President Bill Clinton spoke yesterday at Autry Court. The speech, "Embracing our Common Humanity: Meeting the Challenges of Global Interdependence in the 21st Century," focused on U.S. policy's current and future roles in the world.

Clinton expounds global issues
Increasing U.S. diplomacy, aid key to 42nd President's vision for future
by Grace Ng and Natalie Kone

In opening, Clinton discussed the challenges of globalization. He addressed the audience directly, reminding listeners of their advantages in positions in the global economy and urging them to keep in mind that framework when they think about global issues, economic and otherwise.

"If we live in an interdependent world, that's good for us, but not so good for half the people," he said. "And if it's unequal, unstable and unsustainable, it's clear that what we think about global issues, economically and otherwise, is that it's not the right policy." Since he was hired, Del Conte said, he wants to see the basketball program to generate revenue for the Athletic Department.

"It's part of Rice culture, but at the same time it's also part of a tradition to do as we recruit," he said.

To see architectural plans for Autry Court's renovation, see Page 7.

The current Rice Pool and the Recreation Center's facilities will not be affected by the construction. No student will not have a place to work out — period," Del Conte said.

Although the name Autry will remain, some say Athletic Director Chris Del Conte said new facility may receive a new name.

The Blue curtain on the south, end of the arena, long part of Rice athletic tradition — and the brunt of jokes on nationally televised broadcasts — will be removed, and seating will be installed on that side of the court.

Del Conte said the court may be cut up and sold to collectors or placed in an athletic hall of fame.

The renovations to Autry are expected to take 18 months to complete.

**Inside**

Casino Party 2 007
Casino Party 2 007 is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Lovett College.

Vagina Monologues
Bring and tomorrow from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Sid Richardson Big Room. Tickets are $5 for students, $10 for staff and $15 for non-Rice. See Review, Page 9.

Archi-Arts "Delirious"
"Delirious" themed Arts party is tonight, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Meridian (CMU Charter). Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door.

CRUSH Party
Rice's annual CRUSH Party is Wednesday from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Willy's Pub. Fill out the survey at mycrush2007.com/invit.
The solutions require a certain amount of peace and unity if they are to be executed. By calling themselves “Democrats” to be a separate sphere of understanding and interaction is hardly a step forward.

Katina Mitchell, Martel senior

Bookstore blunders continue; buy online

To the editor:

For the fourth semester in a row, the bookstore has not ordered the books I desired and, neither have they let me know that these books are missing or unavailable. This is a serious problem of inconvenience and consistency. The bookstore has been sincerely sorry.

Yesterday, I was able to tell my students from now on to go straight to Amazon.com. We should all do this and avoid the problem altogether. The bookstore has been sincerely sorry.

Teresa Davis, English professor

Contacting the Thresher

Letters

- Letters to the editor should be sent to the Thresher by e-mail to news@thresheronline.com. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.
- All letters to the editor must be signed and include your name, college, major, class standing and a valid Rice e-mail address.
- Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length.
- The editor reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

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Most of us at Rice have now received notice of the upcoming $1 billion endowment project for our college system. According to the announcement, we are to vote on a $60 million plan to split the college system into twoPersisting and distinguishing entities, the "new college" and the "old college." The experience," the "most admired and reputable college in the United States," and the "oldest college west of the 100th (Burt and DeeDee McInnis)" and 110th colleges.

I am passionate about the college system. I am also extraordinarily grateful for the myriad essays, essays, and essays, essays. That said, it is difficult to see the deep irony in the announcement.

Most problems reflect an administration that simultaneously prides and dismisses its college system.

As clearly stated in its founding documents, the Rice college system was established for two primary reasons: to increase social responsibility and to accommodate the needs of students, especially among faculty and students. One can find vestiges of these goals in the present system, such as productions, art projects, and cultural activities, without any regard to the present system is broken.

Guest column

Global warming claims should be challenged

There are ominous signs that the Earth's weather patterns have begun to change drastically and that these changes may portend a decline in food production—a critical challenge for the future of the planet. A new study, released this week, found that the planet has entered a cooling phase, with temperatures falling by 0.1°C per decade. This is contrary to the prevailing belief that the Earth is warming, and it has important implications for our understanding of climate change.

It is crucial that we recognize these new findings and act accordingly. The global community must come together to address this urgent issue and take meaningful steps to mitigate the effects of climate change. The time to act is now, and we must do so with determination and urgency.

Guest column

Perry deserves praise for HP vaccine mandate

Texas Governor Rick Perry recently addressed the issue of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine to the list of mandated vaccines for 11- and 12-year-old girls. Perry's decision to add this vaccine to the list is a major step forward in the fight against a sexually transmitted virus. Unfortunately, many people have been hesitant to support Perry's decision, calling it a move toward preventing HPV.

However, the reality is that this vaccine is necessary to prevent cancer and other health issues. With the recent increase in HPV cases, especially among women, it is crucial that we take action to prevent the spread of this virus.

Texas Governor Rick Perry is to be commended for his decision to include the HPV vaccine in the list of mandated vaccines. His decision is a major step forward in the fight against this dangerous virus and will help to protect many lives.

The Rice Thresher

The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1916, is published each Friday during the school year. Submissions are welcome at any time, especially in the weeks leading up to graduation. All students are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and artwork for consideration.

Editorial and business offices are located in the Rackham Center, 11338 Main St., MS-524, Houston, TX 77005-1133; phone: (713) 525-0401, fax: (713) 525-0402, email: theresthresher@rice.edu. Web page: www.theresthresher.com; ISSN subscription rate: domestic, $12; international, $15.00. Rice University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. Academy is an equal opportunity employer.

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CLINTON

From page 1

Clinton elaborated on his conception of interdependence, noting that the best way to achieve global integration is through improved national security, revitalized diplomacy and better economic policies.

Improving policy in these three areas, he said, may improve America's role in combating three of the largest current global problems: economic inequality, health care and energy resources.

"You're at a great university, you're supposed to be learning. You have more power to do than any group of Americans ever had, and there's plenty of doing that needs to be done."

— Bill Clinton
42nd U.S. President

A theme of sustainability permeated Clinton's speech, although he devoted limited time to strictly environmental issues. He emphasized the urgency of current environmental issues including climate change and resource depletion.

Clinton stressed the importance of building alliances against terrorism, in part for the purpose of promoting the sharing of energy resources.

"You do have to have a security policy, but building more and more partners and fewer terrorists is always cheaper than going to war," he said.

Clinton also discussed the need for health care reform that extends coverage to all Americans and new lifestyle choices among Americans to reduce obesity and violence.

Tying his health care discussion back to the problem of uneven distribution of global resources, Clinton gave a detailed comparison of the United States' health care policies with those of other countries around the world.

Using a series of paired statistics to show how much more money is spent on health care in America than anywhere else in the world, he concluded that a majority of the wasteful spending is the product of bureaucracy.

"We spend 16 percent of our income on health care. No other country spends more than 11," Clinton said. "Thirty-four percent of every U.S. health care dollar is spent on administrative costs between insurers and providers. Nineteen percent is the next highest number I can find anywhere in the world."

