepare students to pursue theater professionally. "Those students who are interested in moving along and going to graduate school will now have the ability to take courses for their major that allow them to be competitive," she said.

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In most recent years, the English department offered three sections of ENGL 103 in the fall and two in the spring. This year was the second time Rice has offered the writing exam online during the summer through an MIT-based consortium, rather than on campus during O-Week. Different from last year, however, was an additional, second essay and more complex topics. Students were able to choose from three different working timeframes to take the exam: one in June, one in July and one in August. About a third of students failed, about 15 percent received a "low pass," and about 15 percent received a "pass," Forman said.

When Barrett observed additional ENGL 103 sections would be needed, she notified Forman, who got approval from Provost Eugene Levy to hire the instructors, some of whom Barrett recommended from having worked with them grading the exams.

"I was surprised by the number of failures but still pleased with the quality of grading," Forman said. "I took a look at the essays to see what the grading standards were, and I was very comfortable with them." English Department Administrator Marcia Carter said the little time available to arrange for the additional sections proved difficult for the English department. About three-quarters of students took the exam in July. "From an administrative point of view, this has been extremely taxing, mainly because we had any other as to what the number of students should be," Carter said. "It's just one of those things that happens in transitional period. Certainly nobody would pretend this was smooth and the way we would want it to go."
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Passing attack, stack defense to debut against UH

A trailer in front of Rice Stadium has "Rice University" written on it, which is the official name of the university. The stadium is located in Houston, Texas, and is the home field for the Rice Owls football team. The stadium is primarily used for football games, but it also hosts other events such as concerts and graduation ceremonies.

The Rice football team has a long history of success, dating back to the 1930s. The team has won several conference championships and has appeared in numerous bowl games. The team is known for its strong defense, particularly its stack defense, which is a zone-blocking scheme designed to stop the run.

The Rice Owls are preparing for their season opener against the University of Houston, which will be held at Rice Stadium. The game is set for a home game, with kickoff scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Central Time.

The Owls are led by head coach Todd Graham, who has been in charge since 2013. Graham is known for his ability to develop a winning culture and to recruit top talent. The team has a strong secondary, which is expected to be one of the team's strengths this season.

The Owls' offense is expected to feature a passing attack, with quarterback John Meagher expected to be a key player. The team also has a talented group of wide receivers, including senior Jarett Dillard, who is expected to lead the team in receiving yards.

The Owls' defense, particularly the stack defense, is expected to be a key component of the team's success. The team has several experienced players returning from last season, including safety Dyllon Boykin, who is expected to be a leader on the defense.

The Rice Owls are set to open their season against the University of Houston, which is expected to be a tough test for the team. The Owls will face a strong offensive team, led by quarterback Eric Young Jr., who is expected to be a key player in the game.

The game is set for Saturday, September 3, with kickoff scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Central Time. The Owls are looking to start the season with a win and are expected to be one of the top teams in the Conference USA.

The Owls' season opener is set for Wednesday, September 21, with kickoff scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Central Time. The team is expected to face a strong defensive team, led by quarterback Eric Young Jr., who is expected to be a key player in the game.

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The Owls are led by head coach Todd Graham, who has been in charge since 2013. Graham is known for his ability to develop a winning culture and to recruit top talent. The team has a strong secondary, which is expected to be one of the team's strengths this season.

The Owls' offense is expected to feature a passing attack, with quarterback John Meagher expected to be a key player. The team also has a talented group of wide receivers, including senior Jarett Dillard, who is expected to lead the team in receiving yards.

The Owls' defense, particularly the stack defense, is expected to be a key component of the team's success. The team has several experienced players returning from last season, including safety Dyllon Boykin, who is expected to be a leader on the defense.

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The Owls' defense, particularly the stack defense, is expected to be a key component of the team's success. The team has several experienced players returning from last season, including safety Dyllon Boykin, who is expected to be a leader on the defense.
Sophomore starting quarterback Chase Clement fine-tunes his form during preseason workout drills. Clement will take over as the full-time starter, replacing junior Joel Armstrong, who shifts to a slot receiver position in the offense.

For wide receivers, there is a lot of people who do the spread offense well—"Applewhite said. "They're playing in the shotgun-based offense. We run a zone-based blocking scheme.... We just try to get them into the box, the more guys they bring into the box and the more looks you're getting.

"There are a lot of players who do the spread offense well—it's just a thought process you go through," Applewhite said. With the popularity of the spread offense continuing to grow, a team moving to a new system relies on an elusive element: Consistency. More specifically, offensive continuity relies on two components: The play of the offensive line and the decision making of the quarterback. Both the blocking scheme and the quarterback's responsibilities are completely different than they have been in years past, and it is crucial that the five offensive linemen make a smooth and complete transition.

"We run a zone-based blocking scheme.... We just try to get them out of option blocking, always thinking blocking down—it's been a process," Applewhite said. "This offensive line looks completely different than they did in the spring.

