The overall reduction amounts to approximately $3 million, 3 percent of the entire university budget and a $7 million increase over the budget cuts announced Dec. 1 last year. Portions of the budgets and endowment, which are restricted for certain uses, such as scholarships, will not be affected by the cut.

"Everybody's making reductions," Leebron said. "Nobody's immune from this." David Leebron Rice University President

In response to a 20 to 25 percent loss in the endowment's value, President David Leebron announced a 5 percent university-wide budget cut on funding from unrestricted sources last Wednesday during January's plenary meeting of the faculty.

Deans and vice presidents will be responsible for including a 5 percent budget reduction individually in each academic school and administrative division's financial plans for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The overall reduction amounts to approximately $3 million, 3 percent of the entire university budget and a $7 million increase over the budget cuts announced Dec. 1 last year. Portions of the budgets and endowment, which are restricted for certain uses, such as scholarships, will not be affected by the cut.

"Everybody's making reductions," Leebron said. "Nobody's immune from this." David Leebron Rice University President

removed a similar budget-reduction trend, and Rice's efforts to save money and avoid future disruption are on par with other comparable institutions, Provost Eugene Levy said. Leebron said that while Rice has not lost as much of its endowment as many other universities, it depends on its endowment to a greater degree.

The Rice endowment is currently valued between $7.5 and $8.5 billion, Levy said. At the same time, the university budget has increased by 32.4 percent since 2004, and stands at $305 million for the 2009 fiscal year, according to Vice President for Finance Kathy Collins.

Salary increases for faculty and staff may not be possible this year, said Leebron, who along with Levy and several top members in the Office of the Provost recommended to the chairman of the Board of Trustees that they not be given a salary increase this year.

David Leebron Rice University President

After much debate and discussion, the Faculty Senate voted Jan. 14 to make the final amendments to the add/drop deadlines for the 2009-'10 academic calendar. Faculty Senate Speaker Deborah Harter said the final vote sets the add deadline at two weeks and the drop deadline at seven weeks. Students may add or drop courses during this time period via ESTHER without any fees.

Previously, students had four weeks to add a course, two weeks to add it without a fee, four weeks to drop a course without a fee and two weeks to drop a course with a fee of $2 per class.

Harter said the Senate spoke with President David Leebron to request the removal of registration fee penalties. "All faculty were very happy to get rid of the fees," she said.

Registrars David Kimmy said since fees are collected by the Cashier's Office, the revenue went directly to the university and not a specific department, so the Office of the Registrar never received any revenue from fees it charged previously.

The final outcome differs from the plan proposed last semester by the Faculty Senate's working group on the academic calendar. The proposal that came from that group set the add deadline at two weeks, the first week carrying no fee, and the drop deadline at five weeks. This previous proposal had cut the current registration deadlines in half.

Fennies said the changes in the add deadline should not affect a large portion of students. Since 89 percent of students last fall added a course within the first two weeks, 76 percent of students added a course within the first two weeks. Harter met with Student Association President Matt Vruno and SA Go-Chair of the Academics Committee Jasdeep Mangat and Varun Rajan, and spoke with a group of students at an SA meeting to discuss final proposal.

"The SA felt relatively comfortable with the seven week drop deadline, but they would have liked three weeks to add classes," Harter said.

Harter received a proposal from the SA arguing for a three-week add deadline and a seven-week drop deadline. The Faculty Senate then assembled an ad hoc committee to further discuss the final proposal, taking into consideration student preferences.

The proposal submitted to the Faculty Senate by the ad hoc committee suggested two weeks to add a course and seven weeks to drop it. The vote on the proposal was overwhelmingly in favor, Harter said, with one abstention and one vote against.

ADD/DROP, page 7

The Rice Players' production of Wyrd Sisters opens tonight at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. The Disaster parody of Macbeth's three witches will run Feb. 6-7 and 14-15. Tickets are $5 for Rice students.

...and Hamms is enabling it with the annual Matti Gras party. tonight from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Hamans Commons. Whoever finds the baby Jesus in the cake is to buy next year's 'log.'

Rice changes budget

Final decision on add/drop deadline reached

Josephine Melissa Wittmeyer attempts a book shot during Wednesday's game against the University of Houston. The Cougars won by a score of 66-58, but Wittmeyer and the Owls will have a chance for revenge in tomorrow evening's rematch (see story, page 15).

BY MARGEUX CLEMMONS

SOPHOMORE JESSICA SCROTT

Michael Orchard and Melissa Marschall, Sid Rich Masters

Michael Orchard and Melissa Marschall, Sid Rich Masters

New Orleans craves attention

100 days

Dennis "Classy" for Rice's "traditional" senior party next Wednesday night at 9 p.m. atop "upstairs" Houston social club ain. Tickets can be bought for $50 in advance at the RMC Info Desk.

By CATHERINE BRATIC

Some of the best students who have come through Rice University's doors have been international students. Rice is committed to the internationalization of the student body and this commitment can be seen in the diversity and the number of international students studying here. However, Rice's current efforts to attract more international students are not enough.

ONLINE OPED

Is there a zombie nation in our future?

Go behind the scenes with former Rice basketballer Morris Almond, as he talks about adjusting to life at the pro level.

SPORTS

Jazzing it up
SA makes good choice with trayless resolution

As the evidence piles up indicating that the removal of trays will result in lower water bills and electricity costs for Rice's serv- system, we have to applaud the Student Association's proposed resolution supporting the measure (see story, page 1). We also greatly appreciate that H&D chose not to exercise its right to act unilaterally in this decision and instead chose to collaborate with the student body.

Preliminary test-runs of the trayless program — "Wasteful Wednesdays" at the south servery — have shown upwards of a 30 percent reduction in food waste and an 11 percent reduction in economic climate.

For those who are opposed to the proposal, we urge you to think about the move as H&D's attempt to keep fiscally sound by any means possible other than raising meal prices. With the economic slump and Hurricane Ike both taking a toll on the students' coffers this year, H&D has to do something to reduce costs, and we are glad they have taken steps to do that without shifting further financial burden on students.

However, we do wonder whether there is a way to please all students affected by the proposed change. Over the past few years, the servery's have been looking to phase out disposable plates and cups. Rather than removing those items completely, the servery staff recognizes that some students still need them and instead keeps them out of sight, where they can be reached when request- ed. This has the double benefit of providing disposable items to students who need them while still cutting down on frivolous use, and perhaps the same measure can be adopted with trays.

But all in all, we think this resolution is a great idea. Wednesday shouldn't have a monopoly on wasteless anymore.

New physics building will bring prestige

The new Brockman Hall for Physics, slated to be completed in December 2009, should be heralded as a welcome addition to the Rice campus (see story, page 4). Although the construction may hamper our peace and quiet, the resulting building will create the perfect amount of peace and quiet that our physicists require to conduct their experiments.

