Curriculum committee to vote on financial modeling minor

by Eric Doctor

The committee on Undergraduate Curriculum will vote Nov. 27 on the first minor proposal since the Faculty Senate approved the concept of minors May 10. The committee will send the proposal for a six-course financial computation and modeling minor to the Senate with or without a recommendation. The Senate will probably vote on the proposal at its Dec. 6 meeting.

The minor, a joint effort between the Economics and Statistics departments, is the first proposed largely because the necessary courses are already offered. Dean of Undergraduates Rob Forman, a committee member, said, "The minor would replace a core additional course for economics majors and no additional courses for mathematical economics analysis majors. It requires that students take three courses in each of two areas: basic tools and financial computation and modeling."

Forman said the minor would provide structure for students who are interested in the area. "The Economics and Statistics departments have already been encouraging students on a case-by-case basis to take these classes, because taking all of them provides a really strong foundation," Forman said. "The recognition of minors gives the department a really wonderful way to advertise this possibility to the entire campus rather than having to do it on a student-by-student basis."

Brown College senior Naweed Chowdhury, one of the committee members, said the committee discussed the proposal in its Nov. 3 meeting. The committee discussed whether the infrastructure for the minor is in place, whether the departments have the necessary faculty, whether there will be sufficient student interest and whether students will adopt the minor as an afterthought because it cheaply fits the major.

Chowdhury said the committee did not see any of the issues as detriments to the minor. The Economics and Statistics departments are already teaching the classes, and the classes have received large enrollments, he said.

Forman said the minor addresses a relevant topic. "Especially with the introduction of increasingly complicated financial instruments, computational finance has emerged recently as a kind of fundamental aspect of the modern business world," he said.

The Houston Fire Department has experienced an increasing number of Rice students to hospitals during the past several months. HFD handles most ambulance transports unless Rice Primary Care Medical Services secures a private service, as it does for events such as When College Night of Decade.

Last year, 12 percent of all EMS calls received during August, September and October required ambulance service, and 1 percent of all calls led to alcohol-related transports. During the same three months this year, 12 percent of all calls — 30 of all EMS calls resulted in ambulance transport, and 7 percent of all calls led to alcohol-related transports.

The number of ambulance transports corresponds to an increasing volume of EMS calls — REMS received 192 calls from August to October this year and 228 in the same three months last year.

REMS Captain Cameron Decker said the increase in calls is not a new trend. "We're facing more serious calls... across the board," Decker, a Martel College senior, said. "That's not something we see, it's not a wave of more EMS calls."

Assistant Dean of Student Judicial Programs David Ostdiek said he recognizes the higher number of transports but does not consider it a trend. "We are above previous years... but we are not seeing a trend," Ostdiek said.

Football wins fourth straight game

Team can move closer to bowl bid with homecoming victory

by Nathan Blelow

The football team kept its bowl game aspirations alive by extending its winning streak to four games with a 41-18 double-overtime victory over defending Conference USA champions Tulsa Saturday. Sophomore running back James Pinkney's 2,355 passing yards and 8 touchdowns.

The Owls, on the other hand, lead the conference with a average of 21.2 points per game — third in C-USA. The Pirates have forced 23 turnovers this season to give them a plus-four turnover margin. The Owls have not made a bowl game since the 1966 Bluebonnet Bowl, when they lost 37-14 to Kansas Jayhawks.

Before coming for the postseason, Rice must first defeat East Carolina 64-59, which needs to win all of its final two conference games to secure its Eastern division title.
As the university looks to begin a 30-percent undergraduate enrollment increase in 2009, the administration must work to acquire an applicant pool large and impressive enough to help Texas remain one of the United States’ elite private universities. (See story, page 7.) As Vice President for Enrollment Chris Munoz discussed at this week’s Faculty Senate meeting, this goal will be facilitated by decreasing mean national SAT scores and national high school graduation rates. As our enrollment expands, it seems the national body from which we can draw is growing to shrink. Competition from peer and public universities will only grow fiercer.

But there is a subset of our prospective applicant pool that does look promising, and it is growing up right beneath our bayou: As Rice’s population grows, we must not discount our resources in the Lone Star State.

Texas is the second largest state in America, trailing only Alaska in landmass and California in headcount. And with our state’s population continuing its rapid growth, especially on the Mexican border and among young adult minorities, the administration’s current plan to put a hard cap on the percentage of Texas natives admitted to Rice simply does not make sense.

If the best available students — and the students Rice can best help — happen to come from Texas, why should we ignore them in favor of less-desired, hard-to-attract Eastern Seaboarders or Midwesterners? Those regions’ populations are holding steady, in favor of more desired, easy-to-attract students — which national leader in nanotechnology. Rice is showing up on a wide range of radar screens and should be using its publicity resources to reach a new audience. This will benefit the university indirectly infinitely more than simply pouring money into out-of-state undergraduate applicant recruiting.

Texas itself provides a wealth of diversity. Last year, Texas became the fourth minority-majority state in the nation. Whether more than 50 percent of our students are from out-of-state is not the question at hand. Whether the student body represents a diverse range of backgrounds, ethnicities and life experiences is.

Good things happen at Rice, and we should not discount our location’s influence on our campus. When it comes to evaluating applicants, let’s give Texans and their out-of-state counterparts an even playing field. Let’s not force ourselves to conform to rigid geographic quotas.

Humansities merger would harm Spanish

To the editor:

In response to David Brown’s article, we, the master’s students of the Hispanic Studies department, would like to voice our concerns regarding the department merger proposed by Dean of Humanities Gary Witt (“Humanities Consolidates Department Merger,” Nov. 10). Let us begin by stating that we strongly oppose such a merger.

We are not convinced this merger would be beneficial to the Hispanic Studies department, nor do we believe that it is anything more than a cost-cutting measure. If it is “not to save money or cut back on staff” as Fourth Studies Professor Deborah Nelson-Campbell suggests, then why has Witt resisted approving our department’s multiple requests to fill the two vacant positions resulting from the departures of professors Kate Jenckes and Rafael Salaberri? The timing of Witt’s refusal to fill the vacancies in the Hispanic Studies department coupled with his announced desire to merge the language departments strongly suggests that the motivation is indeed monetary.

Jenckes and Salaberri are specialists in Latin American literature and Hispanic linguistics, respectively. These two areas are fundamental to a complete Hispanic Studies education. With the imminent departure of Professor Van IJzendoorn, Rice will have only one Hispanic Studies faculty member specialized in Latin American literature. Does this foster the “major new focus on Latin America” proposed by President David Leibowitz in his August 29, 2005 Call to Conversation?

In addition, the loss of Salaberri, the department’s only linguist, has resulted in a purely literature-based program. Moreover, it has eliminated our master’s pedagogical class, which means that next year’s Spanish language teaching assistants will have no training to prepare them to teach Rice’s SPAN 101 and 102 courses.

The recent changes that the Hispanic Studies department has seen and will continue to see if the proposed merger occurs will certainly affect the students interested in taking Spanish classes at any level.

