**Graham, staff depart to mixed reactions**

by Nathan Bleboe

Two days after signing a contract extension Jan. 9 former head football coach Graham was defensive coordinator before coming to Rice, extension Jan. 9, former head football coach at the University of Tulsa.

CBS Sporting reported that Tulsa, where Graham was defensive coordinator before coming to Rice, will pay him $1.1 million a year — an estimated $100,000 increase over his Rice salary.

By Jan. 13, Athletic Director Chris Del Conte had formed a committee and began the search for a new head coach. "We are going to strike and get someone here in short order because is going to take this baton and run to this is going to take this baton and run this program," Del Conte said.

The Athletic Department is expected to announce a new coach within days. The search must move quickly because the signing day — when players sign binding agreements to accept scholarship offers — is Feb. 7.

President David Leebron, who is currently traveling in India, said he supports the coaching search.

"Chris Del Conte is doing an absolutely first-rate job of conducting this process really expeditiously and thoughtfully," he said. "He has assembled a terrific committee of people which includes players from the team — I think people are really optimistic and excited about the future. It’s not about just one person; it’s about the program." Graham’s lone year at Rice was marked with much on the field success, with the Owls playing in their first bowl game since 1961. He also raised enough money to install new field turf and a Jumbotron at Rice Stadium, among other upgrades. However, many players felt the high-energy head coach was overly demanding of their time and energy.

"Upon hearing Graham was leaving the way we were feeling was happy," defensive lineman Demian Cooper said. "I mean, his workflow and the amount of stuff he put on us..."

**Former president Bill Clinton to speak at Baker Institute**

by Grace Ng

For the first time since 2000 — when George H.W. Bush spoke at commencement — a former president will give a lecture at Rice. Bill Clinton will speak at Stude Concert Hall Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. The Baker Institute for Public Policy will host the event, which will only be open to members of the Rice community. Many of the 1,200 tickets will be distributed to students through the Baker Institute Student Forum, the residential colleges, the Graduate Student Association and the Student Association. Baker Institute Managing Director for Programs and International Studies Mark Scheid (Baker ‘97) said, Scheid said the Baker Institute has...
Students need quicker emergency e-mails

Wednesday morning, the highways were not the only slippery spots in Houston. As the city dealt with unusually low temperatures and inundations prepared to face dangerous road conditions, Rice's Crisis Management Team took action of its own to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff. (See story, Page 5.) The decision to delay classes that Monday was not unreasonable, and largely effective measures were taken to communicate the decision. But one measure left unattended could have greatly eased students' responses to the alert.

The Crisis Management Team did not send students direct e-mails alerting them of the state of affairs Wednesday morning. The team had to rely on recipients of the ALLGETY listserve to forward the alert, which caused communications delays of up to three hours. Since students are much more likely to check their e-mail than classrooms, the team realized the importance of seeking updates like Wednesday's closure, the Crisis Management Team should ensure it has a means of disseminating such e-mails more efficiently in the future.

We applaud the team for being on the ball and keeping the Rice community informed, but we hope we'll hear about it sooner next time.

Congress helps college students with loan relief

Given a lack of monetary influence, college students are an oft-ignored demographic in the policy-making process. That is why we are so glad to see that one of the 110th Congress' first moves was a bipartisan supported bill to lower interest rates on need-based student loans.

H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007, will lower interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next 5 years. Once fully implemented, this step will save the average borrower — students who receive $13,800 in need-based loans — $4,20. At the time when tuition and fees are skyrocketing at Rice and across the country, we should support any step that will ensure students who want to go to college can go to college.

This interest reduction is not free — it has an expected cost of $55 billion. But most of the cost will be recouped by a slight reduction in the guaranteed rate that the top 1 percent of private lenders receive on federal loans — a step that financial analysts at Citigroup have deemed "manageable."

Unfortunately, Rice's own representative, John Culberson, was one of only 71 representatives to vote against the bill. So when Culberson comes to campus for a town hall meeting Feb. 22, we hope he'll represent Rice by helping Congress with Pell Grant scholarships. After all, today's college students are tomorrow's campaign contributors.

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.
Post-Graham football still worthy of support

Although the team will play mostly second-string players, the sophomore team that includes Jarrett Dillard and Brian Rice won’t change, for the 2007 season — and a new coach.

As a school that prides itself on excellence in a multitude of academic fields, we continue to strive for excellence in athletics as well.

Amidst the pool of detection and another fecking that is even more alarming than the already questionable worship. When times have been tough for the football team, it has been common for its critics to bemoan the Rosen’s annual pool and suggest a denouement. We should not abandon Graham or our faith, per se, but specifically, we should not abandon Division I athletics. As a school that prizes itself on excellence in a multitude of academic fields, we should continue to strive for excellence in athletics as well.