The gross costs of some of these disparities range between $300 and $800 billion dollars, Clinton said, and he charged the U.S. policy of issuing patents with exclusive production rights to privately owned drug companies with incurring much of this cost.

Clinton discussed the increasing role of non-American Americans in funding humanitarian relief and poverty reduction.

He said the Internet facilitates the speed and ease of making financial donations and gave the example of American donations toward disaster relief after the tsunami in December 2005. More than half of the $12 billion in American donations were made via the Internet.

Clinton appealed to students, especially those in computer-oriented fields, to remember such statistics as they move on in their careers.

He ended his speech by encouraging Rice students to be active global citizens in contributing to solutions to today's global challenges.

"You're at a great university, you're supposed to be learning," Clinton said. "You have more power to do than any group of Americans ever had, and there's plenty of doing that needs to be done."

Following the speech, there was a question and answer session. Students had submitted their questions to the Baker Institute via e-mail prior to the speech. Six questions were asked and answered on topics including international policy in the Middle East, nuclear development in Iran and presidential term limits.

Clinton emphasized the necessity for a comprehensive peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians in improving ties with other Middle Eastern nations.

Prior to the speech, Clinton made an appearance at Baker Hall, where he visited Baker's office and took pictures with several groups, including one with 30 students invited by the Baker Institute.

The students lined up for the picture in the International Conference Facility and waited for Clinton. When he arrived, Clinton posed in the middle of the group for three photographs before the students were quickly ushered out.

Rice Vote Coalition Chair Claire Randall said Clinton was kind and charismatic. "I kind of looked at him and said 'hi,'" Randall, a Brown College junior, said. "I wasn't forceful enough. Some people went in for the kill, and I was just kind of star struck."

Baker Institute Student Forum member Christina Lagos said the building to Clinton's arrival made the photo shoot exciting but that she wished the students could have interacted with Clinton in a "coffee talk" setting.

A more meaningful moment of the event, she said, came when Djerejian asked a question Lagos submitted. The question addressed how Clinton's Global Initiative seeks to minimize governments' corrupt use of aid.

Lagos, a Wiess College junior, said Clinton gave a more thorough answer than she expected.

"I was expecting an answer similar to what I had read on the Clinton Global Initiative Web site," Lagos said. "I was really pleased he gave such examples of how he deals with leaders and how he explained that any deviations from the programs guidelines end the support."

Clinton gave an example of an unnamed, newly elected foreign head of state who requested Clinton's help in buying drugs for his government because of a corrupt health ministry.

"He said, 'I've got a problem with this ministry, and I have to fire a bunch of people. So will you buy these drugs for me?"

Lagos said Clinton's response was, "I'm not in favor of doing that." - David Brown and Julia Harrey contributed to this article.
CORNWELL

From page 1

resource development. Levy said Cornwell's task will be to implement the mechanisms to achieve those goals and to stay ahead of the curve. "The evaluation process is always changing, so we want to try to be prepared for what may come," Levy said.

On Jan. 17, the Department of Education announced it will explore possible changes to the rules that govern regional accrediting bodies such as SACS.

Cornwell's duties will include encouraging faculty and staff to understand the value of formal assessment for assessment's sake, rather than only meeting the minimal requirements for reaccreditation, Levy said.

"A lot of people don't like [the word 'assessment'] because they see it as a lot of work without extra value," Cornwell said. "We need to create opportunities for the community to experience the added value that comes from proper assessment."

Levy said proper and consistent assessment not only benefits the university when renewing accreditation but also has benefits in terms of self-evaluation.

Though the next assessment process will not occur for another 10 years, Cornwell said he would like to create a foundation for proper assessment so accreditation is a smoother process. Levy said Cornwell's interview and hiring process was unique.

"This is a very nascent area," he said. "There are very few people who have the background and experience — we did a lot of calling around, asking advice, finding people at other institutions who had good reputations in this area."

Levy said Cornwell stood out because of his academic experience, in addition to his experience in this particular area at Loyola.

Martel College forms committee to select new resident associate

JEREMY GRACE

Risa Gordon

Martel College has formed a resident associate search committee to name a replacement for Assistant Director of Forensics Jeremy Grace. The position will be open July 1.

Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman announced the opening in an all-departments listerv e-mail Jan. 26.

Committee co-Chair Abhy Smith said Martel's search will be finding an RA equal to Grace's caliber. Smith said, "The whole college really likes Jeremy Grace a lot, so it will be a little hard to find someone to fill his shoes," Smith said.

Grace, who has served as one of Martel's three RAs since Spring 2003, declined to comment. The search committee will consist of three Martel freshman, four sophomores, two juniors and three seniors.

Enter the 8th Annual Rice University INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline for entries is Friday, February 16th at 5 pm.

For more information visit abroad.rice.edu/photos.cfm

Enter images from your Rice experience abroad. Best In Show and winners in each category will receive prize packages!

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www.ricethresher.org
Wiess College announces competition for the 2007 John E. Parish Fellowship. The winner of the Parish Fellowship will receive support of approximately 2 months travel during the summer of 2007. The application deadline is Thursday, March 22, 2007.

SEMINAR DATES:
MAY 25-27

John E. Parish Fellowship
for Summer Travel
Wiest College announces competition for the 2007 John E. Parish Fellowship. The winner of the Parish Fellowship will receive support of approximately 2 months travel during the summer of 2007. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance the undergraduate education of the Fellow by broadening the range of experience via travel. All full-time returning undergraduates at Rice are eligible. For further information, call the Wiess College coordinator (713-348-5743), or see the web page at www.ruf.rice.edu/~parish. Deadline for application is Thursday, March 22, 2007.

STUDY LESS.
A scientist's new method of memory activation guarantees that you'll have more time to watch TV, play XBox and sleep late. Oh, and that you'll score higher on tests, too.

Can you just imagine how easy your school work would be if you could increase your memory by a factor of ten and your reading ability by a factor of three? This twenty-seven hour course will not only change your life, but your grades for the better. Results are guaranteed or your money back, on the spot.

20 students referred to U. Court
"We don't go looking for private parties," Hassell said. "As long as they stay inside and don't get any noise complaints, we are going to leave them alone. Once it goes outside and becomes obvious, we have a duty to respond."

Assistant Dean of Student Judicial Programs Don Ostdiek said the referrals do not relate to the changing enforcement of the Alcohol Policy. While RUPD handles the complaint correctly, Sid should have addressed the complaint first, said Ostdiek. He was exploring the possibility of turning the case over from University Court to the Student Court with the same forum.

In general, Ostdiek said he prefers to keep such issues within the colleges. What he understood is there may be cases where the extent of the complaint or an inability to find the chief justice requires a call to RUPD. Ostdiek said the colleges should educate students about what to do when they have noise complaints.

POLICE BLOTTER
The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Jan. 22 - Feb. 5.

Residential Colleges
Sid Richardson College Jan. 29 Theft.
Marti College Feb. 4 Student referred to Student Judicial Programs for minor in consumption.
Sid Richardson College Feb. 4 Twenty students referred to Student Judicial Programs for minor in consumption (Refer to story, Page 6). Three non-Rice subjects and the subject previously at Marti issued citations for minor in consumption.

