Common Reading Selected

BY SARAH RUTLEDGE
THRESHER STAFF

Those who were hoping next year's common reading would be the timely political memoir by Allen Raymond, How to Rig an Election: Confessions of a Republican Operative, may have to wait until the 2012 presidential election. This month the common reading committee reached a decision, selecting Greg Mortenson's memoir, Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time, which they have since distributed to Orientation Week coordinators, advisers, resident assistants, college counselors and next year's incoming class.

The common reading committee met before winter recess and periodically throughout the spring, and is made up of undergraduate students, including former O-Week coordinators, a faculty member, a graduate student and Assistant to the President Matthew Taylor. Taylor said the committee considered more than 30 books before narrowing the choices to How to Rig an Election and Three Cups of Tea.

"The process of elimination [was] driven both by topics we thought would be interesting for the campus and student we wanted a book that new students would actually read, when they get it in the mail and that would keep their interest," Taylor said. "We wanted a book that would appeal to both faculty and students from many different disciplines."

A main issue the committee faced with its two common reading finalists was that of cost. How to Rig an Election was only available in hardcover, while Three Cups of Tea was available in paperback. Three Cups of Tea cost 35% less. Since the 35% under the university was able to send off copies to all entering freshmen as well as O-Week personnel. He said the Three Cups of Tea publisher was also able to send the books to Rice more quickly than the publisher of How to Rig an Election, so the university was able to send off copies to all entering freshmen and distribute copies to O-Week advisers and coordinators before they left campus for the summer.

Taylor said the committee took into account recommendations from faculty members before he agreed. He said last year's common reading, Elizabeth Kolbert's Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change, drew some criticism for being a dry read. He said this year's committee, however, was the first to consider works of fiction as possibilities for the common reading.

"This was the first committee that said, 'We're going to generate passion and strong opin-
Congratulations, Graduates

You made it through alive, though perhaps not unscathed. You have braved the late-night hours of Fondren, walked to lab in the darkness before dawn and left it in the darkness after dusk. And finally, after all of it, you walked across the stage and received the hollow tube with a picture of campus rolled up inside. But you will get your diplomas in the mail sometime in the next few months.

The Thresher wishes you all the best of luck in the future, in whatever endeavors you pursue, and we hope to be able to write about you (positively) in years to come.

Undergrads: Have a happy summer

With the school year more than over, we hope that all of you have by now found whatever beach, mountain or lab distraction with which you will prookey yourself over the next three months. We are taking a vacation as well, during which we will try our hardest not to think about fonts or pictures or photo captions or anything else of the kind, no matter how much we might regret leaving the office. We wish you an excellent break and we will be seeing you again in the fall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New pavilion not necessary, silly
In the Editor:

I recently visited the new Northside Pavilion, and it looks like a good example of environmentally friendly construction, though I am not an expert on green building practices. However, it seems to me that one tenet of eco-friendly design should be limiting construction to those structures which serve some useful function. If that's not the case, I am not sure how much its carbon footprint, the building is just plain unnecessary. We already have the Coffeehouse and I am sure that plasma televisions are important to the missions of the university, not to mention the costs of air conditioning and lighting. On the other hand, this summer when I am making the arduous two-hour trek from the Rice Memorial Center to the library, I will have somewhere to rest.

Chris Hamilton
Chemistry graduate student

Unwitting faculty may fund genocide
In the Editor:

... Proponents of the new university pavilion should be aware that their actions may fund the genocide of the Armenian people.

Professor Yan Diguilov

The Rice Thresher, a non-profit, is the official student newspaper of Rice University since 1916. The Thresher is published during the school year by a student newspaper cooperative. All editorial content is produced and controlled by the students, for the students of Rice University. Letters to the Editor must be submitted by 5 p.m. the Monday prior to publication. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and content. The Rice Thresher is an equal opportunity employer. The Rice Thresher is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

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Off-campus student needs require redress

Rice blogs reveal University's potency and flaws

Life after Rice vague, but clear in nature

Letters

Israel's operations, she failed to provide

Letters

I LOVE BLOGS. News blogs, tech blogs, video blogs, music blogs. The best blogs are those personal blogs. LiveJournal, Xanga, etc. Because it is there where you can find more academically noble concern — and also where you can gain a full and proper education. According to Rice's mission statement, Rice students are being urged to be preparing "to contribute to the humanitarian needs of the world." But for the time being too many of its students are simply aspiring to the title and the trappings of their own GPAs, resumes or personal agendas. While the lack of a core curriculum or required courses is one of Rice's attractive qualities, it is also a problem. Without understanding the core sciences of our universe, proper argument or even without having even written a single paper.

But the faculty has the power to change this.

No, I am not proposing alterations to distribution requirements, which I am sure are just on the horizon any ways, nor am I proposing a senior year graduation test.

Every year, before commencement, the Faculty Senate has a meeting at which the graduates are recognized as the senior class — the timing of this was because these were the seniors around the formation of the new academic calendar. Every year, so professors will wake up around a student who had done something that they believe is a "joke." While the Faculty Senate has a meeting such as this, it is a process that should not be for their students. The seminars should be about things such as how good the student center like the University of Texas, the Rice needs another food center like the University of Texas, the Rice needs another food center.

A good scholar recognizes con-

letters

Dann Towler

For the past week, I have been reviewing a handful of blogs from Rice students. I have been struck by the variety of topics covered. Some of these blogs deal with personal experiences, while others focus on current events or academic issues. It seems that the Rice student body has a lot to say, and they are not afraid to express themselves.

One blog that caught my attention is "Taylor Johnson's World," written by a student in the Rice University's School of Communication. The blog covers a wide range of topics, including politics, current events, and personal experiences. One post in particular stood out to me. It was about the recent events in the Middle East, and how they are affecting the Arab world.

Taylor Johnson's blog is just one of many that are available online. If you are interested in reading more blogs from Rice students, I would recommend checking out the Rice Daily Review, which features student-written articles on a variety of topics.

Overall, I think that the Rice student body is very engaged and involved in the world around them. They are using blogs as a platform to express their opinions and share their ideas. I believe that this is a positive development, and I hope that it continues to grow.
Demolition causes debris to fall through band hall ceiling

BY CINDY DENN THE RICE THRESHER STAFF

The Marching Owl Band has experienced everything from rain-soaked shows to football fans who disagree with their sense of humor at halftime performances, and now they face an unexpected disturbance from construction crews.

Director of Bands Chuck Throckmorton said the band hall has seen numerous pieces of debris fall through the ceiling this semester.

"Since January, we've had pieces of concrete, muddy water and even a metal pipe fall through the ceiling tiles," Throckmorton said.

The marching, symphonic and jazz bands rehearse in the basement of the former Hicks Kitchen, which is located off of Campanile Drive and Entrace 20. Construction crews have demolished the space above the band hall to make way for the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen. This collaborative engineering kitchen is expected to be completed next fall and will provide space for undergraduate engineering, statistics, materials science, computational and applied mathematics, and computer science students.

Throughout this process, quarter-sized pieces of debris have frequently fallen through the ceiling tiles into the band hall and the band director's office, Throckmorton said.

The largest piece to fall thus far has been a section of a floor drain pipe. "A Bobcat, a small bulldozer, was on the first floor lifting out debris when it caught one of the floor drains on the first floor lifting out debris," Gilmore said.

"When it caught one of the floor drains on the first floor, it lifted out debris that had fallen thus far has been a section of a floor drain pipe," Gilmore said. "It was two inches in diameter and about two feet long. She said she and the construction contractor from Stappasawusese came down to the band hall immediately afterward. No one was in the space below during this incident, so there were no injuries."

"We've been lucky to not have been directly hit," Throckmorton said.

"A couple of times it was just because we were not standing there at the time," he said.

Major demolition began in January and was limited to the hours of 7:30am to 2:30pm, before the bands rehearsed.

"Any time we knew the students were there, we stopped with demolition," Gilmore said. "Safety is our first concern."

Before beginning the demolition process, Gilmore had members of the construction company check out the band hall to be sure of the holes in the floor above where the demolition was taking place and to see how their work was affecting band members underneath.

