Massive server failure leads to campus-wide e-mail outage

by Dan Derzotti
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Students, faculty and staff found themselves without e-mail for several hours this week when a massive e-mail outage struck Rice. On Tuesday afternoon one of two storage servers containing e-mail data went offline, cutting off half of campus e-mail users from their mailboxes.

The biggest change is that a student will be in charge of all the events occurring on UHF 2, said Schumann. "[The construction] poses a different safety and security situation than what we've had to face in the past," Schumann said.

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By Wednesday evening, Vice-President of Information Technology

Kamran Khan said recovery was nearly complete and that IT was testing the systems readiness to go back online.

The problems began around 3 a.m. Tuesday, when an e-mail system error on one of the RiceMail servers shut down the system. IT staff quickly determined that the errors were caused by a much lower-level problem: file fragmentation and corruption. After being unable to rebuild the data directly, IT was forced to go to the backups at 4 a.m. Tuesday to find that they, too, had been corrupted. "What we discovered was that both the primary and the redundancy [backups] had the same problem," Khan said. "It has to do with the file system, and it's one of those very rare occurrences."

Khan said that the size of the mail system meant that it took nearly 30 hours of recreating lost mail data from a series of magnetic tape backups made between Sunday and Monday to recover all the data from the backup system.

RUPD launches controversial anti-theft policy

Pre-emptive stealing a response to recent spike in on-campus theft

by Dave Swozzy
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

The number of personal property thefts has spiked since the beginning of the school year. Rice University Police Department is beginning to resort to new and drastic tactics to ensure students protect their property from theft, including before the robbers have a chance to.

The Friends of Fondren Library will be holding its biannual book sale today and tomorrow in the South Servery. Schumann, a sophomore, said he thought RUPD should let students learn to protect their property on their own.

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The number of personal property thefts has spiked since the beginning of the school year. Rice University Police Department is beginning to resort to new and drastic tactics to ensure students protect their property from theft, including before the robbers have a chance to.
Since September, there has been an increase of thefts on campus, and we are glad to know that the Rice University Police Department is on the case. However, the current crime deterrence method of face-to-face student and faculty security in property in the library is one measure too extreme (see story, page 1).

Of course, students should not be so naïve as to lower their guard; they can be easily stolen. But RUPD’s current plan only makes the situation worse.

Students go to the library in moments of extreme stress, whether studying for finals or scrambling to write a paper. The threat of being robbed is not a good way to learn practical self-defense as a learning experience. Learning for classes can be demanding enough without having a note-filled laptop swiped during a bathroom break.

The problem does not end at the doors of Fondren. Busy schedules fill every day with cross-campus treks, and construction does not make it any easier. An unnecessary trip to the police station to recover a bicycle or backpack will not only make any day a bad one, but could raise more hatred against RUPD than a college pub night police bust. The last thing we want is for students to mistrust RUPD.

To adopt corporate-speak, e-mail is a mission-critical system. It is a main cause of its importance. Mercury, "because of its popularity," but be-a long way to go before it could be considered carbon neutral.

Almost placed so much emphasis on carbon emissions not "because of its popularity," but because of its importance. Mercury, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide all constitute significant environmental consequences of power generation. And many of our initiatives, such as buying renewable energy, would address those problems as well. The urgency required to address global warming concerns that we must prioritize. If we treat global warming as just another environmental issue, we may never be able to address the resources in time to effectively combat it.

E-mail failure, solutions

Late professor truly part of Rice family

Nestle Waters cares about environment

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUPD: Stop stealing

SA Environmental resolution necessary

To the editor:

I wrote this editorial because I believe it is important to address the environmental issues that are facing our planet. By promoting the use of renewable energy sources, we can help reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the effects of climate change.

I hope that you will consider this editorial and take action to support environmental sustainability on campus.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Rice student

[University Name]

[City, State ZIP]

Homecoming oligarchy

Homecoming Elections should be an open democracy—students should be allowed to choose any candidate they desire. But the decision to ban write-in votes stifled this student voice. Furthermore, the switch to an online voting process for Homecoming Elections excludes students who live off campus or do not eat at their colleges.

We find it quite disturbing that New Student Representatives, who have only been on campus for a few months, and an unselected Director of Elections, who spent last year abroad, have been put in charge of campus opinion.

In a perfect voting system, elections should be run by every other election in the Student Association; candidates placed on a ballot after enough signatures are submitted, followed by online elections via preferential voting and a write-in option. This method would ensure that the highest quality candidates for Homecoming Elections truly reflect campus opinion. But for the time being, the rest of us will have to wait while the SA clique decides homecoming court for the rest of us.

Homecoming king? Hall. More like homecoming despot! 

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.

Climate commitment earns commendation

To the editor:

We want to commend President Leebron for signing the President’s Climate Commitment, which pledges that Rice will achieve carbon-neutrality by 2020. This is a laudable goal, making Rice one of the few prestigious research universities to sign on to this initiative. We call on all Rice alumni and friends to urge Dr. Grob to support this initiative and to vote in the next two years as the administration develops the institutional plan to reduce our greenhouse gas pollicies.

We are certain that with improved efficiency measures, the purchase of clean, renewable energy and the discovery of alternative fuels, Rice can achieve its goals. At the same time, we should encourage all Rice students, staff and faculty to take steps to ensure that our university is a leader in environmental awareness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Your Name]

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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To the editor:

I am writing this letter to address some of the environmental issues that are currently facing our campus. As a member of the Rice community, I am concerned about the impact that our actions are having on the environment and the steps that we can take to reduce our carbon footprint.

One of the key issues is the use of fossil fuels for transportation. As a student, I often use my bike to get around campus, but this is not always practical. I believe that the university should invest in more sustainable transportation options, such as electric bikes or car-sharing programs.

