Rice University's acquisition of Baylor College of Medicine could not only bring Rice a medical school, but also a new minor.

Sid Richardson College freshman Natasha Zakhidova and Wees College junior Tommy Sprague have spearheaded a team to discuss adding a neuroscience minor to the short list of minors offered at Rice.

Zakhidova, a biochemistry and cell biology major, came to Rice wanting to major in neuroscience but instead found a cognitive psychology major with a limited neuroscience track. The neuroscience courses currently available are graduate-level courses offered by Baylor faculty rather than Rice faculty. However, since these courses are available to graduate students, Rice argues that it offers students potential to major in neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine.

"I was told specifically that because I was an undergraduate, I would not get an A," Sprague said.

Sprague and Zakhidova agree that student interest in a neuroscience minor is present and growing. Speaking with the Student Admissions Council, Sprague found that students often asked questions during Owl Days whether or not Rice had a neuroscience option. Zakhidova created a Facebook group to further discuss the level of student interest. The group's 'Web page features a neuroscience interest survey that has been taken by over 200 students, and its membership currently totals 87 students.

"It was told specifically that because I was an undergraduate, I would not get an A," Sprague said.

Zakhidova found Sprague when she sent an e-mail to all the residential colleges trying to determine the level of student interest in a neuroscience minor. Since then, Sprague and Zakhidova have met biweekly with the team to discuss the development of the minor.

Neuroscience is the study of the nervous system. Neuroscience, like cognitive psychology, endeavors to explain psychology at the physical level and memory, thought and emotion at the biochemical level.

"It’s not quite down to that point yet, but it’s that idea of explaining what it is to be human," Sprague said.

Zakhidova said, at this point, the proposition for the minor is contingent on the merger between Rice and Baylor.

BY JACLYN YOUNGBLOOD
THRESHER STAFF

Duncan and McMurtry college construction

BY MARGEUX CLEMMONS AND VINNY SINGH
THRESHER STAFF

A new campus-wide Student Director of Orientation was appointed last Wednesday — Brown College junior Peter Steffensen.

The committee that chose Steffensen convened last fall and consisted of several former Orientation Week coordinators, former student director Megan Hormaza and Assistant Dean of Undergraduates Kate Noonan, and applications were released over winter break.

"I am both really excited and humbled by the position," Steffensen said. "When I was given the opportunity to be the student leader of O-Week, I jumped at it. O-Week had played such a large role in my life ... in setting a tone and standard for one's entire career here, academically, socially and socially."

His term begins immediately and the coordinating teams from every college, director of First Year Programs Deidre Cear said.

"The Student Director position is probably the top position that a student can have in the orientation week process — it is a pretty big job," Steffensen said.

Cear said the leadership role is also an extremely demanding position to apply for. While other O-Week coordinators are nominated and elected by their respective college communities, a prospective student director has to fill out an extensive questionnaire as well as go through a complex interview process. Cear's position was introduced last year, and fall 2009 will be her first time spearheading O-Week at Rice.

"As an student director, Steffensen will serve as a liaison among student coordinators, faculty and staff involved in O-Week, including Director of Academic Advising Brian Gibson, Dean of Students STEFFENSEN, page 8

You can be president

Not just anyone can grow up to become president, but even you could become SA President.

For the 2009 SA Election went out Monday. To enter, visit sa.rice.edu or email sa Election went out Monday. To enter, visit sa.rice.edu or email sa.
Sensese parking policies irritate

To the editor:

There's something about Rice that has always bugged me: parking and parking enforcement. Parking enforcement is absurd because officers have ticketed people at Marshall College for parking outside the lines in a temporary lot but when there aren't even lines! I know someone who got a ticket, appealed it, but was refused because she had received a ticket in the past even for a similar offense. Newly, after construction closed off Alvisan Drive by Weiss College, brand new parking lot openers were put in at the intersection of University and Entrance 4, yes, though that they never used before! Besides at Night of Decemberal and will probably never use again. Imagine how much they cost. Who paid for these? Parking (which hardly needs a reason to change students' noms) in the construction project?

Mike Benza
Marti College senior

Religious studies great department

To the editor:

Thanks for highlighting Jewish studies at Rice in your article and editorial last week, "Jewish studies minor holds promise for future programs," Jan. 23. I agree that it's a huge step forward for Rice as an academic institution. However, calling the Jewish studies program the "Kore religious studies program" offended by the university is misleading on how this is not a "Kore religious studies program." The first, Religious Studies Department at Rice is small but formidable in its accomplishments and prestige. In 2007, the department ranked fifth in the Chronicle of Higher Education's Faculty Scholarly Production Index, right among universities with large divinity schools and religious studies departments that are five times its size.

Second, the academic study of Judaism is not just the study of a religion, it is a multidisciplinary field that requires seeing through the lenses of history, sociology, religious studies, political science, philosophy and linguistics. This is one of the reasons why so many non-Jewish students are interested in a Jewish studies program at Rice. It allows students to explore a particular tradition through a variety of disciplines. The creation of the Jewish studies program is wonderful, and will only improve our prestige in the future, yet I believe that Rice has a religious studies department worth being proud of right now.

Lauren Henderson
Will Rice College senior

Thresher-ops@rice.edu

Safety measures need revamping

Around 11 p.m. Tuesday, a staff member working in the Humanities Building was assaulted as she made her nightly cleaning rounds (see story, page 1). Her assailant fled on foot, evading the Rice University Police Department and running through campus.

Students were oblivious to most of this action, save for the few who saw the police cars circling the crowded loop near the Humanities Building, but it did not have to be this way. We're all aware that following the Virginia Tech massacre two years ago, Rice invested in a new measure of safety, compiling students' cell phone numbers and e-mails in case an emergency were ever to occur on campus. In the past few years, we've received texts informing us of on-campus flooding (Aug. 16, 2007) and strong-arm Sallyport robberies (Nov. 17, 2007), both good uses of the system.

But are we concerned about the University's choice not to employ the Emergency Alert System following Tuesday's assault, considering there was an obviously dangerous suspect on the loose at a time when many students are generally out and about campus? We've griped about this failure to inform before, most notably when a suspect accused of assaulting his girlfriend fled from Rice University police officers near Brown College ("Emergency alert system only works if used," Dec. 5), we'll repeat our complaint: When an obviously hostile, escape suspect is running around campus, the University is obligated to inform students immediately.

But instead of an instant text message warning those on the path to Fondren Library — just yards from the Humanities Building — an e-mail circulated through the all-departments list serve, which goes to just about everyone but students, at a little after 2 a.m. 60 hours after the assault. As a result, most students had no idea that the assault had occurred until the next morning.

Currently, the emergency alert system runs out of the office of Vice President for Administration Kevin Krebs. We would prefer, though, that Rice have the option of employing the system to directly share necessary information with the student body at risk. That way, no time is lost in exchanging the information with a middleman, reducing the risk of misinformation and allowing students to make the best possible choice of action.