Mohr Minor and symphonic clarinetist Jamie Sammis said she feels the demolition crews forgot about the students that were also using the facilities.

"I think they didn't take into account that people were in that part of the building, and they got wrapped up in the project," Sammis, a Brown College sophomore, said.

To control the amount of dust particles and small debris from the construction above, construction crews installed plastic sheets in the hallways.

Gilmore said these sheets prevented most of the debris fallout from impinging on the bands in the basement.

"The ceiling tiles are catching at least everything [that falls]. A lot of the plastic can catch all of the dust, plaster and anything of substantial size," Gilmore said. "Gilmoresaid the rumor about harmful asbestos in the band hall was not true. Rather, she said one friable asbestos, which is non-hazardous, was used in some of the materials in the original design for the building."

"A Bobcat, a small bulldozer, was on the first floor lifting out debris when it caught one of the floor drains and pipe underneath. [The bulldozer] clipped the pipe, and it fell through the ceiling tile."

Environmental Health and Safety director Kathryn Cavender said the asbestos was removed before demolition began.

"There was asbestos in the mechanical room on some of the pipes and non-friable asbestos that went around the air ductwork," Cavender said.

"All of that was removed prior to the start of the project."

Cavender said the asbestos in the band hall is in the form of mats, a black tar that attaches fiberglass to the air conditioning duct covering.

"What causes problems and health concern is when [asbestos] becomes airborne, which means it becomes airborne," Cavender said. "When you give it to something like with the black mastic, then the fibers can no longer get into the air. Even if you tried to eat it, you couldn't breathe it, which is how it damages you."

Before beginning demolition on the upstairs of Hicks Kitchen, D&T Contracting, a licensed asbestos abatement company and Bay Environmental, a third-party air monitoring company, checked the air quality last October to ensure that the asbestos was not airborne.

"Despite these temporary remediaries, members of the bands still experienced setbacks. For the band hall, we've had a couple of weeks where we had to cancel rehearsals," Throckmorton said.

"The symptoms ranged from construction odors and asbestos from the peptic tank that runs from the basement restroom to the first floor gave him no choice but to cancel rehearsals."

Symphonic and Jazz Band member Julia Bowes said the recent demolition has rendered the band hall more of a storage than a rehearsal space.

"While they were doing construction, they actually knocked down some of the walls that surrounded the pipes, and you can smell the pipe contents all the time, and it's permeating through the halls," Bowes, a Martel College freshman, said. "For a while, it was chemical smelling, and then recently it's been smelling like sewage."

To avoid more cancellations, band members devised a solution.

"If you were going in the band hall, you would open it an hour early and get fans going to blow the fumes out," Sammis said. "Once we got a system, it worked out."

Typically, the symphonic band has two concerts in the spring. However, due to construction and its operational schedule, the band performed just one concert this semester.

"It's been inconvenient that we've had to miss rehearsals, but our end-of-the-year concert was a campus construction concert," Sammis said.

In tune with the themed concert, band members donned construction hard hats during their performance.

"We figured out we could embrace it and celebrate it, because it's not like it's going to be permanent," Sammis said. "It's highly inconvenient, but it's not permanent."

Plans for removing the band hall have been discussed but are not in the near future, Throckmorton said.

"Right now, the room is too small for the number of people we have in here and twothirds, which makes it so loud," Throckmorton said. "It's not too good. It has to have room in dissipate. The room really is not ideal."

He said the initiative to build a new band hall is on the list of things Rice will do, but it's currently not of high priority.

Futre said she disagrees with Rice's priorities in light of its recent focus on college expansion and increasing endowment.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous that the school is spending so much money on building new colleges, expanding enrollment, reducing the growth between Hansen and Will Rice, and they won't even give the non-major music program a second look," Bowes said.

Throckmorton said he thinks the most important thing that will be helpful to students.

"It's a really neat project that I think is valuable to Rice, which is why I'm willing to put up with this for a few more weeks," Throckmorton said.

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BioE professor wins award for photobiology research

Andrea Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine to run protocols and clinical trials with technologies developed in her lab at Rice.

"It's really important for us to develop technologies that have the opportunity to translate and used in patient care, so we can have the opportunity to get information early on in terms of whether we're heading in the right kind of direction or not," Drezek said.

Drezek said her research group looks for gaps in the cancer treatment process and seeks to develop ways to monitor cancer through less invasive and cheaper methods of detecting and imaging. In this case, her lab developed Phoretix to create high image resolution of tissue biopsies. She said her research in the long run will aim to reduce the number of biopsies required for cancer detection. Currently, her research focuses on allowing doctors to better select the kind of biopsies to perform.

Drezek said modern technology has enabled scientists to study cancer differently than the traditional approach.

"Cancer's been diagnosed the same way for the past 100 years," she said. "You punch out a piece of tissue. You section it. You stain it. You look at it under a microscope, and the pathologist is looking for changes in the molecular structure and changes in the nucleus. However, you can look at this with optical technology and look at specific molecular changes.

Drezek said the award is about recognition and respect from the field.

"Any of these kinds of awards help bring recognition to your group and university," Drezek said. "They help you feel that the projects you've spent your life trying to push forward are worthwhile and that people are noticing what you've done."

"This building lives at the very heart of our campus, and although it has no books, no classrooms, it is at the same time a building that at it is the very core of what we are about," Leebron said. "What makes a university in any view an extraordinary place are the opportunities we have every day, not just in classes, to interact with each other, to exchange ideas, to constitute ourselves a sense of community."

Leebron thanked the pavilion's architect, Tom Phifer, and his wife Susan, his wife, the architect, and his wife, and Assistant Provost for Facilities, Engineering and Planning, Barbara White Bryson for their contributions to the project. He also thanked Raymond V. and Susan Brochstein for their contributions to Rice.

"We all get a great deal of thanks for what you have contributed to life on our campus," Leebron said.

Mark Ditten, Associate Vice President for Housing and Dining and pavilion committee leader, then introduced his committee. The pavilion committee plans to work to sponsor events there, such as a World Cup party, and host speakers in the pavilion, TRC Project Manager Larry Vouder said.

Ditten said the pavilion could be very successful given the right amount of support.

"With the right kind of care and nurturing, it will grow up to be something fabulous," Ditten said.

Ditten thanked Linbeck Construction contractor Ed Durham for his work on the pavilion, and "one of his heroes.

Student Association President Matt Tuan spoke next. He said the pavilion was a significant step for campus construction.

"The completion of this pavilion means there's one less construction site on campus," Tuan, a Brown College junior, said.

"Thank you for leading the project." Tuan was followed by Graduate Student Association President Michael Contreras, who said the pavilion would contribute to the graduate student community culture.

"Traditionally, graduate students at Rice, as well as in other institutions, have had a somewhat-tainted reputation of staying in their labs and seeing the world only outside of campus," Contreras said.

The completion of the pavilion's opening was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony April 24.

"The completion of this pavilion is a significant step for us at Rice," Tuan said. "It's a significant step for the university," Leebron said. "They help students to come together and get the kind of recognition that a good idea deserves."

Strong opinions brew over pavilion's opening

Rice community has mixed views about its relationship with RMC

"This is really a place where graduate students can write their dissertations, where faculty can meet with students without the baggage of stuffy offices, where coffee on campus can find a home," Harper said.

All those in attendance offered their thanks to the Brochsteins, who funded the project. Raymond Brochstein, a graduate of the School of Architecture, and his wife Susan, who is working on her PhD in religious studies at Rice, and Debrah, who is a 2000 graduate of the H. H. Dow Graduate School of Management, The Brochsteins have served on the Board of Trustees and are frequent donors to the university.

"Raymond and I feel privileged to be able to be a part of this wonderful addition to the Rice campus," said Susan Brochstein. "We hope the sharing and communicating of new and old ideas with others over a good cup of coffee in this delightful venue will be among the fund memories Rice students will take with them for the rest of their lives."

Student response to the pavilion has been mixed. While many feel that the pavilion is a valuable resource for the campus, others feel the pa- vilion encroaches on other student locations, such as Rice Coffeehouse and the RMC.

"It's a place we can hang out and eat, that's the right kind of culture," Bookhout said.