Another important issue is the way that we consume and dispose of waste. I encourage everyone to think about the items that they are using and to recycle as much as possible. We should also consider composting organic waste to reduce the amount of waste that goes into the landfill.

Finally, I believe that we should be doing more to promote sustainable practices on campus. This could include initiatives such as a campus-wide recycling program or a composting program for food waste.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. I look forward to seeing positive changes on campus in the near future.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Rice student

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[City, State ZIP]

Nestle Waters cares about environment

To the editor:

I am writing to express my support for Nestle Waters, a company that I believe is committed to protecting the environment. As a customer, I appreciate knowing that my purchases are contributing to a positive impact on the planet.

Recently, I noticed that Nestle Waters was promoting their commitment to sustainability through a campaign called the "Rice Clean Water Challenge." This initiative aims to reduce water consumption and encourage responsible water usage.

I think that Nestle Waters is a great example of a company that is taking steps to be environmentally conscious. I hope that other businesses will follow their lead and take similar steps to reduce their impact on the environment.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainability.

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[Your Name]

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Thank you for your commitment to sustainability.

Sincerely,

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Ashby high-rise inconvenient but crucial

Over the past few days, I have been quite amused by the posters that have popped up on my apartment building. The Ashby high-rise, a landmark in Houston, has been the subject of much debate and controversy. Recent developments have made me realize that, while the high-rise may bring convenience and efficiency to some, it also poses significant challenges.

Cities all around the world have adopted high-rises as an effective solution for urban sprawl. Firstly, they are extremely resource efficient due to their "green high-rise" technology. The architecture is designed to recycle water, harvesting rain and reducing energy consumption, with a smaller footprint. The Ashby tower's LEED Silver rating will only further encourage energy efficiency in this model.

Thirdly, high-rises provide many amenities within their confines, including shops, gyms and so on. On top of that, in a world with a rapidly expanding population, particularly in the middle class, high-rises are the way of the future. The quicker we accept this, the better.

Of course, my support for development and convenience does not come without a word of caution. High-rise construction cannot proceed uncontrolled. The number of buildings around these high-buildings has to be planned. However, we have to make sure there are enough "green spaces" such as parks, to make up for the loss of our beloved individual backyards. These are issues that can be resolved by careful planning. But opposing high-rise construction altogether is impractical.

In the case of the Ashby high-rise, its construction has likely succeeded. This is an upper-class phenomenon that the politicians will listen. As with other cities, the developers will probably move to a higher economic class and become more profitable. The gentrification process will erode those poor people further to the fringes of the city and society.

In world with a rapidly expanding population, high-rises are the way of the future. The quicker we Houstonians accept it, the better.

High-rises are inevitable in the future or every big city on this planet, and they should be welcomed as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to urban sprawl. However, there are a few concerns to consider. Firstly, there is a need for security. As the world becomes more interconnected, it becomes even more important to build secure buildings that can withstand attacks.

The Ashby high-rise is no exception. The building is designed to withstand terrorist attacks, with bulletproof glass and reinforced walls. The security measures are in place to ensure the safety of the residents.

In conclusion, while the Ashby high-rise may bring convenience and efficiency to some, it also poses significant challenges. However, with careful planning and execution, we can make the most of this opportunity. Let us embrace the future and make the Ashby high-rise a success.
Night of Decadence: Friends don't let friends baptise

As Wheat College's Night Of Decadence approaches every year, Students Organized Against Rape and Alcoholics Anonymous encourages students to consider being less frequent or frequent participants in campus-wide parties and events that promote excessive alcohol consumption. We believe that it is important to create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and concerns.

In an effort to promote a more thoughtful and intentional approach to social gatherings, we encourage all Wheat College students to

- Reflect on their own personal experiences and aspirations when attending events.
- Consider the impact of their actions on others and the community.
- Engage in open and respectful dialogues about topics that may be challenging or uncomfortable.
- Prioritize self-care and well-being, recognizing the importance of mental and physical health.
- Support one another in making choices that align with personal values and goals.

We recognize that change is a journey, and we are committed to fostering an inclusive community where everyone feels valued and respected. Together, let's strive to create a Wheat College experience that is characterized by respect, empathy, and mutual support.

Let's work together to promote a culture of kindness and understanding, where everyone feels safe and included. Together, we can make a positive difference in our community.

Thank you for your commitment to creating a better Wheat College experience.

Sincerely,
Students Organized Against Rape and Alcoholics Anonymous 

Wheat College
E-MAIL
From page 1

Khan said the IT staff worked through the night to restore lost messages. "I don't know if it's ever been down for that period of time," Vickery said. "They had spent all kinds of money getting it revamped so stuff like this shouldn't happen... I can see why it would be a real problem for some people."

Exams for some classes, such as SPAN 101: Introduction to the Spanish Language, had to be pushed back due to the confusion, and many students found themselves with exams not to turn in assignments.

The RiceMail system has been in place for about a year and a half without any major problems. It was updated and replaced the old e-mail systems after the university's growth in storage requirements exceeded the systems' capacity.

Khan emphasized the rarity of Tuesday's outage, given the failure of multiple redundant systems.

"We have four redundant systems," Khan said. "Usually, the problem only happens in the primary [system], but it's really weird that it happened in both [primaries and secondaries] at the same time. I've never seen something like that."

Investigations into the exact cause of the failure will continue. Khan said he believes the experience was valuable, even though the outage inconvenienced people.

"It's a good exercise," Khan said. "We didn't want this exercise, but I think we came out pretty well... I think we probably look a little closer at somehow trying to see how we can recover [lost data] much faster."

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period of Oct. 18-25.

