College nights face changes

By Catherine Bratic

College nights at Rice have become synonymous with drunken antics, crazy costumes and class disruptions. With the passing of new faculty as professors have more and more frustrated with inebriated lecture interruptions, colleges have encouraged students to curb the naughtiness in a desperate attempt to save college night.

At a meeting of college masters and presidents, those in attendance agreed to temper their troublemaking or stop their behavior so that college nights will be more dissuasive than fun. Master Brown College Master Jerry Dickens said.

Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman said that those who had been involved in those previous incidents which concerned him, but that he personally trusted students to obey the guidelines.

In keeping with students' off-themed college night last Friday, Master Brown Cox gave a lecture on the evolution of cooperation in the Brown commons so that students would not partake in inappropriate behavior in their classes, college night planners and brown senior Rharika Kotha said.

Brown Master Laura Cen said this lecture is like a picture encouraging students to participate in a real lecture within the college.

"To prevent people from going to class and drinking, we gave a talk on the real one of his lectures with a PowerPoint presentation — at lunch in his office."

Will Rice issued a warning to students about their behavior before their Oil Bartons and Texas Queens college night, Will Rice college night coordinator Samantha Boyer said.

"We trust most of the people in our college," Boaty, a sophomore, said. "People are just looking for fun. But we have had other college nights and were respected."

By mall and Hollis said the only change to Mattie's Disney character themed college night was that all students were strongly encouraged to behave properly and not to drink in clubs. A junior, a junior, the said that the change Mattel made with the students at Jones College's college night was that they were mathematics in a Mathematics 21 class were disciplined for their behavior at Jones College's college night. The students drinking in a Mathematics 21 class were disciplined for their disreputable behavior at Jones College's college night.

In a time when job security is questionable, it is comforting to know that at least one degree at Rice can save you money.

The financial Times and The Economist have both ranked Rice MBA programs at the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management within the past two months among the top 15 in the nation this year based largely on postgraduate salaries, and Sunday's News and World Report ranked the Jones School ninth in the nation. Those rankings have increased from last year, and have been steadily on the rise since 2004.

Overall, U.S. News and World Report ranked the Jones school in the nation based on poor recruitment and resistor assessments, average starting salary, employment rate and recruiter assessments, average starting salary, employment rate and recruiter assessments. Those rankings are offered to upper level executives, upper level middle managers, and CEOs of the best Executive MBA programs in the nation and the 4th best in the world last month. This ranking is based on salaries three years after graduation and employment rate. The salary of Rice Executive MBA (typically rank between the 9th and 11th in the nation, according to an MBA survey conducted by Rice University, this summer.

The one thing that united the different groups of respondents was that no matter what their professions or achievements in life, the felt they were education-prepared prepard for the path they chose; or in percent of those who felt they were satisfied or very satisfied with their professor's, said the survey alerted me to get to know Rice's alumni better and find out what have accomplished as adults.

Survey shows alumni in successful after Rice

By Catherine Bratic

Nearly 100 Rice alumni this fall survey by the Rice Alumni Association (RAA) sent to 12,000 Rice alumni, received a 25 percent response rate. The survey asked this respondents to rate that like really says something about Rice alumni and their feelings about the university, that most interested in participating, the survey asked.

The survey confirmed many assumptions, such as the fact that the majority of Rice students come from out of state, and come from a diverse background.

The survey showed some surprising trends, said the majority of alumni — at percent — said that the strongest Rice connection was to the university itself. Only 13 percent listed their residential college as their strongest tie.

"When alumni viewed classified themselves as teachers, many of them were graduates, but not all," said the survey did not separate out those who were graduates, or those who were not graduates. The survey did not separate out those who were graduates, or those who were not graduates. The survey did not separate out those who were graduates, or those who were not graduates.

The responses showed that the majority of alumni who were surveyed did not participate in any Rice-related activities, such as alumni events, or participating in alumni events, or participating in alumni events, or participating in alumni events, or participating in alumni events, or participating in alumni events, or participating in alumni events.

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Letters to the Editor

Arts, VADA stories need clarification

To the editor:

Renders of the Nov. 14th edition of the Rice Thresher saw a page-two spread entitled “The state of the arts.” The spread contains two articles: one, by Logan Beck, focuses on the student art show and support for the arts general at Rice; the other, by Dr. Robert Wolfe, focuses specifically on reforms and goals within the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts. The general impression conveyed by both articles is one of a difficult struggle for recognition and resources to support the arts at Rice, aimed at a university administration that appears to place secondary value on the arts in relation to other priorities of the university.

I am responding to the article to set the record straight and offer the student readership another perspective, which I believe to be much more balanced and accurate. My main concern is with the larger message Beck conveyed. He will make a strong argument, I believe, on the specific issue of the student show and the Rice Gallery, where Beck’s article, in my opinion, will make the most sense. I hope in presenting both sides of the issue.

With regard to support for the arts in general, I cannot comment on the period before 2003, prior to my arrival at Rice. I ask students to consider the following facts from the period 2003 to the present. In the last six years, $17.5 million of new funding has been poured into VADA. Except for extraordinary philanthropic opportunities that have led to the renovation of the School of Humanities and the Ph. D. program in Art History, no other department in the School of Humanities has received as much new support.

As of today, $700,000 has been provided to the Arts, VADA stories need clarification the arts general at Rice. And our university has not yet made a decision to bring on the additional full-time faculty that are part of VADA as well, with the incorporation of the theater program into VADA in 2006-07, a move proposed and fully supported by former VADA Chair Karen Brown, to an effort to bring in more artistic talent and expertise into the department. The school has supported the other media that are part of VADA as well. The school has supported the arts at Rice, aimed at a university administration that appears to place secondary value on the arts in relation to other priorities of the university.

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In the meantime, we must prove ourselves again as responsible and mature adults by showing the university that we are not just a bunch of immature collegiate jerks. We hope — no, we know — that we’re better than that.

School of Jones rocks

Recently, publications like The Financial Times, The Economist and U.S. News and World Report have ranked the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management as among the top 25 in the nation (see story, page 1).

The lackluster numbers from previous years, these new rankings, which are measured based on the salaries of Rice MBA graduates, are considerably better and indicate that Wolfe. Consequently, Brown and Martel colleges hosted their college nights in their respective commons, allowing students to drink while their masters lectured on different topics.

In the end, Rice undergraduates can only benefit from the arts general at Rice. And our university has not yet made a decision to bring on the additional full-time faculty that are part of VADA as well, with the incorporation of the theater program into VADA in 2006-07, a move proposed and fully supported by former VADA Chair Karen Brown, to an effort to bring in more artistic talent and expertise into the department. The school has supported the other media that are part of VADA as well. The school has supported the arts at Rice, aimed at a university administration that appears to place secondary value on the arts in relation to other priorities of the university.

In the meantime, we must prove ourselves again as responsible and mature adults by showing the university that we are not just a bunch of immature collegiate jerks. We hope — no, we know — that we’re better than that.

Dear flag stealer: ‘Fess up!

Last Thursday, Nov. 13, the Baker Institute staff arrived in the morning to find that 22 international flags had been stolen behind that the custodian who cleaned class after-

Erratum

In last week’s issue, the Thresher reported in “Espereanza gets record turnout” that the DJ for the formal was Lovett College sophomore Alex Marks. We did not realize that Lovett College junior Evan Gilmore also debuted at the event. The Thresher regrets the error.

Let’s discuss...
Caroline May

Once again, I do not claim to be a scholar nor do I claim to know any more about global warming than the next person. What concerns me is that the debate over global warming is not about science at all. The greatest scientists in history are great because they could not be mistaken about basic principles. Conversely, the debate has become highly politicalised and agenda driven.

To power hungry politicians, anthropogenic global warming is manna from heaven. How to turn its effect in their long-sought after question of policies that have always existed: more state control, more taxes, more regulations and more opportunities for self-enrichment, a la Al Gore. Debate and inquiry greatly hinder the propagation of time invariant, thus a fanatic opposition of dissent has become the order of the day.

Paul Joseph Watson has written eloquently on the topic: “The asserted consensus on global warming is man-made is so oppressively enforced upon popular opinion, especially in Europe, that it borders on the Orwellian. Conscience is the business of politics. Science, on the contrary, requires only one investigator who happens to be right... The greatest scientists in history are great because they could not be mistaken about basic principles. Conversely, the debate has become highly politicalised and agenda driven.”

Caroline May is a Will Rice College Senior.

"Turkey Day" undervalues day's meaning

While we have gobbled up the latest news on the numerous wars taking place, "Thanksgiving" is often forgotten. Yes, there are other holidays, but no other holiday has the Turkey Day's meaning.