"We have the sharing and communicating of new and old ideas with others over a good cup of coffee in this delightful venue will be among the fund memories Rice students will take with them for the rest of their lives."
For this election year, political theorists and realists have examined the impact of the Internet on 2008 campaigns and campaign funding. While the Internet has certainly reshaped the political landscape, it is important to remember that the Internet is just one tool among many in the arsenal of political communication. The rise of social networking sites has allowed candidates and campaigns to reach out to constituents in new and innovative ways. However, traditional methods of campaign financing, such as direct mail and television advertising, continue to be major players in the political landscape.

Mandle, a proponent of clean elections reform, argues that the Internet has the potential to democratize the political process. By allowing for greater transparency and accountability, the Internet can empower voters and give them a greater say in the election process. Mandle believes that the Internet can act as a “leveling force” in the political landscape, allowing candidates without name recognition or large campaign war chests to compete on a more equal footing.

The Internet has also been used as a means of fundraising, with candidates and campaigns alike embracing the power of online donations. While these donations may be smaller in amount, they add up to a significant sum when multiplied across many thousands of contributors. With the Internet, candidates can reach a larger audience and build a donor base from which to draw campaign funds.

Despite these benefits, there are also concerns about the role of the Internet in the political process. Some argue that the Internet can amplify existing power imbalances, giving candidates with larger donor lists or more experience in online fundraising an advantage over their competitors. Additionally, the Internet is not immune to the same problems of misinformation and misinformation that affect traditional forms of political communication.

Overall, Mandle believes that the Internet has the potential to transform the political process. By allowing for greater transparency and accountability, the Internet can empower voters and give them a greater say in the election process.

Mandle’s work is an important contribution to the ongoing debate about the role of technology in politics. As the Internet continues to shape the political landscape, it is crucial that we carefully consider its impact on the democratic process.
Faculty Honors, Prizes and Awards

George R. Brown Certificate of Highest Merit Award for Superior Teaching in Undergraduate Education
- Stephen Klineberg
- George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching
  - Edward Cox
  - Terrence Doody
  - Michael Emerson
  - Michael Gustin
  - Marcia O'Malley
- Charles Duncan Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
  - Rebekah Drezek
  - Michelle Hebl
- Sarofim Teaching Award
  - Suzana Bloem
  - Christa Gaug
  - Nicolas Salgro Outstanding Teacher Award
  - Michelle Hebl
- Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management Award for Excellence in Teaching
  - Sally Widener
- Jones Student Association Award for Excellence in Teaching
  - Brian R. Roundtree
- Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management MBA for Professionals Award for Excellence in Teaching
  - Richard A. Price III
- Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management MBA for Executives Award for Excellence in Teaching
  - James T. Hackett
  - Karen Nelson
- Graduate Student Association Teaching and Mentoring Award
  - Janice Hewitt
  - Stephan Link
- Graduate Student Association Faculty/Staff Service Award
  - Carlos Amaro
  - Mark Pierce
- C.M. and Demaris HUDSPEGH Endowed Award for Student Life and Clubs
  - Ken Cox
  - Harry Le
- Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize
  - Karim Al-Zand
- Hershel M. Rich Invention Award
- Kyriacos Athanasiou
- George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching
  - Bridget Gorman
- Shapiro Library Staff Innovation Award
  - Sandi Edwards
- Presidential Award for Mentoring
  - Dennis Cox
  - Rebekah Drezek
- Elizabeth Gittis Award for Exemplary Service to Rice University
  - Joyce Bald
- Women's Resource Center Impact Award
  - Deborah Harter
  - Rebecca Richards-Kortum
- Meritorious Service Awards
  - Margaret Ann Mask Barnett '55
  - Hally Beth Walker Peidtther '41
  - Dan C. Steiner '77
  - Richard A. Tapia
- Student Association Mentor Recognition Award
  - Deborah Harter
- Gold Medal
  - James A. Baker, III
- Baker College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - William Parsons
- Hanson College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Edson Liang
- Jones College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Christopher Hight
- Lovett College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Rolf Byham
- Martel College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Brandon Eric Dugan
- Sid Richardson College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Steve Cox
- Wiess College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Stan Dodds
- Will Rice College Outstanding Faculty Associate
  - Nick C. Nichols '75
  - Sam K. Reed '70
- Distinguished Alumni Awards
  - Barbara D. Boyan '70, '74, '75
  - Tom J. Fatjo, Jr. '63
- Alumni Novotny

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Courtyard
New Owl Days host 500 prospective students, up from previous years

BY RACHEL CARLSON THE RICE THESSER

The Rice campus played host to prospective students last month as the Student Admission Council did its third sessions of Owl Days. The new program for admitted student visitation, which replaces previous years' Owl Weekend, took place in three Monday-through-Tuesday sessions, from April 7-9, April 17-19 and April 25-26.

SAC Director Clare Shorall said Rice students collectively facilitated Owl Days.

"Everybody really rallied," Shorall, Sid Richardson College president, said. "We had awesome volunteers, really good coordinators and a lot of staff support. I think our yield was greater than in past years.

During the three sessions, prospective students visited classes and engaged in activities as well as panel discussions regarding academic divisions, departmental office hours and information sessions with admissions staff. In the evenings, visitors attended performances by the Rice Philharmonic and Spontaneous Combustion, club study breaks and sports games.

"Through planned activities and seeing classes, prospective students could really understand what the campus was about, and at night they got to experience the residential college system," Shorall, a junior, said.

SAC On-Campus Event Coordinator Kevin Sigerman said9er students were carefully structured.

"During the daytime on Monday, it was nuts-and-bolts stuff, what we really want them to know about Rice," Sigerman, a Lovett College sophomore, said. "We wanted to make sure that even if the student was busy all day Monday, the Owl had something else to do. After dinner, there were the non-academic activities, which were more optional."

"The Office of Enrollment initiated Owl Days last fall to address what we saw as the shortcomings of Owl Weekend. Having a visitation at the beginning of the week made it easier for prospective students to attend classes, Shorall said.

"We wanted to make sure they got to experience the residential college life," Sigerman said. "That was a possibility for a panel about student life for next year."

"Sigerman said there were still a few kinks in the program that may be amended. For example, the last session of Owl Days took place during the last week of classes.

"Part of the reason we changed Owl Days was because the admissions office eliminated interim decision. This meant that we couldn't start Owl Days until a week after April 1st," Sigerman said.

Shorall said the schedule difficulties were inevitable.

"We planned [Owl Days] to be on Mondays, so that was the way that Mondays fell," Shorall said. "As far as evaluations went, students enjoyed themselves just as much."

Munoz said the enrollment office will look at times in the semester to host prospective students.

"One major concern that we had was [what area] of the term the dates fall," Munoz said. "When people come, where do they want to host prospective students?" Students were also allowed to separate Owls from parents.

Munoz said Owl Days were established to reduce drinking among prospective students during the weekend visitation period. She said the level of on-campus students who volunteered to host the increasing number of prospective students, as well as the construction on campus, somewhat limited SAC's options.

"I know there have been rumors [about this year's change from Owl Weekend to Owl Days]," Shorall said. "It was impossible for us to do any other way because of campus accommodation."

"Shorall said that the primary motivation.

Sigerman said SAC plans to discuss potential modifications for Owl Days in the future. He said next year's agenda may contain more opportunities to learn about student life.

"This year, we had tools that were meant to focus on residential college life," Sigerman said. "There is a possibility for a panel about student life for next year."

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"I know there have been rumors [about this year's change from Owl Weekend to Owl Days]," Shorall said. "It was impossible for us to do any other way because of campus accommodation."

"Shorall said that the primary motivation.

Sigerman said SAC plans to discuss potential modifications for Owl Days in the future. He said next year's agenda may contain more opportunities to learn about student life.

"This year, we had tools that were meant to focus on residential college life," Sigerman said. "There is a possibility for a panel about student life for next year."

Sigerman said there were still a few kinks in the program that may be amended. For example, the last session of Owl Days took place during the last week of classes.

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Shorall said the schedule difficulties were inevitable.

