The cons of coal
Mike Robinson from the American Lung Association of the Central States addresses the adverse affects of coal burning on public health. Robinson spoke at the Sierra Club meeting Wednesday at Sammy’s. (See story, page 7)

Racially charged vandalism strikes Sid
by Lily Chun

Students who thought they found a leaf in missing Hansen College junior Matthew Wilson’s case when activity appeared in Facebook account on Jan. 17 are mistaken.

This activity was not Wilson’s doing, but that of Callie Wilson, his mother, who said she has been logging into his Facebook account for the past week.

Using his Facebook account, Wilson’s mother joined several groups, including “Find Matthew Wilson.” “Four guys, one detention, one mission: Suicide Prevention and ‘Men’,” Wilson’s mother added. “The Top Friends and Daily Horoscope applications, and edited his political and religious views.”

Wilson’s mother said she used her son’s Facebook to contact some of his friends and joined groups to love Matthew’s name alike and out in the rice community. When she was contacting his friends, she said she clarified that it was her then Wilson speaking.

“It’s just a desperate mother’s plan,” Callie Wilson said. “Matthew is too important to be forgotten.”

Mother responsible for Wilson Facebook activity
by Jocelyn Wright

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“It’s just a desperate mother’s plan,” Callie Wilson said. “Matthew is too important to be forgotten.”

OFFICE PETITIONS DUE
Wants to be a balla? Shaker? Or maybe Sammy the Owl? If so, Friday, Feb. 1 is the deadline to turn in your petition for you’re interested in running for Sammy the Owl or positions within the Student Association, Honor Council, UCourt, Rice Program Council, RTV5, Ubibee and Rice Student Volunteer Program. For more information, go to http://risc.edu.

Want to withdraw?
Tired of school? If you decide to give up on school, hold the last day with the draw with a 70 percent refund of tuition. Good luck, dude.

Partayyy!
Hansen College is hosting “First Party” tomorrow night from 10pm-2am. Get out your togs, loafers up and get your Greek on!

Student Senate approves new calendar for fall ‘09
by Sarah Rutledge

Students haunted by the threat of having spring break revoked with a new academic calendar may rest assured now—the break will stay.

The new calendar, approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate Wednesday, will also have an extra week for the winter break and a common week-long exam period for seniors and non-seniors. The common examination period for all students will go into effect next spring. The rest of the academic calendar, however, will not take effect until fall 2009.

The Faculty Senate passed the calendar, called Plan A, with one "no" and three abstentions in the vote. The alternative plan, Plan B, was identical to Plan A, but did not include the spring recess.

Under Plan A, fall classes start the Monday between Aug. 29 and Aug. 26. Midterms recess will occur Monday and Tuesday of the eighth week of the semester, with the same Thursday and Friday. Thanksgiving break observed. Fall semester will be 15 weeks long. After the last class, seniors as well as undergraduates will have Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the eighth week to prepare for final exams.

In the spring semester of the 2009-10 school year, the calendar proposes the last day of classes on Apr. 27. Finals will last one week, from Apr. 22 to Apr. 29.

Fondren opens 24-hour coffee and snack lounge
by Lily Chun

While some people feel that the introduction of a coffee machine to the library is a great idea, others feel that it would not be harmless to good studentWebDeveloper Jeff Koller, who worked on marketing for the coffee lounge, said some librarians were unhappy with the idea of having a coffee machine within the library.

“We have some seasoned veterans in the library and this is new to let students enjoy some beverages inside,” Koller said. Whether or not the coffee machine stays depends on whether we LOUNGE, page 5
Fondren, food and the pavilion

Fondren Library's fourth floor has begun featuring accommodations besides the usual leather bound volumes and graduate students, with Wiess. As the library becomes a new coffee bar and lounge, it seems a little odd that a building with a sign on the front door warning against food or open drink containers would have its own food and drinks Wednesday's opening of a new coffee bar and lounge. Knowing they have the next few months to make beach trips, many campus editors are urging students to, with their next few months to make beach trips, many campus editors are urging students to

Thank you, Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate, we would like to thank you for preserving student sanity. On Wednesday, the Faculty Senate finally passed the new academic calendar alterations, which will allow students to enjoy the two-day spring recess that students have come to rely on as a break before finals (see story, page 1). It has been a long, drawn-out process, but we are glad to see it come to a close that everyone can agree with, establishing a calendar that will hopefully be in place for many years. Now students and faculty can take time to relax, knowing they have the next few months to make beach plans for April.

CFLs, cute, efficient and full of variety

To the editor:

In her column last week, Caroline May expressed concern and solicitation about the upcoming switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. This is a common issue, and it is valid. Most of her alarm is based on simple misunderstanding.

The main problem is that May has mistaken the old fluorescent bulbs, those long pole things with the annoying buzzing sound and yellow light with the new lights. The new ones are cutie little things in the shape of traditional light bulbs, except that they are cutie and much more efficient. The new fluorescent lights are brighter, whiter and better than any other light bulb I have ever seen. To be they, are produced in different shades of white so that picky buyers will neither be blinded in different shades of white nor left in the dark.

I come from a household that has been using compact fluorescent lights for over a year and honestly miss them. It is obvious that May has never used the light bulbs that she so確かにly limits. So I have a proposition to make. Caroline May, go out and buy some bright, white, unbelievably efficient new fluorescent light bulbs. Install them wherever you want them, give them a trial run of a week or two. Then tell us what you think.

Dr. Ron Paul, supporters

Backpage distortions

To the editor:

Ron Paul is a candidate whose big-roots support of millions across the country, it comes as no surprise that Rice University spends thousands of dollars cultivating what he calls "tolerance of indolence." One can walk from the library to a football stadium 10 hours a day. This quiet ripple takes over our 300-acre campus does not need a bus system. Get off the bus and resign pride in your beautiful campus — and yes, Hunley, that bus does make you look fat.