The Physics and Astronomy Department may already command much of the administration's attention, but Rice should do everything possible to ensure that its achievements attract more focus outside the hedges. Rice's physicists have already garnered praise for their research, and their move to the state-of-the-art Brockman Hall will allow them to pursue even more ambitious experimental goals. At the very least, Rice will have a new recruiting tool, since the building will be attractive to both potential students and potential faculty, and that, of course, is a very good thing.

OP-ED

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But all in all, we think this resolution is a great idea. Wednesday shouldn't have a monopoly on wasteless anymore.
Attack calls for refined communication

Last week there was a sexual assault on campus in the Humanities Building, which is in itself truly frightening. What is almost equally frightening is that nobody even mentioned it to me, about it, which put them in danger of similar attacks. As a coordinator for the Women’s Resource Center, I would like to take this opportunity to offer the WHRC and RUPD the serious nature of this attack and suggestions to the Rice University Police Department on how they can better protect our campus. In general, the attack calls for a wider and more timely dissemination of information without disparities.

Julia Lukomnik

Starts let me immediately with the assault, which occurred on a weekend, it was almost certainly that many people went about their business. This attack was not delayed by RUPD, it is conceivable that students and faculty in the area to report to Miller Center, to the entrance, and to keep members of the Rice community safe, RUPD should have initiated a system for instantaneous notification, allowing people in the area to receive direct information on what to do and how to protect themselves. Luckily for us, a number in which to receive members of exactly this type of incident exists — it’s called the Emergency Notification System, and it has been used in the past to alert of robberies on campus. The system works incredibly well, but text messages go out only minutes after incidents, and the system has historically been required for the system’s inception but question why it was not utilized to alert the campus of this incident as a sexual assault and one that classified as an assault simply an assault in a few details. The difficulty in information between the text and the hard copy is that we should not be repeated. Students and faculty have the right to the full story, in addition, spreading multiple accounts of one incident caused confusion.

Julia Lukomnik is a Baker College Junior.

The attack calls for a wider and more timely dissemination of information.

Firstly (and this may have escaped general notice), there were two versions of the bulletins — one that characterized the incident as a sexual assault and one that classified as simply an assault. This is significant for fewer details. The disparity in information between the text and the hard copy is that we should not be repeated. Students and faculty have the right to the full story, in addition, spreading multiple accounts of one incident caused confusion.

Julia Lukomnik is a Baker College Junior.

Rice needs to fix rec center, not ignore it

As someone who makes use of the Autry Recreational Center often, I can help but notice the deteriorating state of the facility. Conditions at the Rec Center have always been lackluster, and the recent upgrade to the temporary entrance, and the construction of the Tudor Field House, have not improved matters. The system works incredibly well, but text messages go out only minutes after incidents, and the system has historically been required for the system’s inception but question why it was not utilized to alert the campus of this incident as a sexual assault and one that classified as simply an assault in a few details. The difficulty in information between the text and the hard copy is that we should not be repeated. Students and faculty have the right to the full story, in addition, spreading multiple accounts of one incident caused confusion.

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Julia Lukomnik is a Baker College Junior.

Amanda Melchor

The game, sponsored by RPC usually in late May and June, is the perfect opportunity for a cardio machine to free up. That's the point of play — to get people to move and think about their health while having fun. In general, the attack calls for a wide and more timely dissemination of information, in addition, spreading multiple accounts of one incident caused confusion.

Julia Lukomnik is a Baker College Junior.

We are throwing all of our focus onto the construction of the new Rec Center and not paying enough attention to the old one.

In order to correct the problems that Autry is facing, we don’t need to build a new facility. A few additional machines in the cardio room and a larger selection of weights would be of use, but a large number of students, I should warn, are not likely to use them. Given the price of the current fitness center, new of more include fridays and outdoor courts, and weight and cardio machines available for students. The basic rules are relatively simple and similar to those of Assas

Julia Lukomnik is a Baker College Junior.

There is a version of Assassin that RPC could host this very year...

Humans vs. Zombies.

One of the great rules about Humans vs. Zombies is that any attack on a non-participant results in the player being banned from the game. Players can safely play the game without involving innocent bystanders and innocent bystanders can enjoy watching their classmates get pegged with NERF darts, which, unlike water, leave no visible traces on players (or unintended targets) to one all-camp events.

Humans vs. Zombies is also perfect for its adjustable game duration and simple player organisation. The game period can extend anywhere from a day to a week to a round out event. And unlike Assassin, players do not have to worry about “assassin-hunting” or “NPC hunting.” Humans and NPCs have to worry about being mistaken for an actual player.

Amanda Melchor is a Hamerschmidt College senior and editor-in-chief of The Rice.”
New building will foster collaboration, not vibration

BY JOCELYN WRIGHT

More construction fences will crop up in campus in the coming week as preparations begin for a new physics building north of George R. Brown Hall: the Brockman Hall for Physics. The building is scheduled to be completed in December 2010 and was made possible by a gift to Rice’s Centennial Campaign of an undisclosed amount from the A. Eugene Brockman Charitable Trust.

Brockman Hall will be composed of two wings—a south wing on the ground with state-of-the-art laboratories located underground, and a north wing that will be above the ground and allow for landscaping underneath the building. Facilities, Engineering and Planning Project Manager for Buchanan said. Plans for the landscaping and exterior design have not yet been finalized, but outdoor cooperative spaces and a water feature such as a fountain are under consideration.

Buchanan said the raised north wing of the building will form a new Science Quadrangle, which was designated the “Court of Sciences” in the earliest master plans of campus. The raised wing will also preserve the view from Hamman Hall across campus to Sid Richardson College.

The basement of Brockman Hall will be devoted to laboratories, the first floor will house a large lecture hall and a smaller seminar classroom, and the second and third floors will host additional laboratories and offices, former Dean of Natural Sciences Kathleen Matthews said.

The observatory currently in the parking lot next to the construction site for the David and Barbara Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center will be moved to the fourth floor of the building to minimize interference from the lights of the future Recreation Center.

When the building opens, the Physics and Astronomy department will move from the 2-story Elie Herzstein Hall to Brockman Hall. Heritage Brown Hall. The fate of Herzstein Hall is yet to be determined, but Matthews said the priority remains being utilized for some purpose.

The building will be the product of nearly a decade of campaigning by Matthews. Currently, experimenters and researchers are spread out over five buildings—Herzstein, Herman Brown, Dell Butcher Hall, the Anderson Biological Laboratories and the Space Science Building—and have to work in facilities that no longer meet the demands of modern experimental physics, Matthews said.

“I think what happens over time is you get irritation of spaces on campus,” President David Leebron said. “We have small universities that should be bringing people together rather than working in silos. This building will give them the Physics and Astronomy Department a way to communicate with one another in a way that’s much more productive.”

Brockman Hall will also bring the Physics and Astronomy Department together with faculty doing related research from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, facilitating faculty interaction, Physics and Astronomy Department Chair Barry Dunning said.

“The new building and Herman Brown are right next door, so the consolidation should improve faculty interaction enhancing the intellectural ferment and the cross fertilization of ideas,” Dunning said. “It’s going to be a very stimulating environment. It’s going to bring people together not just from our department but also people with closely related interests.”