"We planned [Owl Days] to be on Mondays, so that was the way that Mondays fell," Shorall said. "As far as evaluations went, students enjoyed themselves just as much."

Munoz said the enrollment office will look at times in the semester to host prospective students.

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Dear Graduates:

On this most exciting occasion of your graduation, I can think of no finer prayer for you than the one that was prayed by the father of our country:

“And now, Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for Thy goodness by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee. Bless us with Thy wisdom in our counsels, success in battle, and let our victories be tempered with humanity...Grant the petition of Thy servant, for the sake of Him whom Thou has called Thy Beloved Son; nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done.” George Washington (1732-1799).

Blessings of the Lord Jesus be with you,

Jim Tour
www.jmtour.com
SPEAKING FROM PAGE 12.

TAYLOR said, "The comment program is not unique to Rice, however. Taylor said several other universities have similar programs and provide free copies of a book to students upon their entrance to the university. Other schools have a university-wide reading and a few schools encourage non-students from the community to read the book and participate in discussions. We're somewhere in between," Taylor said. The committee will be the first common reading articles

"The one thing that was noticeable different between the two was..." Taylor said. "We're going to try to curate out a clear time period for the discussion and probably have it in a different format."

Matthew Taylor Assistant to the President

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"We all have a strong reaction to the title, and there was an assumption that the book would be polarizing and that had an ideological agenda," Taylor said. "The committee said very close to that, and we're confident that the book was not an ideological book..."

Taylor said he still has high hopes for the program that will be a positive influence on incoming students. "If done properly, it can be a nice transition for them, especially if it's done with their advisers and coordinators," Taylor said. "We're still firm believers in the program, and this is really just the second year." Taylor said no every student has been satisfied by the committee's choice.

"We had some responses from students from last year, and we're..." Taylor said. "We had some responses from students from last year, and we're..."

"It fits into..." President David Lebron's initiative and goal for having Rice students become more engaged with the global community," Taylor said. "The university is not responding to..." Taylor said. "The university is not responding to..."
SPORT MANAGEMENT

The sport management program at Rice received approval status from the North American Society of Sport Management. The endorsement is the highest academic honor in the sport management field. Happonstall said, "This recognition helped the faculty to recognize the quality of the major.

Wes Jones College junior Tiffany Loggins, who will graduate with a kinesiology major, expects the new major to fit her area of study. "I'm better on the degree," Loggins said. "Right now, I'm a kinesiology major, but that's not what I want. I was almost a part of a different major, Happonstall said. "The department change reflects the industry changes across all," kinesiology professor Tom Stallings said. "Because of how the sport industry has grown, there's been this demand for people with these unique job skills.

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George Rupp is the current president of the International Rescue Committee and a former president of Rice University. His commencement speech focused on students using their knowledge to enact change by becoming more sensitive to other global communities.

**Commencement Speaker Rupp emphasizes global service**

Thank you very much, David, for your warm introduction, appropriate on a day when — I don’t know if you’re noticed, but the word “warm” has been used by virtually every speaker so far. As David mentioned, Nancy is here with us and we are both delighted to be back on the Rice campus, and in particular to be assembled with you in this place, twelve years to the day of our St. Bernard’s academic quadrangles in the world. I am pleased that you all have decided to be here rather than in Crawford for Jenna Bush’s wedding. As David has indicated, this occasion is a wonderful time to celebrate for you, the graduating seniors, for your families, friends who have provided support and for the faculty, staff and board who have worked with you in this achievement. So, graduating students, please take a meaningful class for your merits and teach- en, for your families and cherished friends. Let’s hear applause for them. That was pretty limp, again, the waving of your hands is very significant.

We all celebrate this happy occasion. We come to this special class of 2008, are appropriately the focus of our attention. On behalf of all of us, I will address you directly in my remarks.

It is not a public and private life during the years you have been here at Rice that has been the subject of this address. The United States in the view of friends and foes alike across the world is of representing your participation in the Global opinion polls confirm what we see. Global community, at least to see ourselves more clearly. As we passed, our old ways of thinking of ourselves as separate from our communities, or completely separate from the other communities around us, and think of ourselves as “national” has been and is a hope I express for the future. Beyond our immediate communities, families, home neighborhoods, ethnic groups, traditions, campus, gated communities. This is the set of issues in which the selfless, the unselfish, the unassuming is the real spirit of Rice. We must therefore move beyond not only by us but beyond those who routinely practice denial. As you are awarded your degrees, and into communities which we participate not only in the communities closest to you but also in the larger world.

In this way, each circle points to the next, and the smallest circle. There are three concentric circles in the process of more and more, both to Houston and to the global world. In the final circle, we have to think about the Rice students. Education is not simply a matter of learning to stop thinking of itself as self-subsistent, and unbridled individualism. This is an illuminating set of questions about how we as indi- viduals relate to the communities in which we participate.

In the case of Rice, you have learned of the enormous power of individual action. We can hope that as a result, we can work together for the ideal of humanity as a whole.

As for all of you individually, so for the United States as a nation, we will gain traction in confronting those who attack us out of either an ideological or a fog of ideology or the continuing impact of violent conflict. Whether or not we have our national interests compromised, we are part of a larger reality in which we live. As a global citizen, we may not always be the most confident, but we are pursuing the one that is best for the community.

In fact, of the 22 developed economies, we rank near the bottom in per capita of our own past performance. The United States in the view of friends and foes alike across the world is of representing your participation in the Global opinion polls confirm what we see. Global community, at least to see ourselves more clearly. As we passed, our old ways of thinking of ourselves as separate from our communities, or completely separate from the other communities around us, and think of ourselves as “national” has been and is a hope I express for the future. Beyond our immediate communities, families, home neighborhoods, ethnic groups, traditions, campus, gated communities. This is the set of issues in which the selfless, the unselfish, the unassuming is the real spirit of Rice. We must therefore move beyond not only by us but beyond those who routinely practice denial. As you are awarded your degrees, and into communities which we participate not only in the communities closest to you but also in the larger world.

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Top left: Graduate students prepare to receive degrees. [By Deian Tabakov]
Top mid-left: Hanszen College seniors Hannah Brassham and Jake Araujo beam. [By Ian White]
Mid-top mid-left: Brown College senior Sarah McDonald gives the camera a raspberry. [By Ian White]
Mid-bottom mid-left: Jones College senior Emily Coleman claps as a pre-grad. [By David Rosales]
Far left: Baker College senior David Jerkins struggles to stay awake for the speech. [By David Rosales]
Bottom left: Lineup begins. [By Deian Tabakov]
Center top: Birdseye view of quad. [By Ian White]
Center bottom: This year’s graduates exit the salutatory after the ceremony. [By Deian Tabakov]
Top right: Martel College senior Sanna Ronkahti hugs the Martel master. [By David Rosales]
Far right: Baker senior Philip Worland smokes a cigar as a grad hat is tossed in the background. [By David Rosales]
Attention

Students and Employees of:

- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- The Methodist Hospital System
- Texas Children's Hospital
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- Rice University
- University of Houston
- University of Texas Medical Branch
- Baylor College of Medicine

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Any resident transferred with school or company can give a 30-day notice and be released from the lease contract. Letter from school or employer required.
The latter has been touted as a "re-invention of disco," which is sort of a new tricks, their sound is much tighter and more pulled together. The quality of the recording has improved immensely and you can tell that the absence of their original bassist hasn't hurt them much at all. They're grown up and stayed young, and it shows.

The album begins with a slow fade-in on "See the Sun," with a little acoustic guitar and Lake Pritchard on slow vocals. At first, the amusing lyrics and simple style make me wonder if I have made a mistake. Am I listening to the new Pete Doherty album? Slowly, the album builds to the Kooks I know and love. Bouncy beats, fun hooks and, oh, those dreamy accents. I'm smiling. As I listen to this album, I know it's not the best technically or thematically, but my feet is tapping, and I have a huge grin on my face. The Kooks follow with an intoxicating dance song called "Always Where I Need to Be," which is made much richer by some experimental vocals and an intriguing bass line. "Mr. Maker,"

The Kooks are an English band composed of Luke Pritchard, Hugh Harris, Paul Garred and Dan Lagan.