Bill Maiton

Chemistry graduate student

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Bill Maiton

Chemistry graduate student
RUPD bike policy violates student rights

The officer explained that RUPD's bike policy violates student rights. Group seminars and active office hours faculty alike rarely take time to reflect and securing their bikes: They were giving one concerning bike. One of those pillars of Rice's schools of philosophy class, a survey of the later philosophy professor I ever had. Since I arrived at Rice, he has been part of the exchange was the right moment. But the next day at lunch I saw a bike thief had been found. The officer explained that the University Police Department is working diligently to catch these thieves. In addition, they are taking necessary precautions and unregistered bikes are to be collected.

Why should RUPD feel ethically entitled to remove our legal property? It is not RUPD's job to babysit our bikes; it is not their owners' duty to register and secure their bikes. They were collecting unregistered bikes.

Esoteric references

A philosophical theory of professorial passion

With the Latin American Studies Club, we stand at the crossroads of the intellectual world. In this inaugural column, I will introduce you to the unique and fascinating world of philosophy. Philosophy is the study of existence, knowledge, and reality. It is a discipline that seeks to understand the nature of the world and the human experience. Philosophy is not just about thinking, it is about knowing. It is not just about understanding, it is about knowing how to understand. It is not just about knowing, it is about knowing how to know.

The study of philosophy is not just for the intellectuals. It is for anyone who wants to think deeply about the world and the human experience. It is for anyone who wants to understand the nature of existence, knowledge, and reality. It is for anyone who wants to know how to think and how to know.

...content...

THE RICE THRESHER  FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008 3

Guest column  RUPD bike policy violates student rights

Announcements were made about the new bike policy last week. But what was mentioned was the frustration RUPD feels they are up against. 'We are not trying to deter crime,' the officer explained. 'We are trying to protect your belongings.' However, that does not seem to be the message the bike policy is giving. There have been instances of bikes being stolen, and the RUPD feels they cannot do anything to stop it. The officer explained that the policy is a good idea, but it is not working. They need to find a way to get people to register their bikes, or at least secure them before leaving.

Why should RUPD feel ethically entitled to remove our legal property? It is not RUPD's job to babysit our bikes; it is not their owners' duty to register and secure their bikes. They were collecting unregistered bikes.

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...content...
Report shows half black males at Rice are scholarship athletes

male undergraduates 99 black
47 athlete
52 non-athlete

47 athlete numbers from 2005/06 academic year

By Stephanie Jennings

Rice may have named 2006's University of Labs of Rice/Chess Tournament a"Wisdom and Re- view, but the numbers behind this claim may not be telling the whole truth, according to a new article by InsideHigherEd.com.

The Jan. 13, 2008 "Diversifying through Football" states that, according to data taken from the National Collegiate Athletic Association's annual survey for graduation rates, scholarship athletes make up at least 20 percent of the full-time black male undergraduate population at 96 of the 230 schools that play Division I sports.

At Rice, 47 of 99 black male full-time undergraduates are scholarship athletes. In percent, 33 of 47 are football players. While black students comprise 59 of the 1,539 male undergraduate population, they account for 47 of the 163 scholarship athlete population.

According to the study, for which data was taken from the 2005-06 school year, this trend is evident in two types of schools: smaller, selective institutions that compete athletically with larger state universities in their states with small black populations. These schools mostly recruit locally or regionally. Rice fits that description. It has 96 athletic scholarships, six of which are football scholarships.

The NCAA study did not include data for either League universities or military academics, since the study only examined scholarship athletes and not the other group of schools awarded athletic scholarships.

The study highlights the ongoing issue of increasing diversity at colleges nationwide and the possibility of schools increasing their black enrollment through athletics.

"Known there was walk in the past of getting rid of Division I Athletes at Rice," Monica Clack, a Sid Richardson College senior, said. "I wonder what the black male enrollment at Rice would be if..."

"That's a not unusual statistic, especially if we're talking about things like basketball," said Clack, who is also the Assistant Dean of Undergraduates, said that the state and national average number of social and economic factors, including the percentage of black males that attend college. According to the NCAA, black males make up 9 percent of undergraduates at Division I schools. According to the NCAA, black males make up 5 percent and 12 percent for black females. At Rice, they make up 4 percent of the male undergraduate population.

"In the past, African-American students have pointed out this enrollment pattern to their professors and management, not because they have a problem with black male athletic dominance, but because they want to see the administration office isn't using athletic scholarships to bolster black enrollment," Clark said.

"I don't feel like Enrollment Management is slacking on their job — they're doing a great job," Clark said. "But it's apparent that we don't have enough black athletes. If we don't have enough black athletes, we can't just practice as usual."

"I think, prospective black students overall look at the overall black number of black students and who they could interact with terms of black students and who and how many aren't, she said.

"During O-Week, when everyone's supposed to see all of the new students in the college, a lot of black male athletes are missing when they would see the rest of the black males participating within the college," she said.

"I think it's harder for them to make friends within their college, a lot of black students, a lot of black students have pointed out this issue," she said.

"I think that the divisiveness between the two groups was supposed to be because of scheduling conflicts, not because of black male athletes," she said.

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But it's a problem that's hard to fix overall — it's not only the athletes can't just practice as usual.

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The admissions office and the Black Student Association met with the O-Week students who were athletes.

"I know that since Rice had lived in the city for two years, the number of black athletes and non-athletes is a significant number of athletes," she said. The main reason behind this is that the black male athletes are the focus of attention, and the black male athletes are more visible than the non-black male athletes.

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Blair Lounge becomes RMC copy center

By Rachel Carlson

Hoping to address the short-comings of the former Rice Kinko's, a new copy center will open today in the Blair Lounge at the Rice Memorial Center. The new copy center will have two major functions: to offer basic copy services to the Rice student body and to streamline printing and publishing activities of faculty and administration.

The center will have color copying, high-speed black and white copying, poster and sign printing, and binding and finishing options. The copy center will also offer shipping and packing via USPS, FedEx and DHL. Customers will also be able to submit custom requests to the copy center online.