Dunning said physicists are currently forced to do any experiments requiring sensitive measurements and precise control of the environment, such as operating super stable lasers, very late at night when there is no interference from people and traffic.

“Experiments have to run through the night because that’s the only time things are stable,” Dunning said. “The new building will enable us to do these experiments throughout the day.”

One of the primary factors in selecting the location for Brockman Hall was the minimal amount of physical and acoustic vibration at the site. Senior Project Manager Patrick Dwyer said a total of 10 sites were analyzed, including Old Westbury and the location north of George R. Brown was selected.

“Very little additional microphone noise reduction was required to favor the building atop a 2-foot-deep slab which will absorb ground-borne vibrations.”

“If you were on a moving train and you were trying to light a needle, the movement would interfere with your capacity to do that, whereas if you’re sitting still and threading the needle, it’s a different scenario,” Matthews said. “[The new laboratories] simply provide from a vibration standpoint the capacity to do, measure and manipulate things on a scale that’s not possible in a high vibration setting.”

Dunning said the architects, engineers and students are very excited for the building visited several physics laboratories around the country to analyze different approaches.

“We learned what does and does not work so we don’t re-invent the wheel and take,” Dunning said.

Dunning said Rice has precise humidity and airflow control as well as clean power, which will keep experiments from being spoiled by moisture or humidity. He finds it strange that tuition and staff that would otherwise likely be offered pay raises in tandem is important.

Randall said that although he finds it strange that tuition increases are a general priority that’s not a time to cut the cost in scholarships. And although there will be some tuition increase, it’s probably not a time when we can have an extremely large tuition increase.”

Kendall said that although he understands there are going to be sacrifices and supports the administration’s decision to give most of the responsibility of budget cuts to deans, he finds it strange that tuition increases are increasing at all during such economically difficult times. His father’s small business failed in the recession and his son found it difficult to get a job.

Kendall said that additional steps might be necessary if the economy continues to decline.

“The one thing that makes me nervous is that the financial markets are still unstable, so this could get worse,” Collins said.

“Or the markets haven’t settled up yet, they added with a chuckle.

THE BUDGET
FROM PAGE 1

Typically, decisions have already been made around this time to allocate 2-3 percent of the total payroll to the pay raise pool, which is then allocated to deans and vice presidents to offer pay raises to the staff. Typically, those raises are based on merit and promotions, Collins said.

In addition to the budget changes and the delay in the decision concerning pay raises, the staff hiring freeze imposed in late November was lifted last Wednesday.

“We ended it because the deans and vice presidents really need to be responsible about hiring for their schools and divisions because it affects how they manage the pay-raise pool, which is then allocated to deans and vice presidents. Levy added with a chuckle.

Hanszen College sophomore Will Randall said lifting the hiring freeze was a good thing.

“It gives Rice a competitive advantage in recruiting new professors, and staff that would otherwise likely be recruited by Ivy Leagues or other universities with money to burn,” Randall said. “We should be able to pull in a better crop of researchers and professors.”

Baker College junior Aurelia Chandhury added that the student body is increasing and gradually increasing the number of faculty is important.

Lebow said that although the university will be exceeding its target endowment spending for the year, between 4.5 and 5.5 percent, surpassing the absolute boundary of endowment spending at 6 percent is not an option. Additionally, decreasing growth in endowment spending is a general priority that the university will continue for the near term, he said.

“There’s some good news up there,” Lebow said. “As of the end of December, our annual fund was up over 15 percent. Our applications, right now, are up 15 percent, and so those are important indicators of the strength and health of the institution.”

Lebow also mentioned that revenue from the A. Eugene Brockman Charitable Trust will boost the budget. However, he expects it to be increasing rather than decreasing because of the more lenient scholarship cutoffs that were introduced last year.

“Although in some ways this is a time when we need more money from tuition because Wednesday was a good moment’s down and because there are only so many dollars in the budget, we realize that a lot of people’s 401Ks are in worse financial circumstance than they were six months ago,” Lebow said. “It’s actually quite difficult to cut the cost in scholarships. And although there will be some tuition increase, it’s probably not a time when we can have an extremely large tuition increase.”

Kendall said that although he understands there are going to be sacrifices and supports the administration’s decision to give most of the responsibility of budget cuts to deans, he finds it strange that tuition increases are increasing at all during such economically difficult times. His father’s small business failed in the recession and his son found it difficult to get a job.

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New meal plans proposed for OC students, seniors

PJSC RUTENBERG

Students and off-campus students across the university are considering a new option for the list of meal plan choices. The new plans would be available to seniors and would also be available to off-campus students who would be paying a lot more with the new plans. Currently, students living on-campus have only one meal plan option: 19 meals per week. Off-campus students currently also have the option to purchase the 19 meals per week plan or not to purchase a meal plan at all. The newly proposed plans would be available to seniors and fifth-year students, as well as all off-campus students.

McDonald said the current meal plan options are not beneficial to a large number of seniors who have responsibilities such as jobs that require them to be off campus often. He also feels that the addition of the new plan might attract seniors back on campus.

"Typically, it's hard for OC students to return to the serveries," Muscara said.

Muscara said he hopes that by making the meal plans more convenient, seniors will have a more significant presence in their colleges' day-to-day lives.

However, the proposal has seen significant obstacles since its inception. McDonald said that adding the new plans is a number of factors that need to be addressed before they are implemented. Before then, if the committee approves the proposal, the plan will be presented to the SA senate for discussion and approval.

"Our goal is to offer students a choice," Nicholas Muscara, a senior, said.

"The barriers that they've created between them and the students this year were too big to be removed in a year, and the only thing left to do was move on," McCune said.

Muscara said that any barrier to planning such a replacement within six weeks, an expedited schedule.

"If we don't think there will be hard feelings," Shorall said.

"They're going to make awesome associates," Shorall said. "I can't wait to see them when they have free time."

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RUPD POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Jan. 28-Feb. 4

Residential Colleges

Jones College

Jan. 30

Theft

Other Buildings

Tudor Field House

Jan. 30

Theft

Parking Lots

Greenbriar Lot

Feb. 1

Burglary of a motor vehicle

Other Locations

Rice Village Apartments

Jan. 28

Theft

Jan. 29

Theft

Failure to stop and render aid

Feb. 2

Driving while intoxicated

Feb. 3

Hassarrment

Feb. 4

Warrants, Criminal Arrest

Student Association Minutes

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association on February 2.

- Student Life Committee Co-Chairs Kyle Clark, a Will Rice College junior, and Nicolas Felten, a Will Rice sophomore, reported on the success of the Weiss College/Jones College picnic and announced plans for a following picnic to be organized by new student representatives. They will conduct a poll on late-night food options in early February in addition to existing plans for Coffeehouse to serve food.