Hercules and Love Affair anything but pretentious

BY KYLE BARNHART
THESSNER STAFF

Eponymous albums with Internet buzz are hot right now: First Vampire Weekend, and now the new self-titled LP from Hercules and Love Affair. The latter has been touted as a "re-invention of disco," which is sort of unique, yet possesses some quality that lacks it back to the beginning of the album.

Accessibility should be appreciated in a time when good music is trying its damnedest to be obtuse. Hercules and Love Affair, with all its familiar territory stomped with a new sense of independence, isn't sty -lized for the likes of anything with a dance beat. It's everything you love about subtle bass guitar and drums fused with semi-anthropomorphous, powerful vocals and an element of atmosphere that can only be described as, well, mythical.

Hercules and Love Affair is headed up by New York DJ Andrew Butler, whose house music influences are apparent, but not overpowering throughout their album. The first track, "Time Will," begins with deep, resonating vocals that search out a warm atmosphere before giving way to the familiar kick of a bass drum and hi-hat. The vocals find their place and break from the beat before becoming too familiar. Then, without warning, the album turns into a self-titled random assortment of beats piercing through a soft chair and a most perversely dynamic drum track on "Hercules Thieves." The interplay between tracks is more akin to the seamless nature of club music than to rock or anything else. And that's a good thing.

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plays

BEST PLAY (FULL-LENGTH)

winner  
[The Odd Couple (Will Rice)]

runners-up  
[Richard III (Baker)]  
[Meatloaf Play (Rice Players)]

"The Will Rice Players poured their time and effort into this production, and it definitely showed. Comedy fans will love the play for its witty and smart dialogue, and drama fans will love the play for its engaging and sometimes emotional exchanges between Oscar and Felix. The Odd Couple appealed to almost any taste, no matter how messy the eater."

BEST PLAY (SHORT)

winner  
[The Vagina Monologues]

runners-up  
[All for the Timing (Rice Theater Program)]  
[Freshmen One-Acts (Wiess)]

The Vagina Monologues, a series of short skits celebrating and sometimes bemoaning that part of the female anatomy, succeeded largely in part because of its truthful subject matter which ranges from the hilarious to the heart-wrenching. A moving production even for those without fallopian tubes, though they may be in short supply in the audience.

BEST DIRECTOR

winner  
[Chepe Lockett, The Vagina Monologues (Wiess)]

runners-up  
[Stephan Hammel, The Odd Couple (Baker)]  
[Geoff Copper, H.M.S. Pinafore (Rice Light Opera Society)]

Congratulations.

BEST ACTOR

winner  
[Raines Taylor, The Odd Couple (Will Rice)]

runners-up  
[Robert Gerald Tronesell, The Odd Couple (Will Rice)]  
[Chepe Lockett, Richard III (Baker)]

"Taylor is very comfortable in his role as Oscar, able to play both the caring and cardine sides of his character with ease, giving advice one moment and yelling in frustration the next." His contributions to the play were commendable.

BEST ACTRESS

winner  
[Natalie Navar, The Vagina Monologues (Wiess)]

runners-up  
[Anastasia Harris, The Vagina Monologues (Will Rice)]  
[Natalie Navar,Proof (Players)]

Zotnick, one of the two "British hotties" who also play a supporting role in The Odd Couple, provided energy and an excellent accent to boot.

musicals

BEST MUSICAL

winner  
[I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Lovett)]

runners-up  
[I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Lovett)]  
[Jesus Christ Superstar (Brown)]

Paul Early, a Lovett College junior, won Best Supporting Actor for his role as King Herod.

BEST ACTRESS

winner  
[Kelsey Zottnick, One-Acts (Rice Players)]

runners-up  
[I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Lovett)]

"Yes, there are inevitable problems with clunking microphones interrupting what should be dramatic silences. And the often-lackluster orchestra had trouble creating the exciting momentum necessary for a rock opera, especially during the unusually long overture. But the core problem — and it is a stretch to point this out — is that this performance deserved a better venue than a college commons. If there is any theater god, Superstar will stage a year-end resurrection, complete with an orchestra pit and acoustics that would let this opera truly rock."

BEST ACTOR

winner  
[Stephan Hammel, Jesus Christ Superstar (Brown)]

runners-up  
[Stephan Hammel, H.M.S. Pinafore (Rice Light Opera Society)]  
[Tim Rice, I'm Just Gonna Say It: Tim Rice's Year-End Revue (Lovett)]

"The original Jesus Christ Superstar by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber was a glitzy, if controversial, rock opera interpretation of Jesus Christ's last days. But in the Brown College Theater production, director Stephan Hammel attempts to strip away the glitz and turn Superstar into a legitimate, even dramatic, work of theater."

BEST DIRECTOR

winner  
[Kate Clarke, The Secret Garden (Marta)]

runners-up  
[Allie Janda, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Lovett)]  
[Ariel Rogers, Hair (Brown)]

Janda's smooth voice, which colors each Philharmonic performance, is put to good use in this zippy little comedy. Rogers' Sheila lends a pleasing voice to Hair's final score.
"Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," set chillingly against the reality of the Vietnam War.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

winner
- Paul Early, Jesus Christ Superstar (Brown)

runners-up
- Tim Pasco, Hair (Jones)
- Corey Shaw, H.M.S. Pinafore (RLO)


Early did an excellent job portraying King Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar. From the garish costume to the flanking dancers, Early offered a comic relief in the tense play.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

winner
- Gillian Smith, H.M.S. Pinafore (RLO)
- Emily Fortuna, Hello, Hamlet! (Wiess)

runners-up
- Amy Bridges, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Hareem)
- Annabelle Bay, The Secret Garden (Martel)
- Stephanie Nemir, The Secret Garden (Martel)

Smith lent her lovely voice to H.M.S. Pinafore to give the play energy. Her sung soliloquy rang sweet in our ears.

Fortuna's parody of Mary Poppins in Hello, Hamlet! was surely one of the most memorable moments in the show as the acted up Poppins' happy-go-lucky attitude amidst the hilarious despair of the rest of the cast.

production

BEST INSTRUMENTATION & MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

winners
- Robert LiKamWa, Kathy Deng and Garrett Schumann, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Loveett)
- Michael Dirk, Ryan Stickney, Robert LiKamWa and Kathy Deng, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Loveett)

runners-up
- Ryan Nixaver, Hair (Jones)
- Michael Dok, H.M.S. Pinafore (RLO)

Though LiKamWa's and Deng's piano-violin duets may be one of the smallest musical accompaniment combinations recently seen in college theater, their duets, led by music director Garrett Schumann, are also an uncommonly good and notably professional for a college production. Plus, the Backstreet Boys- and Nirvana-inspired piano tunes during intermission made the show particularly enjoyable.

THE LIGHTING OF Richard III was a perfect compliment to the directed productions: chilling, dramatic and thrilling. The lights were every bit as complimentary to this effect as the staging and acting.

BEST CREW/TECHNICAL EXECUTION

winner
- Hello, Hamlet! (Wiess)

runners-up
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Loveett)
- Richard III (Baker)

Without a crew to back it up, it is hard to imagine how Hello, Hamlet! would have happened. As it was, the show's excellent technical execution allowed it to succeed on many other fronts without interruption. Congrats, crew, and keep those great productions coming!

BEST CREW/TECHNICAL EXECUTION

winner
- Hello, Hamlet! (Wiess)

runners-up
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Loveett)
- Richard III (Baker)

BEST LIGHTING DESIGN

winner
- Sarah Cook, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Loveetto)

runners-up
- Jessica Reiper and Angela Grant, The Secret Garden (Martel)

Ryan's costumes for Hair captured the psychedelic kitche with bell-bottoms, long hair and obnoxious prints to give audiences the feeling that they were there, even if they don't remember the Sixties.