Andrew Holman
Jenckes
Lorena Guadarrama-Brunn
Jessa Preit
Elihardt Trelles
Renee Reesman
Viviane Díaz
Hispanic Studies graduate students

Wihl exposes Rice’s communication ills

To the editor: As students who have braved Rice’s labyrinthian bureaucratic system, we are directed to a variety of people, organizations and “channels” to voice our concerns. Often, at each person’s office, organizational meetings and channel, we are directed elsewhere or simply away. Answers are sparse and cryptic, and solutions appear not of reach. Colleges feel more like ditches, with stagnant water and the same old pot-holes.

I am not surprised that Dean of Humanities Gary Witt, as an administrator, chose to bypass the bureaucratic channels through which we must shout. I am not surprised that news of a fundamental change slipped out of an email. And I am certainly not surprised that appropriate channels are now being pursued only due to faculty objections.

If the Classical Studies department can affordently announce a fundamental change to our School of Humanities through an email, something in the matter with Rice’s channels. If a change is not announced, or if announcements are delayed, then people will simply have to go outside our channels. Repeated abuse or failure of the channels calls for a change in our bureaucratic channels or in those who abuse them.

We, administrators and students, must follow the rules we have set for ourselves or establish new rules. As Rice students, some of the putrid water must be drained from this ditch. Apparently, even the administrators are avoiding the stench now.

Juan T. Twenty

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laura Jones
Rice junior

European Tourist

Letters

Letters to the editor should be sent to theThresher by email at thethresherrice.edu. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Friday publication date.

Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer’s name and the writer is a Rice student.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length.

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The New York Times published 145 articles in 1915 alone detailing the campaign of “systematic race extermination.”

Expository

There’s nothing fishy about eating out on Turkey Day

When I was 13, my mom acci-
dentally stabbed her finger with a Turkey carving knife on Thanksgiving morning. She and my dad got back in the kitchen. I was panned if the bird was too fatty. I was sent to see the vet and was sentenced to prison for 10 years in his attempt to understand the genocide within Turkish history.

International relations are also crippled. In 1999, the European Union states demanding massive reparations from Turkey for the genocide recognition as a precondition for membership. Turkey to this day refuses to accept international diplomatic ties with the Republic of Armenia, despite President Robert Kochari- bar’s offer to “establish normal rela-
tions” with Armenia, which is still considered to be under Turkish occupation. Today, most Armenians hope this will mark a new era.

Visit the local Holocaust Museum for a small view of the continued horrors that occur as a result of society’s collective inability to recognize crimes against humanity — not just in the Ottoman Empire, but throughout the world.

However, by 1913, the War Office began a propaganda campaign to present all Armenians as “seditious” elements, justified by actions of two Armenians, killing hundreds of Christians, as mass murder.Don’t deny the evidence or the extent of Armenian suffering. Today, there are hundreds of organizations working to document and prevent similar crimes from happening again.

The New York Times published 145 articles in 1915 alone detailing the campaign of “systematic race extermination.”

There were hundreds of other eyewitness accounts by foreign missionaries, travelers and diplomats. Several of these witnesses were Germans — then allied with the Ottoman Empire — including in absentia leaders Talat, Enver and Mustapha Pasha. In their post-war flights, these men tried to hide their involvement in the horrific crimes committed in this genocide.

The historical factuality of these events is in even rarer remembrance in question — there is consensus among modern scholars of all nationalities. Countless foreign archives and Turkish documents detail the approval of these violent massacres of Armenians by their Ottoman rulers. The New York Times published 145 articles in 1915 alone detailing the campaign of “systematic race extermination.”

Deniers to examine the vast body of all factual evidence and scholarship. It is by this means that we can plop down on a couch next to the TV and watch the Parade broadcast, usually seeing things differently once again: more pleasant when things are over.

The offer still remains ignored. Until the Turks accept their responsibility to the Armenians, the Turks will continue to be viewed as an insular and uninterested country by the rest of the world.

The Rice Thresher

Daniel Brown

Julia Bursten

Editor-in-Chief

Julia Bursten

Senior Editor

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**Guest comment**

**Administration neglects student efforts**

When the Rice University administration negotiated and signed a contract with Diedrich Coffee Inc., their presumptions about coffee on campus naturally shifted. Looking overnight toward the Rice Tiger, Director of Housing and Dining Mark Ditmus quoted in last week’s *Thresher* as saying that “If [Coffeehouse] can get other stuff like desserts it can coexist with the corporate franchise of Diedrich Coffee Inc. awarded Fondren Pavilion Contract.”

Executive Dean of Student Affairs Edward Djerejian — he is of the Armenian Delegation to the East Anatolians, including Arme-

Paul Tucker

Coffeehouse and its Keepers of the Coffee realize that students care about sustainability, their wa-

When you step inside the Coffeehouse, you might think the space was once a closet. It can coexist with the cor-

If you have ever stepped foot inside the Coffeehouse, you might think the space was once a closet. Well, if once was true, the space or infrastructure to offer boiled tea, green or dye beverages, sandwiches or other food would probably be insufficient. Perhaps Ditmus or Elkhouri would do something about the space...

The fact is, Coffeehouse has been leisurely adjusting its business plan and offering bagels.

_If you think Coffeehouse cannot expand and adapt, you are dead wrong. But we will do it on the students’ terms, not the administration’s._

Paul Tucker is a Brown College sophomore. Ingrid Norberg, a Blaffer College sophomore, and Andrew Fusetti, Publicity Manager, contributed to this column.

**Tip early, tip often, tip tetrasyllables**

Ever wonder how much your Rice Coffeehouse Keepers of the Coffee love you? Enough to put up with early morning grindings, sleep-

Tucker College student Paul Tucker

_When the Rice University administration negotiated and signed a contract with Diedrich Coffee Inc., their presumptions about coffee on campus naturally shifted. Looking overnight toward the Rice Tiger, Director of Housing and Dining Mark Ditmus quoted in last week’s *Thresher* as saying that “If [Coffeehouse] can get other stuff like desserts it can coexist with the corporate franchise of Diedrich Coffee Inc. awarded Fondren Pavilion Contract.”_

**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

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**LETTERS from page 2**

I was disappointed with her description of the question put to the students. It was not only the written questions regarding the Armenian Genocide clarification, but her answer as well was again very disappointing. She did not allow any of the written questions regarding the Armenian Genocide clarification. Her point about item 14 did not address the only item which gave me pause as to a lack of concern for the free debate. Not a very scholarly approach, indeed.

---

Will Rice

---

Oscar bud Economics graduate student

**Low voter turnout threatens nation**

To the editor:

I noted from one of your recent columns that the problem is now indicated in campus databases. If you turn a key, you will be surprised to see that it is as if that work does not exist at all. I don't even mention how his-

---

Gus Schill Jr.

---

Rice ’55
Leadership class project seeks to recognize college custodians

by Natalie Zorn

Nine undergraduates have set out to freshen the status of college custodians. Students in the Leadership Rice program compiled 12 short biographies of custodians who serve Rice’s residential colleges and distributed them to students’ rooms early this month.