- Environmental Committee Chairs Patrick McNeeley, a Brown College student, and Sara Hartnett, a Hanszen College junior, announced that outdoor recyclers can be requested for outdoor events and that plans are underway to acquire a set of outdoor recyclers for each individual college. The Environmental Committee is currently collecting a survey of recycling in the academic buildings and distributing stickers to remind people to turn off lights when leaving rooms. The committee is additionally working with information technology to put all computers in public areas on standby when not in use and secure discounted printing fees for those who print double-sided at the University Copy Center satellite in the Rice Memorial Center.

- New Student Representatives Melissa LoPalo, a Baker college freshman, and Ruchir Shah, a brown freshman, announced that there will be a clothing drive running Feb. 1 - Feb 10. Donation boxes will be available in the commons.

- External Vice President Nicholas Muscara, a Marcell College sophomore, wrote a proposal addressed to Athletics Director Chris Del Conte expressing concerns regarding the relationship between athletics and students. The letter includes a proposed varsity sports liaison program and hierarchy of communication between athletics and students.

- Director of Elections Timothy Faust announced that six or seven organizations are applying for the portion of the blanket tax fund, including RTVS, Rice Review, University Blue, RPC, and KTRU. Each application will be considered separately.

- SA members further discussed the proposed resolution on tryless servers.

- Senators Kristina Butler, a Will Rice sophomore, Leticia Camara, a Jones sophomore, and Buju Ram, a Sid Richardson sophomore, shared their prior discussion with the Rice Provost Eugene Levy to implement a marketplace for recorded lectures on iTunes.

- Brown Senator Carl Nelson, a sophomore, and Hanszen Senator William Eades, a sophomore, reported that, thus far, 445 students have taken the holiday and break shuttle polls.

- Weiss College Senator Rory Hatch, a junior, proposed a signed resolution of appreciation, to be given to the family of former Weiss RA William Wilson, who died January 20.
Debate considers pros, cons of public service academy

BY HALIE JORDAN FOR THE THRESHER

The United States has few universities dedicated to military service but some for public citizen service. Advocates of this idea, Chris Myers Asch, co-founder of the U.S. Public Service Academy and Philip Levy, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, discussed the pros and cons of the creation of such an academy in a debate held in the Rice Memorial Center Tuesday.

Asch, who worked at a summer program in a poor public school in Mississippi, quit his job and began campaigning for a United States Public Service Academy. He said having a school devoted to public service would help fill government jobs and put people with better educations in them.

Subsequently, the United States would have a stronger bureaucracy, more capable of dealing with national crises such as the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

"The mission statement is to educate, develop and inspire young people, with a focus on character, intellect and service," Asch said. "It is unlike any academy with a focus on character, intellect and spirit fairly high among students. The problem line with the retention of workers due to dissatisfaction."

"The problem is you get young people who come to the government, and it can be frustrating for them," Levy said. "People who are really talented get job offers from other places who say: 'You want to be a mover and shaker, don't waste time in bureaucracy, come to private sector and we'll pay you more.'"

A public service academy, he said, would not attract the highest qualified students, who, knowing they could get higher paying jobs in private sector, would continue to attend universities already in existence. The academy, then, is not the answer for filling government jobs but rather for fixing the existing bureaucratic system.

"The bright, eager student can say 'I can serve the country with a job no-body wants or I can go to a top quality institution [already in existence] and get great training which gives me a lot of options," Levy said. "We need to fix the problem of retention and make the government more attractive."

The debate presented both side to the argument for members to multi-over.

"Before today I really thought that we should have a service academy, but today I don't think this is right for our country," Marriot College sophomore Rhodes Colley said. "The point that was made that most of the positions that would be offered would be positions that reform not want change." However, I really admire both points and I really thought it was a great idea."

"After reading about Asch's idea, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton created a bill in Congress supporting the academy that has 13 House members backing it along with seven Cabinet members," Asch said. For Asch, the government can be made more attractive via an improvement in philosophy and inspiration and with an academy providing a good education and opportunity.

"If we can create this very unique culture and atmosphere that says lead development, public service, sacrifice and duty and honor are going to be the core missions of this place, we think we are going to attract a fantastic student body," Asch said.

Lewy said the problem with government jobs line with the bureaucratic system more low pay practices, small chance of promotion and no glorification make government jobs unappealing.

The message we currently communicate is that somewhere working in the public sector is beneath you. Most want to work in a private sector or for a nonprofit.

A survey conducted in 2006 with students from universities reported that given an option of what kind of work they were interested in, 17 percent — the largest percent — chose government and public service. This suggests that interest and spirit fairly high among students. The problem line with the retention of workers due to dissatisfaction.

"The problem is you get young people who come to the government, and it can be frustrating for them," Levy said. "People who are really talented get job offers from other places who say: 'You want to be a mover and shaker, don't waste time in bureaucracy, come to private sector and we'll pay you more.'"

A public service academy, he said, would not attract the highest qualified students, who, knowing they could get higher paying jobs in private sector, would continue to attend universities already in existence. The academy, then, is not the answer for filling government jobs but rather for fixing the existing bureaucratic system.

"The bright, eager student can say 'I can serve the country with a job no-body wants or I can go to a top quality institution [already in existence] and get great training which gives me a lot of options," Levy said. "We need to fix the problem of retention and make the government more attractive."

The debate presented both side to the argument for members to multi-over.

"Before today I really thought that we should have a service academy, but today I don't think this is right for our country," Marriot College sophomore Rhodes Colley said. "The point that was made that most of the positions that would be offered would be positions that reform not want change." However, I really admire both points and I really thought it was a great idea."

"After reading about Asch's idea, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton created a bill in Congress supporting the academy that has 13 House members backing it along with seven Cabinet members," Asch said. For Asch, the government can be made more attractive via an improvement in philosophy and inspiration and with an academy providing a good education and opportunity.

"If we can create this very unique culture and atmosphere that says lead development, public service, sacrifice and duty and honor are going to be the core missions of this place, we think we are going to attract a fantastic student body," Asch said.

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Lewy said the problem with government jobs line with the bureaucratic system more low pay practices, small chance of promotion and no glorification make government jobs unappealing.

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David Leebron Rice President

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

Q: What is your favorite movie of the moment?
A: I've seen the film of Faith Pug, who was a singer; the adversity she faced in her life and the way she overcame it is really very powerful and one of the best performances I've seen in years.

Q: What is your favorite place from Halle Berry's film?
A: It has to be something with chocolate, maybe chocolate mouse pie.

Q: How did you meet your wife?
A: It is really very powerful and one of the best performances I've seen in years.

Q: Are you planning on any international trips after your two recent trips to Beijing and Iran?
A: There will be a trip to Mexico before the end of the semester for the second consortium of Mexican universities, and there are tentative plans for traveling to Brazil, among other locations. China, Latin America and India remain top priorities.

Q: What is the best major?
A: I'm going to refuse to answer the "best" question. There are some majors I think are interesting, one of the most interesting ones is linguistics. What interests me about linguistics is understanding how humans express themselves and interact with one another, the relationship between language and culture. If one thing I care about, one thing I don't think a lot of Americans care about is how we perceive abroad. It's sort of the world a message that we as a nation still have a great fidelity to the values that we profess: values of opportunity and values of equality and the rule of law. I'm very excited and optimistic about it. I do say that we have a really low level of awareness of what the facts are, and they did a really fine job of representing the student body.