Despite the new scheme, do not expect the Owls to abandon the option completely. With the returning players used to option football, the team would be wasting some of its strongest assets by eliminating this attack. However, the option now serves as a changeup rather than the base play. Also look for the team to occasionally revert to under-center formations and the field gets congested.

Conversely, in the spread offense, usually only one running back is in the backfield, and a standard set includes tight end. This leaves four receivers spread across the field, throwing the defense and making it easier for offensive linemen to decipher their responsibilities.

"Spread principles are all the same," Applewhite said. "You're trying to clean looks up for the offensive linemen, give them base fronts. The more guys we bring into the box, the more guys they bring into the box and the more looks you're getting.

While the position is not part of the base-set, the tight end is not eliminated from play in the spread offense. In fact, Rice has used the tight end heavily in preseason workouts. Look for Sophomore Will Moss to put up big numbers this season.

One characteristic of the spread offense is the countless positioning and personnel combinations. By varying offensive formations, a team is able to create mismatches in both running and passing situations.

This year's college game holds the spread offense high as an elite, with Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach's "Air Raid" scheme and University of Utah head coach Urban Meyer's spread, which garnered national attention when he coached at the University of Utah. Applewhite's previous two stops were at Syracuse and Texas, two schools that ran some sort of spread. Despite the new scheme, do not expect the Owls to abandon the option completely. With the returning players used to option football, the team would be wasting some of its strongest assets by eliminating this attack. However, the option now serves as a changeup rather than the base play. Also look for the team to occasionally revert to under-center formations and the field gets congested.

"Balance" is not a term Owl fans associate with the option-based offense of former head coach Ken Hatfield. Last season, Rice ran the ball on 74 percent of its offensive plays. And although nine starters are returning from last year's squad, fans will see an offense that looks completely different.

The familiar faces will be in unfamiliar positions. Sophomore Chase Clement will be the clear-cut starter at quarterback, and former quarterback junior Joel Armstrong has moved to slot receiver, as have some of the running backs. Like senior Mike Falco, whose big play ability and lateral quickness have impressed coaches in camp.

Despite the focus on opening up the offense, new offensive coordinator Major Applewhite said he will run the ball if necessary. "Our offense is all about balance, and balance to us is not about numbers. It's about points," Applewhite said. "If we have to throw it 50 times we'll run it 50 times. If we have to run it 50 times we'll run it 50 times."

While Clement made his first start in 2005 and saw considerable playing time in his first game as a full-time starter, Applewhite said Clement impressed him in drills. 

"[Clement] has played extremely well," Applewhite said. "He's made good decisions with the football. He has gotten better and better at learning how to take care of the ball."

Clement will need to showcase that ability in order to score points in 2006.

"Our offense is all about balance, and balance to us is not about numbers, it's about points."

— Major Applewhite

Offensive coordinator

Big play ability looks to be a serious asset in the spread offense, which runs on a completely different set of philosophies than the double-wingback option attack Rice ran in the past. The option-based attack often utilizes three running backs and at least one tight end. This forced the defense to sacrifice the line of scrimmage to defend the run. When eight, nine, or ten defenders are in the box, the offensive linemen are faced with complicated blocking schemes, and the field gets congested.

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Blitzing key to new speed-based scheme

In 2005, opposing teams steamrolled the Rice defense for an average of 40.5 points and 454.5 yards per game. This offseason, head coach Todd Graham and defensive coordinator Paul Randolph faced the daunting task of creating a new defensive front from the ground up.

While many football fans today are familiar with the spread offense, Rice’s new defense, the 3-3-5, which the coaching staff simply calls “the stack,” is fairly new in the college football scene. Like any defense, it has strengths and weaknesses, but Rice coaches are hoping its reliance on speed over brawn will make it a better fit for the Owls’ undersized personnel.

The stack, popularized at West Virginia — where Randolph served as co-defensive coordinator — is a revolutionary approach that helps defenses keep up with offensive adaptations of recent years. The formations create a more fluid alignment that allows teams to outmaneuver the multiple formations offenses currently popular at the collegiate level.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Owls were the only team in Conference USA that did not have its player average more than seven tackles per game last season. Defenders x John Spitala (23) led Rice in tackles, averaging 6.5 per contest.

The stack defense moves the team to a three-man line, which will require constant defensive line rotation. Behind the linemen are three linebackers and five defensive backs. More conventional defenses have four down linemen, three linebackers and four defensive backs. The stack allows the team to take advantage of difficult blocking angles and the ability to attack anywhere on the field. The linebackers stand directly behind the defensive line, which makes it difficult for offensive linemen to read and pick up blocks.

While this stacked look is the base of the defense, the linebackers and safeties move around against different situations, providing confusion for the opposing offenses.

Defensive coordinator Paul Randolph said that the stack will allow him to vary personnel and positioning, but some options are limited.

"No matter what scheme you're running, you're going to get a four-man front once the ball is snapped," Randolph said.

