Owls will play bowl game in Houston

BY VAN DIGLOY
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

At a Wednesday press conference, athletics director Chris Del Conte officially announced that Rice had accepted an invitation to play in the 2008 Texas Bowl at Reliant Stadium on Dec. 30 at 7 p.m. The game will be the final chapter in the saga of a season that has made an imprint on nearly every column of the football team's history books.

"To be able to come and have our student athletes, our fans, our community and our students participate in a bowl game right here in the city of Houston, we couldn't ask for anything better," Del Conte said. "It's really a big deal. It's a big deal in a bowl and not on a plane."

After finishing the regular season 9-3, Rice considered offers from both the GMAC Bowl, to be held on Jan. 6 in Mobile, Ala., and the Texas Bowl. The decision to forgo a road trip for a game less than three miles away was well received by members of the team that went undefeated at home last year.

"It was the bowl we wanted," head coach David Bailiff said. "It's another opportunity for Chase Dillard to showcase his skills and the opportunity to support cross-cutting education and leadership."

Other opponents could be selected from the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big East Conference, or the Big 12 Conference, as well as the Big Ten Conference, Rutgers University, a Big East member, that has also been mentioned in contention for the spot.

Dillard said winning the game was "a great feeling," and that because it's a bowl game, Rice is going to be another opportunity for Chase [Clement] and Dillard to break out in Houston.

Speculation over the Owls' opponent began even before the official announcement was made. The Texas Bowl is usually affiliated with Conference USA and the Big 12 Conference, but it is highly likely that a representative from the Big 12 will not be invited.

The team most expected to take the other slot is the University of Notre Dame, which is unaffiliated with a conference, but could be given an at-large bid. The Fighting Irish are one of the most storied football programs in the nation, but have struggled since star quarterback Brady Quinn directed them to the Big Ten Conference, in March.

Other opponents could be selected from the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big East Conference, or the Big 12 Conference. The Big 12, Rutgers University, a Big East member, has also been mentioned in contention for the spot.

"I really want a tough opponent," Bailiff said. "I really want a team that is going to make us better as a football team."

The Doerrs' contribution will be donated as-now undetermined without payment. The university will donate an as-now undetermined amount of money directly to her charitable cause.

"The Center] will be focused on things that transcend the boundaries of the department," Keller-McNulty said. "It's aimed at how our students can do we do to help our students develop really great communication skills. It's not just about writing. It's not just about speaking. It's about how you as an engineer can explain to a politician something in engineering. It's aimed at how our students can gain really strong interpersonal skills."

Some of the Center's education-aid focus will be embedded in classes so you get programs started and it's difficult to continue them in a sustainable way. A gift like this allows us to build some permanent infrastructure.

"It was the bowl we wanted," head coach David Bailiff said. "It's another opportunity for Chase Dillard to showcase his skills and the opportunity to support cross-cutting education and leadership."

"I really want a tough opponent," Bailiff said. "I really want a team that is going to make us better as a football team."

I'm not saying the game is going to be competitive, but you want that opportunity that everybody gives you a chance with, that you don't even have a shot, and everybody is telling students that you're going to lose."

Bad music and black lights

The Architecture Society is holding a dance this weekend titled Soft Space, Hard Rave. The party will begin tomorrow at 10 p.m. in Anderson Hall, and will be completely civilized and appropriate for the holidays.

OMG it's finally over!

Today is the last day of classes. Take a break during dead week from now until Dec. 10, when exams begin. There will be no Thresher until Jan. 5, but it will be fine. We promise no news will happen while we're gone.

Alumni give $15 million to engineering dept.

Donation to establish the Rice Engineering Leadership Center to focus on communication

BY MICHELLE JIN
THRESHER STAFF

The engineering department will soon expand the diversity of its program's content to include social lessons in leadership, Rice alumni John (Lowell) '74 and Ann (Jines) '74 Doerr donated $15 million to establish the Rice Engineering Leadership Center, which is expected to open next fall. Dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering Sally Keller-McNulty said.

The Doerrs' contribution will be designated to helping Rice students remain at the forefront of new developments in engineering. The gift, specifically for the engineering department, was a rarity, since donations of such magnitude often go to the university as a whole, said Keller-McNulty, who also mentioned that the donation will fill a need in the department.

"It's very difficult to find funding to support cross-cutting educational needs," Keller-McNulty said. "You can get grants for that, but they have short time horizons, so you get programs started and it's difficult to continue them in a sustainable way. A gift like this allows us to build some permanent infrastructure."

The Rice Engineering Leadership Center will focus on integrating ethics, sustainable technology and humanities with engineering, as well as enhancing students' professionalism.

"The Center] will be focused on things that transcend the boundaries of the department," Keller-McNulty said. "It's aimed at how our students can do we do to help our students develop really great communication skills. It's not just about writing. It's not just about speaking. It's about how you as an engineer can explain to a politician something in engineering. It's aimed at how our students can gain really strong interpersonal skills."

Some of the Center's education-aid focus will be embedded in classes so you get programs started and it's difficult to continue them in a sustainable way. A gift like this allows us to build some permanent infrastructure.
Emergency alert system only works if used

Probably everyone would agree that Rice's comprehensive alert system would be good for notifying students of impending natural disasters, campus closures and crimes in the surrounding neighborhoods. But what about the on-campus presence of a gun-wielding man fleeing the Rice University Police Department?

We feel that when a man accussed of physically assaulting his undergraduate girlfriend evades police custody by vaulting from the roof of Brown College (see story, page 7), students should know, and we don't mean in an e-mail an hour later. Nevertheless, we are very appreciative that at least some college masters provided the electronic communication, considering others did not even bother to send that limited notice.

We consider the lack of common response among the masters relatively excusable, because we find it disturbing that the administration put the burden of distribution of information as important as the whereabouts of an escaped criminal on the masters in the first place. The point of setting up the university-wide alert system in the first place was to make it easy for one at the highest level of the administration to contact students immediately in the event of an emergency. That said, we fully believe that sending a timely text message to every registered phone on campus would have been much easier and more considerate than trying to disseminate information through multiple parties and hoping it would arrive intact and simultaneously to each and every student.

Speaker choice good, but system needs more fixes

How is it that Stuyvesant High School can book this American Life radio show host Ira Glass for its commencement and Rice University cannot? We have a few ideas about this.

Today, the Commencement Speaker Committee announced that its choice for commencement this year will be Zainab Salbi, the founder and CEO of Women for Women International, an organization that helps female survivors of war to return to society through providing them financial assistance and education (see story, page 1). Though Salbi's father served as Saddam Hussein's personal pilot, Salbi herself is not associated with Hussein, as is evident from her body of humanitarian work.

As a candidate for commencement speaker, Salbi is a good choice. We are sure her credentials will make her a great speaker, and that if her heart is service is something Rice graduates can surely learn much from.

But we have to point out the truth, and sometimes the truth hurts. Unfortunately, we have heard of Salbi, and how many have heard of Ira Glass? For the past few years, Rice has been moving in the direction of achieving greater name recognition. If Rice wants to be a well-known, top-tier university, it should book well-known, top-tier speakers.

And Rice has a tendency to choose commencement speakers who are less well known—sometimes these speakers are our own alumni. A year ago, discontent brewed when students realized that the Commencement Speaker Committee began assembling late in the fall semester and had former Rice President George Rupp mere weeks before the event ("Former Rice President Rupp chosen for Commencement," Mar. 21). Realizing that this was unacceptable, this year's Commencement Speaker Committee assembled in April and booked the speaker several months beforehand.

And while this year's effort was an improvement over the fiasco of last year, we think the committee can do more to book speakers that are better known. The way we can achieve this is by forming Commencement Speaker Committees earlier—just not a few months earlier, but two years earlier. In order to book someone on the level of celebrity status, a few months is just not enough time. If this committee were formed during the sophomore year of a class—that is, two years before they graduate—they would have enough time for these committees to find qualified and available speakers to speak at commencement.

It is true that not that Salbi is a bad choice; she is a good choice, and an improvement over last year's hastily picked speaker (Rupp graciously accepted the position last minute, and we hope that we would have been thankful anybody spoke at all). Choosing Salbi shows that the Commencement Speaker Committee has made great changes in their selection process in that the speaker was chosen a good half-year in advance and that the speaker is not from the Rice community. We just want to put out that we can—and should—always be looking for ways to improve.