Sean McBeath

(Do you remember a time when we celebrated "Christmas Break"? Easter Break? Well, these holidays are now over, my students' minds turn towards the holidays that are around the corner. You can see from your "Winter Recess" and "Midterm Break." It's not nice to expect students to be "on their game" during these times? Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. It's not so much the ridiculous political correctness it projects upon all religious and non-religious people we can be, but the fact that it brings the arts into a broad spectrum of society as the ideals behind them.

The Leebron whom I write onto Facebook, the Rice-Baylor Medical School graduate. Otherwise I'll need to find McMurtry and Duncan population somewhere else before the storm and wrote frequent letters to the undergraduate populace. and the Rice-Baylor Medical School student body. It is a sign President Leebron is doing his job well.

Since the fact that we can take his relationship to students and his actions to turn my weekly flirtation with him into a mosey into the Senate meeting and how flexible I be-

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Since the fact that we can take his relationship to students and his actions to reach out to the undergraduate populace, Leebron's admirable fight against bigotry has concerned me in attendance had concerns, He primarily discussed the new colleges, the financial crisis and the Rice-Baylor Medical School student body. It is a sign President Leebron is doing his job well.

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inappropriate behavior.

"I know that college night can get out of hand," Hollis said.

"Especially in recent years, it’s gotten really bad. The obvious drinking and the treatment of the professors is really awful. It definitely interferes with the learning environment of the classroom, and that’s definitely not okay. Most people in the classroom are not having their college night, and they shouldn’t have to deal with the trouble being caused by the minority."

Despite the worries about recent behavior, Kaul said she believes the problem can be resolved.

"I really hope it is something that we can fix," Kaul, a senior, said. "I’ve had college night for the past four years and really enjoyed it, but I think that we have to be careful because if more incidents happen, there is a chance that in the future it might be canceled."

Just based on my own experience with alums, I would have to say we have a very accomplished group of alums overall.

Ann Peterson
Director of the Office of Alumni Affairs

Outside of their jobs, the survey showed Rice alumni are also involved in their communities. More than half reported donating at least $1,000 to charity in the past year, and 45 percent said they served in a leadership role for a charity.

"Just based on my own experience with alums, I would have to say we have a very accomplished group of alums overall," Director of the Office of Alumni Affairs Ann Peterson said.

Of those who donate to charity, 80 percent count the university among their charities.

While the survey presented Rice alumni as extraordinarily successful and pleased with the university, Thrane admitted that there may be some danger in extending those results to the entire body of alumni.

"The answer, for example of how many business founded, is somewhere between what we have and multiplying by four," Thrane said. "There’s a degree of self-selection in responding to the survey."

Thrane and Peterson said they were not able to apply the statistics to the entire alumni population at this time since only 25 percent responded. They said the positive response bodes well for the Centennial Campaign, however, which aims to raise $1 billion for the university by 2012.

"I would hope that these kinds of findings at large really tell folks that if you make a contribution to Rice, it’s going to go into some area of our educational mission or our research mission that gives students a very rich experience and produces students that go out and make a difference in the world," Thrane said.

One last element is a good sign both for future university donation prospects and the future of current Rice students. Of those surveyed, two-thirds said they were making more than $100,000 a year, and half reported earning more than $150,000.

Max Bethman, a Lovett College sophomore, said he was encouraged by those numbers.

"The salary figures are really surprising, but that’s coming from looking at salary data for first-year jobs," Bethman said. "I imagine the numbers are different after working for 10 or 20 years."

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Students take on month-long novel writing challenge

BY MEGAN SCARBOROUGH
For the Thresher

Kate's Deli on Montrose Boulevard buzzed with more voices than the usual late-night food frenzy Oct. 31, as costumed patrons celebrated Halloween. In one corner, however, a strange hush fell at the stroke of midnight.

It was a table for four crammed with nine people, all working laptops. As October became November, the Residential College sophomores of Martel College's Ian Jones' class, Martel 152: Write a Novel in a Month, began to type furiously.

National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, is now in its tenth year and encourages participants to write a 50,000-word novel within the month of November. Amateurs and professional writers alike use the web site to help themselves and others participate and upload their novels on the NaNoWriMo Web site, which has a built-in word count. Famous authors, which this year include Philip Pullman, Piers Anthony, Katherine Paterson and Janet Fitch, sponsor the event by posting pep talks on the NaNoWriMo Web site to help those struggling with word count or writer’s block.

Jones, who is participating in the contest for the fifth time and has reached the word count goal three of the last four years, decided to share her passion with Rice students by teaching his own class. The student-taught courses, which began at Wiess College last fall, are now offered at each residential college.

There is no written requirement in Jones’ class. Jones estimates that 50,000 words sets an author at the bottom of the novel length. "I'd be willing to bet this is the longest undergraduate paper in the history of Rice," Jones said.

Sid Richardson College sophomore Heath Beaber, an English and philosophy major, said she decided to apply the class because she wanted to prove to herself that she could write a full novel. Although she said it may end up being the first draft of a finished science fiction novel, she is trying to minimize expectations.

"I'm just hoping it will improve my self-esteem about my writing," Beaber said.

Jones said he tries to dissuade students from planning their novels out before they begin writing, but encourages them to jot down ideas in a notebook until then. Sid sophomore Emily Prehn said she was not exactly sure of the direction her novel at the beginning of the month.

"I build a scene or two, and four or five main characters, but I didn't know much else," Prehn said.

Beaber also had not planned out the course of her novel.

"I [had] a situation, but that's it," she said. "That's the best way to start out. Don't invest yourself too much before you get going."

For advice, Jones required students to read No Plot? No Problem: A Low-Stress, High-Velocity Guide to Writing a Novel in 30 Days by Chris Bats, which is the official guide to the NaNoWriMo challenge. The book contains tips for breaking writer’s block and generating new ideas. Jones also suggests using Wikipedia's random article function to generate interesting elements to include in one's story. "Great places to write include coffee shops and hotel bars," he said. "Especially hotel bars. You see some great characters, and you can incorporate their story into your own story."

The challenge is purely based upon word count, and there is no requirement for the coherence or quality of the work produced. Students in Jones’ course are graded on a pass/fail basis depending on whether they reach the word count. For this reason, Jones emphasizes that the most important step to succeeding is to turn off one’s inner editor during the month of November.

For some, the contest continues into the month of December, which is National Novel Editing Month. "That's a lot less well-attended," Jones said.

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association on Nov. 10.

- President Matt Youn said there are two meetings left this semester.
- Yum, a Brown College senior, said the SA’s test bank proposal was approved by the Faculty Senate and the Honor Council.
- Martel College senior Travis Mason spoke about the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee food drive, which began Wednesday and will go through next Tuesday. Students can make their donations at any residence halls or the Rice Memorial Center and the Allen Center for Business Activities.
- Internal Vice President Akshay Dayal said all committees will meet next week to discuss their work this semester and their plans for the semester.
- Martel College sophomore Matt Wasserman, who serves on the University Parking Committee, said the ZipCar program, which began this semester, has been successful. The program has had 55 students and faculty sign up so far. Wasserman announced a new shuttle service that will begin in January. Its route will include the Rice Graduate Apartments, the inner loop and Rice of the main campus. He said the parking committee is asking for a parking garage in North Lot to accommodate parking needs from the new residential colleges.
- External Vice President Nick Muscara brought up the Bikes Committee’s concern. The SA should look into installing bike lanes on campus.

The SA will meet next Monday at 10 p.m. in the Fannsworth Pavilion.

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO THE PH.D.?

IF SO, READ ON.

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Program (MMUP) 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 Ph.D.s 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 inherent educational consequences of these disparities. Secondly, it seeks to educate these students to be the researchers, teachers, and mentors of the highly diverse college student bodies of the future. Third, it seeks to encourage study abroad experiences as part of their research agenda. The fields that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has targeted for support are Anthropology, Art History, Classics, Computer Science, Demography, Earth Sciences, Ecology, English, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages, History, Literature, Mathematics, Musicology, Philosophy, Physics, Political Theory, Religion and Sociology.

Applicants should normally be completing their sophomore year as a student at Rice University. Juniors are allowed to apply as Associate Fellows. Selection will be based on a number of attributes including the student's training in 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 $2,800, 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 years. Finalists will be interviewed.

Announcements will be made in March.

For more information and to download the application go to:
http://rice.edu/mellonmays

Application deadline is January 23, 2009

CONTACT:
Dr. Roland B. Smith, Jr. or Gloria Bean
Office of the Associate Provost
Rice University
713/348-5888
Linguistics plays host to international conference, scholars

By Anna Wilde

THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

To some, the thought of "copy" and "coffee" becoming homophones might be a terrifying thought. To linguists, it is one of many interesting observations presented at the 37th annual News of Analyzing Variation conference, which was hosted by the Linguistics Department at the weekend of Nov. 3.