This means that regardless of the number of linebackers and safeties, four defensive players will usually commit to the line of scrimmage for both pass rush and run support. The stack defense greatly increases the possibilities of where players can attack the line from, with both linebackers and safeties available to become the fourth man. With the new responsibilities, many players have changed positions and techniques, but the defense began to gel at the close of the summer.

Several players have had impressive preseason workouts — junior George Chukwu and seniors William Wood and Dejuan Cooper will see extensive playing time at the nose guard position. Keeping defensive linemen fresh will be key, especially since active defensive linemen are required to protect the undersized linebackers from offensive linemen.

However, Randolph said protecting the linebacking corps is not the defensive line’s first responsibility.

"Every defense has to have the threat of sending pressure, and we have a threat ... looming at all times."

— Paul Randolph

Defensive coordinator

"Sometimes the linebackers will have to line up for themselves, but we want our defensive line to be the playmakers too," Randolph explained.

The defense enters the season with not only a new scheme, but also a new philosophy to support it. Randolph was asked recently about the defensive ends' coach at the University of Alabama, where his staff had one of the most talented and productive defenses in the nation. With their high discipline level, the Crimson Tide was a blitz-heavy defensive team, pressuring the quarterback and making big plays. The Owls hope to employ the blitz effectively as well.

However, while blitzing keeps offenses on their heels, it also puts a burden on defensive backs and linebackers in pass-coverage situations, usually leaving defensive backs in man-coverage against receivers. A defense less aggressive in pressuring the quarterback allows teams to play more zones, which lets them utilize angles and positioning to defend the pass and keep corners and safeties from getting beat by speedy, taller receivers.

But the threat of the blitz and the ability to vary pass coverage and blitzes is just as effective as actual passing pressure and sending extra rushers, Randolph said that it would be successful.

The defense features a three-man line, with the nose guard playing directly over or slightly offset from the center.

3-3-5 "STACK" DEFENSE

LINEBACKERS

The positioning directly behind the linebackers gives the defense its "stack" name. Look for blitzes from here and the safety spots.

CORNERBACKS & FREE SAFETY

Comers cover wide receivers, and free safety is "quarterback of defense" and makes coverage calls.

BANDIT & SPUR SAFETIES

Spur lines up on the strong side, bandit on the weak side, and both play some- thing somewhere between strong safety and linebacker in a more traditional defense.

DEFENSIVE LINE

The stack employs a three-man line, with the nose guard playing directly over or slightly offset from the center.

DEVELOPMENT DEPTH CHART

Position

First String

Defensive End

Jonathan Cary

Nose Guard

George Chukwu

Defensive End

Courtney Gordon

Strong-Side Linebacker

Carl Taylor

Middle Linebacker

Vernon James

Weak Side Linebacker

Rolf Krueger

Bandit Safety

Brian Raines

Cornerback

Ja'Corey Shepard

Free Safety

Andrew Sendejo

Cornerback

Rolf Krueger

Punter

Brandon King

Deep Snapper

Drew Clardy

Second String

Victor Brooks

Defensive End

William Wood

Nose Guard

Dietrich Davis

Defensive End

Justin Ast

Strong-Side Linebacker

Jared Gilbert

Middle Linebacker

Lance Luedtke

Weak Side Linebacker

Chance Talbert

Bandit Safety

Marchbach's

Cornerback

Luke Juist

Free Safety

Lance Bert

Cornerback

Aubrey White

Punter

Jon Turner

Deep Snapper

Mike Falco

Sophomore defensive back Ja'Corey Shepard looks to help improve a second- ary unit that gave up nearly 250 pass yards per game and noticed only five interceptions last season.

One of the most unique aspects of the stack is that the two strong safeties, called the bandit safety and spur safety, also play as integral parts in the run game and pass rush. True freshman Andrew Sendejo gets the starting and in the spur position, opposite veteran senior Chad Price at the bandit spot.
PAST FOOTBALL RESULTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<td>Navy</td>
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<td>at SMU</td>
<td>(L) 31-36</td>
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<td>(W) 31-26</td>
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<td>at La. Tech</td>
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BEST RECORDS SINCE 1966

- 2001: 8-4
- 1996: 7-4
- 1997: 7-4
- 1993: 6-5
- 1972: 5-5-1
- 1970: 5-5

Come to the Rice University Law School Fair!

Come meet and ask questions of representatives from prestigious law schools from around the country. This year’s participants include Stanford, Columbia, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, Northwestern, University of Texas-Austin, University of Houston, Vanderbilt, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Friday, September 8, 2006
Grand Hall in the RMC.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Open to all interested students. Admission is free.

Sponsored by Student Judicial Programs and Legalese
**Weekly Scene**

**DANCE**

Salsa, tango at Salento

Salento Coffee hosts free salsa dancing, complete with live music, Saturdays at 9 p.m. Additionally, the wine taps and single-origin coffee bar has free taco lessons and dance-hall style dancing Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Salento Coffee 2407 Rice Blvd.