The nine students in the group are enrolled in LEAD 309: Leadership: Theory to Practice. Lovett College junior Tyler Dillard said they created the idea because they thought the Rice custodial staff does not receive enough recognition and they wanted to share the personal stories of the men and women working in each of the colleges with students.

“It’s great for students to turn around and say thank you once in a while.”

— Frank Rodriguez, Director of Business and Facilities

The group distributed bilingual surveys requesting personal information to recognize college custodians. More than 90 percent of the custodians participated, and questions covered birthdates, hobbies, family history, country of origin, and likes and dislikes about their jobs. Those who participated were entered in a drawing for a cash prize, Dillard said.

Each residential college contributed between $60 to $70 toward planning and distribution costs, Dillard said. Director of Business and Facilities Frank Rodriguez said the project is a good way to show appreciation for the custodial staff at Rice. About 250 custodians work in the residential colleges, and they usually work at Rice for about 10 years.

“Custodial work is not appreciated as much as it should be,” Rodriguez said. “It’s hard work, but it’s important. It’s the backbone, and it’s great for students to turn around and say thank you once in a while.”

Rodriguez also applauded the project’s organization and execution. “This project and the way they’re putting it together—I think it’s really neat,” he said. “It focuses its attention on the custodial crew and what they do for each of the colleges.”

The group received positive feedback from both students and custodians. Dillard said, “It ended up being a rewarding experience for me, and I think it was a rewarding experience for everyone else,” he said. “We learned how to work in a group, that was the first thing. Second of all, we learned how to make change happen on campus.”

Rodriguez said Rice is best to support its staff with good wages. “There’s been a really concerted effort to make sure that pay grade is raised to a good level,” he said. “Obviously, we don’t pay minimum wage. We pay good rates to the custodial crew that are (equivalent) to standards across the city.”

GROUP MEMBERS

Wiess College sophomore Natalie Allardson
Lovelot College freshmen
Alexandria Anderson
Brown College sophomore
Ron Carson
Wiess College junior
Allie Cregg
Lovelot College junior
Tyrone Dittey
Baker College junior
Beth Jablonski
Wes College sophomore
Meghli Johnson
Baker College freshman
Julia Mann
Wiess College freshman
Evangeline Rivers

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Nov. 7-Nov. 12.

Residential Colleges
Sel Richardson College Nov. 9 Bike stolen.
Academic Buildings
Hunting Hall Nov. 9 Carpet cleaning machine stolen.
Other Buildings
Media Center Nov. 9 Bike stolen.
Parking Lots
North College Lot Nov. 8 Motor vehicle burglarized.
Alice Pratt Brown Lot Nov. 12 Accident between car and fixed object.
South Colleges Lot Nov. 12 Undergraduate student hit by a car backed out of parking space. Student referred to Student Judicial Programs for minor driving under the influence and minor in consumption.

Other Areas
Off Campus Nov. 7 Trash cans possibly knocked over by students living at 5617 Chaucer Street.
Entrance 18 Nov. 8 Suspicious activity reported.
Alumni Drive Nov. 12 Vehicle observed driving wrong way. Driver found to be intoxicated and driving with an invalid license.

COURSE ENROLLMENTS IN PROPOSED FINANCIAL COMPUTATION AND MODELING MINOR COURSES

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Baker Institute 2007 Summer in DC Intern Program

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy is seeking applicants for its 2007 Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in Washington DC. Research Internship Program. The program will provide stipends sufficient to support a select group of Rice undergraduates conducting policy-making research at government agencies, private think tanks, and NGOs in DC in summer 2007. Those accepted must be currently enrolled as full-time undergraduates through fall 2007. Those selected will attend a seminar on public policy and global affairs colloquiums with their internships in DC, write a research report for publication and present before Rice faculty and researchers at the beginning of fall semester 2007, and also organize a public policy education activity for academic year 2007/2008. Applicants are individually responsible for selecting and establishing internships and residency in DC. Interested students should send the following materials by January 29 to Dr. Steven Lewis, Washington Internship Committee, Baker Institute, MS-40:

1. A letter of application with your campus and home addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses;
2. A short essay of no more than 600 words describing your career goals, your internship plans (including the organizations to which you have applied or intend to apply), and how these tie in with the mission and policy research programs of the Baker Institute;
3. A resume;
4. An official, sealed transcript;
5. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Rice faculty member or researcher, who can discuss your ability to conduct policy research.

Questions should be addressed to swlewister@rice.edu.

ESTHER slows during registration peaks

by Matthew McKee

Early birds who tried to register for classes first run into problems on ESTHER. This week, Rice's online registration system experienced drastic speed decreases as many students logged on around 8 a.m. Nov. 15 to enroll in classes.

Assistant Vice President for Administrative Systems Randy Castiglioni said the trouble occurred with the Web server that interfaces with the database. He said the issues lasted for about 30 minutes on Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday. "We did see some slowdowns and bottlenecks... in that key period," Castiglioni said. "You can tell some people had no problems while other people did."

Registration began at 8 a.m. Monday for seniors, with each subsequent class level gaining registration access over the next few mornings. Castiglioni said class registrations have gone well in the past, and he is working to fix the current issues. "Registrations have been smooth for the past few years," he said. "We have made some tuning adjustments and tweaked some things."

Wenjia Song, sophomore Gina Cao tried to access ESTHER early but had problems initially. "I just couldn't sign onto ESTHER," Cao said. "I couldn't even get to the sign on page. . .. It took back 30 minutes later, and it worked all right after that."

Will Rice College junior Brandon Allport got to the registration FINP input page before encountering problems. Allport said he was still able to register for all the classes he wanted. "I got up at 8 a.m. Monday, and it was still fine. I actually registered," Allport said. "Everyone was saying they were waiting, it wouldn't work... I didn't get anything wrong from it."

Allport said he has not had these problems in the past.

Another anxious students gave up on their personal computers and went elsewhere. Lowrey College freshman Alex Solomon went to a computer lab that still had to wait for ESTHER to recover. "I was unable to get into ESTHER from any computer; I had to use a public computer in the Lowe residence hall," Solomon said. "Tried uploading not registering through the first time. I went to the screen where it asked for my personal information, and it wouldn't let me in. Then, it said the server was out responding."
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hersh: Iraq war launched by neoconservatives as revenge for 9/11

by Komal Ballara

President George W. Bush has created a disastrous foreign policy by going to war in Iraq and ignoring preliminary accusations of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, but he has not lied about foreign policy, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh said to an audience in the Rice Memorial Center’s Grand Hall Wednesday as part of the 2006-2007 President’s Lecture Series.

After a brief introduction by Provost Eugene Levy, Hersh took the podium Wednesday evening to speak about his book, The Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib, which he authored in 2004 that covers and analyzes international events and the Bush administration’s foreign policy since the 9/11 attacks.

In a speech that involved personal anecdotes, excerpts of interviews with major players in the Iraq war and a reference to comedians Richard Pryor and Hersh presented his view on the ongoing conflict in Iraq and, in examining the behavior of top U.S. government officials, sought an explanation for the torture inflicted on Iraqi prisoners by U.S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib.