BEST SET DESIGN

winner
- Marla Ryan and Kate Coley, Hair (Jones)

runners-up
- Rob Smith, Michael Rog and David Meyers, Richard III (Baker)

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

winner
- Michael Rog, Michael Rog and David Meyers, Richard III (Baker)

runners-up
- Sarah Cook, Hair (Jones)
- Jessica Reiper and Angela Grant, The Secret Garden (Martel)

BEST DIRECTION

winner
- Abbie Ryan and Kate Coley, Hair (Jones)

runners-up
- Dhruv Venkatraman and Charles Lena, The Secret Garden (Martel)
- Rob Smith, Michael Rog and David Meyers, Richard III (Baker)

Congratulations go out to Stephan Hammel, who is recognized for his outstanding contributions to theater. This year, Hammel directed the wildly popular Jesus Christ Superstar and Hair. Hammel has been actively involved in Brown College theater for four years, and helped to revive the Jones College theater program this year with his production of Hair. We bid him a loving farewell and thanks for all his hard work.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

winner
- Stephan Hammel

runners-up
- Alice Chai
- Delys Richardson

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RDT spring show offers memorable experience

BY TAYLOR JOHNSON
Thresher Staff

Rice Dance Theater’s spring show, “Dancing on the Edge,” didn’t keep me sitting on the edge of my seat during the performance. Having gone to see the show on a date with my roommate, I recall looking over at him after the first dance after intermission and saying, “There are three dances left! Mind me.”

The weakest track comes a bit later, “Do You Wanna.” It gained a welcome change in tone. It’s longer, seems more forceful about their music to present a well-coordinated performance in each case. The choreography and dancing could have done more to emphasize the message.

Of the remaining six dances in the show, none particularly stepped it up; nonetheless, they had their successes. Outfits coordinated well with each other — some with bright colors, others rather plain and dull — but they also worked together with the lighting and the music to present a well-coordinated and energetic performance. Despite my initial close-minded reaction to my first experience with modern dance, I am glad I went to the show, and I would go again in the future. Improvements could certainly be made in RDT’s spring show, with the biggest disappointment being the weakness of that strobe light. If done properly and without fear of the overpowering results, it could have left images of the dance burned in my mind that would not have required such a long afterthought before I could enjoy the overall good quality of the performance.

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Baseball clinches conference title with sweep of Houston

by Jessica Cannon

There were many things to cheer about as the Owls' baseball team played its final home series last weekend. With a sweep over rival University of Houston, the Owls (39-11, 16-3 C-USA) clinched the regular season championship in the Conference USA with two straight wins against the Cougars. Houston's Leila Braid said they were coming off a successful regular season, junior Emily Braid added they were coming off a successful regular season.

SPORTS

On the first day of play, Marshall's women's tennis outlasted Marshall University, which they defeated 4-3. In a thrilling comeback victory, Marshall's women's tennis gave the team a run for its money. But the Owls nonetheless pulled away outside of facing the Owls, which opened Thursday in Tulane's 26-1 victory against the University of Houston. The Owls then moved to the semifinals of the Conference USA Championship tournament, ending their strong season on a note.

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This was not supposed to happen. Not again. The Owls had encountered its first conference tournament. With an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships, and the possibility of having an NCAA Regional on the line, the Owls knew they would need their strongest play of the year to overcome a Tulane squad that boasted three ranked singles players and two ranked doubles teams.

Rice, however, came newly out of the gate as Rosa and her senior partner, Filipozzi, fell to Victor Kuklik and Albert Seton in 9-3 at No. 3. Sophomore Chang Nan and junior Tobias Schiess paired the 38th-ranked pair of Arman Bogran and Ricardo Santos at the No. 2 before the Owls won a pair of 6-4, 6-4 victories. With a sweep over Houston, the Owls were one step closer to securing a conference title. With Rice's past two squads always seeming to lack a certain key component, the Owls would like to see a new winning streak.

In the realm of sports, effort and talent do not always equate to success. But in women's tennis, the Owls' tennis team is an exception.

Rice open the tournament in convincing fashion, nullifying East Carolina's hopes with a 5-0 victory. The Owls then moved to the semifinals of the Conference USA Championship tournament, ending their strong season on a note.

The Owls outlasted Marshall University, which they received from sophomore Wendi Clark. Facing forward, Clark had her opponent in a 4-3 victory. The Owls then moved to the semifinals of the Conference USA Championship tournament, ending their strong season on a note.

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SPORTS

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  - Staff Accountant
  - Dallas Stars

- **Melissa Hindman** '05
  - Marketing Manager
  - Philadelphia Eagles

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**RICE'S NEWEST INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR**

**Golf team last at C-USA**

by Yan Diglov

SPORTS EDITOR

For the golf team, the Conference USA Championships are turning out to be a tough nut to crack. For the second year in a row, the Owls rounded out 12th out of as many teams in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 22. Impressively, performances from freshmen Michael Whitehead and Junior Kyle Kelley were not enough to keep the team from sliding into the bottom. But Rice’s young stars left room for a promise of a brighter future alongside their squad for improvement.

The Owls needed a first place finish to extend their postseason, but after a tumultuous regular season in which they cracked the top 15, they would have been satisfied with at least a solid effort. In addition, Rice finished ahead of C-USA rivals Tulsa and University of Houston at the River Landing Intercollegiate collaborative the week prior to the conference tournament, so coach Terri Scott and his team were optimistic.

Unfortunately, the same problems that have plagued them the whole season kept the team from performing well as a whole. Whitehead finished the tournament with a back-nine-in-one and an eagle in the final round. Kelley finished in 17th place, but no other player could contribute to a complete effort: Senior Bobby Thorseth finished second to last, with only his fellow senior Anthony Birdsong behind him.

"Reasonably, it would have been nice to have finished in the middle of the pack," Scott said. "My two oldest players let the whole team down. It is embarrassing."

While fatigue from the lengthy season can be blamed for the poor performance in the conference championship, the team faced many obstacles from the beginning of the year. "Early on the team was down to only seven players when sophomore Zach Wilson elected to leave the team and junior Erik Peterson sidelined with an injury. With only seven more competitive, but over performed spots, the players had less competitive motivation," Additionally, freshmen and sophomore played almost every tournament.

However, the same circumstances that acted as drawbacks for this season may prove to be assets for next year, as the young players have often provided the highlights for the team. "Sophomore Casey Michel has posted three top-20 finishes this season, and sophomore Michael Burkavich, who was recently named to the C-USA All-Academic team, has maintained the second best stroke average on the squad," said Scott.

The team received an extra shot of good news this week when incoming freshman Kevin Thomas finished second in the Texas State 5A Championship. Together, they will be graduating from Stone High School in Houston, Texas and joining the Owls next fall.

"We need youth on this team to always push the older guys," Scott said. "Otherwise you get stagnant."

The addition of Robert Burrow, a transfer from Rhodes College, should provide the needed competition and motivation. After his freshman year, Burrow led Rhodes with a .500 average. His name in the clubhouse as the top three spots established and won the Rhodes College Men's Fall Classic. Burrow's combination of Youth and experience will prove valuable for his role on the Rice team next year.

Whitehead noted that the new addition does not make the Owls a completely new look and fill both coaches and players with hope for a competitive team next year.

"We will definitely see a vast improvement in this year," Whitehead said. "I am hoping everybody comes in hungry and ready to play."

---

**Golfers last at C-USA**

**Where have all the Rangers fans gone?**

**COMMENTARY**

When I first got to Texas, I wasn't familiar with Big-One belt buckles and July 4th barbecues were something I thought about, but never experienced. The thing about the mental slide show was "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" sung by "cowboy" Paula Cole, if only because I was in a sob-rock mood, and it has "gories" in the title.

It's been so long since they're gone, they'll only show it if the Rangers fans gone?"

"Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?"

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"Where Have All the Cowboys G
Senior sprinter Heard's emergence highlights men's track's resurgence

By Brody Rollins

Senior Bubba Heard has been an anchor for the men's track team this season. He holds NCAA-regional qualifying times in the 200 and 400 meter races, and is ranked in the top four in C-USA in each event. His personal bests of 10.43 seconds in the 100 and 22.10 seconds in the 200 have been a highlight of men's track's resurgence this season. Heard has been a consistent performer for the Owls, with strong finishes in most of his races.

The Owls have a good chance to take the C-USA Championships. Senior sprinter Heard's emergence has contributed to the Owls' success this season, and they will look for more accolades as they compete in the C-USA Championships in El Paso this weekend.