**OUTDOORS**

Everybody comes to Bollywood, they wanna make it in the neighborhood

As the summer movie season comes to a close, celebrate it with one last hurrah, Indian Bollywood’s best on The Shys lounge in a bathtub. From left, keyboardist Alex Kwseski, lead guitarist/vocalist Kyle Krone, drummer Mike Walker and bassist Chris Wulff.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006**

The Rice Thresher Arts & Entertainment

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Clerks II stars go on record, off topic with Thresher

Clerks II, Kevin Smith’s most recent directing feat, hit theaters July 21 to a largely apathetic box-office response. While the bloggers and cult-move buffs of the nation were busy preparing for the release of certain other, more Samuel L. Jackson-filled films, the Thresher sat down with Clerks II’s Brian O’Halloran and Jeff Anderson, who reprised their Clerks roles as Dante Hicks and Randal Graves, respectively, to talk about their careers with and without Kevin Smith, the return of the Clerks cult to the public eye and the merits of cusswords in college newspapers.

*by Joseph Rodd
FOR THE THRESHER*

**Shy’s garage cut Astoria lacks boldness, originality**

The garage rock revival is old news. Five years after the release of The Strokes’ *Is This It,* the band that helped generate many believe “savior rock ’n roll” has its page in the history book.

*astoria* by the shy’s

rating **••••** of five

The Shys play Houston Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. Walters on Washington 4215 Washington Ave.

Garage rock bands no longer have to struggle to stand apart from the crowd of copycat groups. California’s latest contribution to the movement is The Shys, with their major label debut *Astoria,* Led by front man Kyle Krone, The Shys’ album clearly pays homage to more established and popular bands. Perhaps “pays homage” is a bit generous. The proper phrase might be “rips off.”

Krone doesn’t sound exactly like Strokes front man Julian Casablancas, and guitarist/bassist Chris Wulff’s riffs definitely didn’t come from The White Stripes’ Jack White’s fingers, but *Astoria* feels like a quirk of little pieces taken directly from other, more original artists and stitched together into a passable album.

The Shys’ style is not only borrowed from modern GARAGE ROCK, but there are also nods to The Rolling Stones and New York Dolls.

The first single off the album is titled “Callin’ the Cavalry.” The song opens with a standard pulsing bass beat that is quickly eclipsed by an attempt at a catchy guitar line.

The track explodes into the anthems-like chorus and disappears just as quickly into another round of breakdowns and verse. As a single it sounds tired. It’s not surprising that “Call in the Cavalry” has not made it onto the radio.

Their “Having it Larger” is a little less formulaic, but it still sounds too familiar. Krone’s vocal styling is eerily similar to that of the Hives’ Pelle Almqist, and the distorted vocals only add to the resemblance.

*Astoria* is not without bright spots. The *Shy* style does not only borrow from modern garage rock. See SHYS’ page 15

*by Evan Mintz
SEE CLERKS, page 14*

**Clerks II**

**Shy’s** garage cut

**Astoria**

**lacks boldness, originality**

**by Joseph Rodd
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*Astoria* is not without bright spots. The *Shy* style does not only borrow from modern garage rock.
Beerfest less super than Troopers

by Kim Hartson

Broken Lizard, the comedy troupe that announced a fall following with the release of Super Troopers and Chal Drood, returns with an unexpected advertised release to date: Beerfest.

The film follows brothers Todd (Super Troopers’ Erik Stollander) and Jan (Super Troopers’ Paul Soter) Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family Wolfhouse as they journey to Germany during Octoberfest to spread their grandfather’s ashes at the family

You know what I love about Beerfest is that it is so easy to find at almost any high school and many universities. I’m shamelessly enjoying the pleasure of watching this film that I can watch over and over without it feeling like it is not mutually exclusive.

More often than not, social butterflies and bookworms can coexist symbolically. And as someone who embraces both these personality stereotypes, I have to appreciate this campus’ acceptance of both the social and academic in group settings.

for instance, sometimes books simply make better bedtime companions than people. The written conversations good authors start are often more intellectually stimulating than the gossipsabout DivO, and while you may and learn who looked up with whom last weekend from the latest Thomas Friedman bestseller, you altogether miss the information about the world around you.

You know, the one outside Pierce’s bubble. It may not have been cool in high school to be the kid sitting alone with a novel at the lunch table, but finding a bookworm—friendly corner in a Rice commons should never be a difficult or shameful pursuit.

And it is rare to be the only one reading instead of talking over breakfast. Although, let’s face it, many students are just using that time to catch up on homework.

Personally, I have the week’s checksums over a usual lunch discussions for Clifford Pickover’s Sex, Drugs, Einstein and Pickover. Pickover, who has spent most of his adult life publishing science fiction and nonfiction, invites his readers to read loosely and stop often to look at pictures and wordplay lists as he explores the anthropology of hallucinogens, how people’s native languages affect their abilities to understand science and small game, how Jesus would have done math, and whether aliens have smellable art. Although I’ve gotten a little grist from my friends for not being in the debate on whether aliens have smellable art, you know what I love about Beerfest is that it is so easy to find at almost any high school and many universities. I’m shamelessly enjoying the pleasure of watching this film that I can watch over and over without it feeling like it is not mutually exclusive.