Q: What is your favorite color?
A: It's a complicated question. Shown is a classic building and has an increased "shop," but the majority of the facilities felt the four week add deadline made it difficult for them to begin their courses.

Harter said some faculty would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support:

The 2009 International Alternative Spring Break to Boruca, Costa Rica would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support:

LUT8 Rubos

National Engineers Week

Wednesday, February 18 3:00 to 5:30 pm

Grand Hall

Cash Prizes
First Prize $300
Second Prize $200
Third Prize $100

Pizza, T-Shirts, Door Prizes

The 2009 International Alternative Spring Break to Boruca, Costa Rica would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support:

The Princeton Review Houston

The Rice Thresher • ADD/DROP

ADD/DROP FROM PAGE 1

Harter said if students have a personal problem that prohibits them from meeting the two week add deadline, they can petition the Committee on Examinations and Standing to register for the course. Tenney said students can also petition to have a message that we as a nation still have a great fidelity to the values that we profess: values of opportunity and values of equality and the rule of law. I'm very excited and optimistic about it. I do say that we have a really low level of awareness of what the facts are, and they did a really fine job of representing the student body.

Q: How do you feel about President Obama and the inauguration?
A: I feel very excited about Obama's inauguration and election. It's kind of odd when you're living history. For many people the election of Obama has been a sign of hope and progress, and on the other hand we're faced with these fairly horrendous economic situations. One thing I care about, one thing I don't think a lot of Americans care about is how we perceive abroad. It's sort of the world a message that we as a nation still have a great fidelity to the values that we profess: values of opportunity and values of equality and the rule of law. I'm very excited and optimistic about it. I do say that we have a really low level of awareness of what the facts are, and they did a really fine job of representing the student body.

Q: What is the best residential college?
A: Hanszen, because I've now learned how to spell it.

Q: What is your favorite Rice building?
A: I'm fond of the Pavilion, which is new and creates opportunities and is different; it's a real building and has an increased "shop," but the majority of the facilities felt the four week add deadline made it difficult for them to begin their courses.

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Buy any phone $19.99 or higher
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Jones MBA program ranked highly again

Graduates continue to fare well after their time at Rice despite effects of recent national economic downturn

BIANCA WALKER
For the Thresher

The Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Administration full-time MBA program was ranked 53rd in the world for 2009 by the Financial Times, up nine places from last year’s ranking of 64th. This is the third year that Rice was ranked on the list. The Jones School’s highest ranking was 47th in 2007 before it fell to 64th last year.

The rankings are based on several factors, including the average salary of alumni and the percentage increase in alumni salary using the alumni’s pre-MBA and post-MBA salary information.

According to the Financial Times, alumni of the Jones School full-time MBA program earn an average salary of $109,302 three years after graduation. This figure is $60,482 less than that of the nation’s top ranked program, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Alumni of the Jones School MBA program earn salaries that are, on average, 19 percent higher than their pre-MBA salaries. The weighted salary for Jones School alumni, calculated as the average alumni salary today adjusted for variations between industry sectors, has increased by $4,073 since 2008, despite the economic downturn. During this same period, Wharton alumni salaries increased by 10 percent.

Jones School MBA students can expect to continue to do well in the current economy because alumni pursue diverse career paths. Dean of the Jones School of Management William Glick said, “Since Jones School programs do not emphasize careers on Wall Street like other MBA programs, Glick said graduates can keep looking forward while others are looking down.”

“We are opening more doors in different directions,” he said. According to Glick, 92 percent of MBA alumni work in the energy industry, with ExxonMobil as one of the biggest employers.

The Jones School has been placing greater emphasis on its own career services program in recent years. Chair of the Jones School Student Association Brad Elmore said the economy has simply required a variation in the type of advice given to students.

“The program encourages students to do what they want to do,” Elmore said. “They [Jones School] provide the means to make it happen.”

The fact that students graduate with a high chance of earning double the salary of when they came in keeps the opportunity cost for Jones School alumni favorable.

Glick said he is confident that the program’s ranking can only improve. Curriculum changes, along with higher selectivity in the admission process and an improved research profile, will help achieve that goal, he said.

The Jones School also increased in rank for its research capacity, which ranked 20th this year compared to 50th last year.

“I am surprised at how much better we are doing on the research front,” said Glick.

Though the effects of research improvements on rankings are lagged, they stimulate excitement for the future, he said. The Jones School is also among the top 10 schools in both percentage of underrepresented minorities and percentage of women in the student body. International Faculty are also commonplace in the Jones School. Professors from Brazil, France and Asia have recently been hired.

“Business is global, and learning to manage in a diverse environment is important,” Glick said. “Hearing different perspectives is part of the learning process.”

Although most students said they were aware of the rankings, they said they took them with a grain of salt. Elmore said he feels concerned over rankings to the administration.

“Dean Glick is the coach and we are the players,” said Elmore. “His job is contingent upon [the rankings].”

Elmore said that the community spirit of the Jones School programs offered him more value than a ranking would. “I have gotten as good a value out of this program as I would with any other,” Elmore said. “It is challenging but we are all in it together.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: PREACHER, LEADER, SCHOLAR

Martin Luther King, Jr. was not only a prophet who spoke to the nation; he was also a larger-than-life leader who shaped the hopes and dreams of several generations. Come hear how King’s legacy has crossed color lines and shaped the life and leadership of one of America’s top corporate executives.

Speaker:
John Castle
Former Executive Vice President of EDS Corporation

Sponsored by Leadership Rice and the Black Student Association

February 11th, 5:00-6:00 pm; Sewall Hall 309
for events outside the hedges, both around Rice and in the Houston area, for this week.

**BRONX**

**DARWIN**

**TWESTIVAL**

**FAHEEM**

**Fall Leftovers and Springing Forward**

One of the reasons keeping up with fashion trends is so difficult is that the fashion world is not susceptible to that of the real world's seasons. When automakers introduce new models, fall, winter, and spring collections are showing spring things; when spring barely arrives, fall is already stepping out. Fortunately, designers are as clever as they are creative, and they often offer something of almost-uncredible fall trends into their spring collections. This not only helps ease their customers into the new season, but also filters out the trendy from the meat and main courses. A little saturated hue says unapologetically, "I'm wearing my favorite color and I isn't going to change," but it also filters out the trendy from the tried and true. Here's the skinny on some concepts that have potential style staying power.

- **S&M. Tie-me-up pretty**
- **The bald, frizzy, wear-concealed look of chains, leather, PVC and bondage wrap are still very much on the minds of designers. Last season they were a bit slow on the uptake, and the trend was basically their way of acknowledging, "Yes, why, being hardware doesn't look such evil." For spring '99, they're continuing to show us various ways, from substituted, ribbon-faced cocktail dress, to full-on bondage-esque, based фабрикаееский. They seem to think we really enjoy being dominated by our clothes.