A step down: Division I athletics would detract from the many recent accomplishments of Rice’s student-athletes, including the baseball team’s College World Series appearance and the football team’s first bowl appearance in 45 years. Their accomplishments and work would be in vain if Rice and not competitive in Division I.

Graham made an excellent decision, as should Rice. It is really only the new coach needs to be designated soon, the football team will return to its tried and true will continue to support our team. And we will beat Texas next season — we are Rice.

Schuyler Woods is a junior College football and senior editor.

Julia Barsten is a Lowell College junior and senior editor.

VH1’s long

This holiday season, I caved. I watched the last night of Thanksgiving. I know, it’s weird, but music and marketing can do some strange things.

Without seeing an ad for VH1’s "Save the Music" campaign, Todd Graham’s recent departure disheartened me.

You may have heard the pediatric cancer research campaign launched just under the Red branding behind voiceover by U2 frontman Bono.

Although Graham’s entrance and departure wasn’t the end of student support for Rice Athletics demand the absorption of head hunters or competing for why I did not want a drink. In the end, I do not think buying soda instead of a beer is any worse. I would do the same thing again.

Julia Barsten is a Lowell College junior and senior editor.

The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper of Rice University since 1912, is published each Monday, except during examination periods and holidays, by the student association. Editorial and business offices are located on the second-floor office of the Student Center, 6100 Main St., MS-524, Houston, TX 77005-1000. For news staff, email: thresherrice.edu. Web page: www.thresher.org.

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Do prepositions at the ends of sentences make you mad at?

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Laser Treatment for Acne Research Study

CLIR has booked Henry

by Matthew McKee

Vice Provost and University Librarian Chuck Henry announced he will leave Rice in March after spending over ten years at the university. Henry will become president of the Council on Library and Information Resources, a nonprofit organization whose mission includes improving and maintaining digital access to information.

In his work with Fondren Library, Henry used his experience with technology by pushing for new media. He pursued the Digital Library Initiative, which has resulted in many of the Web resources students enjoy today.

"We're in an era where large transitions ... to reliance on digital information are happening," Provost Eugene Levy said. "Henry has really been the point person in negotiating that transition."

Henry said when he arrived in 1996, it seemed that libraries viewed the digital era as new and unknown. Henry said he realized the importance of the transition to digital information, but he also saw the value of retaining traditional methods of information communication associated with libraries.

"I felt we needed to have it," Henry said. "What has been done is we've tried to balance the traditional, inherited concept of a library with the new concept of what a library should be."

"The project 'Travellers in the Middle East,' available on the Internet at tinyurl.rice.edu, in one result of Henry's efforts with faculty and researchers. It combines different types of media — including photos, text, and online resources — to create an exhibit for faculty and students."

Erin McKee, a reference staff member at Fondren Library, said Henry helped keep Rice libraries cutting-edge.

"He's a bold thing to do," she said. "Some librarians could have remained conservative, but he took a lot of risks and hired some great people. I think other libraries can use us as an example."

Levy said a search committee, chaired by University Professor Neal Lane, will make recommendations in the near future about hiring a replacement for Henry.

CLINTON

From page 1

Rice students to take stock of the current political situation in our country," Allen, a Will Rice College junior, said. "It speaks highly of the university that it attracts speakers of this caliber."

Rice College Republicans Chairman John Stallcup said he is looking forward to Clinton's speech even though he disagrees with the former president on many issues.

"(Clinton's) opinion is still important, and he is a respected statesman," Stallcup, a Brown College junior, said. "I will have to get coffee with him before; I am interested in his path to where he is now."

Stallcup said the Baker Institute tends to invite liberal speakers.

"The Baker Institute could do a better job of bringing speakers on both sides of the issue," Stallcup said.

The speech will be broadcast live over the Internet to campus. It will be archived on the Baker Institute Web site and made available to the public.

Risa Gordon contributed to this report.

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Icy weather tests crisis management

by Beko Binder

Icy roads and freezing conditions caused Rice’s Crisis Management Team to shut down the university Wednesday until noon. A statement issued by the university Wednesday morning announced that employees were required to work at their normal locations.

CMT Chair Kevin Kirby said the team met by conference call Tuesday night and Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. to discuss the ecology of the ice. The CMT monitored weather, traffic, and police reports, as well as local school districts, to decide whether or not to close the university.

Knight Ridgewood College President and CMT member Denis Murphy said Rice had to be proactive in closing by conference call in the morning because there were many concerns about the university’s ability to communicate emergency information to students.

"People need to be told," Murphy said. "We sometimes don’t have as efficient a way to contact students as we’d like."

Forman said Rice’s preparation for Hurricane Rita in 2005 raised concerns about the university’s ability to communicate emergency information to students.

"We sometimes don’t have as efficient a way to contact students as we’d like."

PicK UP YOUR YEARBOOK

The 2005/06 yearbooks are FREE to anyone who was a registered undergrad during the 2005/06 academic year.