Baker Institute Intern Program: Fall 2006

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy is now accepting applications for undergraduate student internships for the fall 2006 semester. This is your chance to work directly under the supervision of Rice scholars on topics ranging from European economic integration to the Middle Eastern peace process. This is your chance to work directly under the supervision of Rice scholars on topics ranging from European economic integration to the Middle Eastern peace process.

Completed applications should be addressed to: Baker Institute Intern Program, Attention je1vm on a.m. rice.edu.

Applicants must provide the following:

Letter stating areas of interest and why you would like to intern for the Institute

Resume

Official Sealed Transcript

One Letter of Recommendation

Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

FREE PIZZA
Buy any Large Pizza at regular Menu Price and receive a 2nd Pizza of equal or lesser Value

Theater:
Correct me if I’m wrong, but Brian, you quote with Kevin Smith’s wife for Clerks II

Brian: Kevin and his wife as Dante’s tuxes and there is a long make-out scene, which was made longer by the technical camera shift that starts that scene. So we had like a chicken, on the wall, so we were making out and making out and making out.

Jeff: That was me bumping the camera. That wasn’t just my dynamic. It wasn’t just me.

Brian: And you’re a little uncomfortable, I can see you’re thinking, “She’s straddling me on the swing,” and then get even more uncomfortably, “We talked it out and we were fine.”

Jeff: Well, that’s the camera man.

Brian: “You’re going back to me right now?” And I’m like, “Really, thanks for the details.”

CLERKS
Front page 13

Thresher: I’m not saying you’re quoting, you’re quoting. You know, I’m sure that you may not have the character that you do. Do you think you’re restorying that? What’s happening with that?

Brian: It’s not a negative thing. It can be a hit daunting — like at Comic-Con, where you’re getting a whole bunch of “Dante! Dante!” Hey, Dante, “But for the most part it’s a character that’s kind of allowed.

Jeff: It’s not an issue for me either. I rarely get recognized on the street, and when I do it’s usually nothing bad thing. I’m just trying to get people to talk about the movie or tell me about their favorite line. It’s nice. It’s always been a good thing, never had a bad experience with it. Except for when Kevin was a jerk and she realizes I’m a weirdo and then runs like hell, but other than that it’s been nice, and that’s sort of why I didn’t want to do Clerks 3. I don’t want to open myself to changing the dynamic I had.

Socialites, bookworms co-mingle on campus

Julia Bursten

Normally, I love participating in Lovett’s conversations, in large part because they often manage to turn to topics similar to the ones in my Pickower book. But it is reallyre-

from page 13

broken our children in half.

And as someone who coexist symbiotically. and bookworms can appreciate this campus’ acceptance of both the social and academic in group settings.

This premise sets up the film to force viewers to sit through feeble, barely acceptable and often-quite-worthy, are too few and far between these moments, while often quoting one-liner and slapstick hilarity that laughed too hard to care about plot. The film falls short of this vision and continues to turn out. Unfortunately, the Hollywood filming factory forces viewers to sit through feeble, barely acceptable and often-quite-worth

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The American beer pong team celebrates a hit against Germany in Beerfest.

BEERFEST
From page 14

Antics. Audiences are expected to find themselves reminiscing mid-film about drinking game victories and the trouble "beer goggles" have gotten them into — perhaps this is why the plot is so thin.

For some viewers, this sense of camaraderie and nostalgia does carry the film, but for most, even the memories of their own triumphs in Beirut will not suffice to make the $7.50 theater ticket worthwhile.

The film ends with a plug for Broken Lizard's next film, Potfest.

SHYS
From page 13

but there are also nods to The Rolling Stones and New York Dolls. The work of keyboard man Alex Kweskin is consistent and solid, especially on "The Resistance." After an extended opening, Kweskin paints each verse with a descending synth line, truly making the song.

The Shys' album CLEARLY pays homage to more established and popular bands. Perhaps "pays homage" is a bit GENEROUS. The proper phrase might be "rips off."

"Never Gonna Die," the first track off Astoria, is also enjoyable. Like "Call in the Cavalry," it is a high-powered pop-rock arrangement with a poppy chorus. With better drumming the song might even be danceable.

In fact, the drums could use some major improvement throughout the album. Drummer Michael Walker certainly is a driving force behind the group's sonic energy, but his ideas lack originality. Sharpening the drum sound during the mixing process might have allowed Walker to emerge as a musician rather than simply a masked timekeeper.

Personally, I expect a good final track from every good album. Unfortunately, the Shys close Astoria with the anemic "Open Up The Sky." The song sounds just like any of the other tracks off of the album, only slowed down and dragged out. The band also chose to throw in a barely intelligible spoken word section that does nothing for the track.