Academic Buildings
Keke Hall Jan. 30 Building burglarized.

Other Buildings
South Survey Feb. 5 Theft.

Parking Lots
West Lot Feb. 3 Motor vehicle burglarized.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION
The Student Association met Monday. The following were discussed:

- Student Association President Atthea Tupper announced that students who want to turn in election petitions should drop them off at the SA office in the Student Center. Tupper, a Hansont College senior, said signatures should be sent to her at asctupper@rice.edu.

- Students who would like to volunteer at Texas Children's Hospital should contact Brown College sophomore Lindsey Zwienen@rice.edu.

- External Vice President Ceci Mesta discussed the proposed business minor. Marti College sophomore Christine Moran, a representative of the University Standing Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum, said that the minor would be composed of six new classes taught by the Jones School of Business faculty. Because the Jones School is a cash center and must be fiscally independent, the minor would have to be funded. A fee deducted from all students' tuition was one of the payment methods discussed by the committee. Moran said.

- The following groups were approved as RMC clubs: the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience United States (IASTEL), the Rice Sketch Comedy Club and the Rice Paintball Club. Voting on Rice Men's Hoops was postponed to next week. Crescendo was renamed to Music Everywhere.

- Senator Ferras Vinh, a Sid Richardson College junior, moved to amend the amendment proposed by Thresher Opinion Editor Evan Mintz last week. Mintz's amendment would allow the Thresher to publish information about candidates in student elections without having to notify them 24 hours in advance and provide 250 words of space for a response. Another amendment would allow candidates to publish campaign Web sites without using the SA Web site and would allow candidates to send bulk e-mails.

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Several senators discussed the benefits of campaigning via bulk e-mail.

Mintz asked the SA not to form a committee to discuss the amendment.

The SA voted against the amendment.

- The SA approved $400 for a security camera to the basement of the RMC can stay open for 24 hours. Currently, only a few organizations have access to the basement of the RMC, but the extended hours will allow all students 24-hour access.

"When [officers] looked in, it was clear that there was a bunch of underage people there," Hassell said. "Sid Chief Justice John Horstman said there is no universal policy for noise complaints, but Sid students are encouraged to contact the Sid court before calling RUPD. Horstman, a senior, said he was not contacted until after the police arrived. The party's host, who requested
Vision Weekend to host 100 minority prospective students

By Gary Johnson

Taking the challenge to visit Rice as spring settles in to Houston, prospective students from underrepresented minority groups will arrive at the campus for an intensive weekend of orientation, events, and activities, on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18, for Vision Weekend. The event lasts until Feb. 20.

More than 100 students are expected to attend Vision Weekend. Assistant Admission Director Laura Villafranca said. About 300 have been invited. Many of the students who attend Vision Weekend have already been offered admission as early decision or early action and have committed to attend Rice.

“Usually over 30 percent of the students who come have been offered admission already,” Villafranca said. Student Admission Council Minority Interests Committee Co-Chair Dana McDowell speaking to the students on Monday afternoon. Villafranca said.

The Rhythms dance party will not be held this year, Solis, a Baker College senior, said. Instead, SAC will host an open mic night at Wally’s Pub. McDowell said Rhythms was canceled because it would have been held on a weekend when few students would be likely to attend.

The Office of Admissions subsidizes plane tickets for some students to attend the preview weekend.

“We give students partial sponsorship if they are not from the Houston area,” Villafranca said. “We pick them up at the airport, bring them to campus and then bring them back on Tuesday.”

Villafranca said about 30 percent of the 114 students who attended last year’s Vision Weekend matriculated into the current freshmen class.

“It is a good yield event,” she said. “It opens up their eyes to what Rice has to offer other than what they’ve seen in the brochures. It gives them a physical feel for the campus, and I think Rice does a very good job of selling itself.”

About 30 people have signed up to host prospective students, but almost 100 hosts are needed, Ufot said. In addition, more volunteers for Sunday are needed.

“If you are off campus, you can still volunteer at registration or as an airport greeter,” Ufot said. The Admission Office is still looking for volunteers and hosts. Interested students should contact the Admission Office, Villafranca said.

AUTRY

From page 1

and hopes this upgrade will help.

Having played and then worked at Autry since 1978, Men’s Basketball Coach Willis Wilson (Willie ’80) knows the “d-advantages” of the current state of Autry and the challenges they present.

“We can’t finish because that’s welcoming,” he said. “Are you able to get in and out of the bathroom? Where are the concession stands? Do you feel comfortable getting into the building because it looks nice?”

Women’s Basketball Coach Greg Williams (Hanover ’70) said all of the state-of-the-art coaches are looking forward to the upgrades because the current locker rooms are inadequate.

Other than having a nicer facility at which to train and play, the benefits for the athletic programs are numerous, the coaches said. Facilities are one of the key factors that recruit consider when choosing a school, and Wilson said the upgrades will enhance Rice’s ability to recruit.

“The new building is going to give us confidence that we never had, and that level of commitment to athletes will spill back into recruiting,” Wilson said.

Wilson has also prevented some major out-of-town competition from gaining to play Rice—despite Rice traveling to those schools. With the added incentive of wanting to prove Houston to recruits, these programs will find a home and home series with Rice more attractive after Autry is upgraded.

Wilson said improved facilities will also attract non-recruited and community members to Rice athletic events.

“We need an appreciation for college basketball in Houston,” Wilson said. “We still want to be part of an event that’s a social outlet and an opportunity to show school pride. However, the tailgating and basketball crowds currently face the possibility of a season away from campus.

DeCoste said he is trying to arrange for the use of temporary spaces—with Rice arena the ideal candidate—but no arrangements had been finalized as of Wednesday.

Wilson said the thought of an off-campus win in january, and administrators and coaches recognize the challenges this presents.

Next season is a contrast to the things the new facility is going to have to offer,” he said. “But it will last for one year. It’s going to require a lot of patience on everyone’s part. But we know what’s in front of us once we get through it.”

Despite the challenges next year, there is a general sense of excitement about the upgraded facility.

“It’s like moving from a 37-year-old house to a brand-new house,” Wilson said. “It’s like anything else; it’s different and nice, and it makes you feel appreciated that the Athletic Department and university are improving your facilities.”

Tudor said his desire to enhance Rice athletics and the university was what convinced him to make the donation.

“The university has big ambitions and needs across the board,” Tudor said. “It needs an aggregate raising of money to get things done, and as a board member I felt an obligation and an opportunity to contribute.”

A former managing director of Goldman, Sachs and Co., Tudor now runs an energy investment and merchant banking firm. He said many of the securities firms gave him both an athlete and student deserve his gratitude.

“I probably wouldn’t have come to Rice if they didn’t offer Division I athletics,” Tudor said. “If we want that to continue, we’ve got to
ViaSat will be holding a Company Information Session Tuesday, February 13, 7:00pm in the O’Connor House, Room 107.