Metallic: Feed your racon instincts

Fall is the time when designers pull forelly baskets and added party dresses for winter, but why?

Deanne Nguyen

Trends from autumn to will "Fall for.

Monochromatic: Nothing bolder than the black.

Remember when the mixing patterns trend was declared THE thing to do to stand apart? Well, now that's been dispersed twice over and over again. Monochromatic, or all in one color, is timeless, and for whatever reason, Mings has chosen to equip his actors with microphones when they have difficulty projecting even three rows into the audience. The performances drop words and constituents left and right, meaning the performances drop significant plot points on the ground — the audience is left in an oscular vacuum.

The technical side of Wyrd Sisters is pleasantly neutral. Visiting designer Daniel Perrenet has created a simple and fairly elegant wellequipped two-level set, which is pleasing and, in the rice stylistic, minimalist. But it doesn't really help the productions establish its varied settings. Will Rice College Michael Rosenberg's lighting design offers gorgeous Mullingניו ימים but has difficulty illuminating the faces of taller characters when they stand atop the set's highest point, and Hanszen junior Teresa Bayer's consuming runs the gauze from plains to dazzling. Desai's vibrant bolt red costume is the sort of cylinder piece that swiftly eyes actors and aircraft, as they're threatened, will try to steal at the final curtain call.

In terms of individual performances and backdrops, Wyrd Sisters is fairly audacious. Unfortunately, there are two fundamental problems that condemn Wyrd Sisters to the bottom of this year's campus theater docklet: blocking and scene transitions.

One can only imagine what a blocking rehearsal for Wyrd Sisters might look like: Stand in a straight line with the rest of the actors on stage. Wait until it's time for your line. Keep waiting! Always here! Now, say your line! Stand perfectly still until it's time for your next line. Maybe you should do something or whatever you're talking while your line here closely and closely. Doesn't matter. Say your line. Move over here until the end of the line. Stand, either completely frozen or constantly shifting your weight from foot to foot. Then you can get another line. Stand again. Move over here. Copy, paste, repeat for the rest of the show.

See WYRD, page 12

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By Timothy Faust

**The Rice Players take to the stage with their latest production**

Dude, that's Wyrd

The Rice Players' production of Wyrd Sisters: an entertaining and fast-paced show is struggling to break free.

Unfortunately, its struggle is ill-fated. Trapped by static, repetitive staging and questionable direction by Brown College senior Thomas Mung, the performing community trips over itself and never manages to find a steady rhythm. The result is a haphazard, absurd test of audience endurance that generates more awkwardness and confusion than application.

The play, based on Terry Pratchett's novel from the Discworld series and adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs, rests upon a web of light-hearted fanaticism of many of the other performances.

The Wyrd Sisters themselves offer a mixed performance — as if the actors are waiting an actual performance — as if the actors are waiting an actual performance — as if the actors are waiting for their turns to recite their memorized dialogue instead of reacting to what's happening around them and contributing a real conversation.

The acting of Wyrd Sisters suffers from a general absence of character, gestures or pace, and the resulting performances are dry. Few characters seem to genuinely care about their surroundings, and their interactions feel forced and stilted.

There are exceptions to this observation, and their contributions to the show are tremendously welcomed. As Duke Filbert grows more and more neurotic and paranoid over the course of the show, Desai's his role with genuine enthusiasm and unique style, minimalist. But it doesn't really help the performances establish its varied settings. Will Rice College Michael Rosenberg's lighting design offers gorgeous Mullingניו ימים but has difficulty illuminating the faces of taller characters when they stand atop the set's highest point, and Hanszen junior Teresa Bayer's consuming runs the gauze from plains to dazzling. Desai's vibrant bolt red costume is the sort of cylinder piece that swiftly eyes actors and aircraft, as they're threatened, will try to steal at the final curtain call.

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### KTRU Pick of the Week:

**Larkin Gifford’s Harmonica**

**By Rose Calahan**

Today’s musicians have a staggering array of advanced technologies at their fingertips, ranging from every flavor of synthesizer to AutoTune, the pitch correction software now used almost universally by recording studios to make vocals sound closer to perfect pitch. Although the creative opportunities unlocked by computer music are boundless — Girl Talk, among others — there is also a growing back-to-basics movement dedicated to making music from first principles. And for many, the most basic sound: everyday speech and all manner of ambient noise, such as the sounds of machines and the environment.

Background noise is foregrounded, usually in a MUCH more conventional instrumentation, and the result is neither organic nor artificial — but definitely musical. This technique has been applied in genres as diverse as avant-garde rock (The Books, who make catchy songs out of obscure spoken samples) and rap (Debtsomeone, who finds melody even in the sound of matches striking). Larkin Gifford’s Harmonica, an environmental soundscapes composer Phillip Bimstein, adds classical music to that list.

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**KTRU Top 35: Week of 2.12.09**

**An enema for your ears**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Album</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Sublime Frequencies</th>
<th>Self-Released</th>
<th>East River Records</th>
<th>ArtStorm Records</th>
<th>Acetate Records</th>
<th>Acoustic Records</th>
<th>Beat Tape Tapes</th>
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**Rice Student Volunteer Program (RSVP)**

**Health Awareness Week**

(Feb 9-12)

**Tuesday, February 10:**

- **Documentary:** "Critical Condition" 6:00 PM in BIOS LAB 123

Want to learn more about the health care crisis in America? Roger Weisberg’s documentary chronicles the struggles of four American families living without health insurance. There will be free food!

- **Wednesday, February 11:**

  "Sustainable Health Care in the Developing World: Challenges and Partnership Models in Rural Haiti" 7:30 PM in BIOS LAB 131

Interested in global health? Geoffrey Peiris, the President and Co-Founder of Health Empowering Humanity (HEH), will speak about sustainable health care by using his personal experience in Haiti as an example. There will be free food!
**New in Town not all that new**

BY JACKIE AMMONS
THRESHER STAFF

Playing on multiple clichés doesn't make it fun, deep or multifaceted, it just makes the movie one big, sloppy cliché with no real meaning whatsoever. Such is the case with Renee Zellweger's latest movie, New In Town. With themes that aren't all that new, the film relies on tired storylines that are simultaneously boring and cheesy.

The fundamental problem of New In Town is that it plays on tropes, overused conventions. Furthermore, these conventions are boring, paintless and overwhelmingly numerous.

The audience already knows that Minnesota is cold and that Lucy probably shouldn't have worn a thing to go hunting in three feet of snow; that concept isn't really all that funny. In fact, the film's emphasis on the misery of the snow reflects the audience's own misery when watching the film.

The cliché of the girl falling for the guy she had previously hated is not one of those stories. It tries to be so many things — a "cute" film, a romance and a comedy — that it spreads itself too thin and results in mediocre work with mediocre comedy. To get the most worthwhile laugh at New In Town, the film's trailers is the best bet, as it is quick, paintless and free.