Those who really like garage rock should not be scared away from the album or from the Shys' upcoming Houston show. After all, Astoria is not a bad CD — simply an unmemorable one.

FALL SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

The Rice University Shuttle System operates as follows:

INNER LOOP ROUTE
Monday thru Friday - 6:00 am to 10:45 pm every 5 minutes
GREENBRIAR ROUTE
Monday thru Friday - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm every 5 to 8 minutes
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER
Monday thru Friday - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm every 30 minutes except 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm
From the west stadium stops and the bus stops on Collegeway in the Inner Loop
RICE VILLAGE
Friday and Saturday - 5:30 pm to 12:30 am every 15 minutes from the bus stops in the Inner Loop. Stops in the Rice Village, are located at University at Kelvin and Kelvin at Rice Boulevard near Kinkos
UNDERGRADUATE SHOPPING SHUTTLE
Saturday - 11:00 am to 3:00 pm every 30 minutes from the bus stops in the Inner Loop
GRADUATE APARTMENTS ROUTE
Monday thru Friday - 7:30 am to 10:30 pm every 15 minutes from the Graduate Apartments
GRADUATE APARTMENTS SHOPPING SHUTTLE
Saturday - 10:00 am to 1:30 pm every 30 minutes from the Graduate Apartments
NIGHT ESCORT SERVICE
Sunday thru Thursday - 10:00 pm to 6:00 am call the dispatcher at ext.6000 or 3333
On Friday and Saturday evening, call the dispatcher at ext. 6000 or 3333
For additional information, call ext. 5225 or 5996 or visit our website at http://www.parktrans.rice.edu.

THANK YOU FOR USING THE RICE SHUTTLE SYSTEM.
Owls fans must show patience with football

Read coach Todd Graham has given Rice something to work with, a football program in trying times. It may not be an electric atmosphere surrounding the football team.

I do not think this is the case. Graham’s off-season sales pitch has everyone believing that Rice football is on the rebound from what he is calling a renaissance. He is trying to change the attitude people have towards football at Rice with such conviction that anyone listening has little choice but to believe in the program.

But the hype also creates high expectations. If the team cannot put a solid group of TRUE STARTERS on the field, then those same fans have every right to expect a quick season, a season that would have a record beyond Rice’s 28-15-1 record.

That to performance, in fact, is one of the reasons the opening season against the University of Houston tomorrow night at Rice Stadium is so big a deal. The Owls opened the season was so quickly because they started off with a bang and could not come back. Coming into the season, Rice fans were excited about the football team, and we can put it back out on the field and win those games on the road, we’re going to be way ahead of whom, head coach Chris Huston said. “All of a sudden we’re sitting in a position where we’re 0-0, 0-0, that’s the way we started last year.”

Undoubtedly Rice (2-1) will bring a two-game road trip to West Point, NY against Army and will continue Monday in Philadelphia, Penn. against the University of Pennsylvania with two wins on the road, the Owls would match their best four-game win streak in 2001.

“This is definitely going to be the team’s first real road trip.” Huston said. “It’s going to be a good test for our girls to see how well they can handle the travel.”

PENN in coming off of an 8-6 season and returning all but one player from its 2005 team. Army is a team anchored in the Southland Conference. Rice has already lost to Army by a combined score of 113-51. Watching the Owls suffer through such a harsh road losing season did nothing to ease these fans’ menaces.

This year’s non-conference schedule looks even more daunting. It is a mix of UCLA, Texas and Florida State University, three perennial national-championship contenders. Last year who had a combined 33-7 record. Even the most devoted Rice optimist cannot like the odds against the first three non-conference opponents.

The team may be more competitive than last year, but most likely those three games are going to leave a sour taste in the mouths of Owl fans. For the near future, the athletic department will, as Graham recently told a group of students, “Stop putting programs in the program to pay the bills.” (Rice coach Graham replacing students’ “coal.”) 27. For now, though, the best way to minimize the potential damage is to schedule a winnable game first and promote the live-dating out of it. This is exactly what transpired over the off-season.

I have no problems with the heavy promotion of tomorrow’s game. Indeed, Rice should open every season against UH, our only real rival, and that both should hype the game extensively just to generate excitement before the season. Unfortunately, most of the hype for this game has come primarily from the Owl camp, creating the impression we’re putting all our eggs on winning the game. In a sense, we are. Everyone knows there is pressure on the athletic department to increase revenue in the near future. In this part of the country, the best way to do that is through a successful football team. A coach with enough enthusiasm and determination can raise a lot of money by himself — and Graham has certainly shown that since he took the head coaching job — but the one thing that makes lining the contracts easier was one consistent success on the field.

I hope that the fans do not lose interest if the season begins in less-than-stellar fashion. This year Rice could be taking slow steps toward progress might not be good enough. I expect tomorrow’s game will be packed with fans watching the debut of the new staff, but what about when the Owls come back to Rice Stadium to play? Will the fans be there then? If the team hasn’t won a game? How will the fans react to that question is yet.