Books are also available for eligible students for 2002/03, 2003/04.

Pick UP YOUR YEARBOOK AT

• the Campus Police Office (Year Student Center)
• the Clubs Office (RMC Cloisters)
• the Office of Student Media (RMC Cloisters)
WORD AROUND CAMPUS

How is Rice reacting to Todd Graham’s departure?

Of course the guy is an opportunist, but unfortunately that is how capitalism works. It’s sort of ugly, I agree. In academia, too, people leave Rice or come to Rice every year to accept better offers.

Hanoch Shemian
Philosophy professor

It is in his interest to negotiate for better contracts — that is his right. But it is probably better for his track record as a coach to stay at one program for longer than a year. And it is not like he is going to a particularly better program. [Tulsa] is in the same non-BCS conference. They have a smaller recruiting base [than Rice] and less money for facilities. On the whole, I don’t feel betrayed, because he was only here for one season. But I don’t necessarily understand why Graham left.

Paul Tucker
Brown College sophomore

I think once I got past the initial shock and disbelief, what I was left with was a profoundly sense of disappointment. I thought Todd Graham got it about Rice. He made me believe that. But he was just a better actor than I was a cynic. I’m disappointed in him for being just another guy chasing a buck, and I’m disappointed in myself for not seeing it.

Charles Kuffner
MOB member since 1988
Blogger at offthekuff.com

COACH

From page 1

was getting to be too much, and a few players had quit because of that.

Rice lost Conference USA in team GPA but for the first time since such records have been kept, the Owls failed to put a single player on the academic all-conference team, suggesting a decline in the players' academic performance.

Graham’s departure

Despite speculation in the media, Graham said money was not his main reason for leaving.

"At the end of the day, we have a situation where I’m going back to a place I’ve been three years," he said. "They’ve made an offer and I’m going to try to keep track of the players. A couple of our coaches stayed behind — Coach Randolph stayed behind, and he’s interviewing for the job to try to keep some continuity.

Randolph is Graham’s preferred candidate for the vacancy, but Graham said Randolph will be offered a job at Tulsa if he does not become Rice’s head coach.

Under Applewhite, Rice set a school record for points scored in a season — 350 — and adjusted well to the spread offense in its first year running the scheme. Several players said they were far less upset with Applewhite’s departure because he never indicated he planned to stay at Rice. Graham, however, repeatedly pitched the idea of commitment to the town.

"Some people were mad," Cooper said. "All the B.C.S. schools are going nuts, so it’s a little bit easier. I think the Rice community didn’t see it coming, and we had a hard time getting through that. We had to overcome this.

"I worked with [Rice] on an exit plan," Graham said. "I had one of our strengths coaches stay behind and keep track of the players. A couple of our coaches stayed behind — Coach Randolph stayed behind, and he’s interviewing for the job to try to keep some continuity.

"We’ve made a terrific commitment to the town," Graham said. "I felt like there was a commitment to Tulsa to build a championship football team, and there was a substantially larger commitment that I felt was never there at Rice," he said.

"I think once I got past the initial shock and disbelief, what I was left with was a profoundly sense of disappointment. I thought Todd Graham got it about Rice. He made me believe that. But he was just a better actor than I was a cynic. I’m disappointed in him for being just another guy chasing a buck, and I’m disappointed in myself for not seeing it.

Charles Kuffner
MOB member since 1988
Blogger at offthekuff.com

Graham speaks to reporters in December during the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl game against the University of Troy Trojans. The Owls closed the season with six consecutive wins before losing 41-17 to Troy.

Events leading up to Graham’s resignation

July 31: Steve Kragthorpe signs on as head coach at the University of Tulsa.

January 9: Graham extends his contract with Rice.

January 10: Kragthorpe replaces Petrino at Louisville.

January 7: Petrino leaves Louisville to serve as head coach for the Atlanta Falcons.

January 12: Graham breaks contract to return to coach Tulsa.
CRUP
From page 1

have a broad-based education, the distribution system is seriously broken — people voiced that opinion today," he said.

Additionally, Davidson said both students and faculty have pointed repeatedly to Rice's deficiency in writing and communication instruction. In response, the CRUP arranged an additional meeting with a group of faculty from different departments, headed by English Professor Mark Dudley, specifically to discuss shortcomings in writing instruction.

Although the CRUP has finished its meetings at residential colleges, Davidson said students can still post their ideas on the Rice Web site, cce-rice.edu/administration/crup.

‘There does seem to be a feeling that, to the extent we want people to have a broad-based education, the distribution system is seriously broken.’
— Chandler Davidson
Sociology professor

At the last of the residential college conversations, about nine students from Hanszen College met with Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman and Adviser to the Dean of Undergraduates Matt Taylor. In his introduction to the conversation, Forman steered the conversation toward academics by giving an example of a curricular change that could result from the CRUP's findings.