Holocaust mention disrespectful, gibb

To the editor:

When I worked on the Thresher, I always enjoyed reading Caroline May's columns. It was great to have a regular conservative writer who was not a mouthpiece for the Rice College Republicans, but an independent voice. While I almost never agreed with her, May's columns helped me solidify my own arguments, and she was never afraid to express her own opinion. She stirred up campus and made people angry, and it was great. However, her column this week was beyond the pale ("Global warming consensus isn't fact," Nov. 21). Her arguments about global warming are not the issue. Instead, her flippancy use of the Holocaust is not only reductio ad Hitlerum of the worst kind, but also horribly insulting. For May, the systematic murder of millions of innocent men, women and children seems to be nothing more than a throwaway line in a cliché political rant. Unreflection means are marching millions of people into death camps as part of a racial cleansing initiative, the Holocaust has no place in a political argument. This sort of rhetoric belongs on the Backpage, where post-innocent murderers of political discourse are appropriate. But in the opinion section it is just silly. By calling such arguments "misogynist," May shows that she is either ignorant or horribly cruel.

If it is merely ignorance, May is lucky enough to live just a few blocks away from the Houston Holocaust Museum. Perhaps she could visit the museum and write her next column about how the suffering of millions is not a tool for her personal agenda.

Evan Mintz
Former Thresher Executive Editor
Hartzen '08

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Art installations reflect artistic value

To the editor:

The argument that the donations for Fondren's Lino Tagliapietra installation could have been put to better use on the Marching Owl Band ("Funds for campus art nice but misplaced," Nov. 14) is singularly baseless.

For one, public opinion polls report that the majority of the students at Rice are, in fact, big fans of art. According to the Rice News, Rice students have attended nearly every Fondren installation since it began. In other words, the MOB is not the only group of students to care about the arts. Furthermore, the MOB is less controversial in order to impress outside donors. If the MOB had wanted to support the MOB, I'm sure they would have.

Everyday practical problems should be handled through other departments at Rice. Salbi and Rice's Arts Committee probably enjoyed special freedom in their selection of this project; that's just how private money works. If the MOB is victims of pollution, then maybe it should try to be less controversial in order to impress outside donors. If the MOB had wanted to support the MOB, I'm sure they would have.

The argument that the donations for Fondren's Lino Tagliapietra installation could have been put to better use on the Marching Owl Band is baseless and incorrect. If the MOB had wanted to support the MOB, I'm sure they would have.
'Tis the season of giving, not materialism

The estimated cost to provide clean water worldwide is $1 billion. Your donation to a charity such as Canteen by the Bands can help to decrease this amount. In 2008, and more churches and organizations are coming together to make a change. Hopefully, this year's total can reach even higher levels.

The Adent Contemporary's proposal is that people spend less money on gifts, and raise awareness on clean water. With the amount of money put into this holiday. And for what purpose? Was it so that your parents could buy you another sweater vest from Banana Republic? Or should we consider the greater meaning of Christmas?

Christmas originated as a day to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who changed the world (whether you believe in his teachings or not). The day celebrates love, peace, and joy, and yet in times, this purpose seems largely to have been lost in the background. The message is lost, but there are churches which are trying to bring this purpose back. Cue the Advent Conspiracy.

In 2006, former, passion, including Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and outside influences that Chilean language. How about accents - there are many men who will not use words meant to mean a teenage or adolescent girl, comes from the famous Nahuatl noun. And the name of the word which the main female character is named after. Where is the position, because it is Chile's specific relationship with the outside world that has brought them to existence...

In other cases country-specific vocabulary may come from internal sources, I'm referring here to indigenous populations. In Peru, Chile and Bolivia it would be incorrect to hear the second example - naco la guasú en ti checo - because both guasú and checo come from Quechua, the language of the Incas. While the Incas spanned from Ecuador to Chile, they never made it past South America, so if you asked Spaniards about naco, they would have no idea what you were talking about.

In Argentina "Spanish" is spoken like Italian, but with a big Italian influence. In Guatemala many men will not use two words between each other because both have a meaning that just would not make sense. In English, I am leading the sale of extinction in Guatemala. All over the vast Spanish speaking regions of the world, there are processes of language individualization. In different places, the pulling the Spanish spoken in these countries furthers and further apart...

I want this injustice corrected and our rights to be protected and our voices heard. If you want inequality and oppressions to exist, then I certainly do not think that this is too much to ask.

Caitlin MacIntyre is a Brown College Junior and Queer and Allies Affairs Co-president.
that there are serious issues dealing with the Iranian government. We are also encouraged by the warm reception we received and the very strong interest in fostering understanding and relationships.

Due to previous engagements with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy’s 15th anniversary, Leebron attended four of the six days of the trip, which accomplished the preliminary goals of understanding the state of Iranian research and consideration of possible exchange and collaboration, he said. Though there are current political considerations between the American and Iranian governments, Leebron said the delegations did not serve as envoys of the government. However, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Department of State knew about the trip and were supportive of its goals.

Leebron said this trip operated independently of a political agenda. "Even when governments are hostile to each other and they have important contentious issues between them, universities can play a valuable role in educational exchange and cultural interaction, dialogue and understanding," he said. "Any decision to engage in this kind of trip or deeper relationships with Iranian universities is not an endorsement of policies of the Iranian government."

However, he noted that the status of governments does matter when it comes to obstacles between student and faculty exchange. Since the United States currently does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, the possibility of such visits were limited. "Those are obstacles our country has to evaluate and see the trade-offs between a policy of isolation and a policy of engagement," he said.

Other considerations include what opportunities are available for students and faculty, particularly females. While restrictions might be as issue due to the country's majority Muslim population, Leebron also wanted to be assured that the area would be a positive, safe place for faculty and students to visit.

"We saw nothing to out visits that would undercut that," he said. "I think the Iranians are very proud that the majority of university students are women, but on the other hand the success rate for women in graduate studies is significantly less."

There are already a number of Iranian students and faculty members at Rice, and Leebron cited the Iranian community in Houston as "a potential source of strength for the university."

"The more [the students] can understand the issues around a country like Iran, the more they can be prepared for whatever it is that lies in the future," Leebron said.

He plans to visit faculty in Iran on the next steps and hopes to possibly arrange a visit from the presidents of Iranian peer institutions.

"I’m hoping that there might be a reciprocal visit and that university presidents to the United States and [that they will] make a point of visiting Rice," Leebron said.

Besides traveling to Iran, Leebron has also traveled to India, China, Mexico, Argentina and Chile on business trips this academic year. These business trips help identify university partners and establish relationships and to increase Rice’s international visibility, he said.

President Leebron visits Iran with educational delegation

BY CINDY DINH
THE RICE THREESHER STAFF

In times of international turmoil and political hostilities, connections between countries can still be forged through neutral institutions like universities. Last month President David Leebron and five other American university presidents traveled to Iran to visit the Iranian minister of science and research technology as well as four universities highly regarded for their science programs.

"The basic idea was to start a conversation about where science is going in the 21st century and lay some groundwork for increased interactions between Iranian and American universities and faculty and institutions," Leebron said.

Leebron visited Iran through the Association of American Universities, joining five other American public and private university presidents. The other universities represented were Carnegie Mellon University, University of Florida, University of Maryland-College Park, Cornell University and University of California-Davis.

This delegation visited four universities in Isfahan and the capital city of Tehran, including Sharif University of Technology — which is regarded as the MIT of Iran, Leebron said. Besides traveling to Iran, Leebron has also traveled to India, China, Mexico, Argentina and Chile on business trips this academic year. These business trips help identify university partners and establish relationships and to increase Rice’s international visibility, he said.

President David Leebron, third from right, took part in a trip sponsored by the Association of American Universities. His traveling companions were the presidents of five other American research universities.

President Leebron visits Iran with educational delegation

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Sid wins intercollege recycling contest

BY BLANCA WALKER
For The Thresher

Inter-college competition included not only sports, but also saving the Earth one Coke can at a time. Last month, Sid Richardson College outshone the other colleges in a November-only aluminum recycling competition with 24 pounds of collected material — more than twice the amount of runner-up Wiess College. Overall campus recycling increased by 52 percent.

"The project was the latest sustainability-oriented effort from the class ENST 302: Environmental Issues; Rice in the Future,” Sid senior Kassandra Escalera, sophomore Paige Bailey, junior Meghan Bidford and Will Rice College sophomore Abby Banko-Gulch chose to run the contest as part of their final project on recycling. The students focused on aluminum recycling because of its ability to be recycled infinitely, Escalera said. "The class uses the campus as a laboratory for learning about sustainability," director of sustainability Richard R. Johnson said. During the course of the class, the professors encourage students to become aware of environmental issues and to find ways to solve them. Projects such as the aluminum-recycling competition fit in with the course’s focus on enhancing sustainability on campus.

The class was arranged for the college with the most recycled aluminum to be awarded the proceeds from the aluminum recycling center, which totaled $100. "It is always good to introduce a competitive aspect to recycling," Martin College eco-fac Rachel Carlson said. "A lot of people only recycle when it’s convenient." She said many students need an incentive to recycle, and that the profits from the recycling center may have motivated students to participate in the project.