Stephen Whitfield is a Sid Richardson College sophomore and co-editor of "The Rice Thresher."
Volleyball aims for C-USA crown

by Dylan Farmer

One year after finishing conference play with a disappointing five-set loss to Tulane University in the opening round of the Conference USA Tournament, the volleyball team looks to rebound this season with five returning starters and a talented freshman class.

However, the Owls have to compensate for the departure of senior hitter Olaya Zana and setter Kristina Hohan, who exhausted her volleyball eligibility last year but now plays goalie for the soccer team. The Owls opened their non-conference schedule with matches against No. 2 Penn State, Louisiana State University and Nicholls State at last week’s Tiger Classic at Baton Rouge, La., and they continue this weekend with the Rice Invitational at Fairy Court. Similar to last season, the Owls have a number of notable Division I teams before conference play begins, including 19th-ranked Arizona, the University of Michigan—which defeated the Owls in the 2005 first-round of the NCAA tournament—and the University of Texas at San Antonio, which lost in the title match of last year’s Southland Conference Tournament.

"I think playing teams that aren’t every competition can’t help us at all, so the idea is for us to see really strong competition early in the season," head coach Kenny Volpe said. "That way, we can gauge how we’re preparing and where we need to make improvements and see where we stack up against some of the best teams around.

Even when the Owls begin conference play, however, they face University of Alabama-Birmingham in Birmingham Sept. 22—winning will be a daunting task. In the CUSA coaches’ poll, Rice was fifth out of 12 teams, picked to finish behind Southern Methodist, Tulane, the University of Houston and C-USA defending champion Marshall, who rode a 12-match winning streak on route to a 1st place finish at 2005 conference record. The Owls finished 12-12 overall last year, and 8-7 in CUSA.

Despite the rankings, Volpe said she would like to be at the top of the CUSA standings by the conference play begins, including 19th-ranked Arizona, the University of Michigan—which defeated the Owls in the 2005 first-round of the NCAA tournament—and the University of Texas at San Antonio, which lost in the title match of last year’s Southland Conference Tournament.

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Despite the rankings, Volpe said she would like to be at the top of the CUSA standings by the season’s end.

"There’s no team out there that can’t dominate C-USA—any given team can win on any night," she said. "I think right now that’s probably a true ranking, but I don’t know how we’re going to finish higher.

To do that, the team will look to veteran leadership from its lone senior, team captain and middle blocker Tessa Kuykendall, along with returning juniors Rachel Lopez and Yvette Kuykendall, who finished the 2006 season with 364 kills and 132 blocks, was named the 2005-CUSA Preseason All-Conference team in early August.

A third team all-conference choice last season.

"She’s great at the net and a big part of the offense," Volpe said. "She doubled her kills last year, and we’re looking to keep her very actively involved this season."

Co-captain Lopez, who shared time as a right-side hitter last season, moved inside to the setter position, where she had been a backup to three-year starter Hohan. Even though Hohan finished her career ranked second no Rice’s all-time assists list, Volpe said Lopez should fill the void easily.

"I think Rachel is going to have a great year," Volpe said. "She just needs some really good matches to get some experience. She’s really athletic, not afraid to run quick sets, and I’m only looking for her to improve."

Kirk, who has started every game as the Owls libero since she arrived, has become critical to the team’s defense. She led the team in digs, as both her freshman and sophomore seasons, finishing last year with 721. Sophomore Karyn Morgan, who started every match last year as outside hitter, will be a crucial part of the offense in the wake of Fairy Court’s departure. She finished the season third on the team with 366 kills. She will be joined by fellow sophomore Jessica Hodelness, who is returning to her natural position after spending time at middle position last season. She will be invaluable for our team to run our game plan that we want to run, but it’s a struggle," head coach Jenny Volpe said. "The way we’ve been experimenting with depth, which is something that we haven’t had in the last few years. We’re hoping to take some strides early on and come up with some good wins, and honestly think that we’ll finish higher than last season. We may not have the experience that other teams have, but young Owls can still be extremely successful.

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Owl Weekend!

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Questions? Email: ricesac@rice.edu

Sophomore outside hitter Nityar Morgan goes on a kill shot in last year's Oct. 23 win over UTEP. Morgan joins senior middle blocker Texas Kuykendall and junior setter Rachel Lopez in the front row this season. The Owls host the Rice Invitational this weekend, facing DePaul University tonight at 7 p.m. The volleyball team's 16-match Conference USA schedule is evenly divided, with 8 matches at home and 8 on the road. The Owls had an 8-7 CUSA regular season last year. This week's schedule:

**2006 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE**

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Home games denoted in bold.
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Buy one 6" sub and get one FREE
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Operations Assistants/ Facility Managers
Needed for Fall 2006.
Step by the Operation Desk in the Rec Center for an application, or contact Deirdre Joseph at djoep6@rice.edu for more information.