We feel that the university should also take further steps to make buildings with late-night occupants safer. In this particular case, the Humanities Building doors were programmed to stay open until 11 p.m. in order to accommodate a few classes that take place late Tuesday night. Instead of this system, the university should at least extend the time the doors stay open to 11 p.m. in order to accommodate a few classes that take place late Tuesday night. Instead of this system, the university should make every effort to give late-night key card access to students who need it, keeping doors locked and making it vastly more difficult for unwanted people to wander into buildings late at night.

This brings us to another question: Why was this staff member cleaning a building almost at 11 p.m.? There's simply no reason, especially after this incident, for a person to be cleaning alone in the dark, regardless of whether she thought the door was locked or not. The student at issue here had insisted that certain cleaning cycles took place during the day or in the morning hours, especially if staff safety was a concern, so we encourage the schedule-makers to limit the number of nighttime tasks that employees have to complete and to consider putting in Sick Days/Flextime. Fortunately, Faculty Centers, Engineering & Planning has instituted a temporary buddy policy requiring staff members to work in pairs. We fully encourage FE&P to make this change permanent.

Minors tangible results of student innovation

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OP-ED

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Minors tangible results of student innovation

Once upon a time, the Thresher expressed displeasure that the Faculty Senate had chosen to lay the groundwork for Rice to introduce minors to the undergraduate curriculum ("Minors programs call for proper attention," Mar. 19, 2006). The editorial staff expressed concern that a wave of new minors could possibly overtax already-stressed students and cheapen major curriculum by stretching departmental resources. However, we of the current editorial board must say that so far, the spate of introduced minors has not given us any cause for concern, and most, including the newly proposed neuroscience minor, have left us impressed (see story, page 1). We applaud the initiative and motivation shown by those students who in recent months and years have worked to introduce new interdisciplinary studies in the form of minors. Far from stretching resources, these minors provide an opportunity for flexibility and the recently approved Jewish studies — have opened doors for students to take advantage of the best in multiple departments, not the worst.

But we also encourage administrators and faculty members to assist in the search for new ways to combine university resources in the form of minors. Administrators and faculty members have valuable advice to give on the combination and utilization of university resources, and we fully hope they will share it with students looking to enrich their educations.
"Open" critics need to update their views

SA election: O-Week spur involvement

If you're going to be at Rice for the first time in a while or you're looking for one of those things one usually only gets in the last year of high school, there's a lot to do this O-Week.

By spring break, which is only really a few weeks away, we'll know exactly which students are on campus and which projects are in the works. When spring break is over, you'll be in the middle of the year, where all of the deadlines will be due, and you'll have to start worrying about grades again.

At the risk of developing a column with a grim hyperbolic note, let's hope Duncan and McMurry colleges will offer two of their students who will be working with the O-Week coordinators and helping with the events planning as they have over the past few years. Duncan and McMurry are two of the best student-run colleges at Rice.

A recent survey of students at Rice showed that students are most interested in events that are student-run, and that events that are student-run are the most popular among students. In fact, over 80% of students surveyed said that they would be more likely to attend a student-run event than a faculty-run event.

One of the best things about student-run events is that they are usually more fun and less formal than faculty-run events. Students are often more creative and willing to try new things, which makes for a more exciting event.

In conclusion, if you're interested in getting involved in student-run events at Rice, you should definitely check out Duncan and McMurry colleges. They offer some of the best events on campus and are always looking for new members to join their teams.
Working on the future
The Thresher gets an inside look at the

BY CATHERINE BRATIC
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Now that plans have been laid for populating Duncan and McMurry colleges, the only thing left to do is build them. Last Friday, the Thresher and the college presidents toured the north college construction site, checking in on its progress and planning the transition.

At the entrance to the main site trailer — actually seven trailers merged together due to space constraints on the site — posters counted down to Orientation Week, the be-all and end-all deadline. A series of aerial photographs chronicled the progress and the transformation of the area from parking lots and trees to the nearly-finished buildings that stand there today.

"If you go out there now, it really starts to feel like a neighborhood," Facilities, Engineering, and Planning Communications Manager Sisamo Glenn said. Walking out of the trailer, we were hit with a gust of construction dirt. As it settled, we could see Duncan's quad, with the bricks half on and the walls half up. Spencer Howard, assistant project manager for the north college site, showed us around the ground level.

"Unfortunately, we can't go up stairs, because there are no stairs yet," Glenn informed us.

The site at Duncan and McMurry will not be installed until March or April, Howard said. But when they are, Glenn said she hopes to give tours to the Baker and Will Rice College students who will be living there next year.

Both colleges have a first-floor porch with electrical hookups, Howard said and he hopes these porches will become social sites and one day host band concerts. Additionally, Duncan's current state. 5) The group walks through Duncan's courtyard.

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of the college system

scene behind the construction fences

will be landscaped differently.

"Duncan's courtyard is more formal and planned," Howard said, with the trees' locations all carefully decided upon and a geometric fountain in the center. McMurry's courtyard will have a more natural feel to it, he said. For now, though, the courtyards are nothing but construction dust.

Glenn said the different styles are a theme seen in the other buildings as well. Duncan will have a more geometric square commons, while McMurry's will be circular. Both are still currently lacking their glass walls, however, and much of their exteriors.

Standing on the slab that will be the Duncan commons, there seems to be a long way to go. However, Howard reminded the group that there was more to the structure than could be seen.

Like at the Raymond and Susan Bucheinstein Pavilion, all of the mechanical and electrical equipment for the commons are underground. Since the work has already reached ground level, a lot of progress has actually been made.

In order to prepare the space for the buildings, many thousands of dollars were spent moving trees out of the way, including one oak tree estimated to be over 200 years old, Howard said.

"If we can move it, we move it," Howard said. "But when we are moving or removing, it takes a lot of planning."

With all of the trees that Rice has on campus, the few that were moved might seem a great effort for something commonplace, but Glenn said that a great effort was made to keep the trees because they contribute so much to Rice's beauty.

"There's a value to the campus trees," Glenn said. "There's a lot of emotion attached to the trees."

She recalled the story of donors John and Anne Mullens (Hanszen '63 and Virgin's Walk, with all of the dents in them. The temporary gravel path winding them back."

"If we can still lock them?" Hanszen College President Abbie Ryan asked. "We're expecting it," Howard said.

The cooking equipment downstairs will be fairly standard, with one large exception.

"Housing and Dining bought themselves a pizza oven for Christmas," Howard said. This bright yellow oven will be housed in the servery.

The whole servery is the number two pencil yellow," Howard said. The Duncan-McMurtry servery will also have a north branch of the Rice Coffeehouse.

The servery already feels complete, with most of its walls and columns up. The glass walls on its face are missing, however, it is easy to look out through the concrete and imagine them there.

The servery's progress is technically attributable to delays posed by Hurricane Ike. When the hurricane hit in September, work had to be halted on both commons to assess the damage. While that assessment was taking place, more construction energy was focused on the servery.