Hersh traced the events leading up to the Abu Ghraib scandal, beginning from the initial decision to invade Iraq.

"What happened is this: after 9/11, we wanted revenge," Hersh said. "Eight or nine neoconservatives had the government convinced Bush and (Vice President Dick) Cheney did not want to attack Al-Qaeda led to Baghdad."

The chain of command, from highest to lowest, believed this assertion, and the Congress and the people were not informed of the decision, Hersh said.

Beyond the loss of life sustained by Iraqis, civilians and American soldiers, the war in Iraq has altered the Middle East drastically, and made a popular hero of Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese Islamic fundamentalist organization Hezbollah, Hersh said.

Nasrallah, a Shiite Muslim, has become a very popular figure in Iran. Egypt. He bridged the gap between Shiites and Sunnis Muslims by inviting Middle Eastern nations to act more aggressively toward the United States.

The results of the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks demonstrate the fragility of American democracy, Hersh said. Three thousand Muslims were arrested in the United States following the attacks, resulting in only one conviction in a terrorist related case, which was later overturned.

"It is not desirable to be Muslim in America," Hersh said. "What was said to the middle class was You are okay, it’s those Muslim we’re going to get." According to Hersh, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated in testimony in May 2001 that on January 24 or 25, he went to talk to the President about the accusations of abuse at Abu Ghraib — but this information was largely ignored.

"The president didn’t absolutely nothing," Hersh said. "What our president think about torture? I think it’s pretty obvious." The Abu Ghraib scandal has resulted in grave repercussions, Hersh said. American ignorance of the emphasis on modesty in Arab culture exacerbated the scandal.

The torture at Abu Ghraib not only scarred the prisoners, but also had psychological, long-lasting effects on U.S. military personnel, Hersh said. "I wonder if Bush is thinking about the torture so far in advance and did nothing," she said. "It was interesting to learn how Bush worked towards finding the roots of the Abu Ghraib scandal."

"I think it’s pretty obvious," Hersh said. "I think he really believed and thinks that he has done the right thing and thinks that he has to muscle it out in Iraq."

Martel College senior Emma Johnson said Hersh tried not to say anything overly inflammatory. "Hersh seemed to be treating a very fine line," she said. "He seemed as though he did not want to anger anyone in the audience; he kept trying to offer a fair portrayal of Bush."

"I was shocked to learn that Bush knew about the torture so far in advance and did nothing," she said. "It was interesting to learn how Bush worked towards finding the roots of the Abu Ghraib scandal."

Prior to his coverage of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal in Iraq, Hersh wrote groundbreaking reports on similarly controversial events in American history, including the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the Central Intelligence Agency’s bombing of Cambodia and Henry Kissinger’s wiretapping of his own staff. His long career has involved serving in the U.S. army and acting as press secretary and speech writer for presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy. Since writing for the New York Times, Hersh has been a freelance writer, contributing some of his most notable articles to The New Yorker on the topic of the Iraq war.

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Rice keeps high athlete graduation rates

by Alex Dinur

Rice ranks seventh nationally with an average 28 percent federal graduation rate for varsity athletes and has an overall graduation success rate of 91 percent. The NCAA calculates the statistics every year and introduced the graduation success rate in 2005.

In recent years, Rice has maintained one of the highest varsity athlete graduation rates in the country. In 2004, Rice's overall federal graduation rate was 82 percent, which ranked ninth nationally.

The federal rate is the percentage of a class of freshman varsity athletes who graduate from the same university within six years. The graduation success rate includes varsity athletes that the federal rate does not: students who leave a university in good academic standing, transfer to another school and graduate. In 2005, Rice's graduation rates were the highest ever: 90 percent for Division I athletes.

The average federal graduation success rate of Division I schools is 77 percent, and the average federal graduation rate for Division I schools is 84 percent.

Athletic Director Chris Del Conte was not available for comment. Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services Julie Griswold said her office aids varsity athletes by helping them register for classes, fill tutors, acquire textbooks and manage their time. The office also participates in orientation for incoming students and in the admissions process.

The unlimited access to tutors provided by the Academic Services office in a good example of the support athletes get at Rice. Diego Seastrunk, a Will Rice College freshman and baseball player, said, "Seastrunk said other varsity athletes work hard to do well academically and not simply in order to pass their classes for eligibility. "It's not just about staying eligible to play," Seastrunk said. "(Athletes) want to be successful just like any other student. We want to be multi-dimensional. So if we need a tutor to do well, then of course we'll use that opportunity."

Coaches also play a role in varsity athletes' academic lives. Brown College sophomore Chance Talbert, a football player, said it is mandatory for football players to sit in the first three rows in their classes in order to remain focused.

Will Rice junior Valeria Berezhynska, a psychology and managerial studies major, said unlike many other Division I schools, Rice holds varsity athletes to the same academic standards as any other students at Rice, despite the 20 hours varsity athletes spend weekly on athletics during their respective seasons.

Talbert, a visual arts and managerial studies major, said despite all the help provided by teachers and advisers, it is harder than most students think to succeed both academically and athletically.

Top 10 Rice Experiences

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Imagine a site where you can gain access to scholarly literature and a multimedia database at your fingertips. You have just imagined DSpace, the site of Rice's Digital Library Initiative, which is committed to providing a digital archive of high quality research materials. The initial phase focuses on Egypt, but the archive will continue to expand and develop as resources become available. The Rice Annual Fund for Student Life and Learning helps to support the Digital Library Initiative, which provides students an opportunity to work closely with scholars in constructing the archive and to learn about creating academic digital media projects.

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**DANCE**

**The Nutcracker**

Not in the mood for Britsh hip-hop? Would you prefer to start getting into the holiday spirit? Lucky for you, Friday the 24th also marks the opening of the Houston Ballet's production of The Nutcracker. Tickets start at $17, but can anyone really recommend the cost of a week's worth of care a Nutcracker performance? The show is made up of 11 dances of different size and scope, and all choreographed by students. The variety keeps Excerpts interesting, and the intimate performance space at the Autry Court's Harjo Dance Studio refuses to let the audience ignore the dancers floating and stamping only a few feet away.

**Tunes wander, drama wins in Woods**

by Tasha Cheungplativi

Once upon a time, director Ben Burbird (Brown '90), no stranger to campus theater productions, tackled Stephen Sondheim's quirky and technically demanding musical Into the Woods with mixed results.

The play follows fairy-tale protagonists as they journey into the woods to accomplish familial missions. Little Red Riding Hood (Brown freshman Caroline Turner) is off to visit her grandmother, Cinderella (Bay College student Stephanie Nemir) attempts to make the king's jailor, and Jack (Robert College senior Chase Jenkins) must sell his beloved cow to feed his family. The Baker (Lowell college sophomore Trevor Pettitn) and his wife (Wes college sophomore Nickery Rosin) provide the common link between the disparate stories. The Witch (Hanson College senior Nicola Ingrados) has cursed their house, preventing them from conceiving a child. She orders the couple to obtain four ingredients - a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, hair as black as black and white costumes compete for attention with balance and near expressionless faces.