Richard Helmey is cooperating with Business Systems Richard Helmey, and his son Drew Helmey, who is a graduate student at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business, and Rice Business Process Consultant Dan Fu. The group evaluated the need for a new copy center by looking at statistics and tracking the paper volume used around campus. They also examined the current printing practices from the faculty and administration and evaluated the past practices of Kinko's.

The process of installing a new copy center in the BMC began last May. After Kinko's left, Rice met with President of Campus Document Systems Richard Helmey, and his son Drew Helmey, who is a graduate student at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business, and Rice Business Process Consultant Dan Fu. The group evaluated the need for a new copy center by looking at statistics and tracking the paper volume used around campus. They also examined the current printing practices from the faculty and administration and evaluated the past practices of Kinko's.

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Rice will be able to submit custom requests to the copy center online. Another facet of University Copy Center services will be fleet management, or the handling of documents from faculty and administration. Huge amounts of paper and copy materials are processed in handouts, class texts and administrative documents by Rice staff each year, Richard Helmey said.

Rice's current printing practices are inefficient because they vary between buildings. He said having a single provider for those services will reduce printing, reducing operational costs.

The copy center's agenda for fleet management, organization of the vehicles it operates, is extensive. The shop will assist in the purchasing of university printing supplies and also format, bind and publish course packs for professors. The center will also produce live manuals and out-of-print texts, and perform custom publishing and copyright management, Helmey said.

Currently, University Copy Center publishes over 500 small-scale titles a year. It plans to help professors publish course packs, textbooks, and other supplements.

The new copy center aims to address shortcomings of the former Rice Kinko's, which withdrew from campus last year. Stone said Kinko's obstructed location in the downtown section of the BMC and lack of fleet management contributed to its disappearance.

Many students, like Wien Junior Emily Perfetti, are unaware of Kinko's existence.

"I didn't really know that Kinko's was there until I heard about it leaving," she said.

Kinko's moved to the basement from Blair Lounge in 2000. University Copy Center services will be fleet management services and better location in the Blair Lounge, a former conference room that is located next to the BMC information desk.

Functio said the new copy center will get more use.

"I'll probably use the new copy center fairly frequently because the copy machines in the library are not that convenient for me," said Perfetti.

Brown College junior Comic Foss disagreed. "I never needed the services of Kinko's," she said.

"I need posters printed, I'll just go to the Madd Lab." Foss said that she likes the in- production of convenient shops and services to the Rice campus, but is wary of two university departments entering the Rice campus.

"Overall, I like the growth, as long as we keep our Rice identity," she said.

LOUNGE

From page 1

or not people abide by the rules of the library, he said. One such rule is that people must keep their coffee within the coffee lounge. "There are problems with spillage and stains," Koffler said. The coffee machine might be removed.

Koffler said Fondren staff are concerned about people taking coffee cups around the library, not cleaning up after themselves and spilling coffee on tables.

"This is new to let a library allow student beverages inside... there's the danger of destroying priceless books," Jeff Koffler Fondren Web Developer

"The librarians think the coffee lounge is a great idea, but there's the danger of destroying priceless books," Koffler said.

"I've never needed the services of Kinko's," she said.

"I just think that there are other ways they could have gotten more done in a better way." Koffler said people have been voicing their concerns about the coffee lounge in the last two weeks.

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Along with coffee samples this week, students could fill out comment cards on what the price of coffee should be and what should be offered in the lounge, said the person in charge of the coffee lounge.

"It's desperately needed, and the coffee lounge is a step in the right direction, so I appreciated that they're making an effort," Faust said.

"Overall, I think the idea is kind of overdue," Brown College sophomore Tiffany Kim, who sampled free coffee from the coffee lounge, said. "The idea is kind of overdue," Kim said. "If anything, you can use a little adrenaline push whenever you're studying, so it makes a lot of sense to have a coffee machine."

But Coffeehouse employee Megan Hernandez said the coffee lounge will not be taking the place of Coffeehouse any time soon.

"I'm honest with you, everyone I've talked to said 'coffee is really bad quality.'" Hernandez, a Baker College senior, said. "I'm not really concerned about it because everyone I've talked to said it's awful."

Fondren library circulation and Dining will determine the price of coffee in the vending machines, which will be determined by you trying to have to make restrictions." Koffler said.

"If it turns out to be too fancy, we're going to have to make restrictions," Koffler said. "We want to see how students react to this resource," Koffler said.

"The concept of a coffee lounge is in the right direction, so I appreciated that they're making an effort," Faust said.

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Anti-coal group begins activism on campus

Sierra Student Coalition plans on lobbying Houston-based Dynegy energy

by Joyce You

More than fifty people from Rice and the greater Houston community filled Sammy's on Wednesday to learn about how to get involved at the Sierra Student Coalition at Rice. The coalition, spearheaded by Emily Stone, a member of GreenCore: a field school for environmental demonstrations, is working to stop the development of proposed Houston-based coal plants across the country.

Since the greatest number of proposals are by a Houston-based company, Dynegy, Stone said the coalition is uniquely positioned to lobby the company.

Stone stressed the importance of Rice student involvement in the campaign against the power plants.

"Since Dynegy's headquarters are located in Houston, it's very important that Rice students get involved," Stone said. "This will become a major national campaign, and the best way to get involved is to help build the campaign to a critical mass." Stone is optimistic that this campaign will work.

"The pipeline for success is huge," Stone said. "We are focusing on small, effective block that will empower the inefficiency of coal, and to tell the energy compa-

Sierra Student Coalition plans on lobbying Houston-based Dynegy energy

nies not to engage in a coal rush but rather invest money in energy efficiency and renewable resources, like wind and solar power. The campaign will be formulated in the best interests of Dynegy as a market-based campaign, and we will do this by contacting the energy companies to switch to more efficient, alternative forms of energy."

Citing the successful push by the Sierra Club, Public Citizen, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Houston Mayor Bill White and Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert against an energy company called TXU in preventing all eight of its plant proposals, Stone said the campaign against Dynegy will be even stronger than it was against TXU. Prior to these rejections, TXU was the largest operator of coal plants.