However, Hurricane Ike did put servery construction a week behind schedule, and the commons are a month behind, though the masters' houses and colleges are still on schedule, Howard said.

The delay had to worry from FEMP that tests may have to be put up during O-Week while the commons are completed, Howard said. At the same time, though, he reassured us all that the opening wouldn't be late.

"It's going to be finished by O-Week because it has to be," Howard said. "When that time comes, Baker and Will Rice will be ready to open it." Howard said.

"I was really impressed by the tours," Goldsberry said afterward. "I think there's going to be fantastic places to live next year."

However, Goldsberry said he was not convinced to give up Baker altogether.

"I'm partial to Baker, so I'm glad we're only going to be there a year," he said.

In order to make the introduction of the commons less jarring for students, the tree-covered path around them will be reopened in stages, Howard said. However, Hurricane Ike did put the work on the commons a month behind, though the masters' houses and colleges are still on schedule, Howard said.

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"I'm partial to Baker, so I'm glad we're only going to be there a year," he said.

In order to make the introduction of the commons less jarring for students, the tree-covered path around them will be reopened in stages, Howard said. However, Hurricane Ike did put the work on the commons a month behind, though the masters' houses and colleges are still on schedule, Howard said. At the same time, though, he reassured us all that the opening wouldn't be late.

"It's going to be finished by O-Week because it has to be," Howard said. "When that time comes, Baker and Will Rice will be ready to open it." Howard said.

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Dawson searches for future for Rwanda

BY LE HOANG AND CINDY DINH

Engineering 

By Jocelyn Wright

Brown College Resident Associate LAURA VILLAFRANCA (S09) will be leaving at the end of this year. The Brown RA Search Committee killed applications for a RA candidate at the Brown Master’s house Friday. They will reach a decision before the beginning of March.

"It's a very fun experience to be able to live with students and have them feel comfortable," Villafranc

denounced.

"I want the new RA to have their time to establish themselves well first. Charnsangwe was a major presence at the college and that she would be missed. Laura was very much about getting to know the undergraduates and helping the RA," Charnsangwe said. "Not being a mom being a friend and put using the wisdom of her years."

Dawson searches for future for Rwanda

BY LY HOANG AND CINDY DINH

Applications for future RAs are due Monday. RA Search Committee Chair LAURA VILLAFRANCA (S09) will be leaving at the end of this year.

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Solar Decathlon team aims to create sustainable home

BY MARGUEZ CLEMMONS

This year, Rice’s Solar Decathlon team is turning a house into a home. The solar-powered panel house has been four years in the making, and in October it will compete in a national competition in Washington, D.C., before being donated to a family here in Houston.

The Department of Energy accepts proposals from 20 teams internationally, and among those participating in the Solar Decathlon competition, displaying the exhibits of new energy-efficient technologies and sustainable design on the Mall in Washington D.C. After the competition, most of the houses, which may cost up to $1.6 million each, are dismantled soon after they are put on display, according to Rice’s team’s communication group leader Allison Eilot.

In an effort to avoid the house’s eventual dismantlement, the Rice team’s house will belong to a client of Project Row Houses, a Houston nonprofit that works to preserve and rehabilitate historic homes in the Third Ward. Shotgun style homes are a common form of housing in the Third Ward. Shotgun style houses are a single story with minimal living space.

“I think it’s really easier to be successful if you win a competition by setting your own terms,” he said. “Also, it’ll be nice to have the family’s pictures in the house on Washington.”

Rice became involved in Solar Decathlon when Voss College senior Nonya Grenader approached a Rice student on campus. The student had visited the competition in an issue of Popular Mechanics. Sanchez, who is now the overall student leader on the project, approached the civil engineering department to lead a one-credit class about Solar Decathlon the spring of his freshman year.

“It’s hard to believe that it’s usually happening,” Sanchez said. “The process began from trying to get people to have an interest and so we began to support us, to apply for club status, to get more recognition from the university. We’re getting sponsors and have a house halfway done, it’s sort of surreal.”

Through the project, the group maintained many of its original 25 students and submitted a proposal to enter the competition in December 2007 to Rice’s Office of the President. The proposal was accepted.

“Like that it’s students of different disciplines working on one goal,” Eilot, a senior junior, said of the project. “My favorite part of the project is that our house is going to go back to the community, that people are actually going to live in it, and then that solar doesn’t have to be something for one kind of person—that’s something available for all people.”

Aside from its future as a family home, the Rice house’s design bears focus on weight on research in affordable housing and renewable energy. Sanchez added that when the house is connected to the grid both at Rice and on the Mall, it will actually be testing electricity back into the system. Over the course of a year, the house is expected to reach net zero on energy use, hence the house’s catchy name: Zerow. A house that inevitably gives back the electricity it consumes holds potential for many homeowners looking to save money in the long-term, especially in cities like Austin, Texas, where residents are reimbursed for any energy their house contributes to the power grid, Sanchez said.

The team chose to build the house as modestly as possible, a decision made at the beginning of the process. Sanuels said the group was gratified for after a recent meeting on the Mall in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, many groups expressed their difficulty in obtaining sufficient sponsorship to fund the necessary materials. School teams receive $50,000 from the Department of Energy over two years, but since the team cannot use government funding for physical materials, they are seeking additional sponsorships.

The Rice house itself will cost under $100,000, according to Solar Decathlon faculty sponsor Danny Samuels and Marya Graubard, though there are numerous other costs associated with the project. Even though that sounds like a lot for a house, really it is a body of research,” Samuels said, “We’d like it to be able to be replaced.”

At the Mall competition, the team will have one week to orchestrate the house, one week for public tours, and four days for disassembly. Two crews of judges will assess the house based on both subjective and objective standards, from market viability and architectural design to the house’s ability to heat water to the correct temperature and hold a good dinner party, Sanchez said.

Part of the challenge and cost, transporting the house from Houston to Washington, D.C., will inevitably be made easier thanks to the raw house design built for Houston heat. “The design makes for great ventilation during the summer months, and this house is going to be shipped as a single unit, which is also something that gives us a lot up on the competition,” Sanchez said, adding that some groups handle as many as seven separate pieces during shipping.

The team began construction on the house November of last year, adjacent to the Construction Information Center at Alumni Drive and the Outer Loop. According to Sanchez, the team hopes to have finished all major construction by commencement to allow families an opportunity to tour the finished product. Public tours will continue on the Mall, and in its two weeks there, the house will have nearly 100,000 visitors, Eilot said.

The design of the house, developed by engineering and architecture students on the team, features a front porch and light rear porch, elements that contribute to the efficiency and livability of the space.

This week is a pre-fabricated central system containing all of the main wiring and mechanical components of the solar-powered house. It holds promise for building cheaper houses in the future by allowing contractors to bring in the self-contained, pre-assembled unit and build the comparatively inexpensive house frame around it, Eilot said. “The light core [house’s porch set off by glass windows] is a device that sorts out between two purposes: one is psychological, that you can create a projection of your indoor living space but you aren’t using energy to cool it,” he said. “And when it is nice, you can open the doors and it becomes a literal part of your living space.”