Linguists from around the globe gathered at NWAV to discuss topics pertinent to the field of sociolinguistics — which looks at the ways in which language variation carries social or cultural meaning. Although the conference, which was co-sponsored by the University of Texas at San Antonio, was held primarily at Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District, several events were held on the Rice campus. Those included an eye-tracking workshop in the phonetics lab in the Department of Linguistics; two meetings in Hearst Hall Amphitheater and a grad student party at the Rice Beer Garden.

The theme for this year's conference was "Communities," which was chosen to highlight new ways of defining the communities sociolinguists use in their analysis of linguistic variation, according to the conference Web site.

Linguistics Department Chair Nancy Niedzielski, who coordinated this year's NWAV conference, emphasized the importance of collaboration between different fields.

"What we are trying to do more than just the linguistics community," Niedzielski said.

The conference hosted around 150 speakers who shared their latest research in 45-minute talks over the course of three days during the conference. Many of the talks did not present final conclusions of the researcher's work, but rather described conclusions made so far, further questions and future research. Turnout was high; for the second time in the conference's history there were over 300 registered participants, including grad students, professors and sociolinguists from Rice and several universities around the world.

This year's conference hosted a competition for Best Student Paper and administration fee. Two awards are given at NWAV for graduate students: the prize for Best Student Paper and a discounted registration fee. Two awards are given at NWAV for graduate students: the prize for Best Student Paper and a discounted registration fee. Two awards are given at NWAV for graduate students: the prize for Best Student Paper and a discounted registration fee. Two awards are given at NWAV for graduate students: the prize for Best Student Paper and a discounted registration fee.

Some sociolinguists are focusing on the issue of the poor literacy rate of minority children, especially blacks. At the conference, there were a couple of new literacy programs, in collaboration with local churches and members of the community, will boost literacy rates.

Sociology Professor Steven Klineberg ran one of the conference's workshops on naming community surveys to document economic and demographic changes. Noted leaders in the Houston community such as John Robinson from the Houston Area Urban League, Tracy Buevers and Ada Edwards from the Houston Area Urban League and several reverends from local churches participated in NWAV's first plenary, which discussed "Collaboration and Coordination Among Schools, Churches and the Academy."

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For many graduate students' work. "The conference is very student friendly," Niedzielski said.

Participating graduate students from other universities received housing accommodations during the conference and a discounted registration fee. Two awards are given at NWAV for graduate students: the Charles Ferguson Prize for Best Student Paper and the Charles Ferguson Prize for Best Student Paper. The winners, who receive a monetary prize of a few hundred dollars, are chosen by votes from the conference's participants.

The conference almost came to Houston last year when Toronto was no longer able to host the event. But it was instead held at the University of Pennsylvania. From the beginning, fundraising was a focus, as the conference cost $54,000 to host. Then abstracts for potential speakers began flooding in — around 80 in all. The abstracts were ranked by a review board of prominent sociolinguists and the top-ranked topics were chosen to be presented at the conference. NWAV's committee, which comprised of Rice linguistics professors and graduate students, ensured that the conference ran smoothly.

Sid Richardson, senior urban studies major, said she was happy she found a niche among linguists outside of students at Rice.

"It was cool to feel part of a community, whereas it's just like, 'I take x, y or z class,'" she said.

Carlos Molina-Viral, a linguistics graduate student and former Spanish instructor at the University of Georgia, said he was impressed by the new ideas expressed at NWAV.

"They said things I'd never thought about, even about Spanish," he said.

The first NWAV conference was held in 1969 at Georgetown University, shortly after the field of sociolinguistics was established. Approximately 50 people attended.

Next year's NWAV will be hosted by the University of Ottawa.
Several hundred Houstonians, including a number of Rice students, gathered in front of City Hall last Saturday in solidarity with a nationwide protest against Proposition 8, the California state amendment limiting same-sex marriage that was heavily opposed by California voters on Nov. 4. Same-sex couples, straight allies and other activists held signs declaring their opposition to the ban and expressing their desire for gay rights.

"Our group just wanted to show our support because what it comes down to is that we believe the state doesn't have any business regulating down to is that we believe the state our support because what it comes in the past, other countries, like Canada, is getting much more progressive laws. They're wondering why we aren't blearing the path like we used to." 

Bradley Houston, co-president of Rice's Queers & Allies club, also attended the rally along with about ten other club members.

Among the event's speakers were State Representatives Jessica Farrar and Garnet Coleman, both from Houston, who voiced support for the rally's cause. Both have records of supporting gay rights in the Texas House and voiced strong opposition to a Texas gay marriage ban in 2005. John Nechman, a Houston lawyer who specializes in immigration, spoke at the rally. Rice ACLU hosted an on-campus talk by Nechman on Nov. 11, on the topic of same-sex marriage rights now and in the future.

"One thing that really struck me during Mr. Nechman's talk was how he views the way things are going in, like our state of Texas. A lot of people there, who had gay friends or relatives' houses. Hill, who is openly gay, founded the first gay/lesbian organization called Join the Impact, which was largely responsible for organizing the Nov. 19 protests.

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Natelson named one of top 20 scientists under 40 by Discover

BY JACLYN YOUNGBLOOD
THE RICE THRESHER STAFF

Rice has a great number of accomplished professors, but only one has been called the Benjamin Franklin of nanoscience and could potentially be the science adviser to President-elect Barack Obama.

Discover magazine made the connection between the revered figure of the American Revolution and Associate Astronomy and Physics Professor Doug Natelson in its December issue. The magazine named Natelson as one of the Top 20 Scientists under 40 years old.

While disagreeing with the article’s comparison to Benjamin Franklin, Natelson said he was honored to receive the recognition for his work in the fields of condensed matter and nanoscale physics.

“It’s very flattering,” Natelson said. “It’s very nice.”

Natelson said he was pleasantly surprised by the accolades from Discover magazine but said he was unsure how the magazine staff had heard about his research.

“I have no idea how they got my name,” Natelson said. “I kind of asked and they didn’t really say. I don’t know what their process was at all.”

When asked to define condensed matter and nanoscale physics for non-science or engineering majors, Natelson chuckled.

“Condensed matter physics is the en-vogue, modern name for what used to be called solid-state physics,” he said.

The name changed in order to convey that solid-state physics includes the study of liquids as well as solids. Nanoscale physics deals with the properties of matter on the nanometer scale. Some of the research done by Natelson includes studying electrical properties of molecules, often at the minute length of two nanometers.

“That’s 50,000 times narrower than ... the proverbial ‘human hair,’” he said.

Natelson and his team of researchers have worked with single-molecule devices, shrinking electrical circuits to an extremely miniature-scale. Additionally, he said his research on organic superconductors has engendered a buzz among the science community. Natelson’s work on the nanoscale earned him the David and Lucille Packard Fellowship, a grant to do further research in physics, in 2003.

In response to speculations on his blog about becoming Obama’s science advisor, he said he has not been approached nor does he have any plans at the moment to take his career in that direction.

Natelson has been teaching nanotechnology and statistical and thermal physics at Rice since fall 2005. He has a blog, “nanoscale views,” where he posts discussions for his statistical and thermal physics course this fall. He said he is always thrilled when students come up with clever solutions to his assignments.

Natelson’s scientific career began upon completion of an engineering physics certificate program, which was part of his mechanical engineering major at Princeton University. He attended Stanford University for graduate school, studied low temperature physics and became involved in postdoctoral work at Bell Labs in New Jersey where he worked with nanoscale technologies.

Natelson said he was attracted to Rice due to its reputation as a research university in addition to the emphasis on undergraduate education. He said he was impressed by the quality of the facilities and the trajectory of the university’s future.

“You don’t get that many chances to go some place where it ... looks like things are going in a really good direction,” he said. “Rice is one of those [places].”

IN THANKSGIVING SERVICE

When: November 23 at 5pm
Where: St. Bede’s Chapel
across from Lovett College

Thanksgiving Dinner afterwards!

Hosted by Canterbury
Mechanical Engineering Professor Boris Yakobson received a Nano 50 award earlier this month for his work in nanotechnology.

**BY MELISSA TSANG FOR THE THRESHER**

Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Professor Boris Yakobson received a Nano 50 award Nov. 13 from science publication Nanotech Briefs for his advances in nanotechnology. The Nano 50 awards, now in their fourth year, recognize the top 50 technologies, products and innovators who have considerably influenced the latest advancement in nanotechnology.