The results speak for themselves, Escalera said. Brown and Will Rice College followed closely with 22 pounds. Two colleges which had no recycling before the campaign, Brown and Lovett Colleges, were able to establish recycling programs.

While the competition was divided in terms of greatest weight of aluminum contributed, the class group also collected information about the rate of aluminum recycled before their competition and campaign. Every college succeeded in increasing its rate, except Wiess, whose recycling decreased by 7 pounds.

"The best we can do is hope that it has had an effect," Banko-Gulch said. The other group members, along with Johnson and Sociology Professor Elizabeth Long, who teaches the class, hope the competition has a lasting effect on Rice and that students will continue to recycle aluminum at the rates they have been during the competition.

"Many major environmental initiatives and success stories are connected in some way to this class," Johnson said. The sustainability policy adopted by Rice University in April 2004 was motivated by students from the ENST 302 spring 2004 class. "Sid and other colleges played a role in the process of helping to give green campus," Johnson said. "It’s a real joy to work with students." The students are the ones to make the difference." Banko-Gulch adds, "Everyone should take the initiative to recycle. Recycling — it’s one of the easiest things you can do to make a difference," she said.

Students enjoy Taiwanese food, games, and entertainment at the Night Market held last Saturday in the Grand Hall of the RMC. The event was sponsored by the Rice Taiwanese Association.

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Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program

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

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUP) at Rice University has three goals: first, to increase the number of minority students, and others with a demonstrated commitment to elevating race, gender, and other disparities, who will pursue Ph.D.s in core fields in the arts and sciences. In doing so, the program aims to reduce the serious under-representation on the faculties of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as to address the attendant educational consequences of these disparities. Second, it seeks to motivate these students to be the researchers, teachers, and mentors of the highly diverse college student bodies of the future. Third, it seeks to encourage their social experiences and 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, Political Theory, Religion and Sociology.

Applicants should normally be completing their sophomore year as a student at Rice University. Juniors are invited to apply as Associate Fellows. Selection will be based on a number of attributes including but not limited to academic standing and potential, life experiences and interests, commitment to building bridges in multicultural settings, and interests in pursuing graduate education. Students who participate in the program receive a yearly stipend of $2,000, work closely with a faculty mentor for two years, and are eligible for participation in summer fellowship programs at the end of their sophomore or junior years. Fellowships 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
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713.348.5688
SA poll shows Health Services has limited reach

BY MELISSA TSANG
THRESHER STAFF

When they are feeling under the weather, 43 percent of Rice students said they would contact their parents prior to seeking treatment from health services or using online resources like WebMD, according to the Student Health Services survey conducted by the Student Association last month.

SA Senators Ryan Fleming and Leatrice Camara collaborated on the poll in order to address concerns about student awareness and utilization of Rice's Student Health Services, and to identify areas of possible improvement.

"We got together with the people from Health Services to figure out how they could improve their service toward students, especially with the student population increasing with Duncan and McMurtrey Colleges," Fleming, a Sid Richardson College sophomore, said. "This was a way for us to tell what issues students might have with Health Services, to see what student opinion is, to find out what services were being under-utilized, and what students were doing in order to treat themselves whenever they get sick."

Although moving Health Services off campus and outsourcing services would be cheaper for the university, poll results showed that 71 percent of students said they would not go to Health Services if they were located off campus, Camara, a Jones College sophomore, said.

The poll also covered the time it took for students to schedule an appointment. Next-day or same-day appointments were the norm for 38 percent of poll respondents, while 16 percent scheduled an appointment two days later. Camara said calling too late to schedule an appointment and missed appointments when students did not cancel or forget to go meant two of the biggest problems with scheduling appointments.

"Early calling and remembering to cancel," Camara said. "Those are the two things the student population really needs to remember to do. If we get that done, I'd be happy. I would really be happy."

Of the students surveyed, 36 percent said they have never made an appointment with Health Services.

"I don't use them that often because I never really had the need to," Jones sophomore Chase LeCroy said.

"But if I had the need to, I'd feel like they're pretty open for me to go use and pretty accessible."

Of those who did use student health services, 56 percent of respondents reported that scheduling appointments was convenient or very convenient.

"I haven't used it that much, only once during O-Week when I got really bad bug bites," Hanszen College sophomore Courtney Ng said. "I think they're really attentive and very helpful because I didn't even have an appointment, I just walked in and they took care of me right there."

While sick visits and vaccinations top the list of services most used by students, the number of visits to Student Health Services for contraceptive counseling and testing for sexually transmitted diseases were 18 percent and 14 percent, respectively. Fleming said one of the reasons for the poll was to increase awareness of the different STD tests Health Services offers.

"Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

The last time you tried to make an appointment with Student Health Services because you were sick, how soon could you get an appointment to see a doctor?

N/A - I have never made an appointment

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Who are you most likely to contact for treatment when feeling ill or under the weather?

Parents

Student Health Services

Web site (e.g. WebMD)

Health Reps

Hospitals in the Medical Center

Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

Select the services for which you have utilized Student Health Services

N/A - I have never made an appointment

Same day

Next day

2 days later

3+ days later

Who are you most likely to contact in the event of a health emergency?

Emergency Medical Response (EMS)

Parents

Hospitals in the Medical Center

Student Health Services

Health Reps

Web site (e.g. WebMD)

Treating sexually transmitted diseases

Brown College sophomore Kevin Rivas reads the names of AIDS victims in front of a memorial quilt on AIDS day.
Rice University police spotted a wanted felon on campus the evening of Nov. 24. It was the same man RUPD apprehended with the help of the Houston Police Department’s dogs and helicopter Sept. 28, Police Cap- 
tain Phillip Hassell said.

Rice University Police Depart-
ment received a call the night before 
that a wanted felony was on campus 
at Brown College, Hassell said. 

The suspect had assaulted his girlfriend and 
had a felony warrant against him, Hassell said. 

Houston Student Police Department's dogs 
were called in to apprehend the man, Hassell said.

The man, Drake Young, was 
first spotted on the campus 
in the face, but he left before 
RUPD arrived. At 10:45 a.m. the fol-
lowing evening, Young returned. He 
was now with his car, Hassell said.

Young was first spotted on campus nearly two months ago 
on Sep. 28. RUPD stopped him 
for driving the wrong way on a one-way street. After finding that he 
had a felony warrant against him, 
RUPD brought him into the 
station, Hassell said. While 
they were taking young out of the pa-
trol car, he balled and was 
eventually found under a porch by 
search dogs.

Young was described as white, 
5’8”, around 140 pounds with 
brown hair and brown eyes. While 
his hair was boxed into combs when 
RUPD first apprehended him, 
they believe that his hair is now un-
boxed.

Young has been charged with 
assault and felony escape. He is 
still at large, but RUPD is working 
to apprehend him, Hassell said.

"We weren't able to catch him, 
but we have his car, and there's 
a warrant out for him as soon 
as we can find him," Hassell said.

— Jocelyn Wright

Son of Libyan leader visits Rice

Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, a spe-
cial envoy from Libya, visited Rice 
on his own accord last Wednes-
day in pursuit of stronger Libyan-
American relations. Gaddafi is 
the son of the Gaddafi interna-
tional Charity and Development 
Foundation. He is also the son of 
Muammar al-Gaddafi.

Gaddafi visited various sites 
throughout Houston and the 
United States in the past month.

"He's trying to foster relations-
ships between Libya and the Unit-
ed States," said a member of his 
security detail who asked to remain 
amonymous due to the sensitivity 
of his job.

Gaddafi toured the Rice cam-
pus before meeting with President 
John Doerr on Sept. 28. While his visit 
was unannounced, a member of his 
security detail said that Gaddafi was 
steering increased economic 
trade exchanges as well as new diplo-
matic relations.

"We're trying to pushahead," he said.

— Catherine Bratic

ALUMNI FROM PAGE 1

room courses, and others may be 
stand-alone programs. The faculty 
and the Center's external advisory 
committee, chaired by Ann Doerr, 
are in the midst of figuring out the 
specifics, but in the meantime, 
engineering faculty and staff are 
excited about the donation and its 
implications for students, Keller-
McNulty said.

"Whenever we have a large gift like 
this, you always have a lot of 
conversation to try to mold the gift into 
what benefits Rice University and 
what also meets the pas-
son of the donors," 
Sallie Keller-McNulty 
Dean of the George R. 
Brown School of 
Engineering

A gift like this allows us to 
build some permanent infrastruc-
ture of people and programs to 
help our faculty think as creative-
ly as they can and mount different 
kinds of programs and activities 
that will benefit our students in 
developing the skills sets for lead-
ers and for entrepreneurs," Keller-
McNulty said.

The Doerrs were in talks to give 
the donation for several years, 
until the gift was finalized a few 
weeks ago.