The conversation began with a discussion about the ability of Rice students to apply their lessons to real-world situations. Forman said students need more such real-world skills and the ability to work with different kinds of people.

Forman also pointed out the growing presence of interdisciplin ary initiatives at Rice. He said team taught courses are hard to organize because faculty generally have to work more collaboratively to make these courses successful, but he agreed the push for research with different kinds of people helps broaden students' experiences.

"Here at Rice, you learn theory after theory, equation after equation, but you kind of lose the real world," Forman said. "Faculty are setting a lack of opportunity to work with people with different backgrounds. Students work with people with the same thoughts and same interests."

Students at the conversation said the university needs to present more opportunities for community involvement. Hanszen senior Becky Thilo said she is excited about new classroom assignments dedicated to community service.

"I am really excited to see where the Center for Civic Engagement goes," she said. "I think there is a lot of potential there." Forman agreed that students do not have enough opportunities for activities such as volunteering, and he said one of his goals is to integrate more community involvement into the Rice student life.

"We are trying to create win-win situations," he said. "They help the community but make your experience more engaging."

Other students suggested creating office hours for classes with more community engagement than a single day. Forman said if the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) has a list of classes they recommend for students looking for such opportunities. He also said Rice lags behind in global communication.

"One area where we suffer in comparison to our peers is our Web presence," he said. "It is as if we are still sitting around wondering if this Web thing is going to take off — it is embarrassing. But we are just now getting around to realizing that we could be doing more. We could make your life easier by giving you access to information easily."

Hanszen senior Kelsey Flynt said some students will not need more help finding such opportunities.

"It is all well and good to talk about things we would like to see," she said. "But if you are motivated enough, you will find it."

Forman also highlighted Rice's study abroad programs as an area of potential growth.

"We have got the easy part out of the way," Forman said, referring to the increased number of students who opt to go abroad. About 40 percent of Rice students are goal oriented at one point in their university careers.

Forman said he wants to encourage the study abroad programs to interact with more universities and countries and to make it easier for science and engineering students to transfer credits they earn at a foreign university.

Forman also said he would like to create more bonds between the Career Services Center and Office of Alumni Affairs and between the Registrar's Office and Academic Advising to have more effective resources available to students.

Forman said the completion of the Collaborative Research Center, scheduled for early 2009, will help increase Rice's ties to the Texas Medical Center. He also said the growing roles of non-medical specialists in medical research will present more opportunities for students to get involved in the TMC.

"We are at a better time because there is mutual interest in working together," Forman said. "There are now opportunities to get involved in medical research no matter what field you are in."

Students also discussed leadership opportunities, minor proposals, health care availability for students, alumni relations and pre-law advising. All topics are valid and are being investigated, Forman said.

Do you know how to make gradients with InDesign or Photoshop?
Come work for us. thresher-news@rice.edu.
**FILM**

**Iranian Film Festival**

The MFAH’s 14th Annual Iranian Film Festival kicks off tonight with Oona Piri and ends Jan. 23. Oscar-nominated actress Shohreh Agdashloo will make a special appearance Thursday to introduce The Willow Tree. Both shows are at the Verizon Wireless Theater. Tickets cost $6 for students. Film schedules, descriptions, and more ticket information can be found at www.mfan.org.

**Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**

1001 Bissonnet St.

**FILM**

Agdashloo will make a special appearance at the Verizon Wireless theater and ends Jan. 23. Oscar-nominated actress Shohreh Agdashloo will make a special appearance Thursday to introduce The Willow Tree. Both shows are at the Verizon Wireless Theater. Tickets cost $6 for students. Film schedules, descriptions, and more ticket information can be found at www.mfan.org.

**ROCK**

**Incubus**

The California-based band is performing at the Verizon Wireless theater tonight. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $40 at www.livenation.com. Unconcerned about the presence of delicate exhibits in the gallery of MFAH, Solis said, “We've been lucky that people have been very careful and the museum has put together a multi-sensory party that complements the art history lesson. Your experiences change every time you come into the museum. This is about providing an experience,” said Claudia Solis, MFAH Promotions manager.

**THEATER**

**Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka**

Compaagna deuo deqoy do. I've been a mom for 20 years. Based on the popular children’s book and movie, Willy Wonka opens tonight at Wortham Center’s Cullen Theater. The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets start at $31.25 at www.worthamtheatercenter.com.

**MFAH**

MFAH face the music

by Matthew McKee

The Rice Thresher Editorial Staff

Pan’s Labyrinth accomplishes the seemingly paradoxical feat of making a fantastical world darkly realistic. The story of a young girl escaping to a twisted fairy-tale land from 1940 fascist Spain is thoroughly engrossing, despite the frequent injection of grisly images.