Yakobson received the Nano 50 award in the Innovators category for his work with nanotubes.

A panel of nanotechnology experts judged nominations of innovations, technologies and products. Those nominations with the 50 highest scores became this year’s Nano 50 award winners.

Nanotech Briefs notified Yakobson of his award in July. Yakobson said he was pleased to receive the award. "I feel good, what can I say," Yakobson said. "I was surprised at some point, but actually I’ve known about it back in July, when I received the award letter."

A researcher and professor of Rice since 1994, Yakobson describes nanotechnology as the research of atomic particles.

"Nanotechnology is a way of doing things in small scale," Yakobson said. "Larger than atoms but smaller than a billion atoms." Known for introducing the notion and utility of the shell-model at the nanoscale as well as predicting nanotube superconductivity — the extent to which a nanotube can be stretched. Yakobson’s most recent research focuses on the proposal and analysis of efficient consumption and storage of hydrogen in giant buckyballs.

Buckyballs, which are tiny carbon capsules, were discovered at Rice by former chemistry professor Richard Smalley in 1985 and are so strong that they can contain volumes of hydrogen nearly as dense as those at the center of planet Jupiter.

Yakobson’s other work includes the prediction of the boson bucketball-like and calculations of nanotube strength. He is currently researching the strength of nanoflaments.

"We learn to how predict mechanical strengths of some nanoflaments, theoretically," he said. "This is very important because we need strong materials and strong structures for millions of applications from textiles to buildings to some military reinforcements and so on."

Yakobson also conducts research in hydrogen storage for such applications including hydrogen fuel in cars. "We gained through our research some good understanding of mechanism of hydrogen storage on certain substrates and certain materials," he said. "This is hopefully helpful for people who make this storage systems. This gives them some knowledge to improve them and to store hydrogen as fuel in cars."

Yakobson was also one of four researchers who received the 2008 Hydrogen Program R&D Award from the U.S. Department of Energy in recognition of outstanding contributions to hydrogen storage technologies in June.

Yakobson’s other achievements include his selection as the holder of the Donald R. and Molly R. Sheaffer Professor of Mechanical Engineering Conference in Boston, Mass., Nov. 13.

**Baker Institute 2009 Summer in DC Intern Program**

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy is seeking applicants for the sixth cohort of the Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in Washington DC Policy Research Internship Program. The program will provide stipends sufficient to support a select group of Rice undergraduates conducting policy-making research at government agencies, private think tanks, and NGOs. In DC in summer 2009, those accepted must be currently enrolled as full-time undergraduates through fall 2009. Those selected will attend a seminar on public policy and global affairs concurrent with their internships in DC. Write a research report for publication and presentation before Rice faculty and researchers at the beginning of fall semester 2009, and also organize a public policy education activity for academic year 2009/2010. Applicants are individually responsible for selecting and establishing internships and residency in DC. Interested students should send the following materials by January 31 to Dr. Steven Lewis, Washington Internship Committee, Baker Institute, MS-40:

1. A letter of application with your campus and home addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses;
2. A short essay of no more than 600 words describing your career goals, your internship plans (including the organizations to which you have applied or intend to apply), and how these tie in with the mission and policy research programs of the Baker Institute;
3. A resume;
4. An official, sealed transcript;
5. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Rice faculty member or researcher, who can discuss your ability to conduct policy research.

Questions should be addressed to swlewis@rice.edu

**Students concerned over Tudor seating**

**BY JOCELYN WRIGHT THRESHEDER EDITORIAL STAFF**

In a dramatic reshuffling of the Austin State University student section at Tudor Fieldhouse, the seating will be moved from the right court-side location to one behind the north baseline. This location, which was converted from a back gym, is out of sight of the main scoreboard, a frustration for many students who attended the first games at the fieldhouse on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Since the student section is located behind the main scoreboard, students can only see the auxiliary scoreboard, which does not display information like player statistics. Assistant Director of Athletics Chuck Pool said.

"We College junior Chris Fraser said he enjoyed the new isolated student section, but found it difficult to hear the music and the commentary in the student section because the speakers were not loud enough.

Pool said he was working to address these problems.

"We had a lot of feedback in a lot of areas which you expect when you’re opening a new facility with a lot of new experiences," Pool said. "I think that’s what you have your period to make the adjustments and to work toward finding in a way that allows everyone to enjoy the game."

Indeed, there are plans to make additions to the auxiliary scoreboard so that it would provide more detailed information.

Previously, the student section was part of a larger area on the right side of the court and the Marching Owl Band was in a separate section on the upper level. Now, the section includes a place for the MOB, as well as the approximate 1,000 students.

Pool said the section intended to include the band as well as basket-ball fans.

"The idea was to bring the band down courtside and to incorporate student section in there," Pool said, "and [also] have space for the student section and create a really great area for them to all be together and just support the team and create some energy."

**OMBA FROM PAGE 5**

The MBA program which includes the number of international students, minority and women, research productivity, faculty publishing record and more, Ferguson said.

"High rankings are often, when combined with the level of perspective student interested in the program, he said, "An increase in rankings can result in an increase in application volume," Ferguson said. "It creates a positive buzz about the program. That’s the audience that we’re trying to get to make decisions."

He added however that the criteria for rankings may not always line up with program initiatives.

"One of the things we try to be careful of here is to not play the rankings game at the expense of common sense and what’s good for the business," Ferguson said.

For example, some schools may accept students who score high on the GMAT and will have an advantage on initial rankings, but these students may not be well-rounded enough to be placed with a company after graduation, Ferguson said.

"I think some schools have played that game," he said. "You get a short-term bump, but there’s no real long-term gain. The best taking scores are the intermediate impact, but the long-term success is a long-term impact because it can tarnish reputation and degrade the quality of the brand."

Lisa Bell, director of the Rice MBA for Executive program, echoes this philosophy. She said the Jones School might have improved in the rankings by being more proactive in reaching out to top-ranking programs, to understand their methodology and respond accurately to their requests.

"A lot of the success can also be attributed to an engaged and tight-knit Jones School community," Bell said. "Students can easily build close relationships with colleagues, faculty and the wider business community, which makes for a better experience."

The Jones School administration plans to expand its class size to attract more students to its program. In particular, Ferguson said the school plans to make changes to the Executive MBA for Professionals program, which targets full-time people who are in their early to mid-careers. The program, which was established in 2006, draws an average of 25 students each year.

"We want to continue to grow the program and to have more students, especially from more diverse background," said Ferguson.

In another round of expansion, the Jones School will launch a PhD pro-

**JONES SCHOOL RANKINGS**

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<td>U.S. News and World Report</td>
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<td>Financial Times - United States</td>
<td>Executive MBA</td>
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Free expression, only economies that encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of people and their creativity are indeed the economies that will deliver," she said.

Rice said in order to lead the world, America has to be confident in its leadership and the competence of its citizens — this includes developing a better public education system and addressing the divide on immigration reform.

"America cannot continue to be a place where some people live in the shadows, contributing to our economy, but somehow afraid to go to the Emergency Rooms to treat their children," she said. "You're American not by blood, not by nationality, not by religious faith, but by deed."

Rice emphasized the importance of maintaining an ideal that focuses on what immigrants can contribute to the nation.

"It doesn't matter where you came from, it matters where you're going," she said.

In order to compete on a global scale, Rice emphasized the need for adequate educational opportunities for all citizens. She traced her family's line of education back to her grandparents, who attended college on a scholarship. She said she would not be here as secretary of state if it was not for her grandfather's understanding of what education can do.

"I wonder how much we are doing in making sure that dream is alive for our children, who come from modest circumstances," she said. "As an educator it breaks my heart, as secretary of state, it terrifies me. If we are not able to educate our children, we will turn inward; we will be afraid of the world."

Several Baker Institute Student Forum members were also in attendance. One, Brown College junior Shiven Narsiclad, said she found that Rice's message stretched beyond party lines.

"I thought her speech was really good," Narsiclad said. "She talked about immigration and education, and I thought, why aren't you Republican?"

Rice's remarks were followed by a dinner to celebrate the institute's anniversary.

**RUPD POLICE BLOTTER**

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Nov. 13-20.

**RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES**

- Lovett College: Nov. 13 - Theft
- Weiss College: Nov. 14 - Theft
- Lovett College: Nov. 16 - Theft

**OTHER BUILDINGS**

- Baker Institute: Nov. 13 - Theft
- Rice Memorial Center: Nov. 13 - Theft

**PARKING LOTS**

- West Lot: Nov. 15 - Theft

**OTHER LOCATIONS**

- Off Campus: Nov. 13 - Driving while intoxicated
- College Way: Nov. 15 - Burglary of motor vehicle
- College Way: Nov. 19 - Failure to give information
PERFORM YOUR VERSION OF USHER'S “WHAT'S YOUR NAME?” AND YOU COULD
WIN A VIP TRIP TO MEET USHER
www.youtube.com/sonyericsson

My life has a soundtrack. My phone has Walkman™.