Final section: The group of dancers work to a climax with fluid and expressive movement. "Fidelity," choreographed by Martel College senior Emily Jenkins, carries the dancers to a new height and out of a constant procession at the rear of the studio. The dancers' minimalist black and white costumes compete for attention with balance and near expressionless faces.

The great variety of Excerpts from the Outside ensures that even if an audience member is left unsatisfied by one of the pieces, he or she will probably find more pleasure in the next. Both gentle and aggressive, restrained and barely under control, Excerpts from the Outside has something for everyone. The student-choreographed dances take risks and bear rewards, and the intimate setting ensures that there is hardly a bad seat in the house.
Cerney’s Big Landscape, Big West longs for fresh air

by Bryce Gray

California-based artist John Cerney works on a larger scale than most artists — a much larger scale.

‘big landscape, big west’
by John Cerney

Cerney is best known for painting large figures on flat cutouts and installing them outdoors, usually in rural settings. In one piece he installed in Goodyear, Ariz., entitled Big Baby with Tractors, an enormous baby plays with life-size farm equipment. Viewed from the right angle and distance, Cerney’s works assume significant impact and realism. Cerney’s current installation at the Rice Gallery, Big Landscape, Big West, is the first of his large scale works installed inside — beneath a roof instead of the clear blue sky. In Big Landscape, Big West, a family of Cerney’s giant figures regard the magnificent landscape of the American West. A recreation of Nearing Camp on the Upper Colorado River (1869) — a landscape by explorer-painter Thomas Moran — has been painted around the back wall of the gallery on square tiles. The recreation covers the entire wall, almost creating the illusion that the installation actually is outdoors instead of wedged inside Sewall Hall. By increasing the size of Nearing the Camp, Cerney has abstracted the scene simply through its scale. The landscape, however, cannot compete with the Cerney’s figures. Imposingly large and clad in 19th-century clothes, the family regards the landscape with interest. The father shields his brow with a hand while his wife paints the scene on a gigantic easel. The sheer scale of these figures will make at most viewers, in an otherwise empty gallery they appear even larger, their heads reaching almost to the ceiling. Unfortunately, the Rice Gallery may simply be the wrong space for such an exhibition. Cerney’s figures are painted on flat pieces of wood — the illusion is only successful at a very narrow angle. Outside, Cerney’s figures can be viewed from the proper distance. Inside the gallery, the viewer escape with interest. The figures appear flat because they are flat and it is impossible to take in the entire family without standing on side of the gallery’s tinted windows.

Unfortunately the Rice Gallery visitors can only inter-

Do not get Flushed Away

by Jackie Ammons

The Dreamworks name brings to mind a few warhorses of modern animation such as Shrek and Shark Tale — movies that kids, teens and adults can enjoy. Unfortunately, Flushed Away fails to follow in the studio’s legacy due to its use of “sewage humor” — it sickeningly repulsive — and a scattered, unassuring plot line.

On paper Flushed Away appears to have promise. It boasts the sultry British voices of Hugh Jackman (X-Men) and Kate Winslet (Titanic), as well as amazingly sophisticated computer animation. During the film’s opening scene, a slow panning bird’s-eye view of London, it is hard to tell that the movie is animated. But when the film begins to focus on the posh home of Roddy St. James (Jackman) — a pampered pet mouse who lives in a pristine London flat — the movie’s virtually comfortless pace accelerates to a dizzying whirlwind that continues throughout the movie.

The plot is rather simple. Roddy decides to celebrate once

holders leave on vacation, and he begins to party. His mouse-scale extravagances include riding around in a red Barbie convertible, playing volleyball with plastic G.I. Joe action figures and holding a party in his luxurious flat. Topped off with plastic G.I. Joe action figures and holding a party in his luxurious flat. Together, Rita and Roddy must save the sewer world from the threat of liquid nitrogen. The comedy, if one can call it, is random and crude.

The movie is quite simply a waste of time. A weak script may be partially responsible for the movie’s sloppiness and lack of jokes. Flushed Away conforms to the trend-setting animation that is so significant today. It showcases everything that is wrong with the animation scene. The animated world of Dreamworks' Flushed Away.

The movie is quite simply a waste of time. A weak script may be partially responsible for the movie’s sloppiness and lack of jokes. Flushed Away conforms to the trend-setting animation that is so significant today.

Flushed Away. The movie is quite simply a waste of time. A weak script may be partially responsible for the movie’s sloppiness and lack of jokes. Flushed Away conforms to the trend-setting animation that is so significant today.

Flushed Away.

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Funny Phoenix provokes thought
by Julia Bursten


Their hyperbolic gesticulations in the diet “Agency” amuse the audience despite their modest vocal talents. And Milky White the Cow, (Brown junior Alice Chai) steals her scenes with delightful facial expressions.

In addition to her bovine duties, Chai-designed the set. Translucent blue, green and pink Madras plaid-like squares serve as a forest canopy, and big brown movable boxes make abstract forestry. The normally black stage of Hamman Hall has been painted a chipper kelly green. When illuminated by overhead lights, it looks remarkably like a dappled forest floor.

The Witch is a vocally ambitious part, and Engels’s voice tends to crack on high phrases. But she largely makes up for the fail of bad notes with superb emoting and entertaining portrayal. Her grounded spirit is admittably bumpy.

Nemir makes a valiant effort as Cinderella and acts superbly. She almost disappears into the part, practically becoming Cinderella. Unfortunately, her singing does not quite match her stage presence when the music stops.

The only real problem of the production is the sound. Crackling was prominent any time the characters spoke loud enough to be heard. The voice of the Giant (Brown junior Sarah MacDonald) is obviously amplified enough to induce the prompt clapping of hands over ears by numerous audience members.

The inconsistent production is at times absurdly innovative but otherwise traditional. Surprises like a Wolf costume comprised of a cherry eel (Tobog) and the fur coat off of a 1990s pimp are welcome in a more modern interpretation, but out of place in an otherwise conventional musical.

Into the Woods lacks the over-the-top artistic license Barford has come to expect from Burford’s productions. It fails to evoke the same handwavy irresverence as Burford’s 2005 A Midsummer Night’s Dream—perhaps, too, an attainable goal. The result is a patchy effort to induce a traditional-style musical with random conceptual touches. Overall, the Rice Players grudgingly attempt to engage, but it takes some effort to get truly into the Woods.
**Rice University Medieval Studies Program**

**Undergraduate Symposium**

**March 15-16, 2007**

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**"What is Literary History and Why Aren't We Doing It"**

Steven Justice

Associate Professor of English

University of California at Berkeley

Keynote Speaker

Thursday, March 15 - 7:30 pm – Location TBA

The best Houston undergraduate papers from medieval courses will be presented

Friday, March 16, 2007, 12:00pm - 5:00pm, Farnsworth Pavilion

**How to Submit a Paper:**

- **Submission Deadline** Extended Friday, November 30, 2006 by 5:00pm

  The Medieval Studies Undergraduate Committee is soliciting papers for the symposium from Rice and local universities. Interested undergraduate students are invited to submit papers 7-10 pages in length (15-20 minutes long), double-spaced. Only the title (no mention of the author's name) should appear on the essay. Please place a page with college affiliation/address and phone number/e-mail address in a sealed envelope with the paper's title and, along with the essay, bring it to Dr. Jane Chance, 235 Herring Hall (or e-mail both to jchance@rice.edu).