Residential Colleges
Sat/ Richardson College Oct. 20
Haxton College Oct. 20

Academic Buildings
Abercrombie Oct. 18
Miller Hall Oct. 18
Jones School Oct. 20
Shepherd School Oct. 23

Parking Lots
Greenbriar Lot Oct. 19
South College Lot Oct. 19
West Lot Oct. 21

Other Areas
Campus Center Oct. 18
Entrance #18 Oct. 19
Mail & Pressler Oct. 20
Entrance #4 Oct. 23
Off Campus Oct. 23
Football Stadium Oct. 23
Ady Court Oct. 23
Rice Bed & Greenbriar Oct. 25

A slight miscalculation
The battered remains of one of the RMC’s glass doors are swept away after it fell victim to a stray keg of Budweiser.

Who knew pondering a malted milk ball could lead to a cancer cure?

Dr. Naomi Halas and her graduate student at Rice have discovered that nanoshells, similar in construction to malted milk balls, might be a better way to fight tumors. Nanoshells consist of a gold sphere with a sand-like core (soda, no chocolate). They work by absorbing light and efficiently converting it to heat. Once inside a tumor, nanoshells help kill the cancer cells by raising their temperature. The finding may lead to a cancer cure and provide inspiration for many other things, such as little, round, chocolate treats.

know more at rice.edu

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The suspect was described as a 5 foot 7 inches tall African-American male with a stocky build and short hair. "This is a significant and dangerous situation," Taylor said. "By posting this [crime alert] out, we hope to prevent other community members from getting involved [dangerous situations]." — Dale Stuartz

Examiner releases details of Redman's death, autopsy

After additional testing, the Harris County medical examiner released information regarding the death of Baker College junior Parker Redman. The medical examiner has classified Redman's death as an accident.

Redman was found unconscious in his room at 7 a.m. Mar. 31 and declared dead of unknown causes at Memorial Hermann Hospital at 8:35 a.m. that morning. All residential colleges postponed their Beer-Keg shatters

One of the glass doors at the Rice Memorial Center entrance was shattered last Tuesday when a Budweiser keg fell off a delivery.

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two police officers at each entrance to the Wiess Atrium. "We are there to act as backup to the student volunteers, unless we see something that requires immediate action," Marshall said.

Marshall also mentioned that private parties are a bigger problem this year than last year, and that another concern of RUPD is what occurs on the perimeter of the party. "We don't want people congregating on balconies outside private parties, because as soon as that happens it makes the party public." Marshall said. "Those that are in charge of these private parties will have to control this on their own."

Officers will issue a warning the first time this occurs, but Marshall said if they have to visit a private party a second time in order to contain it, they may have to shut it down. Officers will be patrolling on bikes around the perimeter to ensure people do not arrive at the party intoxicated.

Wiess Social Natalie Alderson also voiced her concerns about students arriving to the party safely. "Our main concern is with students' health and safety," Alderson, a junior, said. "We want people to arrive at NOD responsibly and have fun at the actual party."

The Wiess Socials have been working with all nine chief justices, who are responsible for monitoring private gatherings, to reach this goal.

Brown College sophomore Chris Chen said he did not think NOD was any different from any other public party but still planned on attending because he had fun last year.

"I do think that the people that are planning the party are doing a really good job of security, such as with the student volunteers, EMS and the police officers," Chen said.

Will Rice College freshman Abhishek Nag said he plans on being part of the NOD Security team. "I wasn't sure that I wanted to strip down for it," Nag said. "I wanted to be active in NOD security, but I wasn't sure that I wanted to strip down for it," Nag said. "Doing part of NOD security solves this problem."
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Rice receives $1 million for digital archiving project

by Diana Loe

Rice recently received a National Leadership Grant for Building Digital Collections from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is a government institution supporting libraries and museums through grants, research, and publications. IMLS and Rice have contributed a total of $2 million for the development of digital resources that will help students search, browse, analyze and share electronic texts through the Our Americas Archive Partnership.

The archive consists of electronic texts about the social, economic and cultural histories of the Americas. Rice will make these documents open to the public for free. Additionally, the university will hire more researchers, translators and scanners for the OAP, Director of Humanities Research Center Carolene Levander said.

"Creating a digital database would be crucial to the development of [hemispheric studies] because many of the researchers tend to be from the international community," Levander said.

"This project will allow students, including undergraduates, to gain a sense of how research and digital humanities are performed," said Levander, building Director of the Digital Library Initiative Victoria Henry said.

About 15 percent of the archive currently has both Spanish and English translations, and the vast majority of the remaining documents are either all in Spanish or all in English. In the future, Rice hopes to add French, Portuguese and other translations. Translation will be a continuous process that starts with funding from the three-year National Leadership Grant, Levander said.

The Early Americas Digital Archive at the Maryland Institute is a complementary archive at Rice's OAP. The Maryland Institute's EADA concentrates on the time period between the 1600s and late 1700s while Rice's project picks up from the late 1700s and extends to the era of the Panama Canal. Levander said.

Henry said it is important take advantage of resources to get the full sweep of information with a wider historical reach. "Building digital archives such as for OAP allows researchers to span these individual digital collections in a seamless way," Henry said.

In the completed project, researchers will be able to use geospatial interfaces similar to Google Maps. Henry said they will be able to point to a specific region of the Americas and be able to pull out all related digital resources.

Documents are assigned official library descriptions, but researchers will be able to go in to tag additional relevant key terms that will facilitate the search process.

"I think this is an important project to acquire this because the documents are rare and that the collection will be open to everyone in the near future," Levander said.

The need for modifications stems from an ongoing problem in the search process for digital archiving project. "If I go to search for something on the site, I don't get a lot of results," said Levander. "It's kind of a shock so it's good that we're aware of it," Henry said.

Levander said it was important to acquire this because the documents are rare and that the collection will be open to everyone in the near future.

"This program would involve students in community service activities in the creation of the database," Levander said.

The option of staggering deadlines for final grades is also being explored. Currently, final grades for all courses are released on a universal date. Rice said if grades were due at a set time after a final instead of on a common date, more seniors could be approved before commencement.