Roth Samuels and Grenader, director and assistant director of the Rice Building Workshop, respectively, began a relationship with the Project Row Houses organization in 1997 as a way to expose architecture students to the real concerns of design in a community. Solar Decathlon is just the latest extension of that relationship.

“We hear from students all over the world who have been involved,” Grenader said. “It makes it clear that there is a life in a building that is beyond the structure.”

An exhibit about the Solar Decathlon team’s project, which opened Thursday, is located in the Rice Art Gallery. The team will continue preparing for the competition through the summer and make minor adjustments before the trip.
Lovett searches for new RA

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THIRRSHSH STAFF

Last week, Lovett College Resident Associate Rolf Ryham announced he would be leaving Rice to pursue a tenure track position at another university. In response to his recent announcement, Lovett’s Central Committee has formed a search committee charged with finding a new RA for the upcoming school year.

For the past two years, Ryham has served as RA for Lovett College along with math graduate student Renee Lavender. Both Ryham and Lavender held degrees in mathematics, and can often be found assisting students in the common areas.

Many students have become close to Ryham over the past two years, and his absence from Lovett will be noticed. "Rolf is always around and has a great presence," Lovett junior Gilbert Huang said.

Lovett senior Adam Hill agreed. "Rolf is like the cool older brother from American Pie," he said. "He has more resources and wisdom than you do, but he has all the fun impulses," he added.

Rolf Ryham Departing Lovett College resident associate

Ralph Stassen/Chronicle

Ryham said although he is still in the application process to find a new job, he will let everyone know when the decision has been made in order to plan a proper celebration.

Last Tuesday marked the first meeting of the newly formed Lovett RA Search Committee. Comprised of a cross-section of several Lovett students, college coordinators, the Lovett Masters and a former Lovett RA, the search committee will spend the next few weeks spreading the word about the position opening, sending formal applications to all departments and asking fellow Lovett students for input on potential candidates.

"We’re hoping to have potential candidates before spring break," Lovett sophomore and co-coordinator of the search committee Justin Lopez said. "After we get back from spring break, we plan to interview the candidates."

With the enthusiasm and dedication employed by the current RAs, Lovett will carry a high standard for its candidates, Lovett College and co-coordinator Bonnie Brinkerhoff said. "Rolf has very big shoes to replace," she said.

What sort of characteristics are the committee looking for in potential RA candidates? According to Brinkerhoff, the committee is searching for candidates who will be compatible with Lovett and who are friendly and open with students.

Lovett students share a similar expectation for upcoming applicants wishing to be considered for the position. "I hope we get another RA like Rolf and Renee," Hill said.

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association on January 26.

• Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President Diane Gu, a Brown College senior, announced the results of last semester’s "Let’s SAAC Hunge" food drive, Rice won second place and raised 5,623 pounds of food. In the competition between colleges, Brown College raised the most food and will be rewarded with a tailgate.

• Academics Committee co-Chair Jasdeep Mangat, a Brown senior, announced that the add/drop deadlines for next semester were changed by the Faculty Senate at their last meeting. Students will have two weeks to add a class and seven weeks to drop it.

• Club Finance Committee Chair Akshay Deyal, a Brown senior, announced that club presidents will be able to choose whether they want to transition to the new club finance system by the end of February or March, and that the committee will continue to hold meetings to discuss transition feedback.

• SA Elections Chair Timothy Faust, a Brown senior, announced the spring elections timeline. Election packets were posted online Monday, and petitions and slates for presidential and vice-presidential candidates are due Tuesday Feb. 5 by 6 p.m. to the SA office. Results will be printed Wednesday Feb. 11 in the Thresher. The SA voted to expand SA presidential candidates’ campaign budget from $35 to $500.

• Student Director of Technology JD Leonard, a Jones College junior, requested leave of duty. Kent Vijayaragya, a Jones freshman, will take over.

• External Vice President Nicholas Muscara, a Martel College sophomore, and Martel College Senator Selim Shakib presented proposed changes to next year’s meal plan. Changes include a continued 19 meals-per-week plan for on-campus students; a 10 meals-per-week plan available to fourth and fifth year seniors; a new 10 meals-per-week option for off-campus students in addition to the 5-6 meals-per-week plan, and an option for graduate students to purchase an on-campus meal plan. The changes are not finalized and are subject to budget approval.

• SA President Matt Youn led a resolution discussion concerning Housing and Dining’s recent decision to phase out tray use in the servery in an effort to save water and reduce food waste.

• Brown sophomore Carl Nelson and Hanesian College sophomore Will Randall announced a poll, available on the web, to assess student interest in increased holiday airport shuttles to William P. Hobby International Airport.

• Youn, a Brown senior, announced that Rice Vision Weekend will take place Sunday Feb. 15 through Tuesday Feb. 17.

• Environmental Committee co-Chair Patrick McNaney encouraged students to participate in the currently ongoing Recyclingmania.

The SA will meet next Monday at 10 p.m. in the Farmhouse Pavilion.
All trailer, no trash

BY LEON CARTER FOR THE THRESHER

This month’s Rice Gallery exhibit is a little out of the ordinary. While in the same vein as the gallery’s usual architectural installations — begun by Shigeyuki Hin in 2002 — the Emergency Response Studio is different because it is mobile. Artist Paul Villinski had the idea for his latest piece while rummaging through post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans in 2006 for found objects and refuse to use as artistic material. It was there that he found the dilapidated house in the large-scale photograph that currently hangs on the left wall of the gallery in Sewall Hall.

Emergency Response Studio

Reflecting on traditional war artists — like Winslow Homer, Villinski said that being in New Orleans in the wake of Katrina made him feel like some war was being waged. “We should have artists respond to disasters — try to do something, useful,” Villinski said.

His is a calling card for artists, who he believes are as crucial in publicizing and documenting the plight of people in disaster-stricken areas as emergency response organizations are in providing relief with food, water and shelter. Especially in light of the Katrina aftermath, many of the materials are not yet widely available and sometimes prohibitively expensive. Even the common trailers used for FEMA trailers are four dollars apiece, while traditional lineousm is only about 15 cents. This aside, the building, transportation and implementation of a FEMA trailer can cost upwards of $8,000, which many of the artists have found they can’t afford.

“Do get involved. Do go. Do return to the project’s greatest accomplishment. During construction, Villinski told me that they were able to power the entire project’s greatest accomplishment. The functionality of the trailer is the project’s greatest accomplishment. During construction, Villinski told me that they were able to power the entire project’s greatest accomplishment. During construction, Villinski told me that they were able to power the entire project’s greatest accomplishment. During construction, Villinski told me that they were able to power the entire project’s greatest accomplishment. During construction, Villinski told me that they were able to power the entire project’s greatest accomplish...”

“The goal is to raise awareness and inspire more forms of expression, even in as basic a way as providing a place in which displaced artists can pursue their work.”