Women's track set for postseason competition

by Natalie Cieriuzzo

Sophomore Britney Williams runs the mile at the Bayou City Classic on Feb. 5. She and the other distance runners have been instrumental in the Owls' success this season, and they will look for more accolades as they compete in the C-USA Championships in El Paso this weekend.

The following weekend, on April 26, while the rest of the Rice campus was studying for exams, the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium played host to the Fred O'Kelley rice Twilight meet. Rice took advantage of the home track, excelling in sprints, distance running and field events. Freshman Alex Gibbs won the 100 hurdles, posting a time of 14.48.

Sophomore Walwyn qualified for regionals when he cleared a time of 10.43 seconds. He improved his mark by .02 seconds from the previous week and moved up to second in the Conference USA event rankings. Senior Jon Turner finished third in the event with a time of 10.52, just .02 off of the regional-qualifying mark.

Other events:

- Freshman Allison Mericle qualified for regionals in the 10,000, coming in seventh place at 34:07.60. This was her strongest meet of the year, winning the regional-qualifying time.
- Freshman Sarah Lyons had one of her strongest meets of the year, winning the 3000-meter steeplechase with a second-place finish at 10:20.23, a regional-qualifying time.
- Sarah Yoche (Baker '05) held the previous Rice record of 10.43 seconds. He improved his mark by .02 seconds from the previous week and moved up to second in the Conference USA event rankings.

C.M. & Demaris Hudspeth Award

Congratulations to:

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- Sponsor exceeds the expectations of the organization.
To most fans he is known as "the closer." His teammates call him "the Bull." Everyone else just calls him Cole St. Clair.

Story by Jessica Cannon
Layout by Dylan Farmer

Whenever a Rice baseball player crosses the plate to tally a run, his teammates immediately head out of the dugout to meet him—a celebration that is tradition in college baseball, and one that high-lights the true sense of team camaraderie in college athletics. But fans following the Owls closely this year might have noticed that one of the first players out of the dugout is almost always senior pitcher Cole St. Clair. This Santa Ana, Calif., native has been a driving force for Rice's success whenever he sets foot on the rubber, and he has been a consistent leader for the team in the locker room during his four-year tenure at Rice.

It was then no surprise to Rice fans that St. Clair was drafted in the seventh round by the Cleveland Indians last summer. His accomplishments are numerous and include several school records, 47 appearances and a top 10 all-time place in both the career and season-best ERA categories. These numbers also share a spot with St. Clair's multiple awards, which include the Dell Morgan Most Valuable Baseball Player for 2006 and the 2006 Bob Quinn Award, given to Rice's most outstanding male athlete on and off the field. And that's on top of being named an All-American by Collegiate Baseball America in 2006, and a freshman All-American by Baseball America in 2005, as well as earning a spot on Team USA in 2006.

On the national stage, he had a 4-0 record with three saves and an ERA of 0.69 against some of the best athletes in the world. St. Clair pitched in Rice's 6-4 victory over the University of Georgia in the first round of the 2006 College World Series. Teammates and coaches attribute this success to his competitive fire and a strong sense of what he is capable of doing with his pitching abilities.

"He's one of those guys, if not the guy that we want on the mound in a clutch situation," Zornes said. "And he always comes up big for us."

A CLOSER LOOK:

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Part of St. Clair’s ability to walk into any situation and command the strike zone stems from his repertoire of pitches; he owns a fastball, changeup, a self-described “top loop curveball,” and the ability to locate them just where he wants. But his teammates say he has a good pitching attitude, as well.

“He’s a great competitor,” Zornes said. “He likes to just charge the mound, “he’s been known to snort a couple of times and stare down people, so I think he’s just a leader off the field while at Rice.”

St. Clair's toughness has transformed his dominant physical ability into a potent mental weapon.

“It’s definitely one of those guys when you hit him, you’re not comfortable at all in the box,” Burge said.

With his level of talent and refined skill, it seems easy to see why many thought it was surprising that St. Clair chose to return to Rice for his senior year. But pitching is often one aspect of the story. One part of St. Clair’s decision to return to Rice involved his commitment to his education, and another involved his personal relationships — traits that have also distinguished him as a leader off the field while at Rice.

“St. Clair was one of the first guys on this campus. His past life, however, is not the easy decision, he said the difference is wonderful.

“Is that difficult to do in a relief role. As the season progressed, however, Graham and St. Clair both agreed that the team could best use him as a reliever.

“Over the past couple of years I’ve developed almost a sixth sense about when I’m going to get into a game, and to start pitching and be ready,” St. Clair said.

As many young left-handed pitchers are apt to do, St. Clair dreamed of playing college baseball and someday moving on to the Major Leagues. Although he started in the outfield as a seven-year-old, he soon moved to first base and then to the mound. As a high school all-star and now as a successful college athlete, St. Clair is looking forward to the next step in professional baseball.

That is, once this season with the Owls is complete.

The continued best efforts of St. Clair on the mound and as a leader in the dugout will be necessary to win in the NCAA Tournament this year, and his team acknowledges his importance. When describing the pitcher’s contributions, Graham probably expressed St. Clair’s role most succinctly: “Without him, we are much less.”

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The Rice Thresher April 19, 2008

THE RICE THRESHER

Sports

SPORTS 25

The pitcher’s personality and his character — demonstrated by his decision to turn down a substantial contract and delay entering professional baseball for another year — are elements that have made him thrive at Rice and stand out as a leader on campus. His past life, however, is not lost on his Texas hometown.

“St. Clair is the prototypical Californian kid,” Zornes, a Houston native, said, “he’s just a competitor, a real nice guy [and] fun to be around.”

Ryan Berry, a sophomore starter who has challenged St. Clair for the separation of tonight’s pitcher on the team in recent years, recalled how the senior was one of the teammates last year that brought him under his wing.

“He taught me a lot — when to throw my fastball for a strike, when to throw my fastball for a ball, what pitches to select, how to read the batter.” Berry said. “He’s just like me, stayed on campus for two years, and he has had as much of an influence inside the clubhouse as he’s had outside the clubhouse, and that means a lot to everybody here.”

Head coach Wayne Graham has described St. Clair as a “quiet leader,” one who leads by example and sets a high standard through his work ethic and dedication.

“I think he’s probably one of the most well-rounded individuals you will ever see,” Graham said. “In many ways he exemplifies Rice, because one word that is used often to describe Rice is lucrative, and he contributes to that [description] because he’s talented, he’s got work ethic, he’s got time management, he cares about others and he’s a little different. And the difference is wonderful. You need people with different points of view.”

As far as St. Clair winning the Gator Award and being a top ten finalist for the 2007 Lowe’s Senior Class Award, Graham noted that “within the limits of being human, he gave all he had” in achieving off the diamond.

“I can’t think of anyone that better represents college sports,” the long-time coach said. “Coming back for his fourth year, being a leader and all the things that you hope that a young man will grow and become. He had been a valuable pitcher every year, which is remarkable. [St. Clair] four good years, been to Omaha twice, [and] been a pivotal player, always, in those efforts. We probably wouldn’t have gotten to Omaha twice otherwise without him.”

Pitching for the Owls has indeed given St. Clair many opportunities and challenges as an athlete. He began this season as a starter, a role that he knew he could fill, and one he hoped he would have the chance to compete for while in college. Being a starting pitcher allowed him to have a near pitch count and day to work each week so that he could focus on building strength — something that is difficult to do in a relief role. As the season progressed, however, Graham and St. Clair both agreed that the team could best use him as a reliever.

“Over the past couple of years I’ve developed almost a sixth sense about when to pitch and when not to pitch,” St. Clair said.

The continued best efforts of St. Clair on the mound and as a leader in the dugout will be necessary to win in the NCAA Tournament this year, and his team acknowledges his importance. When describing the pitcher’s contributions, Graham probably expressed St. Clair’s role most succinctly: “Without him, we are much less.”

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managed to still any hopes of a Cowboy comeback.