At Wednesday's meeting, Susan Hook Rodgers, Houston Sierra Club Campaign Organizer, Andre Droder, director of the Center for the Study of Environment and Society (CSES) and Mike Roberson, an advocate from the American Lung Association of the Central States spoke about the potential effects of the power plants.

Most climatologists and Demo-

cratic gubernatorial contenders Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards advocate an 80 percent reduction of global warm-

ing emissions by 2050. This goal would be impossible even if half of the proposed power plants are built, since it would increase the country's emissions by 25 percent.

The group's next activity, a campus-wide call-in day to the CEO of Dynegy, Bruce Williamson, was organized for next Tuesday.

The coalition's goal is to be as ag-

gressive as possible against Dynegy before the company holds its share-

holder meeting on May 2. The coalition has spread the plan throughout the Rice, University of Houston, Baylor University and Texas South-

ern University campuses.

A student leader in the Sierra Club's campaign, Kendall Hollis, said she joined because it seemed like the right thing to do.

"I met Emily at the RMC, saw the signs, and thought it was a good idea to join," Hollis, a Martin College sophomore, said. "I think any logical person who knows the facts would be all for (the cause)."

Margaret Diddums, who has worked with Hollis to lead the campaign, also said she feels it will be successful.

"I think the issue with students is that most of the people are interested, but don't know how to create change," Diddums, a Lovett College freshman, said. "But as long as the interest is there we should have no problem recruiting students for the campaign."

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate met Wednesday. The following were discussed:

■ A new interdisciplinary minor in Global Health Technologies was proposed.

■ Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman requested an update on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Rice's accreditation body.

■ The Student Senate Group on Admissions took up the mandate to discuss current admissions processes, to consider whether and how the University Committee on Admissions could figure in the process in the future and to provide a brief statement of goals pending senate approval that could be used as faculty recommendations to the Admin-

istration and Office of Admissions as Rice expands its undergraduate population.

■ Associate Vice-President for Institutional Effectiveness John Cornell gave a SACs update. SACs recommended that the university demon-

strate that more assessment plans have been created and are being implemented.

■ The Student Association presented the results of a poll of student opinion on the academic calendar. The Senate voted on the calendar and chose Plan A (see story, page 1). There will be amendments to next year's calendar to allow for a common final exam period for seniors and non-seniors.

■ The Senate discussed an amendment or modification to next year's calendar to clear up difficulties with final exam week scheduling. The Senate will vote on the amendment at its next meeting.

■ Committee on Admissions Chair Dale Sawyer gave a presentation on Athletic Admissions.

■ The Administrator Review Policy was also presented.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Dear Rice Coffeehouse customer,

If you like our ads, please continue buying our products.

If you don't like our ads, please continue buying our products.

WILSON

From page 1

Wilson's mother said she had spoken with Rice University Police Chief Bill Taylor and clarified that the action on Wilson's Facebook account was her doing.

One student who agreed to speak anonymously said that although she felt Wilson's actions were wrong, she didn't feel it was necessarily her business to interfere or to bring attention to the situation.

"I think she basically considered a lot of people because they thought he was her son," the student said. "It's just kind of confusing when you see (getting on Facebook) under the name of a missing person.

Ranches Wilson, Wilson's sister, subsequently logged back into Wilson's Facebook and removed her membership from the "Find Matthew Wilson" group as she was looking for her son, she said.

"Matthew is my world," she said. "Matthew is my world.

She said she needed to be more careful about how she publicizes his political and religious views to keep him safe. She posted in the group to explain what had happened and change Wilson's Facebook password to prevent others from logging into the future.

On the FindMatthewWilson message boards, Wilson's mother apologized for any inconvenience her mother's actions may have caused.

"Mom is having a very hard time right now and is not herself," Kelly wrote in a message.

Although RUPD still does not have any new leads in the case, Wilson's mother said she will never give up looking for her son.

"I will do this until the day I die," she said. "Matthew is my world. And I will never give up on finding Matthew Never."
Athletics department takes over IM, Rec Center as part of reorganization

by Jocelyn Wright
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Starting this semester, the Athletics Department will be responsible for both varsity and club and intramural sports. It will also be in charge of the recreation center, which will be finished in fall 2009. Athletic academic advising will now fall under the administration of Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman.

This model is a common one used by several peer institutions, including Harvard, Duke and Northwestern. Forman said he hopes the merge will ensure that athletic academic advising and general academic advising are not working at cross-purposes and share a single vision of campus. Athletics Director Chris Del Conte said that the precise details of the administrative changes and what they would mean for athletes and students had yet to be worked out. He also said he hoped the merge would correct any misconceptions that Rice student athletes were getting preferential treatment.

In addition to academic benefits, the merge is also intended to share facilities in a way that offers everyone, both athletes and non-athletes, more opportunities to use athletic facilities. Intramural teams and clubs will now be able to use the same resources as varsity teams, from facilities to trainers. For instance, powderpuff games could be played at Rice stadium. Del Conte said he also envisioned the merge spreading awareness of intramural sports.

"We're looking at getting the names of other clubs out there so that we can say, 'You know what? We have a National Championship-winning women's water polo team,'" Del Conte said.

Especially with the creation of the new recreational center close by the Jesse E. Jones Graduate School of Management, Del Conte said he envisioned this merger facilitating relationships between athletes and non-athletes and bringing campus closer together.

"There's always the perception that there are student-athletes and that's a group distinct from the groups created by the residential college system," Del Conte said. "What we're trying to do is create centers outside the college system where we are one group united by Rice University."

Del Conte said he also hopes this task will also be accomplished by the Brochstein Pavilion scheduled to open in April.

"These projects are all about creating a dynamic environment on campus," Del Conte said.

Lovett College junior Arthur Jones said he was excited about the Athletic Department's decision to adopt intramural and club sports.

"I think this merge is fantastic because I know the varsity soccer fields are so much better, and I look forward to using them," he said.