Newson has acted in dramatic films for the majority of his prolific career, with brief stints in the action genre in Batman Returns and Ganges of New York. His last major foray in an action movie dates to 2005, when he was the mayor in Action Man. For Newson, apparently, the wait has been long enough.

Taked is a powerful action movie, injected with high adrenalin and heart-stopping fight sequences from start to finish. Newson plays ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills, whose obsessive dedication to the job has resulted in a divorce from his wife, played by Famke Janssen (X-Men’s Jean Grey), and in an estranged relationship with his daughter, played by Maggie Grace (Lost’s Shannon). After retiring, Mills decide to spend more time with his daughter and less time chasing bad guys around the world. There’s just one catch: Sex traffickers abduct Mills’ daughter in Paris and give him only a 24-hour window in which to find her. In summary, Newson spends the remainder of the film on a rampage throughout Europe, crushing bones, dislocating shoulders and beating the crap out of everyone and everything that stands in his path.

Taked is reminiscent of classic action movies of the mid-nineties, like Fast and Furious or Judge Dredd. In plot and character development take a backseat to badyntax and pure awesomeness. One of my biggest pet peeves is when movies, especially in the action and horror genres, take themselves too seriously and attempt to pass themselves off as emotional dramas. People aren’t buying tickets to these movies to have empathy or to be impressed. They want to be entertained, dammit! And Taked does exactly that.

“The goal is to raise awareness and inspire more forms of expression, even in as basic a way as providing a place in which displaced artists can pursue their work.”

He insists that if it is only a prototype. Many of the materials are not yet widely available and sometime prohibitively expensive. Even the ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills, whose obsessive dedication to the job has resulted in a divorce from his wife, played by Famke Janssen (X-Men’s Jean Grey), and in an estranged relationship with his daughter, played by Maggie Grace (Lost’s Shannon). After retiring, Mills decide to spend more time with his daughter and less time chasing bad guys around the world. There’s just one catch: Sex traffickers abduct Mills’ daughter in Paris and give him only a 24-hour window in which to find her. In summary, Newson spends the remainder of the film on a rampage throughout Europe, crushing bones, dislocating shoulders and beating the crap out of everyone and everything that stands in his path.

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Yes We Can: Fashion inside the hedges isn’t a hopeless case

Starting with this week, the Thresher is going to have its very own fashion column. Now, I know what you’re thinking: “Fashion? What? At Rice? Um, no.” And I’m not going to lie to you; when I first came to Rice, I thought the exact same way.

Deanne Nguyen

Every day I watched droves of people walk to class in their hoodies and jeans, pajamas and sweats, without a care for what they were wearing. As someone who chooses to spend 30 minutes of every morning just staring at her wardrobe, who dares to browse the academic quad in heels, I found it disheartening to discover that my peers did not share the passion that I had for getting dressed.

But upon closer inspection and multiple encounters, I found quite a few style-conscious people here, and not just in the pages of magazines waiting to be read in the mail room. I saw very classy high-waist skirts with bow-accented flats; and my favorite: eclectic yellow skinny jeans with a glittering glory, although with a pair of quad in heels, I found it disheartening to discover that my peers did not share the passion that I had for getting dressed.

I also, however, believe in questioning what is presented to me. I am often skeptical of trends magazines try to push and am surprised that so many classical concepts are still underestimated. I’ll be discussing what designers are showing, what is popular, what is memorable, what is fun to try out, what is hilarious and painful and everything else in between.

In this column there will be both critiques and acclaim, but nothing will go gently into the night. If it does, it’s probably boring.

I know what you’re thinking: "Fashion? At Rice? Um, no.” And when I came to Rice, I thought the same way.

Ultimately, though, fashion is nothing more than an inspirational tool to be used as one pleases, whether for artistic exploration, general debates or just to decide what to wear tomorrow. I can go on all day about things I like or dislike and push my style suggestions, but it’s all up to you. You can gossip about her, love her, laugh at her, condemn her and mock her all you want, but know that she did get your attention. And that’s all she really wanted in the first place.

See you next week!

Deanne Nguyen is a Will Rice College sophomore.

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KTRU pickin'-of-the-week: Joe Bussard's Desperate Man Blues

BY ROSE CAHALAN

Every week at KTRU, eager DJs scribble out short reviews of music's cutting-edge albums. KTRU's Music Department uses these reviews to judge the quality of the albums it receives and to provide information for the DJs who play them. Each week, a DJ publishes one of these reviews so that KTRU's riches can shine for the larger community.

Desperate Man Blues is a compi-
lation of 1920s and '30s American roots music released concurrently with a documentary of the same name. Both are based on the immense collection of Joe Bussard, a man whose life has spent his amassing over 25,000 vintage 78-45 early American records, many of which are the only known copies in existence.

Moments like these, when his-
orical changes crystallize for modern listeners, elevate one man's music to indispensable cultural archive.

To put that figure in perspec-
tive, KTRU's music library, filling two rooms and overflowing into a third, has an estimated 30,000 total albums. Bussard's collection, then, is surely among the largest personal collections of its kind - and the 99 tracks on this CD are a broad and engaging selection of his favorites. The album tells two stories: one is the complex evolutionary of such genres as blues, ragtime and gospel, and the other is the remarkable personal history of Bussard himself. After buying his first record at age 10, Bussard went on to spend decades scouring back-woods Appalachian shacks and country stores in search of dusty vi-

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Desperate Man Blues

Artist: Various Artists
Label: Dust to Digital
Release: July 12, 2008

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Desperate Man Blues

Artist: Various Artists
Label: Dust to Digital
Release: July 12, 2008

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able music that KTRU's riches can shine for the larger community.
Men's tennis breaks 17th-ranked Hurricanes' wave
Multi-wins C-USA Player of the Week while helping Owls down Florida Atlantic, Miami

by Casey Michel

You could say the men's tennis team's 4-3 win over the University of Miami on Sunday was the biggest of the season. You could say that the success over the 17th-ranked Hurricanes was the most important match of a seven-week road swing, a victory against the highest-ranked opponent in the 20-ranked Owls have seen yet. You could say that the win will set the tone for the massive road trip, which in turn will set the course of Rice's season.

You could say all that. Just don't ask assistant coach Umut Ustundag (Bogazici University) to recapitulate your feelings.

"[Winning against] Miami is big, and obviously it was big on Sunday, but it's not going to be [one of] the two biggest matches of the year," Ustundag said. "We still may have two top-10 teams, plus No. 13 University of Miami, but it's just one of the top 15 [contests] of the season."

It was Rice's upcoming opponent — even more so as we're reaching the culmination of the NFL playoffs and the College Football Playoff Selection Committee's task of elevating the sport's highest-grossing sport in the country — that attracted bigger televisions than any college game Ustundag could imagine.