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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2007

**Monologues showcases female sexuality**

by Tasha Chemplavil

Vagina: It is the anatomical part that makes a woman a woman. But the word is also the one most associated with the word and its very necessary physiological functions. Why is this? Five Elder’s Vagina Monologues seek to redeem the word and, like Baker’s production of the popular play succeeds in that endeavor.

Elder wrote Monologues after interviewing more than 200 women about their vaginas — their memories and nightmares, fears and fantasies. Some of the monologues relate the story of one woman, and others are compilations of common female experiences. The stories vary in tone from the light-hearted “My Short Skirt” to the tragic “My Vagina Was My Village”; they all celebrate female sexuality.

In a dark room with a black stage and colorless costumes, the unification of Monologues’ production forces viewers to focus on the ideas and emotions being expressed on stage. The audience has nowhere to look but at the actresses giving their monologues, and the stories shared usually are worth the attention.

At first, the constant use of the word “vagina” is jarring. It is true that it is an excellent medium for the exchange of knowledge and real life, people use euphemisms to describe the area “down there.” Early in Monologues, a line is addressed — the actresses provide an extension of themselves. But as the play continues, the word loses its familiar sound. It starts to resonate with viewers, encouraging them to embrace the forbidden word.

Monologues addresses everything from minor medical and physical embarrassment. The stories are well-written with wit and metaphoric imagery. And they are well-portrayed by women who believe in the power of female sexuality. While some performances run a little long, they are for the most part entertaining and thought-provoking.

The play starts with the monologues are texts and facts about female sexuality and opens up a debate about topics like the ignores the idea of the roles and the influence of gender mutilations educate and intrigue audience members.

Thankfully, not everything about Monologues is serious. Havils laughs when Baker College junior Erin Felton displays her vast repertoire of obscene rhymes in “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy.” Her take on the lawyer-turned-sex worker starts out sour, but builds to an eruption of audience laughter. Felton’s customized “Rio University Music” — mostly hallucinated numbers accompanied by impromptu watchchecks — still makes the audience chuckle in any college girl. She contrasts the part shockingly and the effect pays off.

Will Rice College senior Christina Yis performance in “My Angry Vagina” is notable. Yis knows how to evoke anger convincingly, but her story progresses and her stories evolve — from brown strikes to vulnerable consciousness — she demonstrates true acting talent.

While Monologues entertains, entertainment is not its sole purpose. The play is just one part of a campaign to promote awareness about violence against women. The production has already held viewings for the Houston Area Women’s Shelter and to V-Day, whose Web site calls it “a global movement to raise awareness about violence against women.”

**Baker College junior Erin Felton performs her ode to female organs.**

**Farnsworth fills with African-American wave**

by Lauren Ames

Farnsworth showcases female sexuality

Not very different as a rice student yet tolerance of the diversity of the Houston community without having the hedges, but the 11th annual Citywide African-American Art exhibition in Farnsworth. This month provides this opportunity. Farnsworth showcases a wave of emerging and established African American artists. Most of the artists have a lifelong connection with Houston, while others studied in Louisiana or Oklahoma before returning to the city.

**Citywide african-American art exhibition**

***of five***

**Farnsworth Pavilion through Feb. 29**

The artworks on view at each venue are not thematically divided but rather a collection of family portraits over time, attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He is also Houston’s 2006 Poetry Grand Slam Champion and curator of last year’s art exhibition. Farnsworth showcases an eclectic feel. The bright, contemporary colors common to many of the pieces particularly help to provide cohesion. The artists’ experiences varied — from brazen strides to vulnerable consciousness — they demonstrate true acting talent.

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by Matthew McKee
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Chasing with the outrunners of a wild imagination, Rice Gallery's newest installation from renowned artist Judy Pfaff, whose work was shown at New York's Whitney Museum of American art, greets visitors with an assault of visual stimulation. So many things are going on in the room that the eye never lacks for something to observe.

Empty space inspires art in Pfaff's "...all of the above"

As such, describing this piece, entitled "...all of the above," is very difficult. Neon-colored strings stretch across the room. It plastic circles lie on the floor and on the walls. White across the room, lit plastic circles lie on the floor, and on the walls. White across the room, lit plastic circles lie on the floor, and on the walls. Pfaff's organic art was inspired by Rice Gallery's expansive architectural space.

But the piece is not about Pfaff's thoughts while creating her art, it is about the viewer's interpretation of her work. Pfaff even encouraged visitors to disregard her intentions for the piece. As she said while speaking on opening night, "There are a lot of little stories here that amount to, but you don't need to know them."

This kind of abstract art immerses the viewer in its own world, but all of the above' is very different. Neon-colored strings stretch across the room. It plastic circles lie on the floor and on the walls. White across the room, lit plastic circles lie on the floor, and on the walls. Pfaff's organic art was inspired by Rice Gallery's expansive architectural space.

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The physical and mental processes Pfaff put into her piece are interesting. She put many references to weather in the room, such as the thunder-like stacks of plaster discs and supports that suggest lightning. She also pointed to the ceiling as the wind. Perhaps the white steel coils are reminders of a crazy killer's coaster ride. Upon entering the gallery, one can imagine the ceiling from feeling like they stumbled upon a disembodied scene. Sure, the vines are from Pfaff's yard in New York, but their arrangement fosters active contemplation.

I start badly, slowly.
I stall a lot. I circle, making a decision. I'm like a bad student who waits until the last minute.

Judy Pfaff

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Memorial master shares influences, perspectives on art, architecture

by Amy Liu

Despite their different functions, art and architecture often draw inspiration from one another. And the distinction between the two can become blurred, artist-architect Maya Lin said at a full house at the Menil Collection last Friday. Her Feb. 2 lecture, entitled "Maya Lin: Art and Architecture," was third of this spring's four-part Menil/Rice Lecture Series.

Lin gave an overview of her work since the design of her most famous piece, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. She completed the memorial in 1982 as a 21-year-old undergraduate architecture student at Yale University. Lin briefly mentioned the memorial near the end of the speech, expressing her desire to close her series on Monday at the University of Michigan.

"Much of my work is inspired by natural topography and terns," Lin said. "You are out to convey something, they are a little bit more blurred, artist-architect Maya Lin said. She sees a natural palette of architectural materials — including stone, wood and glass — for many of her works.

Lin said her work draws a variety of influences, including her youth in picturesque Athens, Ohio, and the creative talents of her poet mother and ceramic artist father, both professors at Ohio University. History is another source of inspiration — it led to Lin's work on the state of Washington's Bicentennial Project, commemorating the tram to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Nature, Lin said, also plays a part in her work, exemplified in the rippling ocean patterns in "Wave Field," a series of stone sculptures resembling waves on the campus of the University of Michigan.

"I think this series reaffirms our commitment to architecture and design, which should be apparent from the campus (of the Menil Collection)," Kilian said. "We will never have an architecture or design department, but we can nevertheless put on these kinds of events that makes a contribution to the understanding and support of both of those fields in the city of Houston."

Barry Bergdoll, MoMA's current architecture and design curator, will speak April 3 in the last lecture of the series.