"Whenever we have a large gift like 
this, you always have a lot of 
conversation to try to mold the gift into 
what benefits Rice University and what also meets the pass-
son of the donors," Keller- 
McNulty said.

Including this gift, the Doerrs 
have contributed $22.5 million to 
Rice's Centennial Campaign, which 
aims to raise $1 billion by 2012. 
They also provided $2.5 million in 
seed funding for computational 
research of cancer programs and 
the financial means to endow two 
chairs, currently held by Computer 
Science Professors Krishna Palem and 
Keith Cooper.

The Doerrs earned their un-
dergraduate and masters degrees 
in electrical engineering at Rice. 
John Doerr is a venture capitalist 
and Anna Doerr is an environmental 
activist. The gift comes from the 
Beneificus Foundation, a private 
charitable foundation organized 
by the couple whose previous do-
nations have supported schools 
and health-related initiatives.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Felon on campus

Baker College junior Bradley Houston sings at an AIDS day concert on campus nearly two months ago that a wanted felony was on campus at Brown College the evening of Nov. 24. It was the same man RUPD apprehended with the help of the Houston Police Department’s dogs and helicopter Sept. 28, Police Cap-
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The Outer Loop gets re-lit

BY MARGUERIE CLEMENS
TREMORE STAFF WRITER

Nighttime joggers and commuters will not be left in the dark in the future. FE&P plans to improve lighting around Rice's hedge-lined border with the outside world. FE&P Communications Manager Susan Glenn said, "The impending improvements are not the first of Rice's collaborations with the City of Houston as we did with the decomposed granite pathway."

Plans for the installation began last year when a group of concerned students met with Rice University Police Department Chief Bill Taylor as well as FE&P staff to discuss the lighting around Rice's perimeter gravel path, where many Rice students and local residents jog daily. The group compiled a list of problems and potential solutions for the area.

Glenn said the path is currently lit sporadically and that there are areas that impact the quality of light along the Outer Loop, one that many of the lamps have been replaced over the last year, improving lighting in some areas, and two, that the height of the existing city fixtures are located well above the tree canopy, casting dark spots.

While FE&P is exploring LED-certified fixtures in an effort to make the proposal as sustainable as possible, no final decision has been made on the type of lighting to be purchased from Graybar Electric. Other challenges for the project include the need for a practical power source and electrical feed, neither of which are available in the present infrastructure along the path. New power lines will need to be installed in order to reach the new lighting because there is currently no existing electrical system where FE&P plans to install fixtures.

In order to avoid spending any more funds, FE&P plans to divide the Outer Loop lighting makeover into several spaced-out installations. The addition of supplementary fixtures is contingent on whether or not FE&P finds the test installation successful and decides to carry out the project. Glenn said.

While FE&P Senior Project Manager and Rice undergraduate Miles Mirch began running plans for the test experiment, the students in University Courses 219: Survey of Sexual Violence, led by Wellness Center Director Fanny Page, independently conceived a need for improved Outer Loop lighting.

Students in the group included Jones College senior Alex Solomon, Wiess College senior Rachel Kinney, Baker College seniors Billy Haug and Christopher Douglas. Sid Richardson College junior Whitney Sandlin, Brown College junior Pierre Bradley and Sid junior Anna Roberts. The group met with Fannam to discuss whether they might be of service to the already running project. In order to encourage FE&P to continue with the plans and support their efforts with evidence, the group conducted an anonymous survey of 122 undergraduates at Rice, including 64 males and 62 females. The survey asked students whether or not they felt safe jogging along the loop and whether or not they felt less safe at night. Solomon said.

The results of the survey showed that although most students felt safe on the Outer Loop during daylight hours, 10 percent of participants reported feeling very unsafe running along the path at night and of the 5 percent who reported feeling very safe, none were female. Additionally, approximately 50 percent of females and 40 percent of males reported feeling somewhat unsafe on the Outer Loop at night. Eighty percent of students said they would feel safe with improved lighting, and 70 percent said they would consider running the Outer Loop at night after the installations.

FE&P staff are currently testing a preliminary design along one section of path with four new lights that feature a lower height than those currently in place and are on the opposite side, the part closer to Rice. One successful test has already been completed. Once installed in February, the first fixtures will draw from a temporary power source. This preliminary implementation will allow those involved in the project to determine whether or not the changes will succeed in lighting the entire loop sufficiently.

Although FE&P is exploring LEED-certified fixtures in an effort to make the proposal as sustainable as possible, no final decision has been made on the type of lighting to be purchased from Graybar Electric. Other challenges for the project include the need for a practical power source and electrical feed, neither of which are available in the present infrastructure along the path. New power lines will need to be installed in order to reach the new lighting because there is currently no existing electrical system where FE&P plans to install fixtures.

In order to avoid a high one-time cost, FE&P plans to divide the Outer Loop lighting makeover into several spaced-out installations. The addition of supplementary fixtures is contingent on whether or not FE&P finds the test installation successful and decides to carry out the project. Glenn said.

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"We wrote a report to encourage the powers that be to install the lighting," Solomon said.

He also said several students in his class planned to make efforts to see the project through, suggesting further surveys for students after the test features are installed.

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Financial committee looks at proposed accounting changes

By Melissa Tsang
The Thresher Staff

In preparation for the upcoming administrative changes for club finances, the Student Association created a Club Finance Committee on Oct. 6 to serve as a liaison between club treasurers and the university administration.

The committee is responsible for representing student club interests when working with Vice President for Finance Kathy Collins and Dean of Undergraduates Robin Furman in regard to club accounting policies and finances. The committee will also work closely with the Graduate Student Association.

Jones College junior Michael Lin heads the Club Finance Committee, and members include Brown College senior Abigail Daniel, Brown junior Tiffany Wu, Jones senior Lily Banner, Bancroft College senior Sarah Mitchell, who is also the Thresher's business manager, and Jones junior Rachel Orme.

Lin said the diverse representation, with representatives from both large-budget and small-budget clubs included among committee members, reflects an attempt to represent all club opinions and bank account sizes.

"The treasurers who were in this committee are of a huge variety," Lin said. "We're all from different kinds of clubs. We wanted a big variety because of representation, and we wanted to make sure that we have all the other clubs opinion into what we're trying to do and what we're trying to propose." Of the four meetings for which the committee has convened so far, half have been with Collins. At the committee's first meeting, Furman was also present.

"I was very enthusiastic about this committee," Dayal said.

Lin said the committee has only recently begun working with Collins and started off by first delineating potential issues within the clubs and understanding each other's intents and purposes.

"We understand each other's opinions, agendas and goals in this committee," Lin said. "Of course, you have sort of a different goal but it's in the same direction, so as long as that's laid out I'm sure that everything can be resolved." In regards to issues raised during meetings ranging from training for the new system to making decisions on BANNER, Rice's network system containing accounts, students, departments, and budget information.

"If it's a lot of different things," Dayal said. "A lot of aspects of the proposals we've been discussing include training, now we can access funding for making reimbursements and purchasing items. Control has been brought up across the board but a lot of the things are still being worked out."

Most of the proposed university administrative changes are related to ways of accessing club funds, Dayal said.

"Basically, the university wants to be in accountings within the Rice financial system for tax purposes and general accounting purposes," Dayal said. "The changes being made are basically how we can access our funds and how clubs can manage their money in general. We want to basically be the policies for all other clubs to access and ease of use of their money."

Collins said the best thing to do is to increase the amount of federal scrutiny on university finances has compelled the university to introduce these changes to better document all student clubs' financial activity.

"None of the activities in club accounts are being reported in Rice's financial statements or in our tax returns that we file every year," Collins said. "The main reason we're doing it is for compliance reasons, to make sure our financial statements and tax returns reflect accurately all activity and to do the necessary tax compliance returns of issuing W-2's and 1099's for individuals and vendors."

Advantages of moving club finances into Rice's BANNER financial system include not requiring clubs to pay fees when accounts do not meet the required balance or are overdrawn and to facilitate better record keeping. Collins said because of recent technological advances, the university is better equipped for a smooth transition to the BANNER system.

"In 2009 we will be able to do direct deposits for reimbursements to students, which wasn't available to students in past years," Collins said. "We established more tools on BANNER in terms of processing payments."

Collins first raised the issue of moving all club financial activity into the university's BANNER system over the past summer with Furman. However, even with administrative changes, both Lin and Dayal agreed that the university administration does not want to change clubs' financial autonomy.

"We've gotten pretty strong affirmations of their will to not interfere with our finances in any way other than making sure we can access them," Brown senior Danal said. "So with that in mind, I don't think any autonomy is really going to be too much harder. Of course, we're holding them to their word on that."

Collins aims for clubs to finish transitioning into Rice's financial system by early next year.