Burn, baby, burnrrrrrrrrn

Slow Burn, a long-term improvisational group made up several students from Spontaneous Combustion, perform a twenty-minute scene based on one-word inspirations from the crowd Saturday at the Lovett Undergrounds. Spontaneous Combustion performs tonight at 9 p.m. at the Lovett Undergrounds.

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Final event bids spirited goodbye to Proletariat

by Evan Mintz  THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Covered in promotional movie posters and the nicknoms and dents from concerts past, the Proletariat had built up a thick layer of rock and roll moss over its five year history but now the right corner of the Proletariat’s front window sits a small poster, a tribute not to the venues past, but to its future. Hands off Richmond. Come next month the Proletariat will close down for demolition this summer in order to make room for the appropriately bourgeois MetroRail University Line along Richmond.

The black-and-white flyer only has a few weeks left and the death knells have already begun to ring. Last Monday was KTRU’s final DJ night before it moves to its new location, the Minx, and Friday was the final Houston show for local mainstay the Mathletes, who afterwards went their separate ways.

The crowd that Monday was what one would expect: an assortment of KTRU DJs, friends, hangers-on and creepy grad students.

The night began with Brown College senior Alice Chai spinning techno remixes, huddled over the turntables in a dimly-lit corner with a KTRU 91.7 FM logo. But the music seemed to have little effect on the KTRU crowd that was gripping hands like preserving peppers while circling into a middle school cafeteria. In the absence of choice. Among the drum floors and pool table, this group of housecooler Clear Channel hooters was begging for an excuse to cut those hips to use. But what once was a high school student with a four-track cassette recorder has grown into a sprawl band, all headed up by that original Joe Mathlete. And Friday the band was out in full form. A deputation ensemble of trombone players, twenty or so instruments colliding out of control and Rice alumnus Ryan Goodland saves the show.

The Mathletes have never been a solid band, just people with a passion for music. The band may break up but the Mathletes will continue. And with the Proletariat’s booker Danlock Woodfield and KTRU DJ nights moving to the Minx in mourning, the Proletariat may be dead but long live the Proletariat.

Two is better than one in Alley musical Love, Janis

by Julia Barstien  THRESHER STAFF

Brown College senior Alice Chai plays the first set Monday night at the Proletariat, where KTRU had its last DJ night.

Linus Pauling Quartet, the band now known as the Dimes (the Seattle version was mentioned in Spin, forcing our dear Houston band to change its name), and some original Mathletes, including elementary school teacher turned rock star Gie Gie McGee and Rice alumna Ryan Goodland (Love, Janis).

Just as shots started pouring, the Mathletes started playing while a man in a Pre-War Herman suit began dancing in front of the stage. Oh yes, this was a Mathletes concert. The band sounded almost as memories of a dance-time past: Dime eyes looked up from drink glasses tossed into a dance circle. The Proletariat may have been built a musical bliss, but it was still alive at that moment.

So, it was nothing compared to what happened Friday.

The Mathletes’ deejay label is, “It’s a brown pop or cute rock are as close as you can come.” But what once was a high school student with a four-track cassette recorder has grown into a sprawl band, all headed up by that original Joe Mathlete. And Friday the band was out in full form. A deputation ensemble of trombone players, twenty or so instruments colliding out of control and Rice alumnus Ryan Goodland saves the show.

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One Janis, played by Katrina Chester, commands the stage with a startlingly accurate rendition of Janis’s music.
**Ask a groupie how she likes her eggs at breakfast.**

This Sunday I went to the Yeasayer concert, and was luckiest of all to score tickets to the sound check. I had a four-year-old friend who has a crush on James Mercer (the lead singer), but they were only allowing people who were paying $50 to go inside the venue. I told him I liked his pants. Yes, my hair and pursed my lips and spilled the beans. We would invite Yeasayer to breakfast. I knew this town quite well and if indeed the Yeasayer was interested in seeing it, my friends and I would make the perfect tour guides. I knew I was taking Yellow Pants’ weak attempt at connecting with his audience too seriously, but I also knew that I was eating the best breakfast in Houston that; next day and everyone loves breakfast. I told my friends and she believed. We would invite Yeasayer to breakfast. The set ended and our new favorite band left in the back of the bus, or in Yeasayer’s case, one of their two vans? True groupies invite rock stars to breakfast, but I really did mean breakfast in the literal sense. Sex aside, I wrote “breakfast” — done in vocabulary that is far from subtle. The questions are not unreasonable ones for a journalist to ask of a musician, but it is plainly obvious that they are only asked to fill the holes the interviews out. Yeasayer’s relationship with the interviewer evolves, beginning in deference and progressing through a series of scenes full of quippy wit and biting retort. Ryan’s dialogue with the interviewer, who her subject of Jimi Hendrix’s fatal overdose, is the most poignant speech in the show. The production’s setting, and the staging intended to capture it, have split personalities of their own. For instance, the double-entendre gimmicks unfold more smoothly than the overarching dual-character concept. The production’s setting allows the Yeasayer to flow seamlessly from their San Francisco apartment to a number of stages around the country, and a convenient projector screen invokes the Golden Gate Bridge when it is off-duty from displaying a trippy bed of psychedelic goo.

**The production’s music captures viewers with a psychedelic SPLENDOR that undoubtedly saves the show.**

This impressionistic interpretation of Yeasayer’s movement around the country is surprisingly effective, and it helps the audience to suspend their disbelief of imaginary props such as the invisible dogs Ryan plays with throughout the production. The free-flowing set also reflects Yeasayer’s predilection for non-musical movement through her musical career. The successes of Love, Janis belong to the show’s production crew and to its musicians’ ability to channel Yeasayer’s various bands with eerie accuracy. Davies flaps around her head in a perfect recreation of Yeasayer’s idiosyncratic stage persona, and her guitarists (Ben Nieves, Eric Massimino and Stephan Badreau) and drummer (Jim Wall) seamlessly transition from their roles in Big Brother and the Holding Company to Janis’ later backing bands, the Cosmic Blues Band, making audiences with the performances were the perfect concerts in themselves. But since the letter-writing Janis is a much less accessible character than the leather-and-feather sirens of the ’60s stage, viewers’ frustration with the portrayal of the spoken-word Janis might not be such a bad thing. And if audiences can fight through that frustration, they will be treated to the best Janis Joplin cover band they have ever heard.