"I think that's what we want. We want people to come visit each other's sites and be aware of what we are. And it worked pretty well — I saw a lot of Rice people at Maya Lin's lecture," Julia Hager, 5th-year architecture student, praised Lin for her interdisciplinary approach to projects.

"I think it was making design decisions, and design decisions aren't really limited to any one discipline," Hager said. "In architecture, you do have parameters like building codes and handout access, but at the same time it's your job to hold everyone to make a building more than just its building standards. Otherwise you would just get an engineer to make the minimum requirements," Karl Kilian, director of public programs at the Menil, said the Menil/Rice Lecture Series was organized to give the Houston community an opportunity to hear fine arts professionals talk about their work.

The theme of this year's lecture series is "Architecture and Museums." Earlier speakers included James Turrell, known for his Houston's Skyspace project, and Terence Riley, former curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The theme of this year's lecture series is "Architecture and Museums." Earlier speakers included James Turrell, known for his Houston's Skyspace project, and Terence Riley, former curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.
Because I Said So needs Moore comedy, romance

by Jackie Ammons

Because I Said So. The title reflects the content. It is a film mandated by arbitrary, purposeless humor and actors whose talents are underutilized and misdirected. Following Hollywood’s recent trend of hampering gifted actors, Because I Said So is just another romantic comedy that lacks comedy and is only borderline romantic.

"because i said so!"

A film is plagued by failed relationships. Unbeknownst to her daughter, Daphne receives an online personal ad for Milly and proceeds to set her up with two men: established architect Jason (a cleverly named Tom Everett Scott) and free-spirited guitar player Johnny (The Good Shepherd’s Gabriel Macht).

After a few weeks of dating both nones, Milly discovers that her controlling man wrote the online ad, and mother-daughter conflict ensues. This film attempts to attract two kinds of viewers: mother-daughter pairs who want a sentimental, girl bonding trip to the movies and fans of romantic comedies who simply want a laugh at the twists and turns of romantic relationships. However, both kinds of viewers will be disappointed.

The mother-daughter bonding between Keaton and Moore is superficial and revolves around conversations where they discuss sexual innuendo and polite dress. Their supposedly relat-

able connection is too contrived to be identifiable. Any stress is their relationship is easily resolved by a quick, “I’m sorry,” from Keaton, only to be disappointingly followed by more nagging.

Romantic comedy fans will not be satisfied by Because I Said So. Comedy is exchanged for sexual tension, and romantic sentimentality is overriden by the fact that Milly dates two men simultaneously. A brief glimpse at romance appears only after Milly chooses between the two men. Thus, the romance and the comedy in the film oppose each other, producing a movie in which comedy is awkward and romance is minimal.

On the other hand, Keaton and Moore are talented actors. Keaton inhabits the role of the control freak mother, putting the character on a pedestal. Moore convincingly plays the role of the sweet, misguided young girl.

Because I Said So is just another romantic comedy that LACKS COMEDY and is only borderline romantic.

Unfortunately, Because I Said So fails to make the most of Moore’s greatest talent — music — allowing Moore to sing only one solo that is subsequently drowned out by a chorus of mother, daughters and sisters (Rebbie Santé’s Lauren Graham and The Prestige’s Piper Perabo). The entert-

ainment value of the film would have been significantly increased if the filmmakers had given Moore a microphone.

The film’s few humorous moments keep it from being a complete failure. Daphne’s nagging, while annoying, is literally suffocated three times by a cake flying at her face. The film she displays when caught kissing Johnny’s father contains the fewest number of laughs in Keaton’s career. When she steps out of the mother shoes and acts like a real person.

Although the movie lacks its advertised content of comedy and romance, Because I Said So has entertaining moments. Keaton and Moore are the victims of a poorly-written story. However, even these brief scenes are outweighed by the movie’s several lack of humor and are ultimately not worth the time of an entertainment-creating audience.

Manning Marable

Tuesday, February 20
8 PM
Grand Hall
Rice Memorial Center

This academic year is the 40th anniversary of the first African American student to enter Rice as undergraduates and earn degrees from the university.

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Tuesday, February 20, 2007 Shell Auditorium
Jennie and Robert McNeil Hall

Visit http://alumni.rice.edu or call 713-348-3667 for reservations.

Manning Marable is one of America’s most influential and widely read scholars and a professor of public affairs, political science, and history at Columbia University. He was founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, one of the nation’s most prestigious centers of scholarship on the black American experience. A prolific author, Marable most recently wrote Living Black History, a fresh look at the legacy of well-known figures of the civil rights movement. For almost three decades, Marable has written the syndicated political commentary series, “Along the Color Line.”

Diversity and Democracy in American Education:
Making Multiculturalism Work

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture

PHOENIX

From page 10
dremely show the entire contents of the Court Record to every single witness before hitting the right one for a new clue.

If the gamer’s logic is in sync with Phoenix’s, completing the investigation is a very satisfying process. But it is easy to overlook the case and come to conclusions before the game allows. Court proceedings have the same flaw. While the game’s job is to expose contradictions in each witness’s testimony, the corresponding evidence is sometimes only revealed to the witness’s statement by Phoenix’s photographic memory and correlated logic. Although wild guesses have no penalty during the investigation phase, too many wrong moves in court will put Phoenix out of favor with the judge and land her in contempt of court.

Play mechanics aside, enjoy-

ment of this game will ultimately correspond to one’s penchant for anime comedy. Overblown facial expressions, weird character names, and an awkwardly translated script chip away at the cutscene like only anime can. The girls are ditzy — except for the dominatrix, the guys have huge shoulders and no one thinks twice about letting a magi-

can in drug marry a 16-year-old circus heiress. The innovative UV gameplay seems a little before its time. Still, Phoenix is worth trying out for a dose of handheld fun.

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TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS
Almond scores 35 in Owls’ fifth straight home victory

By Chris Pasich

By Nathan Bledsoe

Football announces 22 new recruits

By Brian Luhos

Friday, February 9, 2007

The football team announced the addition of 22 new recruits for the 2007 season on Wednesday in the R-Room at Rice Stadium. Head coach David Bailiff, who had only three weeks to put together this year’s recruiting class, kept 12 commitments of players recruited by former head coach Todd Graham.

Of the 22 new commits, four are from the Houston area, and all of those were late additions by Bailiff. He said the Houston area will become one of his focal points in future recruiting classes.

"That’s the thing that excites me the most,” he said. “We’re going to make the Houston area a top priority and I think we’ve shown that in our first six here.”

The most notable talents in the offensive and defensive lineups. The Owls should be set at the offensive tackle position for a while with the addition of Kody Emett, who comes from a highly successful program at Liberty Hills, TX, and Davon Primus, a 6’5, 315-pounder from Humble, TX. Defensively tackle Brian Neal, who is Region 19-5A Player of the year last year, will bring that style of play to Rice in Houston, should help shore up the middle.

Another player of note is linebacker Tanner Shuck, who comes to Rice after weighing offers from several other schools, including Stanford University and the University of Tulsa. Shuck, who is 6’6” tall and weighs 295 pounds, maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA at Jenks High School in Tulsa. Shuck let- tered four years at Jenks, was the Oklahoma 6-A defensive player of the year and a consensus All-State selection after helping Jenks to the Oklahoma state championship as a senior.