Levander said he referred to other prominent institutions when making the calendar. He said that Rice's current spring calendar includes an abnormal number of instructional days when compared to other prominent institutions.

The academic calendars for Princeton, Harvard, Yale and MIT have, respectively, 60, 65, 68 and 69 instructional days in the spring. Siemann said that Rice historically had between 67 and 68 instructional days in its spring calendar. It began making changes to the schedule in 2004.

"Reducing the instructional days would put us more in line with the schedules of other institutions," Siemann said.

Levander said Rice's short winter break is a common grievance among students. "We're trying to balance between what we need to do and what we want to do," Levander said.

"If I know I'm not going to be at home to face the problem of real burglaries, I don't really feel safe," says Jones College sophomore Rose Cahalan.

"My friends at by League schools have a month off," Cahalan said. "We need to extend winter break. Right now, it's ridiculous."
Leadership through the lens of Leebron
Speech series continues with Rice President discussing his experiences

by Lily Chun

President David Leebron offered some insight into his job in a lecture about leadership last Wednesday, ranging from inspirational to bluntly honest.

"People say I'm trying to make Rice into Harvard," Leebron said. "I'm just not that stupid.

The lecture, titled "What Matters to Our Leaders and Why?" focused on characteristics and values important to a leader, which Leebron did by discussing his role as president. The lecture was a part of the "What Matters to Our Leaders and Why?" series presented by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Leadership Rice, the Graduate Student Association, the Office of International Students and Scholars and the Rice International Student Association.

Leebron focused on the importance of people realizing that the world is dominated by change, and reacting properly, putting it in the context of the Vision for the Second Century.

"People say I'm trying to make Rice into Harvard. I'm just not that stupid."-

David Leebron

President

Leebron pointed to the political realm as an area in need of greater compassion, specifically illegal immigration issues.

"Yes, illegal immigration is wrong," Leebron said. "But these are families we're talking about. I listen to the radio, and it doesn't sound like they're talking about people. It just drives me crazy."

Leebron moved on to talk about the three basic ways in which leaders could conduct organizations such as Rice: through a hierarchy, through fear and through communication and teamwork.

"The hardest part of this job is keeping the flow of communication," Leebron said. "Most people complain, 'no one told me.'"

Leebron took questions after his speech. One question was about the pros and cons of Rice being a small university. Rice has said pros include the opportunity to build a sense of community.

Leebron said that the downs included problems with visibility and having a smaller alumni network compared to those of other research universities. He said the primary reason Rice loses faculty members is because they go to institutions where there are more colleagues that do what they do. However, he did encourage any small research university to realize Rice's ideal size would be between tiny and small.

"Right now, we're the second smallest research university," Leebron said. "After we grow, we will still be the second smallest."

But he also explained that Rice was not originally intended to be a tiny university, with the size of the university not mentioned in the founding documents of Edgar Odell Lovett. He continued to explain that growth was not unusual, especially given the 50 percent student population growth in the 1960s.

Leebron said Rice had to grow just large enough to overcome issues such as recruitment and national attention.

In response to a question about how he became motivated to come to Rice, Leebron said the idea of being at a research university was exciting to him.

But Leebron also addressed the problem of coming to Rice as an outsider.

"When I came in, I was a non-ratner Ivy League lawyer," he said. "What could be worse?"

Leebron said he had to realize he was new and had to learn about the institution, talk to people and involve everyone associated with the university in the decision-making process.

Students came out of the speech with a clearer view of how their university president operates.

"He has a very clear vision for Rice and it also seems to be very good at explaining what it is," Jones College sophomore Chris Eriel said. "I've got a couple of questions and reservations about some directions he's taking Rice in, but I'm sure his steering will be more than competent."
The panelists discussed the pros and cons of working at large firms and private practices. Warren, who practices at Capitalist, Shellist, Warren and McLester, said he enjoys being able to set his own hours. However, Riddle, an associate at Baker Botts law firm, said he puts in fewer hours than he would if he were practicing independently.

Guzman, who said she was inspired to enter law after her parents lost a $5,000 investment because they failed to obtain the title, said law is not a career to enter lightly.

"It's a job you must be passionate about," Guzman said.

Lewis stressed the importance of taking advantage of opportunities Rice offers to get a glimpse of the legal profession. By seeing what the job entails, students can determine whether being a lawyer is right for them, he said.

Hittner said the name of the law school carries some weight in getting a job, but anything that sets a student apart from others will help them to secure competitive jobs. Hittner, who receives about 200 times more applications than he has jobs available, said the process often comes down to minute details.

Hittner said when applying for jobs after law school, applicants must have something to set them aside from the rest, such as the ability to speak foreign languages. He advised students not to hesitate to put anything down that would set them apart. He said an especially difficult decision came with two candidates with high test scores and good grades. Since Hittner is a hockey fan, he said one applicant's involvement in her college hockey team jumped out at him.

"When you walk in, you're not just a number," Guzman said.

Lawyers also discussed how they balanced their social lives with their careers. Although on paper, a lawyer's social calendar is somewhat lacking, Work demands occur around the clock and affect lawyers' social lives, he said.

"You're at work longer than 9-5," Adams said. "It doesn't matter what plans you have with your spouse.

Riddle said younger lawyers are increasingly looking for alternatives to billable hours at work, including working from home. Guzman said as more young lawyers are looking to work until 6 p.m. on weekdays and take weekends off, it has become easier to find a job in the public sector that fits those needs. Hittner said the best part of being a judge is the ability to control his schedule.

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Write-in votes not accepted in Homecoming Elections

by Joelyn Wright

A new system of nominating homecoming king and queen and the promise of a surprise campaign was announced Tuesday by the Student Association. The SA has simplified the process in order to increase participation and to give the voting a more accurate reflection of students' desires.