---

**Heath Ledger, 1979-2008**

Heath Ledger’s death caused a ripple effect of shock and confusion among Rice students on Tuesday. Within hours of hearing the news, many registered their grief on Facebook. Even some who were not serious Ledger fans during his later heartthrob, instead he moved on to more challenging film roles including his latest as Bob Dylan in the biopic. Move audiences can still expect to see Ledger again in The Dark Knight, which opens July 18.

**The successes of Love, Janis belong to the show’s production crew and to its musicians’ ability to channel Yeasayer’s various bands with eerie accuracy.**

---

**Janis From page 9**

**The stinging colloquies of “Dear Mom” and “Love, Janis” are rarely interrupted, and only by an anonymous interviewer (Paul Bowers) — told in done in vocabulary that is far from subtle. The questions are not unreasonable ones for a journalist to ask of a musician, but it is plainly obvious that they are only asked to fill the holes the interviews out. Janis’ relationship with the interviewer evolves, beginning in deference and progressing through a series of scenes full of quippy wit and biting retort. Ryan’s dialogue with the interviewer, who her subject of Jimi Hendrix’s fatal overdose, is the most poignant speech in the show.**

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Owls’ momentum stifled by UCF
Crosstown rivalry resumes tomorrow as Rice takes on UH at Sharp Gym

by Justin Hudson

Just when it seemed the women’s basketball team was starting to play to its potential, a second-half collapse last Sunday erased any semblance of momentum the Owls had gained. Thanks to a 24-5 run in the second half, Rice fell to UH 81-70, ending its 11-game losing streak.

Last Sunday’s game saw the Owls’ momentum stifled by UCF, as the Knights outscored Rice in the second half, shooting miserable 32.1% from the field and seizing control of the game. The Owls’ momentum, which had been building throughout the season, was extinguished as they fell behind by 10 in the second half, shooting a still-worse 19.2% from the field.

The game was a letdown for Rice, as the Owls had been on a tear leading into the contest. Rice shot exceptionally well from the field at the break, hitting 39 of 74 (52.7%) shots. However, in the second half, the Owls’ shooting percentage dropped to 28.6%, as they missed 22 of 77 (28.8%) attempts.

Rice shot exceptionally well from the free-throw line, connecting on 18 of 21 attempts. The Owls also dominated the boards, outrebounding UCF 51-33.

Despite the Owls’ dominance in the game, the team was unable to come away with a victory. Rice’s loss brought its record to 4-15, while UCF improved to 15-6.

The Owls will be looking to get back on track against UH tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Sharp Gym. Only two weeks remain in the conference schedule, and Rice is seeking to avoid its first losing streak in five games.

As in previous games during the losing streak, Rice fought hard with its opponent throughout the game. The Owls were led by sophomore guard Morgan Mayse, who tied for the team lead with 10 points. Freshman forward Morgan Cusson also contributed to the effort, scoring four points.

The Owls’ momentum was stifled by UCF, and now they must turn their attention to UH, who will be playing in Sharp Gym tomorrow. The Owls will need to perform as well as they did against Southern Miss to have a chance at victory.

The Owls have been struggling lately, averaging 13.3 points in their last three games. However, Rice still has a shot at a winning season if it can find a way to close out its games strong.

In their last game against UH, the Owls’ momentum was stifled, but they are looking to bounce back tomorrow. The Owls will need to perform better on the offensive end to have a chance at victory against UH.

The Owls’ question is based on a premise of my academic merit, not my athletic ability. I was an athlete. Then there was the time I was getting all the help I needed. I don’t know how you do that at Texas. My dad usually brought us up to our math homework.

I was an athlete. Then there was the time I was getting all the help I needed. I don’t know how you do that at Texas. My dad usually brought us up to our math homework. I don’t know how you do that at Texas.

The Owls, who face UH tomorrow at 2 p.m., will be relying on forward Morgan Mayse if they hope to win. Mayse has been playing well, averaging 15.3 points in his last three games.

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Swimmers split road meets, prepare to face Houston and LSU

On the road for the first time in 2008, the swim team struggled to keep pace with the defending Conference USA champions, Southern Methodist University, falling 125-75 at the 12th-ranked Mustangs last Friday. Despite the disappointing performance against SMU, Rice said, "shoulder to be the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 154-143 margin in the meet that began its longest road swing of the year.

The Owls have yet to travel this weekend. Today and tomorrow, Rice (6-0) will take on the University of Houston for a two-day meet at the UH Rec Center. Rice’s meet begins at 5 p.m. and tomorrow’s begins at 11 a.m. Having met the Cougars once already at the Phillips Hotel Duals back in November, the Owls are confident they can once again defeat their opponent.

"Houston always puts up a good fight when they pants us," assistant coach Jada Hallmark (Sid ’01) said, "if we can just put together some good, smart races and a little bit of speed I think we will definitely come out on top."

Louisiana State University will also face Rice and UH at the same time on Friday and Saturday. Swimming in the Southeastern Conference, the Tigers are ranked 24th in the nation. Despite their high ranking, the Owls did not seem fazed after having competed against ranked teams on the last two weekends.

"This week’s kind of boring," Jada Hallmark (Sid ’01) said, "we’re trying to recuperate from last weekend, but we’re also preparing to begin its longest road swing of the year."

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This weekend the Owls will face Houston and LSU. Rice beat UH 202-145 but lost to LSU 196-151. While disappointed with a third-place finish, the Owls also had some impressive performances. If So, read on.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO THE PH.D.? IF SO, READ ON.