"The calendar is that we would transition by the end of February," Collins said. "We would like to have a training period. The procedures we are discussing with the colleges and SA clubs include making available to student groups all of the payment methods that Rice employees now have. We've also put together a handbook, a reference guide to explain procedures and who to contact in the Controller's Office for assistance."

Thankfully, there are still issues that need to be worked out, the committee is working closely with Collins on a rough draft proposal for club financing that is modeled after that of colleges, Dayal said.

"We're working with a draft of what the colleges are going through with it in a template, to determine what would be best for all the clubs," Dayal said.

Both Lin and Dayal said the university has been very receptive to student opinion andinput.

Student Association president Matt Youn said he is confident that close collaborations between the committee and university administration will lead to a solution that is satisfactory for both sides.

"I hope the committee will work well with Kathy Collins to formulate the best plan for the clubs in general at Rice," Youn, a Brown senior, said. "After seeing some good results from the work that the college treasurers did with Kathy [Collins], I am confident that the Club Finance Committee will have a good plan by early next semester."

The committee plans to hold an open forum with treasurers from any college to voice their opinions and ask questions.

Lin encouraged any students interested in working with the SA Club Finance Committee to contact him by email at mtd@rice.edu.

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 with their interns from 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 with 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 swl@rice.edu

Baritone Paul Will, a Baker College freshman, sings Aria: Quia fecit mihi magna in Stude Concert Hall Wednesday. The concert was a collaboration between the Rice Chorale and the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestras.

Friday, December 5, 2008

NEWS 9
Dean Burrus wins award for electrical engineering work

BY MICHELLE PHILLIPS
For The Thresher

Most households take electronic devices such as their XBox and MP3 players for granted. But here at Rice, students and faculty alike have someone to thank personally.

In recognition of 40 years of outstanding instruction and groundbreaking research in the field of digital signal processing, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers will award Dean of the School of Engineering Sidney Burrus the Jack Kilby Signal Processing Medal this June. The IEEE is the international professional society for electrical engineers and the largest professional society in the world.

"To process data, you have to turn the signal into a string of numbers," Burrus said. "DSP is what enables this transformation, changing analog files into digital ones that can be compressed, and allowing the data to be analyzed and studied."

The Jack Kilby Signal Processing Medal is named for the only electrical engineer ever to receive the Nobel Prize. Kilby invented the integrated circuit, which has become an essential feature in digital signal processing research, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 2000.

Several of Burrus' friends received the award when he attended the conference previously, he said. This summer, it will be his turn to be appreciated.

Burrus, who also received his Masters in Electrical Engineering at Rice and has been teaching here since 1966, said he was pleasantly surprised by the news, which he received a week ago. According to the IEEE website, every year, up to three individuals or groups are awarded this medal to recognize outstanding achievements in signal processing.

Burrus said being at Rice was an important factor in receiving the award. Over the years, Rice has become internationally known for its advances in the field of digital signal processing, he said.

"Burrus acknowledged the help and support he has received from his fellow faculty members in his 40 years at Rice. He has served as a researcher, dean, and professor, as well as Lovett College master.

"It's like you've been doing it for 40 years," he said. "Well, it's for four weeks of work. This is the same feeling you get when you receive a good grade on a paper."

Burrus recalls being captivated by electricity in high school. "It was sort of magic, because you couldn't see it, and yet it did all kinds of important things," Burrus said.

"[Electricity] was sort of magic, because you couldn't see it, and yet it did all kinds of important things. The idea of understanding electricity fascinated me."

Sidney Burrus
Dean of the School of Engineering

"Who's that?" he said. "On campus, I've heard of the name, but students will be interested in hearing about her humanitarian efforts, the work she's done, and the awards she's received."

"Salbi might not be a household name, but students will be interested in hearing about her humanitarian efforts. The work she's done, and the awards she's received."

"Salbi is very well-known in the local community and internationally. She's been working with refugees for 15 years in Iraq, and has spent time in Afghanistan, South Sudan, and other conflict zones."

"President Obama has been working closely with Salbi and her organization, Women for Women International, since its founding in 1993."

"Salbi is a strong leader and a powerful speaker, who has made a difference in the lives of so many people.

"She's not well known, but as more people find out more about her, they'll feel inspired by her story."

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Sidney Burrus
Dean of the School of Engineering
Tomb Raider: Underworld shines despite some nagging problems

BY JOE DWYER
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

[Editor’s Note: While Tomb Raider: Underworld was released across all platforms, this review only covers the PlayStation 3 and PC versions of the game.]

It was only two short years ago that developer Crystal Dynamics resurrected the troubled Tomb Raider franchise with Tomb Raider: Legend and then followed up with a solid re-make of the original Tomb Raider.Sadly, Crystal Dynamics pulled off a three-peat this year with Tomb Raider: Underworld!

Underworld wraps up Legend’s story about Lara’s quest to find her mother and for the most part is engaging and enjoyable. The game’s biggest weakness is the stubborn camera, which has been a thorn in the studio’s side for the franchise. It is more workable than in previous titles but overall feels claustrophobic and too close to Lara, often resulting in suicidal blind jumps and inadvertently preventing players from appreciating the stunning views and vistas in the game.

This is a shame because the environments in Underworld are the most realistic and detailed in the series to date. There are not as many unique locales as in previous titles, but that is balanced out by the mammoth size of each level. The Mexico stage, for example, is so big that Lara has to use her motorbike to get around.

Thanks to motion capture, Lara’s movements are more fluid and realistic than ever, with a revised and expanded movement system that allows players to make more intuitive decisions throughout the game. In previous titles, Lara was only able to swing from horizontal poles, but in Underworld she can climb up and leap from them. The grappling hook can now be used to wrap around objects or to help Lara rappel down steep drops, both of which are new additions that are used creatively in several of the game’s puzzles.

In comparison to Lara’s previous outings, Underworld is a much easier game. The puzzles aren’t that difficult, and once players get the hand of the revamped control schemes, blasting foes is a snap. It is possible to blaze through the game on Hard in a single six-hour sitting, although completists

Underworld may be the best-looking and most ambitious Tomb Raider title yet, but it still suffers from some problems that have hampered the series since its inception. Here Lara plans her next move in the game’s massive Mexico stage.

DICKENS

The 15th annual Dickens on the Strand, sponsored by Saturday and Sunday. Live performances, character appearances, Dickensian-related games and Dickensian-themed products are some of the events planned for the weekend. Tickets run about $5, and various events are free. The gates stay open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NUTCRACKER

Now through December 28th, Houston Ballet is putting on their Landauer/Labuhn production of the 1868 classic, The Nutcracker. Over 75,000 Texans flocked to see it last year, making it one of the ballet’s most successful productions, so it must be good. Sometimes are at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., but specific times vary so, once again, check the Alley website. Student tickets start at $19.95.

ART

Opening tomorrow is Innovation: A Liberation at the wheelhouse Art Gallery. The entire exhibit is housed in a 24-foot moving truck and features work from several Lubbock artists. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

NAUHAUS ART GALLERY

223 E. 11th St. www.texascollaborative.com

THE WEE-KLY SCENE

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

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THE WEEKLY SCENE

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Slumdog Millionaire is right on the money

BY FAHEEM AHMED

With the Academy Awards just a few months away, Hollywood often produces a slate of films competing for a last Best Picture nomination. Among this year’s releases is Slumdog Millionaire, directed by Danny Boyle, known for reinventing the typical love story genre by making it cinematic in Transporting and also making zombies freakily fast in all Days Later.

Slumdog Millionaire

Starring: Dev Patel, Madhur Mittal, Freida Pinto

Slumdog Millionaire has a very original premise, centering on the Indian version of who is 'a Millionaire?', the wildly popular American game show. Jamal Malik (played admirably by newcomer Dev Patel) is an orphaned teenager who has spent the majority of his youth stealing and begging just to get by. He has overestimated incredible odds to make it on the show and is now on the verge of winning 20 million rupees (around 500,000 American dollars). Doctors, lawyers and teachers have never reached the final question, but Jamal inexplicably knows all the answers. The police and the game show host believe that Malik is cheating, but Jamal has a different theory: it is due to his cinematic flashbacks, director Boyle shows us that the clues to every question are connected by key events in Malik’s life.

The movie spans three time periods: Malik’s early childhood, his adolescence, and his late teenage years. Throughout his childhood and adolescence, he is accompanied by his older brother Salim (Sanjay Suri, India’s Madhur Mittal) whose greed and temper often clash with Jamal’s innocence. A large part of their rivalry has to do with Latika (the gorgeous newcomer Freida Pinto), a fellow orphan girl that Jamal has befriended. Salim believes Latika is a nuisance and will constantly get in the way whereas Jamal is committed to saving her from the fate of his life and soulmate. Due to various storyline circumstances — drag tongs, pimps and child abusers — Jamal, Salim and Latika are separated, Jamal now is on a quest to find Latika, whoever the cost.