The voting began Tuesday and runs through Friday. This year, ballots can be dropped in the drop box located outside the SA Desk, which is located in the Rainbow Building. People can fill out a write-in ballot if there is a candidate they would like to support. Any write-in candidate would have to be an active student at the end of this week, which is Thursday.

The candidates are:
- Master Chief from Halo: Bethany Shaffer
- The Green Fences: Allie Fizer and Eliza Brandt
- Rainbow Building: Sarah Baker and Dennis Huston
- Team: Viren Desai and Mackenzie Doerksen
- The Bakers: Sarah Desai and Becca Marcy
- The Beast: Dan Dunning and Megan Vincent
- The Cool Kids: Anna Brands and Max Thayer
- The Visitors: glass and water problems. Inventions and discoveries have been made in order to overcome these obstacles, and we are now able to harness the potential of space, and use it to water problems.

With the right knowledge, scientists can figure out how to get to the moon. As a second component of his speech, Kalam called for a paradigm shift in the harnessing of space, and for advanced interdisciplinary and international collaboration.

"As a second component of his speech, Kalam called for a paradigm shift in the harnessing of space, and for advanced interdisciplinary and international collaboration," Kalam said. "Space community of the world has a huge stake in such breakthrough research in advanced interdisciplinary and international collaboration."
RMC Visual Arts Coordinator mobilizes student art

First exhibit opens in Farnsworth Pavilion, future shows from Rice artists planned

by Rachel Green THRESHER STAFF

Art in the Rice Memorial Center seems limited to Coffeehouse, installations and photographs of major donors. But with a new student coordinator, the DMC will serve as a gallery for student art.

Sid Rich junior Natalie Almog was hired over the summer as the visual arts coordinator for the RMC. Almog's inaugural exhibit, Montage: Mirages, opened Oct. 12 and features the works of fellow Sid Rich junior Amy Hill. The exhibit runs through Nov. 19.

"All of the art in the RMC is my responsibility," Almog said. "I would like to eventually redo everything, and change a lot of the older art in the building, but right now my focus is organizing the student shows."

Daniel Stueck, graphic and web designer for the Rice Memorial Center and Recreation and the administrative head of the visual arts program, said the coordinator position was created in 1999, when the visual arts program began.

"Approaching all of the responsibilities with a student mentality is critical for a position like this—more so than in a proper gallery," Almog said. "I hope that these student exhibits make art more approachable for students, that they regard it as an intellectual level just like a chemistry major might with his lab work."

Almog chose Farnsworth Pavilion as a venue for student art shows in an attempt to reach a broader audience than a typical gallery space would. Yet the room provides more than a few problems to which she and the artists she chooses must adapt.

"Farnsworth is a multipurpose room, so you have a lot of varied audiences, from yoga classes to physicists," Almog said. "But the fact that it is not a gallery space makes it really challenging space to work with. [...] I think that brings me better artists."

In addition to exposing students to works of art in a more familiar setting, Stueck hopes that the newly revitalized visual arts program will aid student artists as well.

"Getting [artwork] into an established gallery in Houston is extremely difficult, and Rice University isn't particularly known for its art programs," he said. "But with the visual arts program, we can offer that exposure while simultaneously supporting the arts, student artists, and arts at Rice University."

Although the visual arts program is just now gaining the visibility its members desire, Rice students seem supportive.

"I think this program is a good filing," said Lowell College junior Annie Lederitters. "It reflects Rice's increasing appreciation for the arts in a typically science and engineering-oriented university, which will ultimately benefit the university and its students."

Farnsworth: Art Present and Future

Almog secured a traditional college method to find the right art for her first show of the school year. She posted an open call for artists on the Facebook group Arts@Rice and hoped someone would respond.

Her method worked. Hill, a fellow visual arts major, was willing to show her work. Her exhibit, Neurasthenic Machines is on view until Nov. 19 and features an array of collages, drawings, and paintings.

She had mixed media pieces, the majority of her body of work, incorporate found objects and disposable materials.

After Hill's show came down, Farnsworth Pavilion will feature Rice's only non-student show of the year, a small exhibit sponsored by the Houston Contemporary on Houston that will bring the work of 16 Honduran artists to Rice's campus for three days. Following the Honduran consulate show, works from Paul Hester's photography class at the Rice Media Center will be displayed throughout winter break.

Residential College students go to war in new online strategy game

by Matthew McKee THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Armies fill the Academic Quadrangle. Battles will rage over the Rice Memorial Center. Hanscomb College students are closely watching or might fight it out with Rice College or Will Rice College. No one is safe — online, that is.

CrossCamp, an online strategy game based on conquer-territories on maps, will open a game for Rice students Monday. Undergraduate students will be able to pair up with or against one another with the goal of capturing the resident colleges' command posts on computer screens. The college that gains the most control of virtual armies and takes over sections of an online campus map will win the game. If the territories will be captured by Rice Media Center will be displayed throughout winter break.

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The film is not meant to enlighten the audience on the film's topic, but the audience leaves without much that seems as confused as the teen-age audience it was intended for. The colors are so bleak and washed out it seem as if this film is another movie — inspires moviegoers to go beyond the happily-ever-after tale that few films achieve.

In tribute to Austen's style, The Jane Austen Book Club ad-dresses controversial issues. Just as Austen touches society's core for extra-marital affairs in Mans-field Park and marriage marriages in Pride and Prejudice, the film also looks at a teacher contemplating an affair with a student and a lesbian experiencing heartbreak — minus society's derision. This reinvention within the film stays true to the treatment of Austen's stories as well, which are left open to interpretation as they pertain to the lives of the characters. The film succeeds in captur-ing the spirit of the novels without limiting itself to the novels' plots. In this way, the movie manages to be original, even though it draws from an overused source.