Pan (Hectoro’s Doug Jones) promises Ofelia (Ivana Baquero’s), the movie’s central character. Ofelia is obsessed with fairy tales and fantastical creatures. Her widowed mother remarried a Spanish military captain, forcing Ofelia to live with the ruthless Prince of Pan (Ivan’s Sergio Loppe) and accept him as her new father, but she resists in her imagination.

The dark fantasy world Ofelia creates contrasts her fascist Spanish reality. Dismal events in her own life are reimagined to give Ofelia a sense of control over the uncontrollable. Rather than take an extreme departure from her reality, Ofelia incorporates her real world into her fantasy.

Even when faced with unbearably grotesque images, the movie’s eye does not look away.

She discovers a spiral staircase within the labyrinth outside Vidal’s house. Spurred by curiosity, she descends the staircase and meets Pan (Hectoro’s Doug Jones), a sa- tyr and a temporary works of art. The museum is trying to develop the museum scene into a more integrated scene,” Chai said. “They’re trying to break down stuffy stereotypes.”

Those stuffy stereotypes are present in the museum to hold these events because, like Solis, she feels the events draw people who might never have been in a museum before.

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Those stuffy stereotypes are present in the museum to hold these events because, like Solis, she feels the events draw people who might never have been in a museum before.

“Everyone who went was into both art and music,” she said. “They’re trying to break down stuffy stereotypes.”

These stereotypes are why Starbuck and the MFAH have collaborated. The organization wants to target non-traditional museum-goers to the MFAH and Family Series, and they plan to continue the events. Marketers and event directors from both organizations see MFAH as a multi-sensory party that complements the art history lesson. Your experiences change every time you come into the museum. This is about providing an experience,” said Claudia Solis, MFAH Promotions manager.

Brown College junior Alice Chai attended February’s party. Starbuck, the Beats of Basquiat. Chai said the party was a great experience and found the museum for putting on such events. The rooms were filled with people who were aware of the art world," she said.

The museum’s Web site states: “The Body of Color tuned the avant-garde够的, and his incorporation of images and events from earlier in the story assures the viewers that they have invested their leisure time well.

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Provocative art portrays women with potential

by Kitty Landholt

Acclaimed young Polish painter Agnieszka Sandomierz confronts the viewer with bold, provocative portraits of the female body in a wide variety of contexts and settings. Sandomierz, described by critics as a "gated, ignored or intimidated" figure, has a distinguishing style that has been described as "visual, textual and emotional." She confronts the viewer in her exhibition "Self-painting portrait with a Poker," which is an intimate and direct depiction of the female body and represents the inherent power of being a woman. The seductive connotations, which use the body as an extension of the female persona, are depicted in various artistic forms, including paintings, drawings, and installations. This exhibition is a testament to the complex relationship between art and feminism, and it challenges the traditional representation of women in art.

Children paints bleak picture of future

by Matthew McKeever

"Children of Men," directed by Alfonso Cuarón and set in a near future where the world has been destroyed by a deadly virus, is a visually stunning and thought-provoking film. The story follows Theo (Clive Owen), a journalist, who is on the run with a terrorist group, and his wife, Anja (Jennifer Connelly). The film explores themes of survival, the end of humanity, and the impact of technology on society.

The cinematography is stunning, with a focus on muted, earthy tones that create a bleak and oppressive atmosphere. The film's use of light and shadow is particularly effective, enhancing the sense of foreboding and unease. The score, composed by Max Richter, adds to the film's emotional impact, creating a sense of dread and foreboding.

The film's central theme is the futility of human effort in the face of inevitable disaster. The characters are forced to confront their own mortality and the limitations of human ingenuity in the face of an unpredictable and unyielding force. The film raises important questions about the role of technology in an uncertain future and the potential for human extinction.

The story is well-told, with a focus on character development and the emotional journey of the protagonist. The performances are excellent, with Clive Owen delivering a nuanced and emotionally resonant portrayal of Theo. The film's depiction of a post-apocalyptic world is both terrifying and mesmerizing, leaving the viewer with a sense of unease and a desire for hope.

In conclusion, "Children of Men" is a thought-provoking and visually striking film that raises important questions about the human condition and the power of art to explore the unknown. It is a must-watch for those interested in film's role in shaping our understanding of the world and our place in it.
Despite realism, *Alpha Dog* belongs in the dog house

by Chethana Biliyar

*The Rice Thresher* Arts & Entertainment

Friday, January 10, 2007

*Alpha Dog* opens with a cop Shades of grey flashback scene focused on what one presumes to be the main characters, running through the neighborhood streets of their childhood — so happy, so carefree, so innocent.

20 years later, the story takes off. Although the leader of a circle of generally rich, drug-dependent Southern Californian twenty-somethings, the charismatic Johnny (Lords of Dogtown's Emile Hirsch) is not happy. His former ally Jake (Hostage's Ben Foster) has failed to pay a debt on a recent deal. His younger brother, the charismatic Johnny's allies gradually become attached to Zack's wannabe thugs. Meanwhile, Johnny's cohort Frankie (Editors' Justin Timberlake), introduces Zack to a new life of sex, drugs and rap music.

