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Redman remembered as witty, easy-going

by Julia Bursten
THRASHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Baker College junior Parker Redman was found unconscious at about 7 a.m. Saturday following a quiet evening watching movies with friends. Doctors at Memorial Hermann Hospital pronounced him dead at 8:35 a.m. The cause of his death remains unknown, pending further testing, but Redman's impact on fellow Bakerites is indisputable.

Campus observed a moment of silence for Redman at 12:30 p.m. Monday, and a memorial service and candlelight vigil began at 7 p.m. that night in the Baker Commons. About 300 students and family members attended the vigil, which ended with a round of Baker cheers led by Redman's brother, Baker senior Phil Redman. After the vigil concluded, Phil led a group of Parker's friends to the Will Rice College quad for a Roman candle vigil, commemorating Parker's irreverent sense of humor.

Redman, a psychology and cognitive sciences major, is remembered for his smart and incisive wit, as well as his easygoing attitude and command of trivia.

Friends described the unique and close relationship between Redman and his older brother Phil. Parker's roommate Rob Smith gave an example of the brothers' shared sense of humor manifesting itself in a characteristically unique way.

"[Parker] and Phil got in a 'cute war' on Facebook, and this went on for about a month or two," Smith, a Baker junior, said. "One of them would place as their Facebook photo a picture of some ridiculously cute animal, and the other would try to outdo him."

Parker's roommate Jason Goldman said he got to know Parker through Phil. Goldman, a Baker senior, met Parker at Owl Weekend 2004 and said Parker immediately bonded with Phil's friends, cracking jokes verbally and visually — Parker showed up to Owl Weekend in a T-shirt that read, "Yes, I'm Phil's brother."

Redman, an employee of Rice's Information Technology department, was an avid fan of computer technology. When he was not at work or at class, he could be found in his room at Baker with a notebook computer on his lap, Smith said.

Redman's friend and former roommate Gabe Francis said Redman was better than anyone else on campus at using the Internet to obtain information, and that his reputation led many Bakerites to his doorstep.

"The guy would spend hours looking for this stuff," Francis said. "It didn't matter to him; if a friend asked, he would find it."

Sociology Professor Bridget Gorman remembered Parker as an intellectually curious student who was not afraid to ask questions outside of class, and she said she will miss having both Redman brothers in class together.

"It's the memory of having the two of them in there together sitting side by side," Gorman said. "He's definitely going to be someone who I'm really sorry I'm not going to get a chance to know better."

While Parker was not always talkative in class, Gorman said he was a rewarding student because he engaged in the material.

This attitude carried over outside

class, Francis said. Redman kept a close group of good friends and was not talkative around people he did not know well, but he was welcoming to anyone in need of a friend.



Baker College junior Parker Redman

"He may have seemed kind of elitist, I can imagine, to some people, since he's kind of smart and sharp-tongued," Francis, a Baker senior, said. "[But] the guy would give you the shirt off his back."

Francis recalled Redman's fondness for criticizing politics, both on campus and off.

"He didn't take political correctness very seriously," Francis said. "He was a psychology major who was very interested in philosophy, so we would sit there and pick apart the American media; we'd pick apart the college system. Pick apart [President David] Leebron's speeches. He liked to go through Leebron's addresses line by line and try to pick apart what the administration was actually saying and trying to cover for."

Francis recalled Orientation Week 2006, when Redman was working at IT over the summer and served as a surrogate adviser for incoming Baker students. Redman greeted all the new students on the first day of O-Week, and Francis said a few of them latched onto his carefree attitude and ability to defy social cliques.

"Parker kind of embodies what the college system should be," Francis said.

Many Bakerites recalled Redman's fondness for crossword puzzles. Baker Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Megan Hermance, a sophomore, said she remembers seeing a puzzle in his hands almost daily, and Francis recalled watching other Bakerites spontaneously join him to play the word games over breakfast.

"Parker wasn't the most open guy, but Parker could sit down at any table and be welcome," Francis said. "Everyone has something they can say about Parker, and something positive. Which you can't say about a lot of people."

A visitation in Redman's hometown of Austin, Tex., will occur Wednesday at 10 a.m., and a memorial fund has been established at Baker College in Redman's name. The family requests donations be made to the fund through Baker Masters José Aranda and Krista Comer in lieu of flowers. Redman is survived by his mother, Anne Dingus, his father, Patrick Redman, and his brother Phil. Additionally, he is remembered by his cousins, Baker senior Caroline Crites and sophomore Kate Hildebrandt.

Beko Binder contributed to this article.

Beer-Bike rescheduled for April 14

By Lily Chun
THRASHER EDITORIAL STAFF

For the first time in its 51-year history, Beer-Bike was cancelled at about 9 a.m. Saturday for a reason other than weather. Each of the colleges withdrew from the race — beginning with Baker College — as Beer-Bike coordinators received news that Baker junior Parker Redman had died earlier that morning. The women's and men's bike races have since been rescheduled, but the alumni race will not be held.

Colleges stop parade

Baker Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Ariela Schacter said she and Baker's other co-coordinators — sophomore Megan Hermance, sophomore Kevin Lin, sophomore Erin Felton and sophomore Kate Hildebrandt — decided to withdraw from the parade out of respect for Redman.