The strength of Slumdog Millionaire lies in its vivid cinematography, upbeat soundtrack, brandishing M.I.A.’s “Ponk Flakes” and its child actors. Boyle’s camera pans the trash-strewn, destitute underbelly of Mumbai and the soaring landscapes of the Taj Mahal, making the scenery, costumes and architecture of India burst with color. Each of the flashbacks takes the audience to an unfamiliar place, and yet, they will still feel like they have traveled on this intimate journey with Jamal the entire time. Viewers will love the young child actors; three different sets of eyes played Jamal, Salim and Latika respectively throughout the film.

We are introduced to a funny and precocious Jamal (Aryan Mahesh Khedekar) who will do absolutely anything to get a famous Indian actor’s autograph. Salim (Ashutosh Mohammed Salim), on the other hand, is a total bit siren and willing to exploit Jamal to turn a quick buck. He even locks Jamal in a suspended outhouse with only one way out. It is both awesome and disgusting. It is rare to find talented child actors who develop such depth of character.

Danny Boyle’s Slumdog Millionaire is full of moments that make audiences laugh, cry and believe in the power of true love. This is an entertaining work of art and a glee to see your loved one cross the holiday hurdle, even if it is just to edge Freida Pinto.

Australia epic in length and scope

BY JACKIE AMMONS

THRASHER STAFF

The newly-released film Australia is nothing short of fantastic. Its two highly believable actors and epic plot are sure to grab anyone’s attention.

Australia

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Bryan Brown, David Wenham

Australia tells the story of World War II-era Englishwoman Sarah Ash-ley (The Golden Compass’ Nicole Kid- man), who flees to Darwin, Australia, to visit her father and husband and his broadcasting company. After her husband’s murder, Sarah begins to organize the ranch and sets out to break the corrupt beef monopoly led by King Carney (Along Came Polly’s Bryan Brown) and Reil Fletcher (Married Life’s David Wens-ham) with the help of “the Drover” (Happy Feet’s Hugh Jackman). Among Japanese attacks on Australia, Sarah and the Drover also manage to aid the half-Aboriginal, half white children the government has forced to leave their families.

The respectful re-reading of the hard-headed but proper Sarah Ashley and the rebellious but gentlemanly Drover appropriately in Kidman and Jackman, as both actors not only fill their roles, but also add to each other’s characters with great on-screen chemistry. The fact that Kidman is originally from Australia adds yet another perk to the film and lends credit to her character’s believability.

Kidman’s character finds a perfect complement in her costumes, with Sarah Ashley transitioning from her flawlessly pressed traveling suit to her rumpled, dirty riding blouse and cowboy hat. Jackman’s Drover also gracefully evolves from the scruffy cowboy wearing a rusty work shirt to the James Bond-style suit for a dinner party.

The actors and actresses in Australia are quite impressive but are second only to the breathtaking landscape of the Australian outback captured by the film’s talented cinematographer, Mandy Walker. Filmed entirely in Australia, the movie’s set- ting in the familiar Australian cities and the outback symphony and deserts takes on a unique perspective in the world down under.

Accentuating the film’s pristine landscape, Australia’s musical score, composed by David Hirschfelder, is no less impressive. The soundtrack’s cascading lyrics succeed in matching the other outstanding aspects of the film.

In conjunction with the moving score and cinematography, Australia brings to life a spiritual aspect of the country. The Aboriginal witch doctor King George (Equus’ Dream’s David Gulpilil) adds his and grandson Nolia’s (newcomer Brandon Walters) own native singing voices, tribal costume and makeup to the sights and sounds of the film, creat- ing an element of mystique within the reality filled with more.

The only downside of Australia is its length. Lasting almost three hours, Australia reaches for the epic length of Gone with the Wind. When the audience (my Saladin’s India’s Mad- hur) believes that the film is about to end, it always seems that one more problem or extension of the plot arises so as to extend the film’s viewing time. Still, in spite of Australia’s length, the movie manages to keep the audience’s attention with its fabulous cinematography and exceptional acting.

Australia’s length makes it a film to watch only once in a while, but the other aspects of the film, such as Kidman, Jackman and the cinematography, make it one that will certainly capture numerous awards, including several of February’s Academy’s Awards.

The actors and actresses are second only to the breathtaking landscape of the Australian outback captured by the film’s talented cinematographer, Mandy Walker.

In soon to be awarded qualities also make the film enjoyable and en- tertaining for audiences. It combines a pleasurable viewing experience with a heart-filling, history-based message.

hey YOU, do you have distinct opinions about music? how would you like to enforce your own musical tastes on all of Houston?

then JOIN KTRU rice radio as a NEW DJ!

applications due friday, january 23, 2009
5pm at ktru studios, 2nd floor, rice student center. sign up for more information visit ktru.org

for more information visit ktru.org

ACT NOW!
Holiday Mini Term registration and classes begin December 17 classes run through January 8
register today 713.718.2000

Hey YOU, do you have distinct opinions about music? how would you like to enforce your own musical tastes on all of Houston? THEN JOIN KTRU rice radio as a NEW DJ! applications due friday, january 23, 2009 5pm at ktru studios, 2nd floor, rice student center. sign up for more information visit ktru.org

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**The halls of perception**

"To challenge the conventions of how you experience both three-dimensional space and viewing a canvas" is the goal of Tess Hilgefort and Rene Graham, two second-year graduate students in the School of Architecture. The final project for their Psychology of Perception class is their first attempt at installation artwork. Using a digital projector, they traced lines on the difficult-to-paint wall to create a three-dimensional space in three dimensions sounds ambiguous, and it is assuredly more difficult than doing so on a two-dimensional canvas. If you look for it, though, the red lines do appear to jut out from the wall on which they are painted, creating an imaginary plane of glass - but quite hard.

Unfortunately for the artists, "red week" left the halls papered with the most recent blueprints of a tech student, which somehow detract from the overall effect. Bad timing, but excellent effort.

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**KTRU pick of the week: Radio Manhattan**

*BY MIGUEL QUIRCH*  
FOR THE THRISHER

Radio Manhattan (Burma) opens a door to sounds that are not often heard in this part of the world.

The album's assortment of radio recordings from Yangon, Myanmar, from the spring of 2006, as well as tracks from 1999, through 2002, showcase Sublime Frequencies' signature style of interspersing "legitimate" recordings with soundscapes, ambient noise and radio-swell interludes. The album presents a broad spectrum of programming from Radio Myanmar (Burma) to provide listeners an opportunity to hear the sounds issuing from the radio sets in one of the most repressive, government-controlled nations on earth.

The album begins with an army song complete with a marching band line and joyful singing in Burmese. The song would generally be played at the start of the broadcast, and listening to the CD's opening song is Wojtkowska's most emotionally far-out lines touching the world of the play. Viewers out of the world of the play. Wojtkowska's appearance on stage but whose voice is her most entertaining character. He is Wojtkowska herself, who does not appear on stage but whose voice is featured twice in startling voiceovers instead of unintentionally humorous. It is, of course, not the realism of the details, but the questions raised that are worth mentioning. One's worst morning is Wojtkowska's beauty, but whose voice is featured twice in startling voiceovers that create the most surreal and surrealistic moments of the play. Wojtkowska's articulation and characterization are perfect, and they make up for the possibility that the voices of the voices will pull viewers out of the film via two-hour play. Its emotional flaws are more than enough annoyance for audiences to fall for the word "Christmas" which it was found and was somewhat related to a real-life artist. Underworld does away with all of that, cramming over 50 generic artifacts and relics into each stage, and many can be found just by looking at the rooms. Collecting them is a monotonous chore, and all they look for is a list of low-spirited trivia. "Josh Ricard: Underworld is still a little too dark for some tastes; it just feels a little thin in comparison to now like the Leprechuan and Merry Christmas."

***WAKE***

There are over 40 tracks that range from government broadcasts to advertisements for jewelry shops and Burmese renditions of popular Western music.

**Radio Manhattan (Burma)** proves to be a professionally done collection from Sublime Frequencies that will provide listeners an opportunity to hear the sounds issuing from the radio sets in one of the most repressive, government-controlled nations on earth.
Women's XC finishes 22nd at national meet

by Natalie Clericuzio

To complete one of the best seasons the women's cross-country team has ever had, the team placed 22nd overall out of 31 signals at the NCAA National Championships in San Antonio, Ind., on Monday, Nov. 24. Considering the temperature at race time was 42 degrees, well below the Houston average, the Owls ran an impressive race.

The Owls' invitation to the meet marked the first time a Rice team has ever made it to nationals two years in a row. In conjunction with second-place spots at both the Conference USA championship and South Central Regional, the showing revealed Rice's ability to compete at the top levels of collegiate running.