After Johnny and Jake have a series of relatively minor fights, the charismatic Johnny realizes the consequences of the kidnapping. A tale that has primarily focused on the loss and pain of material peace suddenly takes a more somber turn, as the final clash between innocence and depravity reveals a shocking end.

The film's casting is impressive on a whole. Scenes are admirably executed, and each role — the sarcastic, the ridiculous, even the occasionally emotional — is well delivered. Timberlake is a standout, skillfully portraying a surprising array of feelings. Despite the actors' skillful execution, the lack of development and depth in many of the characters is disappointing. The complete motivations of Elvis Promiseman is completely forgotten throughout the film. It becomes the tale of spoiled, rich youngsters' vendetta, is completely forgotten over the course of the film. Female characters play superficial roles, primarily functioning as eye candy and/or sex objects. The characters' lack of depth prevents the film from being as realistic as it could be — an amusing fact considering it is based on a true story.

*Alpha Dog* and the real-life crime that inspired it are surrounded by a great deal of controversy. Johnny's character is openly based on Jesse James Hollywood, who was recently arrested for the kidnapping and murder of a ten-aged boy. The film is criticized for its potential to bias jurors against Hollywood. Under such circumstances, it is tricky to depict the man on whom Johnny's character is based in an innocent light.

The legal controversy is not the only problem with *Alpha Dog*. Director Nick Cassavetes forces the plot in a predictable direction throughout the film. It becomes the tale of spied, rich youngsters with too much time on their hands and too little parental guidance. They listen to rap music and therefore society does not expect them to have a strong moral base. The basic message of the film is that power corrupts.

Perhaps the plot is predictable precisely because it is realistic. However, its predictability prevents the movie from being seen as a revolutionary work of art. *Alpha Dog* is an entertaining film. The script and cast of characters are surprisingly good and the action is well-executed. Unfortunately, despite the predictable storyline and even more predictable conclusion prevent it from getting serious acclaim. But in a twisted way, its relatively superficial stance on a serious issue is a more accurate representation of reality.
The Owls finished the game off strong, continuing to press and hit any open shots they saw. Eventually, a combination of physical defense, solid free-throw shooting, and Almond's three free throws clinched the win for the Owls. "We were just able to chip away one by one," said Almond.

"We were just able to chip away one by one," said Almond.

The Owls also overcame a 24-point deficit with less than 10 minutes left in the game, led by senior guard Morris Almond's 15 second-half points. "It's nice to get the win on the road," said Almond, "and it's just a great feeling to win in a bowl game." The Owls, coming off an abysmal 1-11 season, were forecast to improve under their new head coach, Todd Graham, who punched Rice in the throat with a new defense in place.

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The Owls, with Almond leading the way, scored 13 of their 24 points in the second half, with Morris Almond scoring 10 of those points. "It's nice to get the win on the road," said Almond, "and it's just a great feeling to win in a bowl game." The Owls, coming off an abysmal 1-11 season, were forecast to improve under their new head coach, Todd Graham, who punched Rice in the throat with a new defense in place.
The Owls will start off the season with an indoor meet today. The team competes in the Rice Twilight meet April 26, the Owls' host the C-USA Indoor Championships, scheduled for Feb. 23-24 at the University of Houston, and Feb. 25-26 at Rice. The Owls will need strong performances out of their jumpers and middle-distance runners.

Last year, Solares was the only distance runner to make the NCAA Cross Country Midwest Regional meet in late February. In the jumps, the Owls will be at a disadvantage. "You never know what's going to happen," he said. "Breaking hurdles, that's where we're at, so that's the area we need to improve, and it actually did. I think that would be our goal this year, to break hurdles."
Neaves grabs 1,000th board in win

For the first eight minutes of the game against Marshall (10-7, 2-3 Conference USA) fell 74-60 to East Methodist University Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Rice Pool. Neaves left the game in foul trouble, but did not come any closer.

Williams said his team's effort against the Thundering Herd Hired in disheartening, despite the win. "I am concerned about our management," Williams said. "We had a lead and not only let them back but we also gave them back. We just don't seem to be able to have that killer instinct... we get a big lead to just put teams away.

Neaves grabbed the second board against Marshall, finishing with 16 points and 10 rebounds to notch the 42nd double-double of his career. He also became only the third senior guard for female, to grab 1,000 rebounds in a career. Only Michael Harris (Wiss. '06) and Brent Scott (Jones '04) have more. Neaves said the victory was more important than any individual achievement.

"This win will give us the momentum to have a very successful season. He just doesn't seem to have any reason why it won't happen."

This weekend Neaves will play against the Marshall Thundering Herd at the Texas Relays. Jason Colwick is the 5A state champion for the Owls. John Buck won the event. While Adam probably will not show up in [the indoor track event], figures for the Owls.