Buy the Sony Ericsson W760a
And get a FREE 1 GB SanDisk Memory Stick Micro™ (M2™)!
*After $25 mail-in rebate. Two-year wireless service agreement required. May also require a data package purchase.

Visit your nearest AT&T store today for more details.
Offer Valid 11/16/08 — 12/6/08 at participating Houston area stores. While supplies last. Offer also good on the purchase of a Sony Ericsson W350a Walkman™ phone.
Freshman point guard Connor Frizzelle played for 31 minutes and had no turnovers in his NCAA Division-I debut.

Junior Cory Pflieger led the Owls with 17 points.

Junior Lawrence Ghoram averaged 8.5 points last year.

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Over 1,500 Rice fans came out to experience the historic opening of Tudor Fieldhouse. We asked students who attended to share their feelings about the Athletic Department's most recent attempts to recruit more student involvement.

Jasdeep Singh Mangat
Brow 2009

"Take Rice Athletics seriously. When the university shows this kind of support by building a first-class facility, the students realize that this is important. It attracts people. I am hoping we can get the whole stands filled."

Cristin H.

"I think that the student athletics are not a leader, we are the student athletes are the ones leading students. I also think that if the students do well, theFor example year's football year's we students comin..."
OPENING WEEKEND
STUDENTS AND FANS FLOCK TO OPENING

Freshman Brianna Hypolite passes to the post.

Freshman point guard D'Frantz Smart has quickly taken hold of the offense and has spread intensity to the defense, as well.

Students came out in droves for opening weekend at Tudor.

“I think they are trying to get the student body involved in athletics at Rice. Being a cheerleader, we see that not many students get very involved in the hype about athletics. Also, think that when the teams do well, the students come out. For example, comparing last year’s football games to this year’s we see a lot more students coming out.”

“Everyone is excited for them to be back on campus. Rice is becoming more competitive with athletics and trying to step up their program.”

“It shows a commitment to Rice Athletics that I definitely didn’t see when I first came here. Last year, there were games where I was a one of about 10 students. This feels really good to see two very full sections of the stands in our own home court, at our own university.”
Lovett is a Cabaret

BY TIMOTHY FAUST
THE RESHEF DAILY STAFF

The success of Lovett College's deservedly well-received 'I Love You, You're Perfect. Now Playing: Hamman Hall'

Although the majority of the dancers from modern and ballet, the show includes a traditional Egyptian Bedouin tribal dance performed by Rice's Mediterranean Dance instructor, Kristina Koutoudias. Other no
definitions include "Nine-Nine!" an energetic dance choreographed by Sidd Richardson College junior Emily Jacobs and performed by Brown College senior Jennifer Wilborn. Rice College sophomore Barry Kuo and math graduate student Taylor Cook, and "Moments, Memory," choreographed by Wees College junior Dina Tangoyva and performed by Sidd sophomore Nazima Zakhidova, Rice freshman Shway Li. Baker senior Alice

The cabaret-style performance begins at the ticket counter. The college commons, which does not easily lend itself to performances, does smoky red and black each night as it transforms into a dark cabaret of throns, with traditional seating inter
ding to the intricate set design. The show runs for about two hours and features a mix of music, comedy, and theatre with the audience actively participating in the performance.

CIVIL WAR

The weekly scene

Editors' picks for events outside the hedges, both around Rice and in the Houston area, for this week.

CIVIL WAR

Throw it back to 1860, this Saturday and Sunday at Liendo Plantation's Civil War Weekend, featuring reenactments of Civil War battles and camp life demonstrations along with a battle reenactment at 6 p.m. each day. Tickets run a mere $5, and $20 for a four-day pass.

LOUVETT PLANTATION
38653 WHITT CHAPEL ROAD
HEIMSTADT, TEXAS
WWW.LOEVETT.ORG

OVID

Mary Zimmerman's Tony

-Nominated adaptation of Ovid's myths continues this weekend with showings tonight through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. over at the University of Houston. Student tickets are $5, and I did mention that the entire play takes place in a pool?

UL JOSE QUEMERO LAB
THEATRE
733 WYATT
WWW.MICHELLECENTER.
FORARTS.ORG

DOME

It's Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon as you've never seen it before: on the dome of a planetarium, in a digitally anim
ated, high-definition video, eye candy fest. Students get in for $5, but be sure to check the campus weekly for the show schedule in addition to museum hours.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE
1 HERMANN CIRCLE
WWW.HMNS.ORG

SEUSS

Everyone knows Dr. Seuss as a children's book author, but did you know he was also a World War II cartoonist? The Holocaust Museum's "Dr. Seuss Wants You!" show examines some of his over 400 editorial cartoons from the decade. Admission is free and museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
9401 CAROLINE STREET
WWW.HMHM.ORG
Wisss Tabletop's Drop Dead is full of life, laughs, farce

BY GARRETT SCHUMANN
THRESHER STAFF

Able to win over even the least easily amused of viewers, Wiess Tabletop's production of Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's Drop Dead is a hilarious, microphone-lit farce.

True, the plot is not the best in the world, and the set is deliberately silly. But this joyfully self-deprecating play is guaranteed to make just about anyone laugh. Director Danny Shanabrough and Jane Milmore's second performance with Wiess Tabletop attempts to stay under the radar with a show well-suited for college theater. Drop Dead is set during the final rehearsals and opening night of a haphazardly bad play, a murder mystery. The actors are desperately trying to remember their lines, and the playweight is mounting dangerously around the set, with only hours before the first performance. The plot thickens as, before the mystery show can open, real murderers begin to occur backstage. What ensues is a goofy play within a play that rapidly becomes a screwball farce.

In many ways, the jokes in the show poke fun at the stereotypically low standards of student actors. There are corny accents, low-budget costumes and more melodramatic moments than viewers can count on both hands, but because these are supposed to be there, they work brilliantly. It's clear that no one involved in the show takes the proceedings too seriously and that the actors want to have fun. The audience cannot help but join in the merriment.

All the actors are inventively cast, but Wiess freshman TJ Puleston virtually steals the show with a humorous portrayal of Chaz Looney, an understudy who gets a leading role after an actor mysteriously disappears. Burleson portrays Looney's stage mother, naive and slow-witted with a deadpan delivery with an awkwardly reminiscent of The Office's Dwight Schrute. This approach to the character is not only effective and believable, but mirrors many of the show's funniest moments. The rest of the cast delivers strong performances as well. Wiess junior John Palmeri plays the regal Mona Moses, in constant contrast with Wiess freshman Matt Banke's thrust Reynolds, a method actor who takes his craft a little too seriously. Wiess freshman Nathan Gabriel is solid as the submissive stage hand, Philip, and Wiess freshman John Palmeri uses his celebrity as the new arrivals to effectively communicate the desperation of failed middle-aged playwright Alabama Miller. Will Rice Collegenewcomer Hannah Thalénburg is perfectly suited to her role as the overbearing director, Victoria a Perez, and fellow sophomore Jane Labyer portrays ex-porn star Candy Apples like a pro.

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While imperfect and hardly profound, (Drop Dead) provides a healthy dose of zany, madcap humor and a refreshing reminder of the joys of college theater.

BY JOE DWYER
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Best known for their work on the Battlefield franchise, Electronic Arts and EA Digital Illusions Creative Entertainment have gone in a completely new direction with Mirror's Edge, an original title that aims to shake up the first-person genre.

Players step into the shoes of Faith, a "runner" living in a slum- ting white, futuristic dystopia where the police survey and control all modes of communication. When citizens want to stay under the radar with their information, they rely on runners like Faith to transport their messages across the city's rooftops. The game begins with Faith's cop sister getting bashed for a month she didn't commit, forcing Faith to do some digging around town to uncover the truth.

First of all, this isn't just another first-person shooter. Yes, there are guns, and the game can be played just like any other FPS title, but Mirror's Edge creatively sways players away from taking this approach by limiting available ammo to whatever is in the gun at the time. It's picked up and hurling movement based on the size of the weapon, meaning Faith won't be able to vault effortlessly from rooftop to rooftop while brandishing a heavy machine gun. Through evasion or hand-to-hand combat, it's actually possible to beat the game without shooting a single enemy, but for players with limited patience this may seem next to impossible.