The film's focus on literature, deep exploration of characters and ARTFUL presentation push the movie to a level of freshness that few films achieve. Knowledge of Austen's plots is not absolutely necessary to enjoy the film, but an audience will not be able to fully appreciate the art and irony without reading or at least knowing about the novels first.

Despite being a chick flick, The Jane Austen Book Club feels like a truly fresh film. Its focus on literature, its deep exploration of characters and its artful presen-tation push the movie to a level of quality that few films achieve. And this is a good thing because it challenges the audience to think beyond the happily-ever-after tale that is usually emphasized even in Austen's novels.
Wilder ness of disorganization at photo exhibit

by Lauren Schieffer

In the Houston Grand Opera’s production of Giuseppe Verdi’s A Masked Ball, Ulrica’s prophecies spin out a complicated plot and, eventually, a tragedy.

Verdi’s Ball a performance of heartfelt story and skill

by Brian Reinhart

Fortified passion, a grand cast of characters and a low dirt in the shadow of a guillotine heightened the Houston Grand Opera’s season-opening performance of the Giuseppe Verdi’s A Masked Ball (Un ballo in maschera). The inspired acting and singing make this classic opera come to life in a blaze of color, orchestral force and emotional power.

As with many operas, the plot in Masked Ball is somewhat confusing. It involves King Riccardo, the villainous baritone, as he plots to marry his niece, Amelia. The musical score — and there is not — the colorful goings-on alone to sustain the viewer approaches ill-placed scenes of the Texas plains and one photo of a bird.

When an exhibit is planned, rooms are usually arranged in an easy-to-comprehend fashion, such as chronological order or themoconnection. However, the images of this exhibit’s first room jarringly flow into the second room, with juxtapositions of Houston’s and its natural surroundings with detailed shots of animals on the opposite wall. While independently cohesive, the two themes make no attempt to reach each other. No concrete attempt to progress from one to the next.

The third room presents the best example of this lack of purposeful progression. It matches wacky images of nature — such as David S. Gibson’s three photos playing with fog and sunlight and Robert Bruce Langham III’s tiny sketch of Dove Arbor, Little Sand — with O. Bates Lovett’s scenes of country life in W. ping Mary, Texas. Perhaps most notable of this room’s randomness, however, is its first image: Tom Ryan’s Hook Bluebrothers, a photo of two nearly-identical sharks stacked on each other.

Progression is non-existent — a characteristic Houston Wilderness largely neglects in lieu of a fairly political message. Comparing Geoff Winningham’s vibrantly colored and expressive depiction of vacationers in Galveston Beach 1986 with Jeffery DeBorde’s ominous dark and rigidly horizontal look out to sea in Galveston Bay blindly connects a connection between the commercialization of nature and its seamless images of the bay and land.

While these individual efforts do somewhat save Houston Wilderness, they cannot wholly balance the frustrating disorganization of the exhibit. With Houston Wilderness, the MFAH seems more concerned with appearing fashionably conscious about the environment than with presenting a photo exhibition of actual artistic merit.

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Football drops close shootouts

Owls face winless Marshall for the first time ever tomorrow

Nathan Bledsoe

Some say that close losses hurt a team far worse than blowouts. If that's the case, then the football team’s last two games are especially troubling, with their 56-48 loss to the University of Houston two weeks ago and a 1-2 (5th in West Division)

Conference USA record:
- 1-2 (5th in West Division)
- Owls fall 38-35 to Mem-

What made the difference:
- Despite
- Owls faced the Thundering Herd (0-7, 0-3 C-USA), tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. in Huntington, W.Va. This is the first time the Owls have ever faced the Thundering Herd (0-7, 0-3 C-USA).

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Owls will be looking to
Swimming starts season smoothly with double dual victories

The Owls will also need junior Aaron Robson to recover from a calf injury that hampered his performance earlier this week after defeating eight runners, namely Patrick Mutai, the second-place finisher on the team that claimed the victory with a 47 points. Athletes at the University of Arkansas, the top-ranked team in the country: third-ranked University of Tulsa and 17th-ranked University of Tulsa. UTEP is led by five outstanding runners, namely Marcella Tanacavoli, who placed second in the conference championships last year in Orlando, Fla. Rice finished second overall, was closely followed by second-place teammate Jada Hallmark (Sid '01). "They were very versatile, and we can rely on them a lot to be competitive and score some points," Zivick said. "The most pivotal moment was when we won the last 200-free relay. Gu said, "This just kept going the way we were going. We were probably wouldn't have won, but we stepped it up and overcame them."
Men’s tennis concludes fall schedule in Austin

by Casey Michel

The men’s tennis team wrapped up its competitive fall schedule last weekend, performing well in both the USA South Central Regional Championships in Austin, Texas. Rice advanced deep into the tournament at singles and doubles before heading home this weekend for a three-month hiatus. The Rice Reunion Classic, a friendly tournament involving alumni, will be held Nov. 3 at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium.

The Owls came snuffing out of the gate last Saturday, taking nearly all of their matches on the first day of competition. In singles, junior Christoph Zivojinovic and senior Ralph Kugler easily disposed of their foes, both from the University of Memphis, in the opening round.

Sophomore Chong Wang also won his opening match, downing Texas Christian University’s Casey Powers in straight sets. Senior Filip Zivojinovic and freshman Vladimir Rusnak finished first round matches, although Zivojinovic fell in three sets to Texas A&M University at 7 p.m. in Fox Gym.

The only Owls to lose in the opening round were senior Shyam Shyam and sophomore Dennis Polypakov. The Owls were just as successful in doubles. After an opening round bye, the third-seeded tandem of Muller and Kugler won 8-2, while Wang and Zivojinovic paired up to take their 8-6 victories to earn a spot in the Round of 16. The duo of Polypakov and Shin also earned an 8-6 win after a first-round bye.

They may share the South Sev'ry, but in Saturday's Powderpuff Game of the Week it was Hanszen that served up Wiess, winning 18-0.