The one redeeming aspect of New In Town is that it has a few funny moments, such as when Lucy's car careens into a roadside ditch and traps her for hours, leading her to drunkenly tie red lingerie to the car's antenna as an SOS.

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**Women's track flies to first place in five events**

Rice sweeps first five places in 3000, led by Lennie Waite's conference-best finish

by Natalie Clericuzio

In two meets, senior Lennie Waite has led the Owls to victories in two different events, first in the mile two weekends ago, and then to the 3000-metre run last weekend. But she is not the only member of the Owls' distance medley team to find success during that span — few other Owls were events last weekend at the Houston Invitational, and several others earned personal bests.

Despite their positive performances, however, the team is certainly looking ahead to the rapidly-approaching Conference USA Indoor Championships, which are slated for Feb. 22-23 at the University of Houston's Yeoman Fieldhouse.

"There was definitely a difference between our first two meets," head coach Jim Bevan said. "We're making progress, and I think we're getting closer to the University of Central Florida. So we've got a lot to make a progress in a month, but we're on the right track." The women will send competitors in 14 different events, first in the mile run, to the Notre Dame Meyo Invitational on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, Neb., tomorrow.

The Owls' distance medley team, which has set two conference records in two different events, first in the mile run at the Houston Invitational, will travel to the Notre Dame Meyo Invitational on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, Neb., tomorrow.

The members of the distance medley team will travel to the Notre Dame Meyo Invitational on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, Neb., tomorrow.

"It might not have been shown by the result, but he looks better," Bevon said. "She attacks her approach and she makes sure she's impressed with the way she's approaching the event." Even those Rice competition who failed to get first-place finishes still turned in strong performances. Freshman Michaela Reynolds led for most of the 5000-metre race, only to finish second in 15:47.65. Twenty-one-year-old thrower and teammate Nicki Washburn turned in a solid performance last weekend at the Houston Invitational.

"In the indoor season is so short, Bevan said the team can't afford any relapse in performance over the coming weeks. "We've had only two meets into the season, but ... conference is only five weeks away.\n
"Basketball has been playing since November and they have another week before their next meet. Swimming starts in October and they should get better every time they go out.""
Almond dazzles his opponents from above during his senior year, during which he averaged 26 points per game, third best in the nation.

Almond averaged 26 points per game, third best in the nation, during his senior year. After leaving Rice, he has continued to make a name for himself in the NBA.

Almond's career at Rice was marked by his ability to score despite standing just 5'10" tall. He was a point guard with a knack for scoring. You could put the ball in his hands and expect him to get his team back in the game.

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Almond has continued to make a name for himself in the NBA, playing for the Utah Jazz. He has averaged over 20 points per game and has shown a versatility that has made him a valuable asset to his team. Despite the inherent pressure of the NBA, Almond has maintained his composure and focus, leading him to success on the court.

Almond's success in the NBA is a testament to his hard work and dedication. He has continued to push himself and strive for excellence, and the results speak for themselves. The future looks bright for Almond, and he is poised to continue making a mark in the world of basketball.
Struggle continues for women's basketball

by Yan Digilov
Thresher Staff

There simply does not seem to be an answer when it comes to the question of what makes the women's basketball team tick. Though it remains a mystery as to who on the team will finish the game with two or zero points, the storylines of most of their recent losses have been surprisingly similar.

"We seem to come out really strong against every team we play," junior guard Tara Watts said. "We hold them down in points all in the first half. Sometimes, it is like we don't play to our potential in the second half, and that is where we have been losing it."

On Thursday, Jan. 29, it was freshman forward Brianna Hypolite who hit the 20-point mark when Rice (9-15, 0-9 Conference USA) went on the road against the University of Tulsa. In her previous performance, she failed to score altogether and posted only two points in the Owls' next game against Southern Methodist University.

"None of us have been able to figure that out," head coach Tony Williams said. "Like she has done all year, she will still follow that up with a 'Hey, were you here?' performance the next night."

Though inconsistent play is often associated with younger players, it has not been coming solely from the freshmen members of team. Watts began the season as one of the Owls' strongest offensive weapons but has struggled to score at all in the team's recent skid. Like Hypolite, she followed that up with a nine-point game and posted only two score altogether and posted only two losses have been surprisingly similar.

"We work on these things in practice," senior guard Maudess Fulton said. "We work on shooting all the time. It is basically just having it carry over into the game we are having difficulty with."

The decreased offensive efficiency has been exacerbated by consecutive poor performances from the team's leading scorer and ball handler, freshman guard D'Frantz Smart. Smart returned against Tulsa (6-14, 2-6 C-USA) after sitting out for two weeks with a foot injury, and played an omnously uncharacteristic game. She had six turnovers in only 17 minutes of play to counteract a pair of assists and only two points.

"That is one of the things about injuries," Williams said. "Players don't always come back like they left. She did not play at the level she had been playing prior to her injury in either the Tulsa or SMU games."

Tulsa forced 28 turnovers in the game and registered a colossal 20 steals in a to a full-court press that the Owls could not seem to crack.

"It is just a weakness," he said. "I think they understand the importance of it, but getting them to do it on a consistent basis has been something that we've been unable to achieve."

Watts said that part of their inability to communicate has come from their youth. "It is partly just the 'young team' excuse," she said. "In high school, you do not need to communicate as much. It is also just focus. Once we get tired, we just stop talking completely, and it is a problem."

The team's defense fell apart in Dallas on Saturday after the Owls, the last place team in C-USA, tied SMU (14-7, 7-1 C-USA), sitting atop the conference standings, in the second half. Concomitantly, Rice lost focus on defense and offense, allowing the Mustangs to go on a 14-0 run that propelled them to a 66-52 victory.

Through the Owls have been making a habit of underachieving, the players know that Williams has not lowered his expectations.

"He expects everyone to score 20 points every night," Hypolite said. "I don't go out planning on scoring that many points; I just want to help."

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JOHN E. PARISH FELLOWSHIP
for Summer Travel

Wiess College announces competition for the 2009 John E. Parish Fellowship. The winner of the Parish Fellowship will receive support of approximately 2 months travel during the Summer of 2009. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance the undergraduate education of the Fellow by broadening the range of experience via individual travel. All full-time returning undergraduates at Rice are eligible. For further information, call the Wiess College coordinator (713-348-5743), or see the web page at www.ruf.rice.edu/~parish.

Deadline for application is Friday, February 13, 2009.
**Swimming downs Houston**

by Tracy Dansker

When you face your biggest rival three times during the dual-meet season, the seniors can turn out four different ways. It can be entirely disheartening because your team repeatedly falls short, ego-boasting because you smash your opponent mercilessly at each meeting, disastrous if your team starts strong and ends in a slump, or amazingly rewarding because your team perseveres until the tables are turned in your favor.

It turns out that the final opinion works best for the senior team. Last weekend, the Owls met the University of Houston for the third time this season. The Cougars took both of the previous contests fairly handily, but this time the Owls had the upper hand, recording 128 points to UH's 90.

Head coach Seth Huston noted it was gratifying to finally get a win over the Cougars.