Head coach Jim Boveen credited much of the team's success to leadership from seniors Lennie Wiltz and Laura Hudson.

"Lennie Wiltz has made a huge transition from soccer player to team leader," Boveen said. "She performed exceedingly well, improved tremendously, and ran much better at nationals. Laura Hudson has come so far based on the past four years. It's wonderful to have two people like that for leadership and experience."

Junior Nicole Mericle, the South Central Regional Athlete of the Year, led the Owls with a 58th-place finish and a time of 30:00. Sophomore Allison Pye finished just behind Mericle, placing 69th with a time of 30:25. Junior Marci Russell for the Owls and ninth overall, junior Brittany Williams and sophomoreProducesResponseType See Wade qualified out Rice's top five, finishing with times of 31:11 and 32:30, respectively. Hudson and freshman Kellie John also completed the race, finishing close behind the top five with times of 32:17 and 32:24.

Bevan was surprised at the high level of performance across the board at nationals.

"I'm happy to make it nationals two years in a row," Boveen said. "But I'm a little disappointed. I felt we could've finished higher. We tied for fourth, which was ninth and reasonably well. We're trying to understand why we weren't a little better. The median time this year at nationals was 21 seconds faster than a year ago. Same course, cold, and wind, and it ran 20 seconds per person faster. It just doesn't make sense why the whole country performed better at nationals...It's mind boggling."

The Owls also improved on their average times from last year, with the first, second, and fifth-place runners all running faster than their counterparts. In fact, according to Boveen, if the team last year ran at the speed of this year's team, they would have ended up eight spots better than their actual 16th-place finish.

The cool weather likely affected Rice's performance to some degree. Mericle, for instance, typically is known for her "kick" at the end of the race. According to Boveen, but for whatever reason, she was unable to sprint about that part of the course.

"Nicole ran a good race, but she just couldn't kick," Boveen said. "I don't know why...[last weather was] probably a factor with her muscles being too cold."

Mericle also believed the cold may have affected her race.

"I looked up really badly the last 50 meters or so," Mericle said. "I didn't know if that was due to cold weather or what...but...I was cold. I felt it."

Without the extra boost at the end of the race, Mericle likely added about 30 seconds to her overall time.

The difference between her nationals and Conference Cross, page 18
Owls stuck at two wins
by Brody Rollins
Rad's hard-fought win

After visiting Provo, Utah, and Austin in the past two weeks, the Owls, 2-4 on the year, return home to face off against the Cougars, who extended their home winning streak to host BYU. The Cougars, 7-2 on the season, are a team that Owls coaches have been watching closely. After losing games to North Carolina and Florida State University on Nov. 15, the Owls need just two victories to overcome. That is going to make all the difference in the world, Dillard said. "It went from all eyes on the Clement-Dillard duo, both of whom have been inconsistent than balanced in the early going."

Owls devoted even greater portion of practice time to cracking the board. This showed up in their wins against Cal Poly, which they outrebounded 39-32, and North Florida, 43-32.

"I'm happy with the eighth-best team in the nation," Dillard said. "It went from all eyes on the Clement-Dillard duo, both of whom have..."
Swimming succeeds at Cornhusker Invitational
Winless through first six meets of the year, Owls take first place in nine-team meet held at University of Nebraska

by Tracy Dansker

The swim team proved head coach Seth Huston right. They showed that they can have unbelievable depth. While they have struggled to win dual meets in the past few months, the Owls had no trouble destroying their competition at the Cornhusker Invitational hosted by the University of Nebraska Nov. 22-23.

This meet organization was similar to the way the Conference USA Championships will run in February. In the morning the team meets in preliminaries and those with last enough times make it to the finals the same evening, where they have an opportunity to score points. At the end of each day, Rice came out on top. After competing in 21 events over four days, Rice won the entire meet with 1,200 points, 121 points ahead of runner-up North Texas.

"I know that with the way the Conference USA Championships will run in February. In the morning the team meets in preliminaries and those with last enough times make it to the finals the same evening, where they have an opportunity to score points. At the end of each day, Rice came out on top. After competing in 21 events over four days, Rice won the entire meet with 1,200 points, 121 points ahead of runner-up North Texas."

Sophomore Erin Mattson competes in the butterfly during the Phil Hensel Dual Meet at the UH Rec Center Nov. 6. Rice won its first meet of the season over the holiday weekend at the Cornhusker Invitational, hosted by the University of Nebraska. After winning several events at the meet, freshman Shelby Bottoms earned Conference USA Swimmer of the Week accolades.

Sophomore Erin Mattson competes in the butterfly during the Phil Hensel Dual Meet at the UH Rec Center Nov. 6. Rice won its first meet of the season over the holiday weekend at the Cornhusker Invitational, hosted by the University of Nebraska. After winning several events at the meet, freshman Shelby Bottoms earned Conference USA Swimmer of the Week accolades.

Swimming head coach Seth Huston

Swimming head coach Seth Huston sighted the meet as a good test of the team's competitive endurance. "Across the board, everybody was swimming their best times of the season," Huston said.

The winning team contributed to the Owls, Huston said. "Across the board, everybody was swimming their best times of the season," Huston said.

Across the board, everybody was swimming their best times of the season. The winning team contributed to the Owls, Huston said. "Across the board, everybody was swimming their best times of the season," Huston said.

The Community Involvement Center is looking for dedicated and enthusiastic students to participate in an amazing two-week immersion experience to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala this summer (Approximately May 10-24, 2009).

Check out the CIC’s website (http://www.rice.edu/service) for more information and to apply.

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 28th.

Questions? Please contact Sarah Hodgkinson
(sarah.hodgkinson@rice.edu)/(713 348-6409)

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by Tan Digiov

Two hard-fought games in different venues resulted in two separate outcomes for the women’s basketball team in the past several weeks. A second-half surge was enough to give the home team a win against Furman University at Tudor Fieldhouse on Nov. 25, but the Owls could not prevent the University of Arkansas - Little Rock from taking a home victory of its own Saturday afternoon.

Freshman point guard D’Frantz Smart stood out as the scoring leader for Rice in both games. She also registered six assists in each game, along with five blocked shots against Furman and six against UALR, despite being the shortest player on the court.

“She has consistently gotten better,” head coach Greg Williams said. “Point guard is the hardest position to come in and play as a freshman. We never would have projected her scoring that many points this early.”

Her scoring has also come at some of the most opportune moments. Against Furman, with 17 seconds left in the game, she made a key three-pointer to make it a two-possession game at 66-62, which turned out to be the final score of the contest.

Earlier in the match, Smart was the first to break a back-and-forth deadlock that carried into the second half. Her consecutive three-pointers pushed the Owls to a nine-point lead, their biggest of the game, with six minutes left.

Freshman forward Reissa Hylton and senior forward Mallory Fulton were the other big factors in the decision, scoring 17 and 13 points, respectively. They remained the lone consistent strength in the game, impressing head coach Greg Williams.

“There was a time in the second that we were really struggling,” Williams said. “Candace Ashford has had her production will originate. Smart is currently the team’s leading scorer, but the undeclared guard has not assumed the role of scorer in the past.”

Questions also still loom about Rice’s low-post presence. Freshmen Megan Elliott and Candace Ashford have seen playing time, but have not exhibited the consistency to allow for a game plan that utilizes the low post.

“Megan Elliott has shown that she can come off the bench and make things happen, both with scoring, rebounding and her ability to shoot,” Williams said. “Candace Ashford has had her moments, but she struggled the last couple games.”

As the season progresses, it will be important for those young talents to develop as consistent scorers and effective rebounders.

The Owls are next to take on Baylor tomorrow to take on the University of Texas - Arlington at 5:30 p.m. immediately following the men’s game.
End of the year choose your own Casey Michel column adventure

Here’s how it works: pick a paragraph from each pair and make your Michel-esque pun-filled super column!

**COMMENTARY (PAGE 2.5 STYLE)**

**A.** What sport, above all others, embodies the fire of the human spirit? What sport combines more grit, guts and gravitas than Odysseus or Achilles ever knew? What sport propels men, women and children beyond their hardest limits and into the world of excellence and legend?

**B.** Truly, croquet is the sport of kings and the king of sports. Its impact is often compared with the invention of fire, and it inspired both the Taj Mahal and, if its etymology to true, Einstein’s theory of relativity. Clearly, the world would be a worse place without it.

**A.** Joan Rivers Experience, helping Zdurien-off the air.

**B.** Zduriencik - whose name sounds more like a Polish independence movement than a baseball lifer - made his reputation by stockpiling the Milwaukee Brewers’ farm system in ways that would make Billy Bean proud. As Scouting Director of the once-moribund Brew Crew, Zdurien-cik oversaw a greater facelift than the once-moribund Brew Crew, Zdurien-cik a scan greater than the once-moribund Brew Crew.