Hanszen (4-2) looked sharp in its first drive, marching 65 yards in 10 plays and jumping to a 6-0 lead in the first quarter. The push picked up with Hanszen facing a third and 10 from their own 48 when junior quarterback Kate Schaeffler found sophomore receiver Katherine Pouns in the middle of the field for a 21-yard reception.

Hanszen converted on another third down on Wiess's 29-yard line courtesy of a Schaeffler seven-yard scramble. The quarterback then found Pouns again on a 13-yard touchdown reception that, though tipped by a Wiess defensive back, went in the sophomore without a hand.

"We established ourselves again on the first possession on offense," Hanszen head coach Chris Revel said. "It was a really big key for us to put one in on that first drive and get momentum."

GAME OF THE WEEK

Brown vs. Jones (5-1) (4-1)

When: Oct. 28 at 5 p.m.

Where: Intramural Field 7

Last Year: Jones opened up the season with a 27-7 win over Brown. White Jones went on to make the playoffs, Brown barely finished with a .500 record.

Hanszen then forced Wiess to a quick three-and-out, stuffing Wiess freshman quarterback Chase Clement looked strong at linebacker, which forced us to move two safeties to linebacker... to try and teach them what to do in a crash course," head coach David Bailiff said.

This health issue is obviously a difficult one to resolve, but it is not the only problem the defense must correct. Blown assignments and coverage breakdowns continue to plague the Owls.

Unfortunately, the fact that defensive players chronically find themselves playing out of position or in new spots helps to create these issues with technique, but Rice will still hope to correct mistakes as the season progresses.

Defensively, junior quarterback Chase Clement looked strong against the Tigers, throwing for 289 yards and four touchdowns—one of which went to Dillard.

The Owls garnered 418 total yards on offense, and nine different Owls made receptions in the game. Senior Joel Armstrong, who missed the first half of the season with a foot injury, paced all receivers with 90 yards on offense, and nine different Owls made receptions in the game.

Hanszen took on Sid the next day, in a rematch of last year's thrilling championship game. Although they have struggled so far this season, Sid (3-0) shook off their three-game losing streak to win 18-4.

In other scores around the league, Will Rice (4-1) edged Martel (3-2) 19-12 and Lovett (1-4) shut out Wiess (1-5) 50-0 for its first win of the season. Brown (5-1) also got the better of Lovett 20-15 to remain atop the league standings.

Powderpuff Standings: Week 6

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Point Diff.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Will Rice</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hanszen</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Martel</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sid Rich</td>
<td>3-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lovett</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wiess</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Baker</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>93</td>
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</table>

"They had been running it for a while and we knew that they were going to pass it," Wirth said. "I just saw the ball, took it, and got some great blocks in front of me to get to the field and score."

The second half, unlike the first, was scoreless and uneventful. Both teams were able to put together mini-drives and pick up first downs, but their failure to convert on third downs resulted in a half that had a combined four points.

In the final minutes of the game, Wiess put together a decent drive, going 38 yards in six plays to get to the Hanszen 25-yard line beforeWith got her second interception, picking off a pass from freshman Tiffany Gill on the final play of the game.

"Hanszen's got great players," Wiess coach Jake Schorsch said. "They made some amazing catches out there. We had some girls missing and playing outside of their positions but we still played hard... it was a learning experience."

Despite outplaying Wiess in almost every facet of the game, Hanszen fell short when running the ball, getting only nine yards on six carries.

"When we had every advantage defensive line," Revell, a resident associate, said. "Our defense was just wasn't opening up the holes today."

Hanszen took on Sid the next day, in a rematch of last year's thrilling championship game. Although they have struggled so far this season, Sid (3-0) shook off their three-game losing streak to win 18-4.

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TIGERS

From page 17

Jaret Dillard the past two weeks, and must continue to do so to keep making strides.

However, the Owls struggles are not limited to offense. Rice has suffered through a rough two-week stretch on the defensive side of the ball, namely due to injuries. Junior linebacker Brian Raines was game-time decision against Memphis, and although he played, the team was still short-handed enough that two senior safeties had to play at the linebacker spots.

"We were down to Raines, [sophomore Robert] Calhoun, and [sophomore Terrance] Garmon at linebacker, which forced us to move two safeties to linebacker... to try and teach them what to do in a crash course," head coach David Bailiff said.

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TIGERS

From page 17

Jaret Dillard the past two weeks, and must continue to do so to keep making strides.

However, the Owls struggles are not limited to offense. Rice has suffered through a rough two-week stretch on the defensive side of the ball, namely due to injuries. Junior linebacker Brian Raines was game-time decision against Memphis, and although he played, the team was still short-handed enough that two senior safeties had to play at the linebacker spots.

"We were down to Raines, [sophomore Robert] Calhoun, and [sophomore Terrance] Garmon at linebacker, which forced us to move two safeties to linebacker... to try and teach them what to do in a crash course," head coach David Bailiff said.

This health issue is obviously a difficult one to resolve, but it is not the only problem the defense must correct. Blown assignments and coverage breakdowns continue to plague the Owls.

Understanding the fact that defensive players chronically find themselves playing out of position or in new spots helps to create these issues with technique, but Rice will still hope to correct mistakes as the season progresses.

Defensively, junior quarterback Chase Clement looked strong against the Tigers, throwing for 289 yards and four touchdowns—one of which went to Dillard.

The Owls garnered 418 total yards on offense, and nine different Owls made receptions in the game. Senior Joel Armstrong, who missed the first half of the season with a foot injury, paced all receivers with 90 yards on offense, and nine different Owls made receptions in the game.

Hanszen took on Sid the next day, in a rematch of last year's thrilling championship game. Although they have struggled so far this season, Sid (3-0) shook off their three-game losing streak to win 18-4.