The game's biggest weak point lies with the shallow combat system and the finicky disarm feature. A single shoulder button controls hand-to-hand combat, performing a contextual punch or kick depending on whether Faith is running, standing, crouching or leaping. The approach is simple and accessible and works for the most part, but it begins to feel a tad repetitive by the game's end. The disarm feature is useful for disarming weapons and unlocking enemies at the same time, but it is hit-or-miss and works only when it wants to, even when the player repeatedly matches the appropriate button.

Problems with combat are balanced out by extremely satisfying and innovative gameplay. There is no HUD whatsoever, and seeing Faith's character or heads-up display is absolutely unnecessary. Balancing motion elements can include eluding the cops arms and legs moving onscreen or hearing her gasp for air as she runs gives a realistic sense of speed and agility to the game that can actually make some players feel exhausted. As much as certain parts of the game may prove frustrating, the moments of sheer adrenaline peppered throughout more than make up for the game's shortcomings. Such moments can include eluding the cops by springing off of a building onto a nearby hopper's landing strut or a frantic escape atop a speeding subway, during which Faith has to leap from train to train and avoid hanging signs and columns at the same time.

For $60, Mirror's Edge is a very short game. The average player can beat it in two settings, and hardcore players should be able to do it in one. The game possesses some degree of replayability, however, thanks to the addition of a Hard difficulty setting and Time Trial and Speed Run modes after completing the game once. For completionists there are also 44 Achievements and 45 Trophies to collect as well as hidden bags scattered throughout each chapter that unlock art galleries, music tracks and the game's distinctive cartoon cutscenes.

Despite its short length, Mirror's Edge is a unique and exhilarating game that takes a good stab at redescribng first-person approach FPS titles. Players should give the demo on Xbox Live Marketplace and PlayStation Store a try before buying this game.
From the opening ear chase to the film's showdown, it's clear that this is not your grandpappy's Bond. Gone is the campiness of the Sean Connery/Roger Moore era, and rather the tongue-in-cheek feel of the older movies in favor of a more grounded, realistic approach. There are no fights above alpine-pumping chases or escapes is instead the centerpiece of the film, but that's not always a deal-breaker, but audiences need to realize that the time when it was cool for Duran Duran and Tina Turner to strut a dance-y side. Events such as the 1980s also marked a progressive step for the overall direction of the band and a reconciliation to the KTRU library of music.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008

FROM PAGE 14

CABARET

The romance subplot between mad dynamism that keeps his character weaker spots.

The audience can easily detect a tiredness that keeps his character viable, clean and very appropriate to the Cabaret atmosphere. Pianist and Lovett senior Christopher Armstrong is at all times everything a accompanist needs to be. On time and tuned in.

As a rule, the ensemble is gifted, as eager to scintillate (or strip) as they are to sing. There are a few moments with pitchy notes or the performers lost in more complicated passages - but the numbers, in which the ensemble is constant, poised and precise are wonderful things to behold. The last half minute of Act I, an all-chorus, full-throated "Tomorrow Belongs To Me" triggers those primal human impulses and reactions that transcend the stage and settle within our bones; those few seconds alone are the strongest of the entire evening.

As a rule, the ensemble is very gifted; as eager to scintillate (or strip) as they are to sing. For all its shortcomings, Cabaret is very much a worthwhile ticket and the slow energy drags down the atmosphere. Pianist and Lovett senior John Westbrook's performances of Lovett seniors Adam Hill and Ben Ellington and Lovett juniors Isaac Sabat. The three take their roles as the only male cabaret fruit vendor Herr Schultz (Early) and amicable freshman Isaac Sabat. The three take their roles as the only male cabaret performers with an almost disturbing - no, definitely disturbing - enthusiasm and bring waves of laughter with every entrance.

The choreography, by Lovett seniors Kristina Haag and Biritte Trentadue, is crisp, clean and very appropriate to the Cabaret atmosphere. Pianist and Lovett senior Christopher Armstrong is at all times everything an accompanist needs to be: on time and tuned in. The rest of the band is able and very appropriate to the atmosphere. Pianist and Lovett senior John Westbrook's performances of Lovett seniors Adam Hill and Ben Ellington and Lovett juniors Isaac Sabat. The three take their roles as the only male cabaret performers with an almost disturbing - no, definitely disturbing - enthusiasm and bring waves of laughter with every entrance.

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You Must Attend...

FROM PAGE 14

I took an exam once.

I got to go on a date with this hot studious

because I made the highest score in my class.

What are you doing this weekend? What are you doing this weekend?

I'm studying for

my final exams.

I took an exam once.

Did you meet? Why that exam

ten questions or less? Did you spend less than 5 minutes

finding the answers? Were you rewarded instantly with

an object or service of great personal or utility value?

I'm studying for

my final exams.

Because those are how

tests work in videogames.

Videogames.

FROM PAGE 14

The Shepherd School Percussion Ensemble, directed by Richard Brown, performs on Tuesday. Shepherd's percussion studio is one of the most productive in the country.

no one should feel discouraged

for modern and ballet lovers. While

dance lovers — more specifically,

for modern and ballet lovers. While

no one should feel discouraged

for modern and ballet lovers. While

no one should feel discouraged

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no one should feel discouraged
Men fall to Portland State in final-second loss; women overcome Cal State Northridge in season opener

by Brody Rollins

From the opening tip to the waning seconds, the basketball team battled back and forth but ultimately lost to unanimous Big Sky conference preseason favorite Portland State University. The match-up was the first ever men's game played in the renovated Tudor Fieldhouse on Saturday.

The Owls shot the ball well during the game, hitting 42 percent of their shots. The best shot to go in was a layup by junior guard Cory Pflieger, who also scored a team-high 17 points. Pflieger played in only five games last season after sustaining a serious ankle injury in November against Eastern Illinois University.

Rice's touch from the perimeter opened up the baseline for multiple backdoor cuts and easy buckets, which translated into an early 10-point lead. PSU played catch-up throughout the half and by halftime Rice held a narrow 36-33 lead.

Rebounding was the sweet spot for the Owls, who played their first game without departed seniors Paulus Peakvietus (Wes '09) and Patrick Brown (Jones '09), the top two rebounders on the team last season.

The Vikings hauled in 11 offensive rebounds in the first half and had 25 in the game in Rice's five. In total rebounds the story was the same as PSU dominated the game 43-30. For the Owls, senior forward Aboi Perka led the team with nine rebounds, and senior guard Rodney Foster followed with four. Foster also dished a game-high nine assists.

PSU used its rebounding prowess in the first half to score 15 second-chance points while the Owls earned just two. The same disparity held true for points in the paint where Rice was out-scored 20-22.

The same problem that we had throughout the game was rebounding," Pflieger said. "We knew going into halftime that if we limited that, we were limited that

See BASKET, page 22

Women's XC head to Nationals after 2nd place Regional finish

by Natalie Clericuzio

Running cross-country is a lot like playing poker: Doing well requires practice and skill, but they both require a little bit of luck.

Last Saturday at the NCAA South-Central Regional meet, all of these elements came together for the women's cross-country team perhaps for the first time all season. Not only did the team compete in peak shape, but they also ran without anyone on the team battling illness or injury.

"We've never been 100 percent healthy [until now]," head coach Jim Bevan said. "Health is always an underlying factor. You've got to deal with that one little element of being a human being. Three of our normal obstacles we all have to go through. Some of it was we're lucky, and we're healthy now, but some of it was by design. You want to be ready at the end of the year."

Junior Nicole Mericle, however, ran so well that she probably did not need any luck. Mericle won the race, marking the first time any Rice runner has ever won a regional meet. Additionally, Mericle ran the fastest 6K in Rice women's cross-country history with a time of 20:34.

With eighth and ninth place finishes from sophomores Allison Pye and senior Lennie Warte, and 17th and 27th place finishes from sophomores Brittany Williams and Becky Wade to boot, Rice took second place overall in the meet. The Owls automatically qualified for national competition behind the University of Arkansas, the Southeastern Conference champions.

Bevan said he was very pleased with team's performance.

"We had the best performance of the year, which I was anticipating," Bevan said. "I really felt good going into the race that we were going to have our best race."

However, Rice was tied with Baylor University purely on scores and needed a top runner, Williams, who finished nine seconds ahead of Baylor's fifth place runner, Williams, who finished nine seconds ahead of Baylor's fifth place runner. The national meet will be held in Terre Haute, Ind., on Monday, Nov. 24. The race will be broadcast on CSTV at 11:08 a.m. Currently, the University of Washington is in the lead to win, as they are ranked first nationally and have been for the majority of the season. Other schools that will be competing for the title include Princeton University, University of Oregon, Florida State University and Texas Tech University.

Last season, Rice placed ninth overall at nationals. Bevan believes this year's squad is even better and can improve on that result.