The Owls' game against East Carolina began at 7:00 p.m. and finished at 7:34 p.m. The Owls' game against the Cougars has been moved to 11:00 a.m. with 9:04 in the first half. Again, the Owls were up only 13-14, victims of a 29-10 run in the first half. This time, things only got worse for Rice. The Owls had a game-high 21 points by Krystal Frazier and a game-high 8 points by freshman guard Krys. Marshall's defense has dominated, committing only three turnovers. The Owls forced 14 total Marshall turnovers, turning only five shots.

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The Owls are back on the road on Saturday to face the University of Central Florida (13-4, 2-1 C-USA). The Golden Knights lead the nation in scoring offense and defense, and are currently riding a five-game winning streak. UCF has overcome some early season adversity, including losses to SMU and Tulsa, and is now on a roll. The Owls need to contain the Knights' high-powered offense to have a chance to win.

The Owls are 5-2 in conference play and are currently in second place in the American Athletic Conference. The Owls have a chance to move up to first place if they can defeat UCF.

Graham is known for his aggressive style of play and his ability to get the most out of his players. He has built a team that is tough to beat, and the Owls are looking to continue their winning streak against UCF.

BOWLING GREEN

The Falcons are coming off a tough loss to the Bowling Green Falcons, who are currently in third place in the MAC West Division. The Falcons are looking to bounce back and get back into the playoff picture.

The Falcons are led by quarterback J.J. Loscalzo, who has had a solid season so far. Loscalzo is completing over 60% of his passes and has thrown for over 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Falcons' defense has also been strong, allowing only 19.8 points per game. The defense has also forced 10 turnovers this season.

The Falcons will be looking to get back to their winning ways against the Bowling Green Falcons.

I hope this helps! Let me know if you need any further assistance.
FRIDAY

Registration reminders
A slough of academic deadlines occur today with the end of the add/drop period. Online registration PINs expire at 5 p.m., so today marks the last day a student can drop a class without a fee, as well as the last day a student may add a class without professor approval. Also, today is the deadline for converting classes designated pass/fail in the fall semester into classes earning a letter grade. Having second thoughts about being a student this semester? If so, today is the last day you can withdraw and receive a full refund of tuition. After today a 70 percent refund will be granted.

The big 60
Happy birthday to country music star and plastic surgery aficionado Dolly Parton, who celebrates her 60th today. Parton has been a fixture on Nashville music, propelled her to high places in the world of Nashville music, and distinctive voice have propelled her to high places in the world of Nashville music. While Parton's rosy red lips and giant... hair are definite trade-circles for years. Stu-...

SATURDAY

Football with a cause
The annual Shrine Game, an East-West senior all-star football game, relocates this year to Houston after a one year stint in San Antonio. Proceeds from the game benefit the Shriner Hospitals, which provide orthopedic and burn care to children free of cost at 22 locations across the country. Although no former Rice Owls are playing, the game always features some future NFL stars, as well as coaching legends Don Shula and Dan Reeves will be doing the playcalling. Kickoff is at 12 p.m. at Reliant Stadium, and tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com.

The Philosophy Department's lecture series continues today with a talk by Robert Brandom, Ph. D., from the University of Pittsburgh. Brandom's lecture, entitled "An Analytic Prag-...mation," is from 4-5:30 p.m. Brandom holds expertise in several different subsets of philosophy, and a Google search of his name showed that he has some of the most impressive facial hair of any man to ever grace planet Earth. In all seriousness, the man's beard is truly impressive, but so is his Curriculum Vitae, so...
Thresher predictions throughout history

Whoops! Really messed up on that one last week. But it wasn't the first time. In fact, the Thresher has a long history of calling it just a little too early and getting it wrong.

The Backpage is normally satire, but this week it's just the facts, ma'am — with only one check full of tongue.

The Backpage is written by Evan Mintz.

Aug. 16, 1945: In the midst of celebrating V-J Day and the end of World War II, the Thresher declares: "Let us respect on another's mores, recognizing to be tolerant of the differences that make us great. Of all things to be feared uniformity is one of the worst."

Then Rice was whites-only for the next 20 years.

Eliot Rough on Nipponese

War to Follow Jap Parleys, Dec. 5, 1941: The Thresher actually calls it right, claiming war with Japan as inevitable just two days before Pearl Harbor. Paging Nostradamus!

Actually, the article is about a speech by Major George Fielding Eliot, who believed that war in the Pacific was unavoidable and that American should strike first. He later became military analyst for CBS News once war broke out. He also believed that America was invincible, due to natural resources and geographic barriers. If only Rep. Tom Tancredo could warn him about that future invasion from Mexico!

Graham strikes deal in contract extension

MISSCLASS

"I've dreamed of this day since I was in the seventh grade. I'm so humbled to be here today, and so excited."