The Rice University Masters Undergraduate Fellowships Program (MURP) at Rice University has three goals. First, it seeks to increase the number of minority students, and others with a demonstrated commitment to reducing racial disparities, who will pursue PhDs in core fields in the arts and sciences. In doing so, the program aims to reduce over time the serious under-representation on the faculties of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as to address the attendant educational consequences of those disparities. Second, it seeks to meet these students’ need for financial aid, support, and opportunities for research experience and the development of their skills and abilities.

Applicants should normally be completing their sophomore year as a student at Rice University. Junior are invited to apply as Associate Fellows. Selection will be based on a number of attributes including not limited to academic standing and potential, life experiences and interests, commitment to building bridges in multicultural settings, and interest in pursuing graduate education. Students who participate in the program receive a yearly stipend of $3,000, work closely with a faculty mentor for two years, and are eligible for participation in summer fellowship programs at the end of their sophomore or junior year. Finalists will be interviewed. Announcements will be made in March. Visit our website at http://www.murp.rice/ for more information.

Running low on gas

Senior Spencer Alexander stops at a break at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium last Monday, having just completed a set of sprints during the track practice. Alexander will try to help the Owls win their first meet of the season next week at the Houston invitational.
Loss to Cougars extends cold streak for men's basketball

by Kishagra Sinha

Losing is never easy, but it always stings a little more when you lose to your biggest rival. The men's basketball team suffered such a fate with a 69-60 defeat at the hands of the University of Houston Wednesday night at the Reliant Arena. The loss is the eighth in a row for Rice (3-15, 0-5 Conference USA) and means that they will have lost their first five conference games.

**THIS WEEKEND**

**Rice vs. Southern Miss**
**When:** Tomorrow at 4 p.m.
**Where:** Hattiesburg, Miss.
**History:** The Owls downed the Golden Eagles last year 70-55 as Morris Almond (Martel '07) lit up the court with 35 points and shot 67 percent overall.

The Owls will continue the search for their first league win tomorrow as they take on the University of Southern Mississippi at 6 p.m. in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Golden Eagles (9-9, 1-3 C-USA) are in the midst of a downward spiral, having lost six of their last seven games, but that does not mean the road to victory will be an easy one for the Owls.

If the Owls hope to win, they will have to contain sophomore sensation Jeremy Wise, a guard who is fifth in C-USA in scoring with an 18.2 points-per-game average and is sixth in assists with 4.2 a game. Rice was the only meeting between the two teams last season with a 70-55 victory at Austin College.

Defense was not the Rice's nemesis last Wednesday, but their offense, which is the worst in CUSA, finally rose to the challenge. Matching the Cougars shot for shot, the first half was a tight battle that saw nine ties and six lead changes. Neither team led by more than five and at the end of the frame Houston went into the locker room holding a slim 38-36 lead.

Rice then started the second half with a quick 7-0 run which included easy layups by senior forwards Paulius Paksievicius and Patrick Britton to take a 43-39 lead. However, the Owls immediately allowed the Cougars to go on an 11-4 run of their own to take a 50-44 lead with 11:35 left to play. Rice would never get within less than three and clutch free throw shooting by the Cougars in the final two minutes, including a perfect 6-6 by Lanny Smith, sealed the win for Houston.

"We had some really good looks at the end," head coach Willis Wilson (Will Rice '92) said. "Houston played aggressive defense and our shots just didn't fall."

Wilson said he also believes, however, that much of the pressure the Owls faced down the stretch was from themselves.

"Through tonight we just rushed, said Wilson. "There were times that we thought the game was getting away from us when it wasn't."

Despite 16 points and a career-high 20 rebounds from Paksievicius, Rice's mistakes were again what one would expect from a young and inexperienced team. Rice committed twenty-two turnovers and had a difficult time moving the ball against the press. And just like its previous games, Rice played two distinct halves, shooting 46 percent from the field in the first segment of the game but dropping to just 25 percent in the second half.

The opposite trend was actually found in Rice's previous game - in a 61-56 loss at Tulane University last Saturday in New Orleans, the Owls trailed by as much as twelve in the first half, but held a small lead in the second and half before folding down the stretch. The score was knotted at 48 with 6:11 remaining before the Green Wave (13-6, 3-2 C-USA) swiped a pass from freshman Bryan Broxley and slammed an easy dunk to take a lead they would not relinquish.

Just as they struggled holding onto the ball against UH, the Owls could not seem to get a grip on the basketball when they played Tulane, turning it over 21 times.

"Our awareness continues to be a turnover," Wilson said. "In a game like (Wednesday), giving yourself a few possessions can make a big difference. Some of it is what we see from defenses and some of it is the decisions that we make."

Senior forward Patrick Britton fades away for the shot in last Wednesday's contest against UH. Despite Britton's 14 points and five rebounds, the Owls were unable to put away the Cougars, falling 69-60 to remain winless in C-USA.

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**A CLOSER LOOK**

Statistics for the 2007-2008 men's basketball season (through Jan. 25)

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HILTON

From page 11

as you can get. And yet there are people out there who assume I can play Division I football.

These assumptions are largely based on the demographics of campuses like Rice and many other universities across the country. Doug Lederman, the editor of Insidehighered.com, wrote in his January 11th article, "Diversifying Through Football," that Rice is one of several D-I universities and colleges whose black male population is dominated by athletes, and more specifically, football players.

This trend is most common at
supernatural Enponge Hamilton, who placed third in the high jump, and supernormal Brittany Washington who placed fourth in the 400.

The impressive performances across the board were no surprise to Beren, who said he was happy to see his team finally get into the two types of institutions — public universities located in states where blacks are few and far between and yet athletes are recruited nationally, and selective schools such as Rice who are small but insist on staying in Division I. Rice's numbers are especially bad in this category:

"We have to figure out a way to keep our energy up in the second half like we did last game at Southern Miss," Watts said. "When our defense starts to struggle and we're not getting easy lay-ups like we did in the first half, it is difficult to get back in the game."

Williams noted he was discovering a swing of competition.

"You're never sure completely where you're at until you start competing, because competition's so different from practice," Bevan said. "But I was very happy with how we started and how many good performances we had at the beginning of the season."

black male students who can help their team go to a bowl game.