"The region is much better than they were a year ago, he said. "This just bears out what I've been saying all along that I believe we have a better team than we did last year but our competition is much better than it was last year. We're going into the national meet with some momentum now, and I think our girls are optimistic. They all ran their last year, and ... they're

See WOMEN'S, page 22

Basketball christens new Tudor Fieldhouse

Men fall to Portland State in final-second loss; women overcome Cal State Northridge in season opener

For the first time in school history, the Owls answered the all-important question: Whose house is it? Tudor Fieldhouse was filled with students and fans to watch the first home game in the new facility last Friday.

The Owls put California State University-Northridge in the history books as the first opponent to be sent packing after suffering a 76-35 route at the hands of the home team, but the women were not finished just yet. A banner hoisted by sophomore forward Morgan Maves against Texas A&M University-Danville on Wednesday continued the perfect start to the season.

The home-opener was more than an introduction to a new court. It was a return to normalcy for the players that had been without a home court or a locker room for over a year. "To have fans again, to have the [Marching Owl Band] and the ruckus, and people behind us was just so much better than playing at Houston Baptist University," junior guard Tara Watts said.

Fans came out in large numbers to attend the history-making event. For most of the team, it was the first time they had ever played in front of a student section that was cheering for them. "It was fantastic," head coach Greg Williams said. "I couldn't have asked for more from the students. I though the atmosphere was tremendous. It helped us early on. The crowd energized our kids. If we can get that kind of turnout on a consistent basis, this could be a real tough place to play."

Though questions loomed in the fall as to who would step up to the forefront of the young team, everything went as planned, and the Owls put on a good show for the crowd, exhibiting a dangerous mix of veteran leadership and untapped talent. 11 of 12 players put up scoring numbers against Cal State, and nine contributed.

See UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS SPORTS INFORMATION
Swimming wins three out of four dual meets

by Tracy Dansker

Hopefully, the expression holds true: the third time is the charm. The swim team has faced University of Houston twice, but the Owls have yet to claim bragging rights over their cross-town rivals. Their final chance to claim bragging rights over their swim team has faced University of Houston twice, but the Owls have yet to do so.

Vanderbilt 256-80, of those diving points to the other team. Had the Owls sported a competitive diving team, they would have had a good chance of finishing 4-0. This lack of personnel means that the Owls begin every meet with a field meet with no field competitors. The UH Invitational, the Owls were the same as it was two weeks ago at the meet. The Owls easily overcame its other competitors, beating Florida International University of Nebraska, Colorado State University, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska. This is the first year that Rice competes at the Cornhusker Invitational this weekend.

The Owls also put together some extremely successful relay teams. In the 200-yard medley relay, the Owls returned in the 100-yard butterfly to snatch first place with a career-best time of 58.44. Wo returned in the 100-yard butterfly to snatch first place with a career-best time of 56.89. Rice easily overcame its other competitors, beating Florida International University 239-75, University of Texas 260-87 and Vanderbilt 256-80.

Assistant coach Jada Hallmark (Sid '01) said the team wanted to make up for last week's loss to UH. We had something to prove going into it [the meet] knowing that last week we hadn't really swum our best," she said. "The girls wanted to have a little revenge and come back, and fortunately we weren't quite as one-sided as we needed to be to overcome that 32-point diving deficit." The disappointing loss to UH aside, Rice secured four individual first-place finishes and five second-place finishes, including an impressive showing in the freestyle events. In the 1,650-yard freestyle, senior Caitlin Warner took second place with a time of 18:23.94. In the 100-yard freestyle, the second longest swim of the night, Warner reappeared towards the top of the pack, again grabbing second place. Coming in close behind her were freshmen Nicole Delaloye and Alex O'Brien in third and fourth, respectively. Fellow freshman Shelby Bortles led the 200-yard freestyle for the Owls, touching in at 1:45.62 and capturing second place. Junior Pam Zeinick grabbed first place in the 50-yard freestyle, posting a season-best time of 24.04 in the swimming event. Her stellar performance earned her C-USA swimmer of the week honors. Senior teammates Skylar Craig and Diane Gu came in third and fourth place, respectively.

Rice also had strong finishes in breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke. Junior Angela Wu took second place in the 100-yard backstroke in a season best time of 58.44. Wu returned in the 100-yard butterfly to snatch first place with a career-best time of 56.89. Sophomore Erin Matson placed third in the same event with her best time in two years, a notable feat after being red-shirted last season. Wu was also Rice's top finisher in the 100-yard butterfly in second place.

The Owls' ranking does not affect the team's ranking. "In swimming ... your dual meet record doesn't really have any bearing on how you end up at conference or how you end up nationally ranked," she said. "It's nice to win, but it's really irrelevant when you think about the whole scope of the season. As long as we're swimming fast, our times are dropping, we're looking smart sets, and we're doing things right, we're not going to get fooled up the outcome of the meet."

Senior Diane Gu swam to New Mexico State on Nov. 6. Last weekend the Owls won three out of four dual meets held at University of Houston's Rec Center. They are swimming at the Cornhusker Invitational this weekend.
Men's XC season ends with 5 at Regionals

by Jonathan Myers

It's true that all good things do come to an end. The men's cross country season that saw the team finish second at the NCAA South Central Regional meet, making it to the NCAA National Championship. The team will be looking forward to have a chance at securing an at-large berth to the national meet.

Head coach John Warren placed his team at Regionals after securing a 16th-place finish overall, and he was followed by junior Brad Morris, junior Simon Buckell, senior Justin Maxwell, redshirt freshman Michael Treni and senior Brett Olson to boost out the scoring numbers. Texas A&M University took first place with 99 points, and Texas A&M senior Shadrack Songok won the overall lifetime with a two-mile time of 4:23.

Looking at some of the top runners for the team, Warren identified several who were either team leaders for the team, Warren identified the season or were very consistent throughout the race. At 3K, Mericle finishing against some of the nation's best was definitely nice and definitely able to put things together at Regionals, and he said. "Her time was impressive, but I don't have to fight off three other people for the pack. She ran a personal best, and I think we'll lose Robert, Maxwell and Moore into graduation or eligibility limits. Warren said he is looking for runners like Buckell, Treni and sophomore Scott Zivich to fill the void left by those runners.

"Bevil and Zick" are capable of filling that void right away," he said. "We have a nice group of freshmen we think are going to be very good, and [junior] John Buck should be able to help as well.

He added that freshmen Gabe Gunada, James Llanos and Matt Carv, all who huddled within the University of Houston Baptist University Invitational or murdered more manners, should be able to make big impacts on the performance of the cross country team next year.

Not since Austin Court's construction in 1994 or perhaps after the introduction of the central air-conditioning system in 1991 have students been in the stands at a Rice basketball game in such an aesthetically pleasing space. Last weekend, students were beginning to see a new era in Rice Athletics with the opening of Tudor Fieldhouse.

Even though the preseason tail-gate itself had low attendance, the students appeared to make up the majority of the crowd at the game and certainly to霸气 the majesty of the cheering during the tail. With the right side of the student section packed, student support for Rice basketball appeared to be on an upswing. In comparison to the Rice-Texas game at the Toyota Center last season, where there were as many students present, the enthusiasm level certainly increased dramatically.

Besides, with the arena no more than a half-mile away from the south college, and a 15-minute walk from the rest of campus, there is no excuse now for students to not attend games.

Several things did go well this weekend. I'm always a fan of free 7-Roasters, as well as a fan of the Rice basketball program. It's exciting.

While the resume looks like it's on the cusp of excellence addition to the gym, the lack of an on-campus weight training facility is a concern for many. Some of Rice's curiosity was an excellent way to recall and come together for a common old auty. Rice could just as easily have put those up side by side in the NAIA. Students also more invested in the game than practicality impress with the exception of some proud parents.

Therefore, to my dismay I did not even notice the other two scoreboard-check full of stats on the ledge above the student section, completely out of student view, until I was walking out of the gym. These share the feeds of each game's events but are blank, statis- tics not available anywhere on the tablespoon. I am sure that neither the student section. Maybe it's just my obsession for knowing the statis- tics at all of any sporting event, but I really felt in the dark without that.

Now that the season has begun, it's probably too late for any change in that arrangement of scoreboards, but perhaps that issue could be addressed in the off-season. Also, whether student support will remain anywhere near as high as a successful game is another factor to whether that issue is even one worth examining.

Another problem that has nothing to do with the building itself is the first section's name. Austin Army at Tudor Fieldhouse sounds like the section was just too lazy to come up with something creative enough for the new place. While I am not suggesting that this is actually the case, the new building does deserve a new name. Granted, Army Army was a really sweet name (much better than the new), but I do know this about the Army is new, and I have no excuse for not using it. Besides, with the arena no more than a half-mile away from the south college, and a 15-minute walk from the rest of campus, there is no excuse now for students to not attend games.