- **There will be two best paper awards for Rice students totaling $1000 to enable the winners to attend a conference outside Rice. The keynote speaker will adjudicate the competition.**

- **For further information, please contact the chair of the Medieval Studies Undergraduate Committee—Elizabeth Cooper, at e cooper@rice.edu—or the Director of the Medieval Studies Program—Dr. Chance, at 713-348-2625 or jchance@rice.edu.**

---

**CERNEY**

Curiously, the family's boy sits outside of Sewall Hall, instead of with his parents, a few hundred feet away from the rest of the installation. Crouching and looking through a pair of binoculars, he has been rendered on a completely different scale than his companions. He blends into his surroundings and looks, from a few hundred feet away, like a real giant. This is how Cerney's work should be viewed, outside and in the fresh air.

**Big Landscape, Big West** is impressively scaled and executed, but the perspective forces the viewer much too close. Cerney should be reinvited to Rice and given a new project: Install some of his giant figures in the main academic quad.

---

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Men’s basketball splits two at NIT

by Chris Pasich

The men’s basketball team returns home this week after splitting two games in the preseason National Invitational Tournament in Spokane, Wash. Rice (2-3) fell to perennial power Gonzaga University on Tuesday, 85-56, before holding off Colorado State University 72-66 on Thursday. The Owls face North Texas University tomorrow and the University of Oregon Monday. Both games are at 7:00 p.m. at Autry Court.

This weekend's contest marks the end of a difficult stretch in the Rice schedule, after which the Owls will have played four games in seven days while traveling to and from the West Coast.

“...thinking it's going to be an important stretch,” head coach Willie Wilson (Will 'Rice '22) said. “It's going to be a character building time for our basketball team to see how we can respond and reflect from situation to situation.”

The loss to Gonzaga on the road continued a trend for the Owls under Wilson's tenure at Rice. In Wilson's 13 years as head coach, the Owls have gone 43-110 on the road. Fortunately for the Owls, they return Saturday to Autry Court, where they have gone 32-45 under Wilson.

The home win hop against the Ducks is a result of last year's contest, in which Oregon defeated Rice in Eugene, Ore. 84-60. The Owls led that game by 10 seed into the C-USA tournament.

Thresher Sports

TAYLOR JOHNSON/THRESHER

Volleyball closes out regular season with two home losses

by Dylan Farmer

The volleyball team finished its regular season with two tough losses last weekend, falling to Conference USA leaders Tulsa University on Friday, Nov. 11, and Southern Methodist University on Sunday, both by 3-2 scores. The Owls are no strangers to five-game losses—eight conference losses over the last two seasons. The Owls went to a deciding game two and three behind late jumpers at them throughout the game, but Heytvelt's group of young players was aggressive as possible.

At Tulsa, the Owls recovered from a first game setback to take games two and three behind late rallies. In game two, Rice found itself down 22-18 but rallied behind several kills from sophomore outside hitter Jessica Holderness for a 20-13 win. The Owls held on to the lead and took the game 30-24. In game three, Rice relied on two rallies—the first a 7-0 run to erase a 24-15 deficit and the second an 8-1 run to hold off the Mustangs for a 30-24 victory. Rice held off a 7-0 run at the end of the game.

Against SMU, Rice found itself in an even bigger early hole, as the Mustangs took the first two games 30-24 and 30-20, respectively. Again three the Owls revived their offense, this time with a 20-15 deficit and the second an 8-1 run to take the game 30-24. The Owls led 18 points to Gonzaga Tuesday.

Volleyball closes out regular season with two home losses

THE RICE THRESHER

Friday, November 17, 2006

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

• Women’s Basketball vs. Ole Miss
  7:00 p.m. — Autry Court

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

• Football vs. East Carolina University
  2:00 p.m. — Rice Stadium
  Rice hopes to keep its bowl dreams alive with a win on homecoming weekend.

• Men’s Basketball vs. North Texas
  7:00 p.m. — Autry Court

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

• Men’s Basketball vs. University of Oregon
  7:05 p.m. — Autry Court

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The basketball team set a new record for points in a game with a 118-66 victory over Paul Quinn on Saturday. Here are the five highest single-game point totals in Rice history:

118 points vs. Paul Quinn College (Nov. 11, 2006)
113 points vs. Grambling State University (Dec. 6, 2004)
111 points vs. Tulsa University (Feb. 14, 2004)
110 points vs. Texas A&M University (Dec. 28, 1955)
108 points vs. Corpus Christi College (Jan. 9, 1971)
In recent weeks, the Rice defense has given up a lot of yardage but has forced timely turnovers and held opponents in the red zone. This season, the Owls have only converted on half of their red zone trips into touchdowns — something that Rice must improve on Saturday.

Redshirt senior linebacker Marcus Rucker — who recorded career highs of 13 tackles and 2 sacks against Tulsa — said the Owls are not taking ECU lightly. "This week, it's not going to be anything easy — ECU's a great team," he said. "We've been watching film on them, and we know that we have to go into this game and prepare the same way we do every week; it's not ever harder." Offensively, Rice must continue to demonstrate the balance that has made them so difficult to defend during their winning streak. Offensive coordinator Mike Applewhite's unit has taken advantage of mismatches all over the field and has been helped by steady play from the defensive line. Had sophomore quarterback Chase Clement not missed three games earlier in the season, his 292.9 yards per game of total offense would rank seventh nationally. To qualify for national rankings, a player must play in 75 percent of his team's games.

Rice played opportunistic football in their victory over Tulsa — the defense forced four turnovers to offset the 568 yards of total offense it surrendered. The defensive trio of Dillard, Chouin and senior running back Quinton Smith again paced the Owls defensively. Dillard caught 8 passes for 137 yards and 3 touchdowns, bringing his NCAA-leading total to 16 receiving touchdowns this season. The scores, two of which were in overtime, extended his streak of consecutive games with a touchdown to 12. This streak is the longest in the nation and tied for the third longest in NCAA history.

Clement burst the CUSA second-ranked Tulsa defense for 209 yards and 3 scores in the air and added another 69 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Smith amassed 89 yards on 12 carries.

Dillard's touchdowns came on receptions of 13 and 25 yards, with the last sealing the double-overtime victory. After surrendering a touchdown to the Golden Hurricane in the first overtime, the Owls were able to hold Tulsa to a field goal in the second overtime, setting up Dillard's game-winner.