"Fantasy football has become a national pass-time, with even casual fans learning the depth charts of mediocre teams like my beloved Washington Redskins. Giving its immense popularity, it's no surprise that we're reaching the culmination of the NFL playoffs, and we're already redshirted by the NFL, the sport that is the better sport, right?"

"Wrong."

College football may be the money-making machine profession footballers and the NFL were optimistic about their chances against the Longhorns.

"For the most part we were all re-

arrived and confident," Jackson said. "Last year we really beat them. We went in knowing that we could win, but that it would be tough. We didn't play the big points well, but we still walked away motivated." Jackson played a gutsy match at Austin's Patric Allston Center, where she narrowly, albeit convincingly, edged Texas' Stephanie Donnelly 7-5, 6-4.

"As a team we had really close scores," Schmidt said. "You know how many players are going to respond after being redshirted, but she responded like a champion. She came out and plays hard and has brought a lot of energy to the court. I couldn't be more pleased with the way she's been playing. She's a team player and takes care of business on the court." Still, Rice had other bright spots in its close match against Texas' (5-0 Sophomore Vanisha Shiva Shankar stole a set from Margul Mello before falling 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

"I knew they were going to have the upper hand as they looked to take their doubles point win. But before they can face their first other teams waiting to take your"
There's a reason teams play more than one match during a season: individual competitions alone do not determine a team’s fate. Luckily for the men’s golf team, disappointing finishes in three of the five fall tournaments did not eliminate them from postseason eligibility. Thus, the golf team hopes to build upon the fall's strong finish to create a reputation that qualifies them for the NCAA championships.

The golf team struggled with inconsistency and injuries throughout the 2007-08 season. A lack of depth plagued the Owls, as an injury to then-senior Erik Peterson and the departures of another team member prevented them from holding a consistent five-member group. While the team was not having a successful year to begin with, their performance in the Conference USA Tournament, where they finished in 11th place, finally marked the season as a disappointment.

Rice began the fall season hoping to leave behind its follies of the past. However, a near-to-last finish in their season-opening match of the San Francisco Intercollegiate showed the team they still had work to do. The team rebounded with a middle-of-the-pack finish at the Kansas Men’s Invitation—al and followed it up with a 10th-place finish at the Memphis Intercollegiate. The Owls then played in another setback, finishing dead-last at the Pacific West, hosted by Stanford University. Despite the poor performance, sophomore Robert Burrow said he feels the team was able to turn a negative experience into a positive lesson.

“[There was a lot of negativity about our performance at Stanford],” Burrow said. “But our performance made everyone realize golf isn’t easy, and that we needed to work harder as a team.” The Owls then played in the Stockton Sports Pacific Invitational, hosted by the University of Pacific, and posted a third-place finish with the highest team head-to-head finish in the final round and finished just six shots behind wildlife University of California-Davis in 11th place, completing their fall season on a high note.

Rice looks to build upon its final performance of the fall season in the first tournament of the spring – the Ping Arizona Intercollegiate, on Feb. 2-4. Hosted by the University of Arizona, this first tournament, along with tournaments hosted by North Carolina State University and the University of Texas, will be among the toughest for the Owls this spring. These tournaments will allow Rice to gain experience facing difficult competition.

“The Arizona event, Texas event, and the NSCAE tournament will be the three strongest fields we’ll face this spring,” head coach Drew Scott (Wren ’91) said. “However, the other four tournaments on our schedule, including our home event, are just as important.”

Rice will host its own event, the Rice Intercollegiate, on Feb. 16th and 17th at the Westwood Golf Club. The Owls will then travel to Lafayette, La., to play in the 35th annual Louisiana Classics. Afterwards, the Owls will participate in the Rodeo Olympics in Laredo, Texas, on March 13 and 14. The Owls conclude their season at the Morris Williams Intercollegiate on April 3 and 4, and finally the C USA Tournament, hosted by the University of Central Florida, April 9-12.

With the loss of Addison Lowe (Mater Dei ’08), Hobdy Thomsen and Zach Wilson, all members of the 2007-08 team that finished the year’s squad promised to be full of hopefully talented newcomers. While Amy, Thorseth and Wilson contributed their share last season, Scott was pleased with the depth the three freshmen and sophomore were able to provide this year.

“I feel like we’ll be a much deeper team this semester,” Scott said. “With the newcomers filling the shoes of the guys that departed, we’ll be significantly better, and we’ve already shown that this fall.”

Head coach Drew Scott

Sophomore Mike Whitehead lines up a putt. The Owls will need precision on and off the greens to maintain the team’s focus if they hope to make it to the postseason in 2009.

Senior Kyle Kelley chips his way out of a sandtrap. Kelley aims to finish in the top 20 in the Conference USA tournament for the third consecutive year. The conference championships will be played at the Red Tail Golf Club in Sorrento, Fl., April 19-21.

As a highly-touted recruit after a great junior career, Thorseth won an AJGA even in August but has also struggled with the adjustment to the college game, playing in one only event in the fall.

The three freshmen will all have ample opportunities to compete with the team throughout the spring. The Owls went for Burrow to recover from a torn ACL, which he injured while running over Thanksgiving break. Butacavoli was the lowest scorer for the Owls during the fall season, averaging a score of 73.5, with a low of 67 at the Pacific Invitational, where he finished tied for 12th.

While the team would love to have one of their best players available, Burrow once again looked to put a positive spin on the situation. “Once again, when Burrow gets hurt, there was a lot of disappointment about his injury,” Burrow said. “But at the same time, his injury forces everyone on the team to work harder, which we’ve done so far.”

With the injury to Butterworth, junior Chris Brown also will be expected to step up for the Owls. Brown played in every event during his sophomore season and was one of the most consistent performers for Rice during the fall season. Brown is ranked 72nd in the nation in driving accuracy despite not being a long hitter.

Senior Kyle Kelley, the team’s captain, played in three events in the fall season and is one of the team’s best ball-strikers. The Houston local has had an up and down college career, but his two top-20 finishes in conference tournaments prove his ability. Kelley hopes to have his strongest season so far in his senior year.

Despite their sub-500 record, the Owls still have a strong chance to make the postseason. Their remaining tournaments will give them the opportunity to bring their record to above 500, thus allowing them to quality for postseason play. Even if they do not reach that mark, the winner of the C USA Tournament receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Regional. Postseason play has been a goal for the Owls the entire season and a strong spring season will allow them to reach their goal.

“We played really well in our final tournament of the fall, and we need to use that as a springboard for the spring,” Brown said. “We’ve been underachieving for so long, and now that we’ve got a taste of success, we need to keep it going and let it carry us into post-season play.”
Damon Stoudamire needs closure.

The diminutive point guard, who burst into the league with his 5'10" stature and pinball machine energy, knows that his career might be over. It's the middle of the NBA season, but for the first time since 1993, Stoudamire can't be found in NBA colors, not on the injured reserve, nor collecting a paycheck from the Toronto Raptors.

Not exactly.