**A.** But it’s recently come to my understanding that, inexplicably, there are those who have not partaken in the expanse of sports. I can’t help but feel the deepest pang of sympathy, and although I may not know you personally, I feel that it is my duty to enlighten you as to the courage and necessity that croquet exemplifies.

**B.** When he finds a new center fielder, left, and first baseman, we’ll know Jack. When he decides the future of Real Banner and Adrian Belivi, we’ll get to Site special Jack. When the Mariners’ new manager tries to get to the plate on Opening Day, we’ll have formulated an opinion on Jack.

**A.** You don’t know Jack. Seriously, you don’t. That’s not an insult - it’s the truth, and you know it.

**B.** How, there may be a few of you inbred in-gras who chuckle at the thought of croquet being the epitome of human achievement, but lest ye forget, there were also people who laughed at Picasso, Penny Diablo and Puff, the Magic Dragon. If these cultural and intellectual giants bowed to the gaggle of giggles, the modern world would be without its unsurpassable talent and gifts, to say nothing of the greatness of “Freek-A-Leek.”

**A.** For those who’ve yet to enjoy the game’s unimaginable bliss, I can only hope that you come out of your shell and play a round with us, because in the end, it’s the greatest thing you shall ever do.

**B.** May you get it from my last name, or maybe you have actually experienced the emotional response that this exercise engenders. Regardless of the reason, you get your external props for your correct answer, and I’ll be mailing you the transcripts of some “Ozzie Guillen as Obama’s Secretary” outright.

**A.** (In the interest of full disclosure, I should point out that I have the aforementioned greatness in my bloodline - my grandfather, Jean-Claude Michel, the siphonurus for the annual Jean-Claude Michel Memorial Croquet Tournament in Seattle, Wash. Please, don’t bother me free to donate to my grandparents for not attaining the importance that mine did.)

**B.** It’s cool though, because I don’t know Jack either.

---

**CROSS FROM PAGE 14**

Call and you could save. Class dismissed.

- Convenient local office
- Money-saving discounts
- Low down payments
- Monthly payment plans
- 24-hour service and claims
- Coverage available by phone

**TOURNEY FROM PAGE 14**

and freshman Ashley McCord was only six kills shy of that mark with 294. Combined, the talented group has vaulted Rice to the top of the Conference USA pack with 15.6 kills per game.

The difference in the match may well come down to defense, where the Owls have notable amounts of quickness. The team is last in C-USA in blocks per game, but makes up for it with a wide conference lead in digs per game, which should help to counter some of Wichita State’s potent attack potential. Wichita State, on the other hand, is in the middle of the MVC pack in both categories.

**FROM PAGE 15**

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From the excitement surrounding the NCAA tournament selection, The Owls’ win over TCU seemed lackluster. Nevertheless, Volpe said the match meant much to the seniors. She said they had not played a clean at Autry Court in nearly two years.

The team was so happy to see all their hard work come to fruition, Volpe said. “They knew we had a good season but they just needed the sound of selection to the tournament. The un- derclassmen were really happy for the seniors. Sherron Joy of younger folks for we hoped.”

The team’s success this season bodes well for next season, despite the inevitable loss of two seniors, Bevan said.

“We had a strong season,” Bevan said. “We had a good year and our expectations have risen; the bar has risen and that’s a good thing.”

Merckle felt that although the team’s finish at nationals was not what they were hoping to accomplish, the season was still a success.

“It was disappointing, but it wasn’t really anything sad to beat ourselves up about because we got to the na- tional meet and that was something that wasn’t exactly a given because of all the injuries we had on the team [this season],” she said. “So it was good to be back there again and to be the first Rice team to make two in a row.”

Bevan’s happy with the team’s overall performance, even if they did not finish as highly as they would have liked. He noted that the team followed their strategy for the match, but the strat- egy did not pan out as expected.

“The plan was to run a typical first set and not get caught up in trying to be in front of everyone,” Bevan said. “We believed people would run too fast and we would make up ground. I was very happy with our position after the first set and I thought we'd be good to move up at least 50 spots. However, no one blew up, and we only went up 10 to 20 spots - not like we hoped.”

The Owls opened well against the Horned Frogs, coming out to an early two-point lead and first-set win. TCU was at the tail end of a bruising three-week road trip that saw them win only one game in five matches, but even so, the Owls had a tough time keeping their oppo- nents down in subsequent sets. The Horned Frogs managed to grab the second set frame hardly to several inaccurate shots from the Owls’ front line - Rice’s hitting percentage was a merely .337 for the set.

Frog and Holderness brought their competitive spirit to every match, sparking several tallies with four kills each. TCU did have three points at 11-12 before the Owls ran away with an 11-14 run and the set win. The Horned Frogs were at a slight disadvantage in the fourth set, pressing Rice to a 25-16, McCord kill after a Lavelle serve gave the Owls a one-point advantage, and a hit- ter play subsequently gave the Owls the match victory. Lavelle’s serve was clearly headed out of bounds, but if TCU’s Kathryn Blackwood in the head before she could get out of the way, giving Rice the final point.
If an obstacle is just an opportunity in disguise, does that mean that opportunities are challenges in disguise?

Do you have an interest in engineering and/or places other than America? Visit the "Engineering Opportunities Abroad Study Break," tonight at 8 p.m. in the Brown College Commons. On the subject, I received this communication (I shortened it): "Take a break from your studies and join us at this event highlighting a range of programs including ITB Bonn, Nantes, the GREAT, RICE, programs, INVENT, and paid internships abroad through ISA/ESTE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

FRIDAY

DROP you like 3rd period French
If you're a first-year student at Rice (freshmen and transfers), you can still drop a class today. Forms are due at 5 p.m. to the Registrar's Office and can be printed off their website. No signature required (except your own).

Prizes are tubular
The drawings for the prizes given out by the Registrar's Office start today. More info online.

Sketch-tastic
Rice Sketch Comedy is a funny thing that involves free pizza and (free?) comedy. "It's the season to go to the BMC's Grand Hall from 7-9 p.m.

The North Pole is a real place.
Just ask Tom Hanks.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008

FRIDAY

If you thought that perhaps it used to be just the President's study break. Perhaps my memory is going. It's in the BMC (Day Student Center) Brodacki Pavilion. It's growing like the icho that Deus Forum, now the Pavilion. What next? Hosted by the President's Office, the Dean's Office, and the Office of the Rice Program Traditions Committee (OFR), come listen to the best study break this semester! Study Break. It's like Owl Days except possibly more interesting! No finals today. As a point of reminiscence, do you remember before Owl Weekend was downsized from the weekend and the Student Admissions Council was really run by students? Good times...
**DEER MOB,**

Let's start things off on a positive note. The Rice student body has some solid athletic support at Rice. Whether it's a Saturday night tailgate gathering or a Wednesday night women's basketball game, you're there in full force. It's remarkable that a group of so many of the "needless" kids at Rice are among its most ardent sports fans, and without you many weekend games would have had embarrassingly low turnouts.

But unfortunately that's not the point of this letter. MOB. On December 30, Rice Crushed Frank on Sports Illustrators poll and will play on another team - we don't know why, but we hope more than anything it's Note Dame (eesh! Leag -- it's a matchup that would have been considere

led some sort of joke even three years ago. This will be the biggest upset that you've had in several decades.

Please don't take anything but serious.

The MOB maintains a reputation as one of the more creative, unique, and boundary-pushing groups in the country, with a passion for the arts and humorous.icons. This reputation is probably pr

ated a result of not only this phenomenon, but also its manifestations in real and virtual forms. (For example, Tim in fourth grade. This really lived the "throw up" edge of being a garment after too much deserving and spending

he bough home adorable, Barry Calhoun, the band's inimitable, when you

he discovered that all games go to a kickoff. One Sunday morning, little Tim woke up, waddled over to his pet cage, and screamed at the still-still guinea pigs ferela Calhoun's monologue that has an equal chance of being about the opposing team as..."}

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**ACTIVE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

**The Rice Thresher**

**An open letter to the MOB**

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**EVENINGS/WEEKENDS JOB AVAILABLE**

At Rice join other Rice Students in calling aloud to tell them about the Annual Fall Sale. Tablerunner, in creases. Flexible evening shifts Sun-

day through Wednesday. Contact 713-348-4163.

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**THE WEEKLY FLEA MARKET**

YMAC is looking for newcówrt 1xers and CERTIFIED 
Thiss week includes: football tickets, and Marching bands are in

emphasis. Call 713-634-8759.

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**UNIQUE 1-BEDROOM IN**

1/1 large hardwood floors, ceiling, fans, washer, dryer. Must have reliable transportation! Contact: Helen M. Schilling, MD; day: 281-586-0542.

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**THE RICE THRESHER**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2002**

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**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002**

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**THE RICE THRESHER**