On offense, running back Tyler Smith and receiver Michael Fuda should become major contributors.

Rice is looking to improve its record of 12-10, 6-3.

A CLOSER LOOK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TE</td>
<td>Keyshawn Carrington</td>
<td>6’3”</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Taylor Darey</td>
<td>6’1”</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Kody Emett</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Michael Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Jack Hicks</td>
<td>6’4”</td>
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<tr>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Justin Hudgins</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Brent Hotard</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR</td>
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<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Wali Nuris</td>
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<td>220</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>RB</td>
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<td>DB</td>
<td>David Primus</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Aaron Williams</td>
<td>6’3”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In all, the Owls are 20-0, 10-0 in Conference USA, and all four of his three-point attempts.

Four days after an 83-74 win over USM, the men’s basketball team bounced its second victory of the week, the Owls need two victories to improve their 1-6 record if they hope to stay tied for second place in conference.

Rice played one of its more well-rounded games of the season, combining a solid first half with a strong second-half finish and playing with consistency throughout the night.

Almond led the way with a game-high 35 points, mostly on lay-up jump-shots with eight in his face.

He was 14-21 from the field, running all of his three-point attempts and all three of his free throws.

Overall, Almond found a way to get his shots within the Owls’ offensive game plan.

"It’s going to make it easier for other guys and better for other guys,” Wilson said. “It’s going to allow our shooters to get better looks. And if that happens, I think our offense will really click and come into a zone.”

The Owls were unable to contain the ECU three-point shooting in the first half, and the Pirates climbed to a nine-point lead with less than two minutes left in the half.

Wilson said his players were giving their offense to staying within the Owls’ offensive game plan.

"It took me a couple of minutes to get into my rhythm and started to let the game come to me, and I got that much easier,”

Almond said. "It took me a couple of minutes to get into my rhythm and started to let the game come to me, and I got that much easier.”

The Owls’ defense stepped up as well, taking the Golden Eagles’ shot clock down to single digits on multiple possessions and forcing 19 turnovers. Overall, it resulted in one of the most consistent defensive games of the season, and Almond’s defensive poise kept the game in hand.

"I thought things are coming together for us, slowly but surely,” head coach Wilson (Will Rice ’82) said. “We’ve worked so hard in the month of January on our intensity and our effort and our defense, on our block outs ... I thought tonight we did a really good job of playing a possession at a time.”

In the first game of their home-stand, the Owls kept the visiting Pirates winless in conference play behind Almond’s 34 points on a mere 16 shots. Almond also led Rice in rebounding, pulling down seven boards.

Senior guard Lorenzo Williams also chipped in with a season-high 20 points while dishing out a game-high six assists. Williams also showed the ball to his teammates and had not displayed earlier in the year, making it to the foul line 11 times and coping 10 free throws. Wilson said Williams’ play allows the offense multiple options.

"It’s going to make it easier for other guys and better for other guys,” Wilson said. "It’s going to allow our post guys to score more efficiently.”

Said Smith, the younger brother of senior Quinton Smith, attended Rice’s football camp last summer and had the best overall performance of anyone in attendance. As senior, Smith rushed for 1,450 yards and scored 21 touchdowns to become all District 14-AA head coach. "We have some good speed in this class: Tyler Smith—he’s real,” Bailiff said. "In high school he was a..."
Women's basketball falls to Tulane, ends 4-1 homestand

by Justin Hudson

Looking to advance in an increasingly unpredictable and event-filled Conference USA, the women's basketball team split two key conference games to end a largely successful five-game homestand. Last Thursday, the Owls (13-13, 6-4 Conference USA) defeated UTEP (19-7, 4-6) 69-65, avenging a 65-52 loss in El Paso Jan. 5. However, the Owls faltered down the stretch due to turnover trouble. Against Tulane, poor three-point shooting, dominating the glass, and a lackluster defensive performance, the Owls wilted down the stretch due to turnover trouble. Against UTEP, poor three-point shooting, dominating the glass, and a lackluster defensive performance, the Owls wilted down the stretch due to turnover trouble.

The Owls, who won 4-1 during the homestand and are 10-2 overall, lost 64 Conference USA) annihilated the conference. The Owls will now leave Autry Court this year.

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2. Playing football at the stadium
3. Being part of the Rice football team
4. Attending a football game at Rice
5. Being a part of the Rice community
6. Being part of the Rice football team
7. Attending a Rice football game
8. Being a member of the Rice football team
9. Playing football in Rice Stadium
10. Being part of the Rice football community

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Would your student group like to learn more about the Rice Annual Fund for Student Life and Learning? Email Charlene: sadberry@rice.edu.

For Student Life and Learning
Men's tennis, ranked 30th, defeats No. 32 Minnesota

Senior Harknett returns from injury to lead Owls to victories over Bulldogs, Gophers

by Casey Michel

Boasted by the return of 50th-ranked senior Ben Harknett, the men's tennis team knocked off Drake University 9-0 and the University of Minnesota soundly in last weekend's dual-match play. After missing the first month of the season with a hand injury, Harknett finally returned to action, and his two-match victories helped the 50th-ranked Owls win both matches on the season.

Continuing its tour of nationally ranked opponents, Rice hosts 50th-ranked University of North Carolina today, and 60th-ranked Vanderbilt University at the Downtown Club at the Met. Both matches start at 12:30 p.m. Assistant Coach Eric Us- tundag ('99) said the matches will not depend on the team's determination and will help its national ranking.

"I feel like we should come out of this weekend with a couple of good wins, based on what I've seen so far," Ustundag said. "Unfortunately, we're not going to have any players that will turn some heads.

The Owls lost both Friday with two doubles wins against Drake, the deciding double came via Rice's duo of Andres Osorio 64, 6-4 and No. 1. With the win, Harknett redeemed himself for a straight set loss in Rice's first meeting with the Bulldogs in March 2006. Ustundag said he was impressed with Harknett's resiliency and maturity.

"He played remarkably well considering he hadn't played all semester," Ustundag said. "He finally found his concentration on the court, and although he lost a few sets to a couple of opponents, he recovered his loopy style of play.

In their next match, the Owls faced their top-ranked opponent of the year in host Minnesota. The Gophers opened the match by taking the doubles point with a pair of closely contested wins. Junior Ralph Kongsberg and sophomore Tobias Schobert and Maikey Kantar 9-8 at No. 1, and Harknett and Paroci finished at No. 2.

"Harknett was a bit rusty, but he played well," Ustundag said. "I really liked his concentration on the court, and although he lost a few sets to a couple of opponents, he recovered his loopy style of play.

In the deciding third match, when sophomore Emily Beaud and junior Christine Dao dropped a tight 64, 6-4 at No. 1 for the win, Harknett redeemed himself for a straight set loss in Rice's last meeting with the Gophers in March 2006. Ustundag said he was pleased with Harknett's concentration on the court.

"I think probably in terms of performance with a win over another ranked opponent, this time against 50th-ranked Road Runners, this was the second victory in as many weeks over a top-60 opponent for the freshmen who continues to contribute more than expected.