A new face in a new fieldhouse

If you looked closely enough at the new Tudor Fieldhouse, you'd see that Stoudamire has instead become the new Tudor Fieldhouse, you'd see Damon Stoudamire, the men's basketball team's director of player development, has lent his services to improve Rice's young backcourt this year. Athletic Director Chris del Conte brought Stoudamire on board as the program's director of player development. As an All-American at the University of Arizona in the early 1990s, Stoudamire played under del Conte, who was formerly an assistant AD with the Wildcats.

"We had maintained enough of a relationship that when Stoudamire's future treated uncertainty del Conte offered a phone call of his own.

"I always told myself that if and when I was done, I would love to go into coaching," said Stoudamire, who averaged 14.5 points per game over a 13-year career. "I felt like this was the closest thing I can get to being in the game right now, so I thought it was a great opportunity for me to learn some of the coaching ins and outs from somebody that's well-respected as a coach like Coach Braun. I just felt like this was a great opportunity that I couldn't pass up.

The decision to come to Rice was an easy one. Having lived in Houston since 2003, Stoudamire had often frequented Rice's athletic facilities over the years to keep in shape during the off-season. As the point guard break becomes longer than usual, Stoudamire, the 1995-96 NBA Rookie of the Year with the Toronto Raptors, realized that a job with Rice would give him the best possible options for staying around what he calls "the art of basketball.”

"After getting acquainted with his new job — per NCAA rules, he's not allowed any physical interaction with the players while on the court — Stoudamire's role began to settle.

"You're kind of here like a big brother type because I've been through anything that a player has been through on each level," Stoudamire said. "[The players] push me a lot. Point guard is one of the most difficult positions in basketball, but if you're a good point guard, especially in college, you can lead your team a long way."

Making an impact

For years, Stoudamire thrived at the point guard position, leading both the San Antonio Spurs and the Portland Trail Blazers to multiple Western Conference Finals. So his expertise at this position should go a long way with Rice's youthful backcourt. Befriended by senior guard Arlon Beasley and junior guard Connor Frizzelle, the squad's guards are green behind the ears but still ripe. That Stoudamire has carried the nickname throughout his career, yet the Owls still haven't put it to use.

According to Beasley, however, that absence may soon change. "He steps on the court, we might have to bring that nickname out again."

Moving up, moving on

The nickname might resonate, but it won't be by one of the Owls. In his current position, Stoudamire isn't allowed to work out with the players on the court. Thus, the only way he can get on the court with his pupils is of the makes it back to the Association.

Making an impact

"This [job] gives me the opportunity to straddle the fence and keep one foot in and one foot out," he says. "If I can look down the road and see this program [become] successful and know I had a little part in it, that's something I can take with me."

"A lot of things come from being aggressive and driving into the lane, getting kickouts, getting layups for yourself," Beasley said. "I think by being here, he's instilled a lot of that aggression into me."

One thing Stoudamire has yet to instill into the team is a staple of his playing days: his "Mighty Mouse" moniker. With a tattoo of the resilient rodent on his arm, Stoudamire had carried the nickname throughout his career, yet the Owls still haven't put it to use.

"We have that understanding that if a call [from the NBA] were to come, I'd definitely leave, because in order for me to feel like I got closure with that chapter in my life, I've got to go back," he said. "Right now, I don't have closure with it."

According to The Oregonian, Stoudamire was one of five players who worked out with the Phoenix Suns in December, but the Suns eventually signed former University of Illinois point guard Drew Bledsoe.

Fortunately for Rice, Stoudamire sees no reason to fire for the team. His enthusiasm is almost as obvious as the ease with which he talks to the players, and he and Braun share similar philosophies on the roles of the point guard. And while it would be easy to mistake him for an Owl — both his stature and his skills before his age — Stoudamire hasn't allowed himself to wallow behind the bench, waiting for the sense of completion he desires.

In fact, a position like this may help give him some of the closure he needs.

"This [job] gives me the opportunity to straddle the fence and keep one foot in and one foot out," he says. "If I can look down the road and see this program [become] successful and know I had a little part in it, that's something I can take with me."

BY THE NUMBERS:
A look back at Stoudamire's accomplishments

95-'96
Season that Stoudamire won the NBA's Rookie of the Year award, playing for the Toronto Raptors.
Selected seventh in the 1995 NBA draft, he averaged 19 points and 9.3 assists his first season.

-95

Times that Stoudamire has been named to the Western Conference All-Star and most recently the San Antonio Spurs' team's Most Valuable Player.


NBA-record number of three-point shots attempted in one game, set by Stoudamire on April 15, 2009, against the Golden State Warriors. Stoudamire made just five.
Injury-plagued Owls unable to pick up pieces

Freshman Megan Elliott drives to the basket Sunday against Southern Miss. Elliott has significantly increased her production on the floor since her return from an injury two weeks ago and led all scorers with 16 points.

by Van Diglov

The women's basketball team (19-3, 9-0 C-USA) was knocked down twice last week, and with the 20-count almost over, they are showing no signs of getting up to fight again. After a crushing 72-69 loss to the University of Central Florida (16-4, 4-5 C-USA) at home and a devastating 81-50 loss at home against the University of Southern Mississippi (12-8, 5-5 C-USA) on Sunday, the last-place Knights are putting their hopes on the return of freshman guard Prisca Shabala.

Though Smart is listed as day-to-day, she said that she is ready to play as soon as the coaches let her, even though she is currently walking with a brace on her foot. She was expected to make her return yesterday on the road against the University of Tulsa, last the results of that contest were not available at the time this article went to press.

In the meantime, the team's many struggles have continued. The inability to score, poor communication on the floor, and conclusion on defense all prevented Rice from taking advantage of several opportuni- ties to get back that lead from Southern Miss at Tudor Fieldhouse.

"Defensively we don't focus re-member, and they did a phenomenal job of keeping us off the court," Williams said. "It is frustrating trying to play defense and see our opponents make baskets and shots. We know we need to work on our defense, and we'll be doing that this week.

Freshman Megan Elliott has also increased her production in recent weeks, finishing with six points in each of the last seven games. She has been double-digit in six of the last seven games.

"Brailford is really, in the last few games, understanding that she is in season and that she needs to go out and play hard," Williams said. "I am really happy with the way she is playing, but there is more, especially in the last few games, that I think she can do. Some of our young kids aren't making the progress that you would hope ... but you expect your experienced players to step up. That's what I hope.

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Sophomore Bryan Beasley finished the night against Tulane on Wednesday with three points and three turnovers. After spending several games in the starting lineup, Beasley has been struggling on the court in recent weeks and has seen fewer minutes as a result.
It was A&M ended 2008 on a high note. We were .500, and we couldn't have been happier. We were, at least, no longer envious. We were, at least, no longer envious. We were, at least, no longer envious.

The bandwagon no longer has a الشرق. The bandwagon no longer has a الشرق. The bandwagon no longer has a الشرق. We began the season with a roll-on, hopping off, struggling back on. We began the season with a roll-on, hopping off, struggling back on. We began the season with a roll-on, hopping off, struggling back on.
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

TULANE 61  RICE 59

Tulane's Paul Childress scores two of his 26 points as Tulane defeated Rice 61-59.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

She shoots...