— Todd Graham, Jan. 1, 2006

"When I say that, I always see those funny looks from the faces in the crowd everywhere we go. They really doubt that, and that's fine. But two or three years from now, we'll have all those things changed. We'll restore the great tradition..."

— Todd Graham, Jan. 1, 2006

We'll be the hardest working and the most disciplined, too. That's the key for me. Our kids are going to compete and have high standards in every area that they encounter, whether it's on the field, the community, the classroom, or on the field. The minimum expectation is excellence..."

— Todd Graham, Jan. 1, 2006

"This is my wife, Penni. Stand up, Penni. You guys can tell I'm a good recruiter..."

— Todd Graham, Jan. 1, 2006

"We'll run a clean program. We'll run a program where you can be proud of the kids not only for what they do, but how they conduct themselves on the field. That's part of the reason we're going to compete in every category that we'll sell our kids... and its one that demands excellence..."

— Todd Graham, Jan. 1, 2006

To see whether or not Minocycline Extended-Release Tablets, such as Solodyn, affects spermatogenesis (the process of formation of mature sperm) in healthy males. We will look to see if your sperm count is the same as it was before treatment after 12 weeks of once-daily treatment of Solodyn. Some people in the study will receive Minocycline Extended-Release Tablets, other people will receive placebo. Minocycline is an antibiotic that has been successfully used for many years to help treat acne and other infections. Solodyn is the first minocycline approved to treat moderate or severe acne (it helps reduce the number of pimples). STUDY DURATION: The total length of this study is approximately 24 weeks (6 months). Subjects who meet the requirements to be in the study, will continue in the treatment phase receive either active or placebo tablets of the study for 12 weeks. Subjects will return to the clinic 4 weeks and 6 weeks after completion of the treatment phase of the study, with the final study visit approximately 12 weeks after baseline. Sperm and blood samples will be collected at some of the visits. Volunteers will be compensated $100 to enter study participation. For more information and to find out if you are eligible to participate in this research, contact PersonalAssistantWanted@ymail.com.

PART-TIME, OFFICE assistant needed. Flexible hours available with good hourly pay. Nice work environment and training provided. We are located in the Rice Village, within walking distance of campus. Please send your resume via email to: JESStudent@rice.edu.

HELP WANTED

PRIVATE MONTESORI SCHOOL near Rice University is looking for part-time assistants and substitutes. Great if you are needing flexible hours and want an enjoyable and rewarding job. Call Tara (713) 348-6268.

CHILD CARE WANTED: Responsible individual for occasional care of two month old by the week and Monday through Wednesday 3-6 pm. Good hourly pay. Call Terry (713) 348-4652.

ENGINEERING FIRM NEAR Rice seeking part-time office assistant to work a few days a week. Flexible hours and 3 minutes from campus. Please send resumes to classified@rice.edu or fax it to (713) 520-0738.

THE THRESHER is looking for a new Advertising Assistant Manager. Hours are flexible. Fresher's encouraged to apply as this can be a long term job leading to Advertising Manager. Contact Joseph.gallagher@rice.edu for more information.

SFERMATGENESIS STUDY: HEALTHY male volunteers are needed by the Scott Department of Urology at Baylor College of Medicine. Volunteers must have normal semen and be healthy. Participants will be compensated $100. Please call (713) 897-1000 for more information.

PART-TIME: Office assistant wanted. Executive works personal assistant to help with miscellaneous errands. Applicants should be trustworthy, detail oriented, manner, dependable and discreet. Must have access to transportation, Internet, and cell phone. Very flexible hours; approx 8-16/hr. Interested persons should email letter of introduction to PersonalAssistantWanted@ymail.com.

FAMILY IN BELLAIRE is seeking gardener in math once or twice a week for an hour or two each time. Our son is easy to teach, engaging, and enjoys the work. He was in accelerated math at his school and the class was cancelled.

CUSTOMER CONTACT POSITION: Innovative Consultants, L.L.C., a fast growing customer contact centre, is searching for friendly, energetic, and detail oriented representatives. The position requires strong communication skills. Part-time day and evening shifts available with flexible hours. Located behind the Galleria on W. Alabama. Perfect for students. Real opportunities for promotions and pay increases. Starting rate $9.00/hr plus incentives and/or bonuses. Contact K.L. (713) 559-6262. Open Hours: 6:30 pm and Sat. 12:30 pm.

HOUSING

MUSEUM DISTRICT: One bedroom apartment in updated building at 1301 Richmond. Hardwood floors, central air and heat, assigned off street parking, no utilities. $550 with lease and deposit. Andover (713) 524-3344.

Housing classifieds@rice.edu (713) 348-3974

The Rice Thresher

ATTN: Classifieds
6100 Main St., MS-5254
Houston, TX 77005-1892

PRODUCER: (713) 348-5247

Fax: (713) 348-5238

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