"They went in and we scored, and we immediately knew we'd have to go back out there [and defend]," Rucker said. "We went over to the sideline for about 30 seconds and said, 'Hey guys, let's go.' Going. We know our offense is going to score. If we hold these guys to a field goal, this game is over."
Hanszen defense to challenge defending champ Sid in Powderpuff final

by Stephen Whitfield

Hanszen and Sid will vie for this year's Powderpuff championship, which will most likely be held for the first time at Rice Stadium. The game was originally scheduled for Sunday at 1 p.m., but might have to be moved due to a scheduling conflict.

The semifinal matches each had their share of excitement. In a rematch of last year's championship, Sid (6-2) dominated Jones (6-3) defensively on its way to a 130 victory. Hanszen (5-4) won 60 in a thrilling semifinal against previously undefeated Martel (8-1), thanks to a seventh-yard touchdown catch in triple coverage by junior receiver Rachel Greff.

The title game should be a defensive struggle. In their previous meeting Oct. 21, Sid beat Hanszen 7-0 after senior quarterback Christi Dusch, who injured her knee the week before, came off the bench to lead Sid on a game-winning touchdown drive in the fourth quarter. Hanszen boasts one of the most dominating defenses of its last five opponents, but Sid has scored in four of its last five games, and they have a high scoring offense.

POWDERPUFF SEMIFINAL RESULTS

Hanszen 6, Martel 0 (OT)
Key moment: Trailing 6-0 in overtime, Martel halfback Abby Smith drops a toss from quarterback Dina Diansamad, and Martel junior fullback Elizabeth Pollard recovers on the 20-yard line.

Sid 13, Jones 0
Key moment: Jones quarterback Katie Chang's pass on fourth-and-10 was incomplete near the goal line on the fourth-down play with four seconds remaining in regulation.

Nothing shines like brick

by Stephen Whitfield

Jones' offense, led by senior quarterback Katie Chang, had trouble moving the ball downfield against an aggressive defense in its 13-0 semifinal loss to Sid. After starting 6-0, Jones lost three straight games to finish its season at 6-3 in the Powderpuff.

POWDERPUFF SEMIFINAL RESULTS

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Nothing shines like brick
With a healthier, more experienced roster than the one that nearly won the C-USA title last year, head coach Greg Williams (Hanszen '70) hopes to bring the Owls to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in three seasons. For the second straight year, Rice was picked to finish first in C-USA in a poll of the league's 12 coaches. The Owls make their home debut tonight against Ole Miss, a team that beat them by 47 points in their last meeting Nov. 18, 2005. The game will be at Autry Court and will start at 7:00 p.m.

Non-conference schedule

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<td>Nov. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Rider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<td>Idaho State or Kent State TBA</td>
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<td>Louisiana Tech</td>
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<td>FIU or George Mason*</td>
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Conference USA schedule

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<td>Feb. 22</td>
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<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>UTEP</td>
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because of her hard work during the back about six weeks to months early. "We've had her," Williams said. "The Achilles heel is maybe the worst basketball injury to recover from," and she came back by Frazier's return to the lineup. and had four assists in 26 minutes. Frazier has already shown signs of her old self — she scored to a quick recovery fueled by her rigorous off-season rehab, Frazier chipped in 8.5 points and 5.8 rebounds in an average 10 minutes. Neaves, Berezhynska completes the other top transfer in Conference USA. Berezhynska chipped in 6 points and 3.8 rebounds a game last year and was second on the team with 35 blocks. In the final 10 games of the season the 6 foot, 4 inch Berezhynska played an even bigger role in the offense and on the glass in matching 12 points and 8 rebounds during that critical stretch of the year. The Owls primary backcourt should consist Frazier and junior point guard Katie Riverin, currently the team leader in field goal percentage, assists, steals and minutes played. She will be called upon to play 35-35 minutes per game this year. The core players coming off the bench this season will be Fubbs, who is nearly fully recovered from her ACL injury, junior forward Tiffany Loggins and sophomore forward Emeric Carter. Loggins stepped up last year, averaging 6.5 points and 3.5 rebounds in an average 16 minutes. To start off this year, she scored 7 and 1 points against Monmouth and Rider, respectively. One of the more consistent post players on the roster, Carter should see her playing time increase significantly this season. White McCauley continues to rehab her injured knee. Williams' first recruiting class will get a chance to step in right away. Guards Tara Watts and Shayville Horne will both be able to back up Riverin at the point. Watts, who played for the Canadian national team during the summer, will also be able to help at the off-guard and small forward positions.

Schedule not easy
The Owls' path to the NCAA tournament will be quite tough. The entire schedule, both conference and nonconference, will pose a challenge for the Owls. Besides Ole Miss, Rice will face a number of non-conference teams from the so-called "power" conferences. Rice will travel to Fort Worth Nov. 25 to take on Texas Christian University, an NCAA qualifier last year. A week later, the Owls will battle No. 14 ranked Texas A&M University, attempting to average last year's one-point loss. On Dec. 3, the Owls face Marquette University, the runner-up in last year's Women's National Invitation Tournament, and the teams get to face the winner of that tournament, Kansas State University, at the Florida International University tournament in Miami, FL. Rice's own Cowtown Classic Invitational, scheduled for Dec. 9 and 10, features Western Kentucky, whose RPI was 19th in the nation and they win 26 games; [Then] get beat in the conference tournament and didn't get a bid. That's scary for all of those teams who

Rice game highs
FG percent .571 vs. Houston (Mar. 3, 2006) .568 vs. Tulane (Feb. 12, 2006) .556 vs. UTEP (Jan. 27, 2006)
3PT FG percent .470 vs. Tulane (Feb. 12, 2006) .467 vs. Houston (Mar. 3, 2006)
Steals 17 vs. Ole Miss (Nov. 18, 2005) 14 vs. Houston (Jan. 29, 2006)
Turnovers 31 at Ole Miss (Nov. 18, 2005) 28 vs. Texas A&M (Jan. 2, 2006)

Rice game lows
FG percent .236 at Stanford (Dec. 17, 2005) .333 at Washington (Nov. 27, 2005) .388 at Ole Miss (Nov. 18, 2005)
3PT FG percent .000 vs. Louisiana Tech (Dec. 3, 2005) .100 vs. SMU (Mar. 4, 2006)
Steals 3 vs. SMU (Jan. 22, 2006) 3 vs. Houston (Feb. 5, 2006)
Turnovers 10 vs. SMU (Jan. 22, 2006) 12 vs. Texas Tech (Dec. 21, 2005)
vs. Houston (Jan. 15, 2006) vs. Tulane (Jan. 29, 2006)

10.8 rebounds per game. She is also Rice's career leader in blocked shots, 122, or subtracted as the season
Offensive boards and?and the games ready to play and things will come together.
BASKETBALL
From page 13

all night long as he led both teams in scoring with 25 points.

Rice's offense looked very
difficult when time ran low. The Owls had a strong finish when
time ran low.