Junior guard Tara Watts flies past two Golden Eagles during Rice’s matchup Jan. 25. Despite her effort, the Owls fell 65-60, dropping them to 0-6 in C-USA.

**SOUTHERN MISS 65  RICE 59**

Junior guard Tara Watts flies past two Golden Eagles during Rice’s matchup Jan. 25. Despite her effort, the Owls fell 65-60, dropping them to 0-6 in C-USA.

**UCF 77  RICE 52**

UCF scored 77 points against Rice, who scored 52.

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Who knew

ricethresher.org is now the one-stop site for postgame updates as well as the usual weekly analysis you've come to count on?

Check ricethresher.org after the game for summaries written by students about students for the student body.

ricethresher.org: the site for everything Rice sports.

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

JAN. 22 - 28

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

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Written by Natalie Clericuzio
We built this megacity on rock and roll.

Rice Cinema, fresh off a run of 'Hotel for Dogs', 10 Ways To Lose A Guy And Brave Wars, continues its five-year trend of screening highbrow romantic comedies. Tonight's marshmallow is a documentary called Megacheat that "deals with the human experiences of work, poverty, violence, love and sex in the slums of the world as people struggling for their survival down of "better life in the Big City."

Admission is free and the film starts at 7 p.m. in the Rice Cinema.

Hipster starts alert!

Runoppeu pug "supergroup" Bourbon Social Scene will tell you a little something about love tonight at Nancytubo. I wonder if they're staying at a friend's house or if they have a "hotel?" Doesn't matter. If they play enough "Anthem for a Seventeen Year Old Girl," I'm sure they'll all leave the stage with plenty of "Handfuls for the Holidays."

The opener is Lymphx System, with whom I am not familiar. Doors open at 8 p.m. and tickets are $7.50 on www.pegstar.net.

Fact: the Wisconsin dialect is the single most perfect sound in the world.

As part of the Humanities Resource Center's Undergraduate Lecture Series, Dr. Nance Noodnicken will deliver a talk entitled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Language (but Were Afraid to Ask)." It's like the CAPP sociology study break, but for your tongue. The talk is open to everyone and will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Herring Hall 125.

Now that I have your attention...

www.ricethresher.org

Why not visit sa.rice.edu, while you're at it? Pick up a petition for the 2008 General Election and run for something! You could be SA President! Or one of the vice presidents! Or RPC President! Or RSVP Secretary! Or an Honor Council Sophomore Rep! Or Sammy the Owl! The possibilities are limitless! — SA RICE EDU

The Calendar

JAN. 30–FEB. 6, 2009

FRIDAY

30

Trailer chic

Who's got post-apocalyptic fever? Art student Paul Villinski has. His new exhibit at the Rice Art Gallery, "Emergency Response Systems," opened yesterday. ERS is a salvaged Fema-style trailer that Villinski turned into a self-powered living and working space for displaced artists. You've probably already seen it outside Sewall Hall. Today at noon, Villinski will offer a few remarks about the work. The whole exhibit will stay until March 5.

SUNDAY

31

Savor the island flavor

The Caribbean Student Society cordially invites you, dear Rice student, to "A TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN." Members of the CSS will fill your every need as they placate your palate for culture, music and, of course, food. The CSS has explicitly requested that you come "dressed to impress," so please look sharp. If you happen to have six-pack abs, you may wish to skip the jacket and just come in a bow tie. Paradise opens from 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Center and the Rice Memorial Center, and tickets are $5.

TUESDAY

3

It's still Education Awareness Week!

Today'sinfores du jour is a poetry reading with the Black Student Association, who will read literature and poetry from African American writers to "celebrate Black History Month specifically as part of the 20th National African American Read-in initiated by the Black Caucus of National Council of Teachers of English." RSVP told me it will be in Willy's Pub "sometime," so get there at 3 and stay until the magic happens.

Pajamas at pub

Lovett College wants money for Beer Bike, so they're spending money to make money. It's Lovett Pajama Pub Night! Come dressed in your pajamas and be prepared to drink, eat and celebrate before going to "bed." Stick around for a late auction for all the lovely single (and taken) boys and girls out there. If you're lucky, maybe you'll meet a date with Rice's volleyball superstar, Tracey Lum. If you're unlucky, you'll get stuck with Eric Jones. Standard pub night location and hours apply for this one: Willy's in the IMC, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

MONDAY

2

Happy Education Awareness Week!

Rice Student Volunteer Program and America Reads are teaming up to bring you a juicy hump of double-trouble. It's Education Awareness Week! How aware of you are education?

The edu-kegger kicks off tonight at the RSVP meeting with the creation of a photomosaic showcasing the question "What Does Education Mean To You?" Sweet!

WEDNESDAY

4

Ladies and gentlemen, it's still Education Awareness Week! You can't stop the clock!

As a grand finale to Education Awareness Week, RSVP is sponsoring an education panel tonight. Resident administrative dreamboat Y. Ping Sun opens, and panelists Dr. Brent Houchens and Orin Moore will discuss the potential of a Rice education to affect the world, and other stuff. Think about it as a sort of feel-good career fair for people who won't get real jobs next year. Show up at Anderson Biology Labs 122 at 7 p.m. and all your wildest dreams will come true.

THURSDAY

5

OWLCON 28: THE REAWAKENING

It's the most wonderful time of the year! OWLCON 28, Houston's premier gaming convention, features "table-top and live action role playing games (including XPS events), miniatures games and events, historical miniatures, board games, card games, and a dealer's room. Rice community saves 50% with a valid Rice ID!" Wherever the cute Asian girls at Coffeehouse work during OWLCON, they bring in $15-$40 in tips. It's unbelievable, I can't believe it.

The Registrar is watching

Today's the last day to withdraw from Rice with a 50% tuition refund. Get out while you still can! Take your parents' money, get a cheap long and be a case of Miller and drive off into the sunset. Aaah, sweet freedom. I welcome your tender reunion.

HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The deadline for submission is 3 p.m. the Monday prior to publication. Submissions are printed on a space available basis.

Submission methods

Fax: 713.348.5238
Email: tim.faust@rice.edu
Campus Mail: Calendar Editor
The Thresher, MS 52

Note from the editor:

Hey dwg, you remember your old Calendar? I heard you like to take to read about Rice events, so I'm gonna put a calendar inside your Calendar so that you can read about Rice events while you read about Rice events. Last week I got six submitted events! Keep it up cowboys,

THE RICE THRESHER
Beginning in the late 1970s, a sitcom epidemic swept the nation, like HIV/AIDS would a decade later. Often heralded as the peak of interpersonal expression, sitcoms ran the gamut of the human condition from mourning to transformation. Seminal lyrics like "All in the Family," "Diff'rent Strokes," and, later, "Home Improvement" taught us how to love again. But what if this power were used for evil?

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