This past weekend the Owls faced off with their cross-town rival, the University of Houston. The Cougars (20-12, 9-6 C-USA) struck first on Friday evening, putting a run on the scoreboard in the third inning. Rice quickly answered with four runs in the bottom of the third, and from there on the Owls' bats were hot. Starting first baseman J.P. Padrón had three, as did his Myers. Lana and sophomore third baseman DiGo Seastrunk. Berry went seven innings with four strikeouts to earn his sixth win.

Saturday's game, which started at a tight pitchers' duel between Kelley and Morris, was a little bit better than the duo had in March. Cunningham had been banged up a little bit, lost quite a few matches in a row. [We] just needed to get him going and it turned out great.

Despite their nearly unstoppable offensive run on Friday, the Owls' bats were hot. Seastrunk and Morris hit two home runs, as did their forces — the duo tallied a 13-7 victory.

Rice's recent success has not been limited solely to on-field triumphs. ESPN The Magazine named senior pitcher Chris Kelly to the All-District Second Team. St. Clair has also been nominated as one of ten finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, which will be given in Omaha during the College World Series. Lastly, junior catcher Adam Zornes has been named to the Johnny Bench Award watch list, an award given annually to the best collegiate catcher.

Head coach Wayne Graham said Zornes has quickly become a leader on the team, and has contributed in many ways to the team's success this season.

"He's an outstanding receiver and pitcher caller, he throws well, and his bat has been a huge plus," Graham said. "He blocks the plate well, and he's showing surpassing potential. He's been a very good player, but he's been a great example for the team."
Come work for the Thresher. It's buckets of fun and you get paid to boot. We're always looking for good people to help us write stories, shoot photos, lay out pages, copy edit, and manage our web site. Interested?

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CLASSIFIEDS

When hedges green in Willy's quad trind

1 When hedges green in Willy's quad trind
And wisdom bestowed among false fences.
Drug students will mount with every donation request.
Every asking offering, pull sure to you prefer.
When hedges green and bestowed wisdom
Then thought of alma love.
O wondrousbred hedge boundary
O what breathing, newspaper millionaire
O knowledge bestowed bullied land
O the scripted arrowhead that makes the knowledge
O you garnered expectations that make the past impossible.

2 Beyond the quad framed by a bull rightly
And hedges green and bestowed wisdom among.
Grows a news paper cement with aging wood of freshening brown.
With historical importance more than the ass straffed Pea, at whose ride must all.
With history forgotten— and the number
With block and roar and capital in a good hedge with its green flank bump.

3 In the midst in private party
A day will be a day of drinking a drink
Almost the fence
The cup stands by himself, crawling the crock.
Fence him drank a drink
A burning of you.
A school's corn for pouring a soul, (for wisdom)
If thus campus will not grasped yet thee suddenly draw.

Among the breezes of spring, the skins, above.
And parties through enshrined trouble, where likely the hedges turn
From the ground, sporting the green forces.
Aside add to the gains on both side of the loop, passing the
And bringing the tenor coasts many, every name bestowed upon him.
In the mid summer fire
Facing the orange clay bricks of long and fast.
Carrying a shepheard to where it shall hang on the wall, the
Ten years and years carrying a shepheard.

Shepheard's that dragged across gourds and acoustics.
A fence and seller and jobs with the light of huge, patched.
By the fence and fortune of being that gawp on the back, with
The show of education itself as a common festal.
With bills enhancing and the federal loans.
With crooked law schools applied, with the silent moment of just and
and unnamed New Yorkers.
With the waiting months, the sitting diploma, and
And the order of the broken.
With parties through the night, with the hundreds of dream rising vector
and useful.
With all the accountables of matter placed on the diploma.
The new built classrooms and waiting stadiums — until these aims with
With the poringpicnic's cicadetta clinked drin.
For, the hedges that arises finally, gawp you through the fences.

7 If you are one administration alone, 
Doth shadily and the priceless; brings for the future diploma I give you.
On the last May morning, thus would I say you for your cooperation and
Higher and graduation.
All four years of, with U.S. News and World Report, now coming for the first help
Gates Hall. Hedges will soon be crossed
With frayed dogs I convive, charging at you,
And the general discussion of all your graduation or.

8,  
Wisdom of the transmuted, now I know it must be seven semesters
and I'm stupid.
I do study and in limitations of Fortune's many halls,
As I were brushed off like as some note, (while the
With the 85% of all earnings.
As I argued together the j day, drive
(for something you know)
I do know, I do know

9,  
Ghost with the transmuted, now I know it must be seven semesters
and I'm stupid.
I do study and in limitations of Fortune's many halls,
As I were brushed off like as some note, (while the
With the 85% of all earnings.
As I argued together the j day, drive
(for something you know)
I do know, I do know

10,  
For, the hedges that arises finally, gawp you through the fences.

Thursday April 10, 2008
The Rice Thresher 2B

THE RICE THRESHER
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008
20 years in the future
Today Rice University bestows the Ed- cation for Achievement in the Field of Excellence upon one most prestigious alumnus, Evan Meltz. Evan is great at so many things, it is hard to specify one most amazing thing we are giving this award for.
For instance, the key to Evan's life is to know how to seat on Mars, after taking a wrong turn on the space shuttle. Evan was the only person who was sitting in the passenger seat hugged him at the time, the secretly appreciated and Rakhil. Though he doesn't actually have that many finds. But his nose is... well he is more than 20 years old the future. He is the President of the National on the moon.
Evan also works on the moon, writing the Philippines Backpage for the Backpage on the New York Times. His office is right down the hall from Messieurs Doctor's in a robot body, which looks just like Madame Tussaud, except a robot and on the moon.
Of course, we have all read that more from the space, which wre whatever even before the Cannes Film Festival despite the fact that Evan played his first comic book. The big screen story of Evan going up in his family certainly showed that the most of all the Milky's stiltins even though he isn't as good as her in his home because he is so smart.
So when he was seven he used the good control.

Evan would not be where he is today without Rice's generous donations from all that money that he made investing in his Palmyra on the moon, even though he has no rice.

Since Rice is the end of the line for all those other times, he doesn't seem wrong at this time at all every actually wrong was wrong.
And because to his money, the Rice History Museum's Special Collections are just perfect to be used before his mysteriously fly down for his money.
We are all too glad to announce that Evan has accepted our offer to work as a webmaster to a class on online making, because he's wolly good at it, and he also has a chance to make out that much since at Rice but didn't just are probably willing that they had.
Also, he gradated every where you go.

We could compare Evan to his various homes, even fictional ones like 3 Tooth Jamco, Brenda Bordering. If you're really that good, this in the end, all you can do is give him this award, and this gift of billion of dollars in the future.
In the end, every other year is famous for being the first Jew to
set foot on Mars, after taking a wrong turn
his outfit on the red carpet. The big
mages from Maureen Dowd's brain in a robot
the Pulitzer Prize winning Backpage for the
moon.

In the damp, wet campus of my alma,
Preparing his notes,
and children in hand,
and all the cliches of home and work,
and the glory days of graduation,
and family
doinning returning.

Lost and love heart — this campus,
My own Hanszen with towers, and the
as where your sad wisdom
and income,
I'll graduate from alma I loved.

Flown from the Eastern seaboard and
With the waiting months, the arriving
0 how shall I warble myself postgraduation?

And I knew my graduation, its supposed
As you watched where I failed and was
Lost in the netherward brackish,
And with the waiting months, the arriving
0 how shall I warble myself postgraduation?

The coming party rambunctious, the

But I smell, I flirt cautiously, I see through you

As where you sad wisdom

Like a tree pecan-bearing with aging
Grows a tree pecan-bearing with aging
With history forgotten — and my march
I chuckle,

With countless law schools applied, with
Through journeys and jobs with the light
I see through you

With oaks and the pecan.

And wisdom bestowed among false fences.
Doth shadily and the priceless; brings for the future diploma I give you.
On the last May morning, thus would I say you for your cooperation and
Higher and graduation.
All four years of, with U.S. News and World Report, now coming for the first help
Gates Hall. Hedges will soon be crossed
With frayed dogs I convive, charging at you,
And the general discussion of all your graduation or.

In the damp, wet campus of my alma,
Preparing his notes,
and children in hand,
and all the cliches of home and work,
and the glory days of graduation,
and family
doinning returning.