The Owls took the last of the singles matches dominated by another 61st winner. Head coach Ron Smarr said he was pleased with all players performing well in front of a local Missouri audience.

Women suffers consecutive close losses in Oklahoma

by Casey Michel

The Owls' team nearly pulled off a pair of upsets last weekend against nationally ranked Oklahoma State University and Conference USA and 66th-ranked University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla. 66th-ranked Rice could not overcome early deficits and lost both singles matches 4-3, bringing the team's season dual-match record to 2-3.

IN FOCUS: UPCOMING MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#22 North Carolina</td>
<td>02/09/07</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Met, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#90 Texas Tech</td>
<td>02/11/07</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Met, Houston</td>
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<td>National Indoors</td>
<td>02/16/17</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<td>02/17/17</td>
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<td>Lubbock, Tex.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>02/20/17</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, Louis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>02/25/17</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Austin, Tex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118th Pacific Coast Doubles</td>
<td>03/01/04/17</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>La Jolla, Calif.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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IN FOCUS: UPCOMING MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Women suffer consecutive close losses in Oklahoma

by Casey Michel

The women's tennis team nearly pulled off a pair of upsets last weekend against nationally ranked Oklahoma State University and Conference USA and 66th-ranked University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla. 66th-ranked Rice could not overcome early deficits and lost both singles matches 4-3, bringing the team's season dual-match record to 2-3.

THE WEEKEND

The Owls host a pair of dual- matches at Jesse Norton Tennis Stadium, facing Florida State University today at 3 p.m. and Auburn University Sunday at 1 p.m.

The Owls will host 66th-ranked Florida State University at 3 p.m. on Friday at Jesse Norton Tennis Stadium at 1 p.m. Sunday at Jake Hess Stadium. Eventbrite's $5 entry fee on Friday, head coach Roger White said both matches will be challenging.

"Auburn would be what I call a classic mercenary team," he said. "They do bring in every good player they can, so whether or not who you do well academically, so it's pretty hard to know what they will have.

Last year's match against the Owls.

The Owls, as required by NCAA regulations, awarded a penalty point to Rice in the deciding third match, which just so happened to be match point in the deciding sixth match.

The Owls lost the theme's win 6.8 hole against the Golden Hurricane, which the Owls had beaten the past two years. Rice nearly took a hard-fought doubles point to start the competition, but fell just short in the deciding third match, when sophomore Emily Beaud and junior Christine Dao dropped a tight 64, 6-4 at No. 1 for the win. The deciding match came at No. 3. Tulsa's Cantor and Paroci won 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

"I think probably in terms of performance, we're still a little bit behind in doubles," White said. "We're not only fired up because we beat them in a row but also the way we beat them last year.

Following the loss to the Golden Hurricanes, the Owls faced the Cowgirls of Oklahoma State. Rice took an early lead by gaining the doubles point, which impressed White, who said of the Owls: "I think probably in terms of experience, we're still a little bit behind in doubles," White said. "[But I was so pleased we were able to get doubles point against Oklahoma State.

Unfortunately for Rice, the Cowgirls were able to accomplish what the Owls had failed to do against Tulsa, scoring a come-from-singles-point to win the dual match. OSU took the first three singles matches, defeating all Owl competitors in straight sets. Karas and Lin were able to keep the Owls in the running, defeating the Cowgirls in two and three sets, respectively, but OSU's Maria Tsavka proved to be too much for Reid at no. 6, winning 6, 6, 6, 6 and clinching the match victory for OSU.

"We're still not hitting on all cylinders yet," Smarr said. "But I was very pleased with [the performance], because that's a tough place to win a match."

Despite the final results, some of the contents were very tight until the end. The Owls' inability to close out matches without difficulty seemed to be the main flaw of their perfor-

"We need to stay on the people and not let them back into a match," Ustundag said. "I think that's going to be the difference between us being a good team or a great team. It would cater to exactly how we look."
Rice's left-handed closer Cole St. Clair converted his team's first save of the season, a three-run, ninth-inning rally vs. Central Missouri to claim the victory. The Owls benefited from a string of hits and solid defensive play to pull away with a 5-0 win in the season opener.

Junior catcher Danny Lehmann scored with a sacrifice fly in the fourth, and first baseman Chad Lembeck with the game's first run. With two outs in the third, Dodson drove home Savery with a sacrifice fly in the fourth, and first baseman Danny Lehmann scored on a wild pitch later in the inning. Savery reached on an error in the eighth, and right fielder Derek Myers singled him home for the Owls' fifth and final run. The first-inning home run ended the season opener at the catcher's spot, going 0-1 at the plate.

Junior left fielder Jordan Dodson went 1-3 with an RBI and two walks in the Owls' season-opening 5-0 win over Central Missouri State University. The Owls entered the season opener with seven returning starters, and two more in the starting lineup with seven returning starters, and two more in the starting lineup.

Following the season opener, St. Clair was named the NCAA Tournament's top pitcher. Rice's starting pitcher was named the Outstanding Pitcher of the Game. The Owls' starting pitcher was named the Outstanding Pitcher of the Game.

Rice, still ranked atop Baseball America's Top 25, will look to return to form in the Minute Maid Classic this weekend starting with No. 8 Vanderbilt University at Minute Maid Park. The Owls finished 46-14 and ran away with the Western Athletic Conference, a reassuring sign for this year's team.

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Zukoski notches first collegiate win at UH

by Stephen Whitfield

Sophomore Andrew Zukoski’s first collegiate win last weekend marked the beginning of several early-season highs for the Owls and field team matched at the Houston Indoor Invitational. The meet, held last Saturday at the University of Houston’s Yeoman Fieldhouse, was only Rice’s second of the season, but the Owls made big strides nonetheless.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2007

The Rice Thresher

SPORTS

DANIELS RETURNS TO WIN 5,000 METERS EASILY

by Dylan Farmer

In her first race of the semester, junior Maureen Daniels wanted no delays to competitive form, winning the 5,000 meters at last weekend’s University of Houston Invitational with a time of 16:40.32. The Owls scored 86 points, 15 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Her victory highlighted a number of impressive performances for the women’s track team, which now has less than three weeks to prepare for the Conference USA Indoor Championships Feb. 25-26.

Daniels’ performance was by no means a surprise — she recorded a time of 16:40.32 in the 5,000 during last year’s indoor season and a school record 16:28.87 during the outdoor season — but the fact that the win came after five weeks of recovery from hamstring and butt problems made it all the more impressive.

Head coach Jim Brown said Daniels’ dominance in the race was “a given.”

“I wouldn’t say it was a comfortable race, because [Daniels] ran hard, but 100 meters into the race it was over,” Brown said. “They just go and nobody went with her. She wasn’t challenged and I was happy with the results.”

Daniels and the other distance runners will travel to Seattle next weekend to compete in the Western Invitational. The Owls will split up and compete in the University of Washington Invitational.

“Almost [all the distance runners] go to the Dempsey Indoor,” Brown said. “We have a pretty empty field.”