In the current atmosphere, only the university, which can boast of the presence of minority students, wins. I am personally proud of all our student athletes here at Rice. They are able to compete at a high level athletically while also bringing honor to the university through their hard work in the classrooms. Yet people must realize that many students of color are not here to pursue athletic endeavors. In fact, the majority of us are just as likely as anyone else to stand in the rain and cheer on the real athletes.

Justin Hudson is a Martel College senior, an African-American writer and women's basketball writer.

aged with the lack of consistency his team has shown throughout the season.

"We can't seem, other than (Mayse), to get a player to be consistent from one game to the next," Watts said. "It's very frustrating, but we just get to trying to play away."

WOMEN

From page 11

Watts, who finished the game with 13 points and 4 assists, said she was perplexed at the Owls' season-long struggles finishing games.

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"You're never sure completely where you're at until you start competing, because competition's so different from practice," Bevan said. "But I was very happy with how we started and how many good performances we had at the beginning of the season."

black male students who can help their team go to a bowl game.

In the current atmosphere, only the university, which can boast of the presence of minority students, wins. I am personally proud of all our student athletes here at Rice. They are able to compete at a high level athletically while also bringing honor to the university through their hard work in the classrooms. Yet people must realize that many students of color are not here to pursue athletic endeavors. In fact, the majority of us are just as likely as anyone else to stand in the rain and cheer on the real athletes.
It's Random, r-r-r-random

THURSDAY 31

It's a kickoff of sorts
Join Rice's Colleges Against Cancer for a kickoff event to learn about the Texas Medical Center's Relay for Life. Recap: It's a 24-hour relay event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. There's actually a pretty fascinating history there, so it started in Tacoma, Washington (the once-great railroad nexus of the Northwest — a place that is distinctly not Portland, Ore.) with one surgeon. Dr. George Kilt ran 93 miles in 24 hours and raised $27,000 in what would eventually become the Relay for Life. Mildly amusing. In fact the first official Relay for Life, 10 teams signed up to run the event. Together, they raised $35,000. Anyway, the Colleges Against Cancer kickoff event is in the Hansen Upper Commons, 9-9:30 p.m. tonight.

Best event ever (question mark)
Kids, let's rap. We're in college, but museums can still be pretty boring. Admittedly, the Houston Children's Museum is pretty sweet. The curv: the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences is opening a criminal forensics exhibit, "CSI: The Experience." On display Feb. 1 - Apr. 8th, the exhibit allows you to solve your own crimes with top-of-the-line science-stuff. Awesome! Go to www.csiexperience.org for more info. Tickets are $12 for students with valid ID, $15 for groups of 20 or more and $5 for school groups (I don't know if you count for this, but it's worth a shot).
Hungry for meat, but no way to buy or cook it on campus? No worries! Just do what Presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee said he did in college. In an interview on MSNBC, Huckabee revealed that in college he would hunt squirrels and cook them in the dorm, and we would fry squirrels in a popcorn popper in the dorm room. "In a move that threatens to destroy civilization as we know it, Fondren Library has opened a coffee lounge. This marks the beginning of a slippery slope, my friends! First, coffee. Then, vending machines with snack foods. Student will take this as a sign that food is OK in the library and will start bringing their own. Currently, even with the no food rules, students still bring food, but the rules lead students to bring only food they can smuggle in. But when an end to these rules, students will bring just about anything they want, willy-nilly. Now, it's chips and fruit, but soon students will be dragging in hamburgers, barbeque or a turkey dinner complete with all the trimmings. And what is to stop them from willfully letting the food in the books degenerate into books to heat up food, or using books to soak up blood when they take advantage of a food-friendly library to skin a deer carcass. And what then? All the books that are the basis of western civilization, they'll all be ruined for students' culinary exploits. To Kill A Mockingbird? More like to eat a mockingbird!

A graduate student skins a deer carcass, complete with all the trimmings, in preparation for a night of studying in the library.

A student cooks a delicious meal in the new library coffee lounge.

Food in Fondren a slippery slope

Gov. Huckabee sez: Eat some squirrel meat

"When in college, we used to take a popcorn popper, because that was the only thing they would let us use in the dorm, and we would fry squirrels in a popcorn pepper in the dorm room." — Mike Huckabee

A recipe for Redneck Squirrel Fry, from the squirrel recipe page at Backwoods Bound:

- Squirrel legs
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- Salt and pepper
- 1 can beer
- Drake's batter
- Batter

1. Beat the eggs in a medium bowl. Add the ketchup. Salt and pepper to taste. Add 1/2 can of beer Mix well.
2. Put some of the Drake's batter in a shallow dish.
3. Melt several tablespoons of butter in a skillet over medium-low heat.
4. Dip the squirrel into the egg mixture and then roll in the Drake's. Repeat for thicker coating.
5. Add to the skillet and cook until golden brown. Turn as needed.
6. Serve with mashed potatoes and cream corn.

HELP WANTED

WANT AN easy way to make a little extra money? The Thresher is looking for a new office manager. Only a couple hours a week commitment. Must have transportation to get to and from the grocery store once a week. Come be part of the Thresher! Contact Sarah at dannell@rice.edu or 713-269-0791.

HELP WANTED: We need a student to help in the clinic on Mondays and Fridays. We will pay you $10 an hour. Call Dee 713-269-1167 for interview appointment.

HUMANISM is a philosophy based on concerns for fellow human beings, but without supernatural beliefs. Learn more about our many events promoting reason, science, ethics, and fellowship. HumanistsofHouston.org.

HELP WANTED: Student with good organization/ clerical skills to work part time, flexible hours. Duties include organization and maintenance of office chores and file for new and returning office. Rice interest area. Buffalo Speedway area. Pay $15.00 per hour. Please call 713-269-2449 for appointment and interview.

LOOKING FOR part time help for caring for 3 year old boy and 7 month old girl in Wood University Area. Good family. West University. Contact Jennifer at 832-394-7101.

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