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Volleyball earns first-round bye for C-USA tournament

by Paul Fitzgerald

The volleyball team entered last Thursday's match against the University of Houston riding high, having won 13 of their last 12. Instead of continuing their winning ways, the University of Houston upset Rice.

The loss to Houston dumped Rice to third in the final Conference USA standings, meaning the Owls will have the third seed in the upcoming C-USA Tournament. The tournament began Thursday and concludes with the final on Sunday in Memphis, Tenn. Rice does not play on the tournament's opening day due to their place in the top four of the C-USA standings.

Head coach Genny Volpe thought the bye would be extremely beneficial in the team's tournament chances.

"There's a lot to be said about being able to scout the University of Memphis and the University of Texas-El Paso," Volpe said. "It's the first time this program has had a bye in the C-USA Tournament, and it's definitely beneficial."

Instead, the Owls open the tournament on Friday at 7 p.m. against the first time this program has had a bye in the C-USA Tournament, and it's definitely beneficial.

United States, meaning the Owls will have the third seed in the upcoming C-USA Tournament. The tournament began Thursday and concludes with the final on Sunday in Memphis, Tenn. Rice does not play on the tournament's opening day due to their place in the top four of the C-USA standings. Head coach Genny Volpe thought the bye would be extremely beneficial in the team's tournament chances.

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Instead, the Owls open the tournament on Friday at 7 p.m. against the winner of Thursday's match between sixth-seeded Memphis and 11th-seeded UTEP. Rice won a combined 3-0 against Memphis and UTEP during the regular season, losing a total of one set in the three matches.

A win on Friday by Rice would put them in the semifinals on Saturday. An Owls win would put the Owls in the tournament final, which takes place on Sunday at 7 p.m. Sunday's final will be televised by the CBS College Sports Network. Rice has not won the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004.

The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004. The Owls hoped to earn a bye in the C-USA Tournament since joining the league in 2004.

Senior outside hitter Jessie Boulavsky and sophomore libero Tracey Lam were named to the 2008 District VII All-Academic Team. This is the second year in a row that Boulavsky has been recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament," Volpe said. "The team recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament," Volpe said. "The team recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament," Volpe said. "The team recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament," Volpe said. "The team recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament." The team recognized that we were not ourselves practices leading up to the tournament.

Although Boulavsky and sophomore middle blocker Canimah Gill, Rice eventually fell to a 3-0 lead in the C-USA Tournament, which takes place on Sunday. Despite their recent loss, Volpe does not think the team's tournament chances will be affected.

"We have had some really great players leading up to the tournament," Volpe said. "We've been consistent all year long, and we still have that expectation going into the tournament."
All seriousness asked me if the student section. While I am all for loud and proud supporting our Owls, I also feel that classy lineups. Stanton, a sophomore transfer, seemed unlikely that anyone could fill her spot on the floor. Though they weren't time wasters, more so that we let Madman Artest and his gang combined for another two points. As Panthers were up 45-44-

The Owls' slim lead evaporated quickly as the Panthers' attack intensified. President barber, a period spanning minutes of the first half, but it was the Owls' offense that carried the game statistically. Panthers' coach Cooper said. "No way. The Owls came out as the leading scorer in both games against Cal State and against Prairie View, but none of the points were bigger than her game winning prayer from another young player to give the Owls the edge in both nights. "It's basketball, and anything is possible," Wilman said. "We're on 33 for ever." The Owls sat back with 33 points for five minutes and watching their team-strike per 100 points. To prepare for every defense," Wilman said. "We're not anti-refs. Sure, everyone gets mad by taunts from an opposing crowd. Who were supporting the Owls against Prairie View, we shot over 60 percent shooting in the first half, but our offense stagnated as the Panthers' defense tightened. The season is coming to an end, and the opportunities to watch gifted teams different colleges well on each other. The 2007-2008 Powderpuff All-Star women's basketball games on Thursday nights are a showcase for the brightest and most versatile players go head-to-head. At the same time, the Powderpuff All-Star series and offensive WPAs will be rated in the top ten in the nation. It's basketball, and anything is possible. That is why we all play the sport."
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The Backpage Interview Series
Part two: Kevin Kirby, vice president for administration

The MO-1 Predator, formerly the RQ-1 Predator, is a remote-controlled unmanned drone that was originally designed for medium-altitude surveillance and reconnaissance. Variations of the Predator have been designed for everything from customs and border security to search and rescue.

BP: Wow, the Predator. So you ever shoot a gun?
KK: No, No. I don't like guns.
BP: So you like the Army but you don't like guns?

KK: Yeah, there are lots of misconceptions about the military. One is that they like to kill people, that they like to fight. That's true for a tiny segment of the population, but for the most part they don't. The military is also one of the most highly educated work forces you ever come across. In 100 percent of the general officers, have advanced degrees, masters or Ph.Ds, because of their training.

There's a view that the Army is very regimented and hierarchical, and that's true, but not all the time. It was a lot bigger during the Vietnam War, but we were highly unpredictable in battle. In the '60s, when the Vietnam War was going on, the Army was not aware of the way it is today. ... I think what changed is how much you could do while you were in the military. It's still doing good for the country and helping in some people's lives. But I hate guns. I've never owned a gun, never fired a gun. I've had a chance to handle a tank and things like that, but never more than that. I'm tired of it. I'm tired of gunplay or whatever. [Kirk] is a fan of Student Veterans of America. Matt (Taylor) said I'd be good at it. I guess I'll be good at planning it.

When George H. Bush came into office, Kirby decided to go back to school. His first time at the time was a Stealth Phantom—a graduate of the one-year MI6 program at MIT—and suggested that Kirby enter the program.

KK: When I first went to school, I couldn't wait to get out. I wasn't a year younger than everybody else. I had never been to high school, I wasn't schooling it. Until I went to high school, I was pretty immature; I was very young; I was ten years younger than everybody else.

BP: You sound like a Rice grad.
KK: It was a struggle. I did a lot of growing up in college, and I was still busy to be out of college and to go to work. But I was actually addicted to school when I went back. And when I went back the second time, another dozen years later, I was actually excited to be there. The MI6 was time, the number of classes, I didn't have to go. That's when I knew I really wanted to get back into higher education... I think people ought to keep going back to school. I think everybody ought to do that. You're never too old to keep going back to school, and learning. It's just a great joy to learn. I loved going back to school.

KK: For me, my kids were born, I played sports all the time. In soccer, out of school, after school, after school. Football, basketball, softball, soccer, football, basketball, softball, volleyball...

The Backpage is not really about this week and is written, poorly, by Timothy Facett and Eric Dier. Listen to our dramatic readings of classic Thresher articles at www.ricethresher.org.

other

Attention! Houston International Folk Dancers (HIFD) invites Rice Students and Faculty to view and refresh dancing from around the world! No experience of partner needed! Every Friday, 7 pm to 9 pm, First Universalist Unarian Church, 5200 Fountain at Southamont. Students: Faculty: $5, for more information: www.hifdancers.com, houstonfolkdance@yahoo.com, view three vids at www.mtv.com, 713-733-6657. First visit is FREE!

Lightning Round

Favorite Movie: "One of the things you'll discover about me that I don't really love doing... I have hundreds of favorites... I love everything from North by Northwest to all the James Bond movies, to, uh, a wide variety of things."

Favorite Bond Actor: "I like them all!"

Favorite Dance: T. Rex: "I've seen too many smartphones."

Best Concert: "I haven't been to a concert in a long time, but I've been to hundreds of concerts. I used to go see Bob Dylan, Robert Cray, and The Clash, and I've seen Led Zeppelin."

Best Zeppelin Single: Stairway to Heaven

Favorite Houston Restaurant: "Kind of a cop out to say that I like all. Nida's is a great one."

Dish at Nida's: Fajitas Chicken or Steak? Steak.

Favorite Drink: Beer "Sam Adams. Usually the newest stuff, but also like the Cherry Wheat."

BP: You sound like a Rice grad.
KK: It was a struggle. I did a lot of growing up in college, and I was still busy to be out of college and to go to work. But I was addicted to school when I went back. And when I went back the second time, another dozen years later, I was actually excited to be there. The MI6 was time, the number of classes, I didn't have to go. That's when I knew I really wanted to get back into higher education... I think people ought to keep going back to school. I think everybody ought to do that. You're never too old to keep going back to school, and learning. It's just a great joy to learn. I loved going back to school.

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