The Paul Quinn game allowed us to
A plan you can love with

POWDERPUFF PREDICTIONS: FINALS

Harry C. Hanszen College (7-2)
Sid W. Richardson College (7-2)

Men's Basketball

The Paul Quinn game allowed us to

Women's cross falls short at regionals

by Justin Hudson

The 2006 season ended for

The Paul Quinn game allowed us to

POWDERPUFF PREDICTIONS: FINALS

by Opinion Guy

"Sid Rich reminds me of the 1972 Soviet Olympic gymnastics team. Will the I.O.C. catch Rods Whitfield and Evan Stein in their mass conspiracy?"

"There's no need to even try and be objective here — I'm going to pick Sid. In fact, I hope Sid wins by a lot."

"The simple status of Hanszen's proximity to my domicile bestows upon them a certain elegance and style such that, not only will they win, but they will do so with penache."
FRIDAY 17

Girls
Schoolgirls, that is. Come to the public party on Sid Richardson College’s seventh floor in your schoolgirl attire from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. to party like you’re 12. But with beer.

SATURDAY 18

Home sweet homecoming
Homecoming festivities may have started yesterday, but today is when the biggest homecoming events occur. The Student Association and Willy’s Pub will provide food and drink in West Lot 5 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and the servers will be closed until 4 p.m. because of the tailgate. After the tailgate…

Are you ready for some football?
Rice looks to continue one of the most impressive second-half turnarounds in college football at 2 p.m. against Conference-USA opponent East Carolina. A win would give the Owls six on the season, making them bowl-eligible. Thunder sticks will be given to all students, who get in free of charge for non-students or $11 in advance.

Go Army
The men’s basketball team takes on North Texas at 7:05 p.m. at Autry Court, which is convenient for the die-hard Rice sports fan. A 7:05 p.m. tip-off gives you plenty of time to wander the short distance from Rice Stadium to Autry, and probably enough time to change from a War Owls shirt into an Autry Army shirt, too.

Surprise! Aquatic theme
I guess the fact that Esperanza is in the Aquarium this year makes it a little more acceptable to have an aquatic theme, but seriously. At any rate, Capt. Bill Devine: Escape to Atlantis, is tonight from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Downtown Aquarium. Tickets cost $25 dollars at the door, but all kinds of food and (ironically) sushi will be served.

WEDNESDAY 22

School’s out for the … week
Today is the last day of classes before the Thanksgiving recess. This means if you go to class on Thursday or Friday, take lots of gravy and no textbooks. Come to think of it, that’s probably good advice any time you go to class.

THURSDAY 23

Gobble gobble
Tryptophan, that delicious chemical in turkey that makes you so sleepy, is celebrated annually on Thanksgiving day. As many of you have gathered, the calendar editor has strong opinions on gravy, another key element to a perfect Thanksgiving. (Brown gravy is key in this instance.) So surround yourself with people you love and stuff yourself like only Americans can then watch a whole lot of football. God, I love Thanksgiving.

SATURDAY 25

Dellart the Pony Express
The football team, for the first — and last — time this year, plays consecutive home games. This afternoon’s contest is against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs, affectionately known to many as the Ponies. Both teams potentially have a lot on the line, as SMU and Rice are both jockeying for bowl bids. Sure, this game is during Thanksgiving break, but if there is any way for you to make it back to Houston to cheer on the team try to do it. The Athletic Department is begging for support from as many War Owls as can make it back to old Rice Stadium. Let’s not disappoint.

MONDAY 20

Roundball and pizza
With towels, too. The Rice Program Council is hosting a pregame shindig for the 7 p.m. basketball game versus Oregon at Autry Court. Starting at 6:15 p.m., there will be $5 all-you-can-eat pizza provided by Domino’s, with half the proceeds going to St. Jude’s Medical. As an added bonus, the first 400 students to attend receive free Rice Owls Basketball towels. Oregon is the most challenging team we face at home out of conference this year, so any and all fans who wish to aide the Autry Army should do so. Help cheer the Owls to victory, won’t you?

MONDAY 27

Back in the saddle
Classes resume on their normal Monday schedule today following the Thanksgiving break. So, unlike last break, today is not Thanksgiving Monday and Wednesday, or was it Monday and Wednesday? Either way, today is Monday, only Monday, and you’ll suffer from nothing but the Mondays.

I am Sam
Actually, they am Sam — Sam Houston State that is. The women’s basketball team takes on SHSU at Autry Court at 7 p.m. tonight. The Lady Owls have their eyes on the NCAA tournament this year, after being picked to win Conference-USA, and fan support in Autry can really help the cause. The Autry Army may ordinarily be associated with men’s basketball, but the women’s team deserves just as much support from the group that Memphis men’s head coach John Calipari has called “the blue army of death.”

You are invited to…
Canterbury’s Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 19, at 5 p.m. at Autry House across the street from Lovett College at the corner of Main and MacGregor.

Free, traditional Thanksgiving dinner after the service!
Come celebrate this holiday and give thanks with us and members of other religions and denominations from across campus.

Canterbury is the Episcopal Church’s ministry to Rice and the schools of the Texas Medical Center.
Dean Woodrow Whilson establishes 14 Point Plan, League of Humanities

After tumult in the Humanities Department caused by the firing of the head of Slavic Studies, Dean Woodrow Whilson has proposed a 14 Point Plan, culminating the creation of a joint body of departments known as the League of Humanities, in an attempt to secure peace and prevent departmental strife forever.

The plan also includes securing the self-determination of departments to form or separate, the dissolution of unnecessary graduate students and the establishment of independent Polish department.

Because the League of Humanities includes every language Rice has to offer, it has chosen to embrace Esperanto as the language students use in all papers. Though the French Department opposes this decision and laments the downfall of French as the international language, the League recommends that other majors begin to demand that some of the Polish Studies offices be turned over to create a German Studies lounge for greater living room. The English and French Departments have attempted to appease the German Department, which the League of Humanities has deemed "peace-loving department."

The League is headed by General Secretary Harvey Yanis, who is instructed by Whilson on how to run the League properly.

I. The abolition of secret classes, which had sparked competitive conflict between the departments.

II. The freedom of the hallways, for free navigation of the departments.

III. Free and equal exchange of departmental functions.

IV. Disuse of graduate students to the lowest point present with departmental functionality.

V. Protected self-determination of departments.

VI. The Russian department is ensured independent development after a takeover by the students.

VII. HUMA major is to be evacuated and reassigned on lines of professorship.

VIII. German Studies is to return the third-quarter yearbook, Campaniles.

IX. Disuse of graduate students is to be respected, their offices decoupled, and given access to the copy room.

X. Sovereignty of Austrian students to deny the Armenian genocide shall be recognized.

XI. The establishment of an independent Polish department with access to the copy room.

XII. A general association of departments must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of departmental independence and office space integrity to great and small departments alike.

The Fourteen Points

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Representatives pose at the first meeting of the League of Humanities. Dean Woodrow Whilson stands center. (From left to right) League of Humanities General Secretary Harvey Yanis, Spanish representative Lane Kaufmann, German representative Klaus Weissenhoffer, French representative Deborah Harper, Esperanto representative (name unknown), Japanese representative Hiroko Sato