Schacter, a junior, said she and the other Baker coordinators made the decision to withdraw from Beer-Bike. She said they appreciated and were surprised by the other colleges' decisions to pull out.

"We didn't even know what happened," Schacter said. "We thought Beer-Bike was cancelled because of the rain."

Graduate Student Association Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Zach Keane said the GSA sent out an e-mail to graduate students to inform them about the cancellation.

Director of Alumni Programs and Services Ann Peterson said alumni were notified via the Beer-Bike Web site.

Food logistics

Beer-Bike Concessions co-ordinators Grace Ng and Diana Lee said they began canceling food ordered for the event when they learned that the races were not occurring — a process that took about an hour.

Ng, a Will Rice College freshman, said she and Lee had ordered 500 pizzas for the race. 300 had already been made by the time they called to cancel, so they were distributed to the residential col-

leges, Ng said. Rice's order of 350 Chipotle burritos was cancelled.

After Beer-Bike was officially cancelled, pizzas and other food began pouring in at Baker.

Lin, a sophomore, said Baker had ordered 70 pizzas after they heard the campus-wide concessions were cancelled. But about 200 pizzas, which had already been delivered, were given to Baker.

BEER-BIKE SCHEDULE

Date: Saturday, April 14, 2007

Location: Hackerman Track (Greenbriar Parking Lot)

Schedule of Events

Alumni races: Cancelled

Women's warm up: 9 a.m.

Women's race: To begin immediately following warm up

Men's warm up: To begin immediately following Women's race

Men's race: To begin immediately following warm up

"There were more pizzas than there were people," Felton said.

Schacter said they had so much pizza left over, they took it to a homeless shelter at a nearby church.

"It was quite a sight to see Campus-Wide [Beer-Bike Coordinators] and all the [residential college] presidents come in with arms full of pizza," Hermance said.

News of Redman's death and the cancellation of Beer-Bike led to a subdued atmosphere on campus. Will Rice Beer-Bike Coordinator Clark Smithson said his college tried to stay mindful of Baker's situation.

"That was probably the largest group of quiet, completely silent people I had seen in a long time," Smithson, a junior, said. "It was no longer about the weather or Beer-Bike. It was about this tragedy

that we obviously didn't have a lot of information about at the time. The most important thing was to be respectful."

Wiess Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Bianca Caram said most people took naps, calmed down and bonded with each other.

"For the most part, people went back to their rooms," Caram, a junior, said. "A lot of people really wanted to get off campus, too. It was a long day, and people had been up for a long time."

Most residential colleges disposed of their water balloons Sunday at 4 p.m. in fights within their college or with neighboring colleges.

"It was something that was needed to release stress and end the weekend on a better note," Hanszen Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Amanda Melchor, a sophomore, said.

Rescheduling races

The rescheduled women's and men's Beer-Bike races will take place Saturday, April 14. Women bikers will warm up at 9 a.m., and the women's race, men's warm up and men's race will take place as soon as each preceding event is complete.

The schedule was determined to cooperate with prescheduled athletic events, Campus-Wide Beer-Bike co-Coordinator Teddy Bucher said at Monday's Student Association meeting. Beginning races earlier would conflict with the Flying Owls 5K race, and beginning later would conflict with a spring football scrimmage.

Bucher there will be security on the track but no concessions nor alumni race.

Bucher, a Jones College junior, said all of the colleges showed support for the reschedules.

"It was unfortunate what happened on Saturday, but once the races were cancelled, everyone wanted to make it happen," Bucher said. "It's a major event."

Baker Master Krista Comer said Baker will participate in the rescheduled races.

Schacter said Redman's death put Beer-Bike into perspective.

"In some ways, it's kind of not that important to us right now," she said. "In the big picture, it's just a race."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Baker grateful to residential college community

To the editor:

We talk frequently about how Rice University is a community, how the college system allows us to work together and to support each other in ways that would otherwise be impossible. This past weekend proved to me, like no other experience in my Rice career, how true this is. Rice is a strong community, and I know that the support Baker College has received from all over campus has helped us tremendously in our time of need.

When we heard that the parade and bike races were cancelled Saturday morning, we assumed it was because of the weather. It was truly moving to find out that the other colleges decided to forgo the day's activities in order to grieve with us. The comforting words and hugs we received from all of the colleges, especially their masters and presidents,

were remarkable, and Baker is very grateful.

As everyone knows, food is an essential aspect of the grieving process, and we were so fortunate to receive food trays (and quick clean-up) from Housing & Dining and more pizza than we could ever eat from the campus-wide Beer-Bike committee. Thank you.

Dean Forman, President Leebron and Rice Counseling Center Director Lindley Doran paid visits to our college Saturday and Sunday. Their presence and displays of concern meant a lot to Baker, and we are grateful for their support.

The Baker motto says: "Difficulties are the things that show what men are." Although this is a trying time for every member of the Rice community, these difficulties have shown us how truly strong our community and support system are. Baker is grateful to be a part of such a resilient and compassionate group of people.

Thank you.

Karen Spitzfaden
Baker College President