Zukoski’s first place finish in the 3,000 meters was impressive, he said the fact that most of the top long-distance runners at the meet chose to run in the 3,000 diminished the feat.

“I wasn’t that surprised,” Zukoski said. “Almost [all the distance runners] on our team, except for one, ran the 3,000, and almost everyone else from the other teams ran the 3,000, so I knew it was going to be pretty empty field.”

Five Rice runners competed in the 3,000, but only sophomore Sarah Daniels and freshman Aaron Robinson finished in the top five. Of those five, Warren said only Robinson chose to bring a true 3,000-meter runner. Everyone else ran distance as part of their preparation for the CUSA meet.

“It’s unusual, but given the circumstances and how people’s training have gone, we have a lot of guys I’d rather run in the 3,000 meters,” Warren said. “I didn’t want to have the milers run a mile at UH and then run a mile this week. … The way the training’s gone, some guys really didn’t need to work up to the 800 and some guys who ran the 800 previously needed to come up.

Teaching experience not necessary.

All employees receive the week of July 4 off.

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CALENDAR
Feb. 9 – 16

FRIDAY
Bye, bye, Bruno
Famed French sociologist of science Bruno Latour is at Rice, as those of you who have seen the "Bruno Latour is coming" signs littering all of campus well know. Latour holds the Geobird Tickle Chair at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and is well known for his work in relating culture to science. This afternoon, Latour gives a talk entitled "Cosmopolitics" from 4-5 p.m. in Raynor Hall, room 121.

Dada dancing
Come to Delicious, the Dada-themed 2007 ArchiArts. For those of you who didn't have the guts to ask an Archi what the heck a Dada theme is — it's more or less a reactionary art movement that was completely non-sensical and bizarre. I still don't get it. The Archi said that meant I got it. Anyway, the event runs from 8 p.m. – 2 a.m. at the Meridian, located at 1400 Charles St. Tickets cost $10 in advance or $12 at the door, and shuttles run in front of the Sallyport from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m.

SUNDAY
Don't tickle Elmo
Tonight is closing night for the stage play spectacular Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. Elmo takes the stage twice — at 2 and 5:30 p.m. — at Reilly Arena. Sesame Street Live is a one-of-a-kind spectacle that pairs song and dance with comedy and those awesome Sesame Street suits. Tickets are available starting at $13.50 through Ticketmaster. While you may be the oldest person in attendance without any kids, the four-year-old in all of us would benefit from a little bit of advice from Big Bird.

MONDAY
Get cut
If your hair has gotten too long, you've got a trim. This is the first in to have head to Barber Day today at the rugby field. The team takes on Louisiana State University at 4 p.m. LSU is a longtime rival for the Owls, and LSU fans have a long-standing reputation of knowing how to bring Louisiana good times with them wherever they go. The rugby field is located past the intramural fields near the Jones school, and locker room space is limited, so get there early or bring your own chairs.

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SUNDAY
Monk's Monday
Mondays are for the Desperate Undergrads Pub Night at Willy's Pub. Since The Owls take on perennial national contender Long Beach State University today at 4 p.m. at Beckling Park. The Owls also play the 49ers at 2 p.m. The series is the second in as many years between the two teams, and few matchups in college baseball pair such marquis programs from different parts of the country. Also interesting is Long Beach's unofficial mascot — many adoring fans, the Owls are the 13th U.S. State University.

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Y ou are former President Bill Clinton. You just gave an excellent speech at Rice University. Security says you have time to spare, and you want to interact with students before your critical charisma check runs out. So you grab your pen of 14 autograph signing, cast a ward against the right-wing echo-chamber noise machine and head out. You ask a local indigenous student about going on, and she informs you of two mass gatherings — one at the Student Center and another at a theater production.

If you decide to go to the Student Center, go to A. If you decide to go to a theater production, go to B.

A. You approach the Student Center from the north, treading slowly and keeping an eye on your six, when suddenly, A RED DRAGON! AND A ROBOT! The two fearsome beasts seem to be guarding the door. You haven't been this afraid since that time Janet Reno challenged you on, and she informs you of two mass gatherings — one at the Student Center and another at a theater production.

If you decide to run away, go to H. If you want to engage the dragon and robot in battle, go to D.

B. You approach a dark tower. Could this be the site of the play? You finger your longsword just to feel safe. It has yet to rust, despite your age. You walk in, despite the musky smell. Suddenly, a scantily clad woman rides up on horseback. "We are the holders of the sword, the truth talkers! Follow if you dare."

If you follow the naked woman on a horse, go to C. If you draw your sword and attack, go to I.

C. You follow the horse into a room. You see 12 women sitting in a circle, chanting "Vagina" over and over again. What possibly could be the point of this mystery? Some sort of prayer? Who knows? Now it is time to get home and make dinner for Hillary. The End

D. You draw your Longsword of Priština and charge towards the two beasts. CRASH! The glass collapses around you. It was an illusion the whole time! As you try to regain your bearings, you find yourself surrounded by tiny, chalked, rodent creatures. They stare at you with bloodshot eyes and pale skin that looks oily to the touch.

If you attack the creatures, go to E. If you talk to the creatures, go to F.

E. Your body swells with rage as your longsword cuts through the chest of one of the creatures like a stick passing through the U.S.-Mexico border after you passed NAFTA. Corpses begin to outnumber the shrieks of horror as you send another beast for excise for internal organs flying across the dank, stone room. "And this is a little move I learned from Les Aspin," you yell as you decapitate one of the little buggies. Suddenly, through the fleeing crowd and spraying blood you glimpse a dark, shadowy being hovering towards you.

If you charge towards the being, go to I. If you turn around and leave, go to H.

F. "Behold!" you bellow. "I am Bill Clinton, Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu, protector of Pristina and winner of two Grammy Awards!" They stand silent as you continue. "And I come in peace." A murmur begins to ripple through the crowd, and you think you may have won them over. We find your resume impressive, one of the larger ones squeals in a nasal whine. "But no one is dressed in black bent over a deep pit that is glowing red."

The last thing you see is Jackson laughing a derisively through your spine. The End.

G. You make your way through the dark-stone building. Everything you see some of the creatures huddled around tables, but you're not sure what they're doing. Suddenly, you hear some cackling and run down a hallway to try to find its origin. You run into a room to find a man dressed in black bent over a deep pit that is glowing red. "Breathah" he laughs manically. "This is my greatest creation yet. Those filthy little creatures will spend hours trying to play this new game I have conjured up the depths of hell!" Suddenly, he turns around. "Eddieball! An intruder!" he warns his hand, and you are thrust into a chair at a table hidden in the corner. "You will be a perfect first subject. Now test out my new version of Munchkin, forever!" You pick up some cards and a roll die. Perhaps some brave archeologist or presidential historian will find your corpse in 1,000 years or so. The End.

H. You are a man of battle — a true warrior. But there is not any wars no more, thank you very much Warren Christopher. Time to stop being a war and start being a war. You walk off into the sunset and break out the saxophone.

The evil Steve Jackson (Sid 74) forces you to play role-playing games for all eternity!

The Backpage is satire and is written by Evan Mintz.