Fitness
Rice Fitness Programs is looking for Group Fitness Instructors in all areas.
If interested or if you have questions, please e-mail Heather Thompson, Assistant Director for Fitness, at heatherh@rice.edu for more information.
www.rice.edu/fitness

Outdoor Programs
RICE Recreation Programs is looking for Fall Outdoor Trip Leaders.
Please e-mail Liz Hawthorn, Assistant Director for Aquatic and Outdoor Programs, at lhaw@rice.edu for more information.
www.rice.edu/ropes

Soccer
From page 16
Schuag and Shelley Wong have come in and worked hard right off the bat," Huston said. "They came in very well prepared and fit. That's the reason you're seeing them with lots of minutes. They've adjusted very well to the college game in just two games."

Rice began the season with a gratifying 1-0 win in Fort Worth in front of more than 1,200 Harvel fans. The Owls' only goal came from junior forward Clay Martin in the 26th minute, and McClintock earned her first win as a starter in goal, posting nine saves. Martin's goal is a good sign, as her sophomore campaign only yielded two goals after a seven goal freshman season.
SATURDAY

Woot! Woot! Wooooo!

Rice's new superstar football team takes on The University of Houston, a.k.a. "Cougar High," at Rice Stadium at 8 p.m. Bank in the glory and iridescent light of the 233.68 million Japanese yen Jumbotron. Tailgate before the game and make War Owl noises in between gulps of warm Lonestar. Start dreaming about the Orange Bowl!

Team ... no theme

After the game Wiess College hosts its "First Party of the Year," a.k.a "The Party With no Theme," a.k.a "War Owl Victory Celebration Bash, Woot!" People of legal age can stand inside a fenced off enclosure to procure alcohol in the Acabowl from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Younger people cannot. There is no theme, but you should dress like a frat pirate, a ninja or a schoolgirl.

HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

Deadline is Monday at 3 p.m. prior to Friday publication.

Submission methods:
Fax: (713) 348-5238
Email: thresher-calendar@rice.edu
Campus Mall: Calendar Editor
Thresher, MS-524

Submissions are printed on a space available basis.

MONDAY

Un-Labor Day

Classes should not be on your to-do list today, unless you have a particularly sadistic professor. Don't be "that guy" alone in Keck Lec. at 9 a.m. Sleep in and drop any classes that told you to show up on your day off. Think of it like halftime between the game on Saturday and the semester's first pub night tomorrow.
James Baker III organizes arms trade with War Owls for Iraq War support

Recent investigations have revealed James Baker III to have engaged in trading arms support for the Iraqi war. As the head of the Iraq Study Group, Baker has been charged with delivering an independent assessment of the situation in Iraq.

"The leading cause of failure in Iraq is the lack of support in America, rather than the opposite cause and effect," Baker said. "The apocalyptic War Owls can provide the sort of domestic support we need to defeat the insurgency in Iraq."

To gain War Owls support, Baker has encouraged the Bush administration to support pork bills to benefit the War Owls. Most recently, tax dollars have gone to providing a new JumboTron, complete with lightcycle and artificial intelligence master control program.

"We want to make sure the Owls get the sort of domestic support we need to defeat the situation in Iraq," he said.

The recent gravitational effects of the War Owls was the final force to push the Owls out of the market status. In Roman mythology, the Owl is a representative of Athena, goddess of wisdom, crafts and war.

Owls lose official mascot status

About 2,500 representatives of the sports community meeting in Prague voted to strip the Rice Owls of their official mascot status. The voters said that the mascot tilted to commemorate the attention of its fans in a way other mascots can.

"The Owls simply had not cleared the neighborhood," James Brandle said. "This means that there were two teams playing the same sport in the same neighborhood that had much greater popularity."

Many other football teams, including high school, powerpuff and local West University middle school girls football teams known as the Xenas, have developed a fan base that overshadows the Owls.

"Their recent discovery of the War Owls lends credence to this conclusion," Dr. W. Arowls said.

James Baker's arms trade plan

Step 1: Bush administration proposes pork bills (probably proposed by Ted Stevens).

Step 2: Rice gets JumboTron welded into the stadium with an ENCOM laser.

Step 3: War Owls cheer in support of the War in Iraq, fixing all problems there.


I hate Miscall

"Do you mind if my boobs are taken?"

— Freshman about to hook-up with a goth.

"I want those motherfucking snakes out of my motherfucking uterus!"

— Will Rice student.

"Give me a W! Give me a W! Give me a W!"

— ARowls.

"You know that spell War OWLS!"

"Bon Miscall. Cut it."

— BNC.

Please send all good Miscall to Backpage@rice.edu. Please send all bad Miscall to President@rice.edu.

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ESPRESSO. COFFEE. MIGHTY LEAF TEA.
FREEZES. ITALIAN SODAS. WALLY.
BISCOITI. OTIS SPUNKMEYER COOKIES.
MUFFINS. BAGELS. 20 SYRUP FLAVORS.
MUSIC. CUTE EMPLOYEES. AND MORE.