In other scores around the league, Will Rice (4-1) edged Martel (3-2) 19-12 and Lovett (1-4) shut out Wiess (1-5) 50-0 for its first win of the season. Brown (5-1) also got the better of Lovett 20-15 to remain atop the league standings.
Women’s tennis finishes fall schedule

By Rhodes Coffey

The women’s tennis team gets to start its winter break two months early — on the court, that is. After competing last weekend at the ITA Southwest Regional Championships in Lubbock, Texas, Rice is now done with its competitive fall schedule. The Owls will return to dual-match play in the spring.

The Owls started the ITA meet well, winning nearly all of their matches on Friday. Senior Tiffany Lee played an impressive first two contests, downing Alexandria Dykman of Texas A&M- Corpus Christi and Mariana de Lucas of the University of Texas at El Paso while losing only five total games.

Meanwhile, freshman Varsha Shiva-Shanker earned a tough victory over Louisiana State University’s Kylie Adamek, taking the tiebreaker to win 7-6 (4), 6-3. Shiva-Shanker then cruised to a 6-4, 6-2 win over University of Texas-Pan American’s Giana Oliveira.

In doubles, junior Dominique Kars and sophomore Julie Chao overcame multiple match points to beat UTC’s Megan Pritchard and Weronika Blochynska in a 9-7 victory. Sophomore Rebecca Lin and Shiva-Shanker then paired for an 8-0 victory over Sara Pesic and Soty Lianou of the University of Texas.

In the only loss of the day, senior Christina Dao and Lee failed to hold on against TAMUC’s Nina Clicr and Alexandra Dykman, coming up short by a 9-7 deficit.

Continuing into Saturday, Shiva-Shanker and Lee continued their momentum from the previous day as both won straight-set victories. Sophomore Julie Chao, the top-seeded Rice athlete, also earned a straight-set win.

However, in the first round of the main draw, Shiva-Shankar’s 6-0, 6-7(4), 6-3 win over Anna Sydorska of Lamar was followed by a narrow 6-4, 6-0 loss to No. 4 seed Anna Sydorska of Texas Christian University.

In doubles, Lee and refreshed star Kate Edwards scored the goals. In the game, Edwards set the Rice freshman mark for goals in a season with nine as she scored on a free kick from outside the 18. Wang’s goal came in the 59th minute when she corralled a Chery Martin corner kick from 12 yards out and beat the defender to the open net.

“The Owls went to the NCAA Tournament last year, so we knew we had to come out focused and ready to work,” head coach Chris Huston said. “This is the best game we’ve played all year.”

At Memphis, it was the Martin sisters who added the fireworks, tying the game in the 83rd minute when Betsy found Chery on the left side of the field for a dramatic equalizer.

“There was no doubt in my mind she wasn’t going to make the pass,” Chery Martin said. However, neither team could put a shot in the net in overtime, ending the game in a tie.

Lee were all defeated by seeded opponents in straight sets.

Doubles play on the second day was also stellar. Lin and Shiva-Shanker were resilient in coming back from a 7-4 deficit to earn an improbable victory.

Chao and Kars had a bit of an easier time than their teammates, holding on for an 8-5 win. The third Rice duo, Lee and Dao, had the day off from doubles play and started consolation matches Sunday.

Overcoming their tough early competition was quite impressive, head coach Roger White said. “It’s tough, but it is the same level of toughness for everyone competing, so you just have to learn to embrace the change.”

On the final day of competition, Chao started her first singles match in a hole against Baylor’s Karolina Filipiak, and could not quite recover from losing the first set. After a long-winding third frame, Chao lost 1-6, 6-4, 5-7. Kars, on the other hand, was victorious 6-2, 6-4, in consolation play Lulu moved resolutely into third place while Dao and Lee lost in challenging consolation competition.

However, Sunday was not a good day for Rice in doubles. Shiva-Shankar was forced to withdraw due to a minor injury, and the other two doubles teams were both defeated.
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Guitarist Bob Crow is hosting one of its trademark Free Concerts outside Valhalla, 6-9 p.m.
The co-Free Radicals and The Television Skies.

SATURDAY
Even if you missed RPC's cheap Avenue Q tickets, you can still go. The puppet play will be showing at the Hobby Center through Nov. 4 and tickets start at $23 for gallery seating. (Saturday matinees were the best deal I found.)

BOOKWORMED
Friends of Fondren Library is hosting a book sale today in the EMC's Grand Hall. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Paperbacks: 50 cents. Hardbacks: $2.

WEDNESDAY
All Hailoween Eve / Nudity
Technically, nudity refers to artistic or aesthetic lack of clothing, but I think that we can agree "nakedness" is an awkward word. Either way, unchilled people will be about tonight. Don't worry, they don't want your candy, just your eyes. Vamp up your stuff before the race. And staff; just make sure to get your Robin Hood on and have fun. (**Winter is Coming**.)

Or Not
But if NOD isn't your style, maybe DVDs of the History Channel, I don't know, will be on sale for various prices.

SATURDAY
NOO by NOOwest
That's right. Winess College's 36th annual Night of Decadence kicks off at 9 p.m. This is the night where Wiscmen show us that just because they have the same O-Week theme every year and don't do Beer Bike shirts doesn't mean that they're not cool. So get your Robin Hood on and have fun in a "Night in NODingham."

FRIYAD
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The 11th Street
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Affairs Don Ostdiek and various officers were forced yet again to ensure student safety and regulate making out behind him. "I'm glad half-naked freshman girls started leaving to get some coffee while I looked at my watch and rolled my eyes," Ostdiek said as a staggeringly drunk Lowell junior rested his head in his hands, obviously bored. Tonight is usually my poker night," he said with two and a half couples having sex in the light box. "I know that I need to be here to help with safety, but after a while it just gets monotonous." He looked at his watch and rolled his eyes. "By 7 o'clock, another two hours to go."