"In the fall, [UH] got us both times [against] them, so it was nice to return the favor," Huston said. "We ended up with a moderately comfortable win."

On the first day of competition, performances across the squad were inconsistent. Sophomores Ashton Ackerman and Erin Mattion and freshmen Nicole Delafoy and Alston Gothe all secured third-place finishes in their respective events. Notably, Ackerman set the top time by an Owl in the past four years in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Later on the same day, Gothe grabbed third place and a school-best time in the 200-yard individual medley, while Mattison secured her third place finish in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.13. Delafoy finished third in the 100-yard freestyle, while senior Caitlin Watson came in right behind her, a season-best time of 1:08.85.

Huston said he felt the team's performance showed their conditioning is on track for the conference meet.

"Friday we were definitely off... and then Saturday we came back and almost everyone swam well," Huston said. "If you're [swimming] a lifetime-best time in the 200-yard individual medley, while junior Pam Zelnick snagged third place in the 200-yard breaststroke with a season-best time of 1:05.37. Mattison also came second in the butterfly and took second place. Senior Natalie Kirchoff turned in lifetime-best 2:07.43 — her first personal record since her freshman year.

"It had been almost two and a half years since I had gotten a [personal record] in anything," Kirchoff said. "I looked up and thought my time was probably wrong, like the clock was wrong, and I immediately broke into tears of joy and gratitude."

Possibly the most important event of the two days, the 200-free style relay, was the last event of the entire two-day meet. Rice trailed the Cougars by five points as the girls lined up behind the starting blocks. The A-team of Zelnick and seniors Skylar Craig, Diane Gu and Galyanlo Miller had a solid performance, taking second place in 1:37.48. What made the key difference, however, was the impressive performance by the Owls' B-team of Delafoy, Bottoms and juniors Angela Newton and Megan Land. Bottoms, the relay's anchor, came from behind to secure the win over Houston's A-team, giving the Owls enough points to pull ahead and bring their record in dual meets to 6-7. They next compete against the nation's No. 15 team, the University of Nebraska, Nov. 21.

The Owls' A-team won both the school indoor and outdoor records for the pole vault, as he vaulted 5.55 meters to win the Texas Relays last April. Saturday's vault was the third-best this year and was a provisional qualifying mark for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Head coach Jon Warren (Jones '88) spoke of the difficulties they've faced in the wind this season.

"I cannot emphasize how difficult it is to get into the NCAA meet for indoor," Warren said. "If you assume three people per event, per school, with 300 schools, that's 900 people (competing) 15 people make it. That's 1-in-60, 1 percent. That's kind of like missing the NCAA Championships."

"I am pleased with how we came one giant good luck charm for our team," Huston said. "In the fall, we had three guys all run fast enough to make the fast heat at the Houston Indoor."

**Colwick dominates pole vault once again**

by Jonathan Myers

The University of Houston's Jason Colwick has suddenly become one giant good luck charm for the Owls' track team. After finishing in first place two weeks ago at the Leonard Hilton Invitational, also held at UH, the Owls turned in some incredible individual performances on Saturday.

Junior Jason Colwick started the weekend with a new school record for the pole vault in indoor competition. His vault of 5.60 meters broke Paul Bratloff's mark of 5.40 meters set in 1993. Both Colwick, who was just named Conference USA Male Athlete of the Week on Tuesday, and sophomore Shea Kearney tied Bratloff's mark last year. Colwick now owns both the school indoor and outdoor records for the pole vault, as he vaulted 5.55 meters to win the Texas Relays last April.

"There was a lot of wind, and we had a strong west wind, so that was a factor," Warren said. "But Jason vaulted an incredible 5.60 meters. He also set a new school mark in the 600."

"It turns out that the final opinion works best for the senior team. The seniors can turn out four different ways. It can be entirely disheartening because your team repeatedly falls short, ego-boasting because you smash your opponent mercilessly at each meeting, disastrous if your team starts strong and ends in a slump, or amazingly rewarding because your team perseveres until the tables are turned in your favor."

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The team's performance in the 3000 also earned provisional times for the conference meet, Warren noted. The Owls run very fast, and since we had three guys all run fast enough to make the fast heat at conference," Warren said.

Freshmen sensations Collin Shrake and Chasen Chaney continued their success from two weeks ago on Saturday. Shrake finished third in the heptathlon, scoring first in both the...
The Owls are in the middle of the country, and no one is looking to take them down at the moment. They have a lot of potential, and I think we have a lot of room to improve," head coach Elizabeth Schmidt said. "All we need now is consistency. We would like to see more energy and more focus in our match, and we would like to see us take it to our opponents, as opposed to them taking it to us and dictating play."

The Owls did not have much time to relish the victory since their next match against Texas State came on Sunday morning. The Owls lost 4-2 and dropped their second straight match. The Owls are now 5-1 on the season, but they have yet to win a match against a ranked opponent. Despite this, the Owls have shown signs of improvement, and they are looking forward to their next match against a ranked opponent.

Women's tennis finds groove by Prem Ramkumar

The Owls tennis team dropped just a single team point over two matches against University of Texas-Arlington and Texas State University this past weekend at Julie Hess Stadium. With six matches under their belts, the Owls, who are now 5-1 on the season, appear to have found a routine that works.

Rice took on UT-Arlington Saturday and had to battle through a rough opening round of doubles, but still managed to win all three of the close individual matches to take the early 1-0 lead in the contest.

"I think we played very good doubles and I have definitely seen great improvements," head coach Elizabeth Schmidt said. "All we need now is consistency. I wouldn't like to see more energy and more focus in our match, and we would like to see us take it to our opponent, as opposed to them taking it to us and dictating play."

Of the six singles players, only junior Julie Cho failed to win her match convincingly. The Owls' No. 1 fell to the hard-hitting Monika Rudigova 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, but Freshman Ana Guzman made up for Cho's loss, displaying her talent and ball control with drop shots and passes as she dashed Nazmy Necamoga around for 6-4, 6-2 victory at the No. 2 spot.

"I feel great about my team, and I feel that we have a lot of potential," Guzman said. "I have been training really hard and setting my mind on things to accomplish. It's nice playing at the second spot because it helps me compete with my teammates and improve on a daily basis."

Sophomore Jessica Jackson, junior Rebecca Lii, sophomore Vanya Shos-Shanker, and freshman Alex Rauch all won in straight sets to give Rice the 6-1 victory. Jackson has managed to keep her record stainless this entire season.

The Owls did not have much time to relish the victory since their match against Texas State came on Sunday morning. Morning pick up where they left off, the team demonstrated continued poise in doubles, coming out with the early 1-0 lead after having two of three matches going their way.

The team followed up the doubles performance with quick wins from the No. 1, 2, 3 and 6 singles spots to clinch the victory. Coming out of her tough loss the day before, Choo battled in a straight set win 7-5, 6-2 over Ashley Ellis to contribute her point to Rice's 7-0 victory.

The Owls have a very strong showing this past weekend, but the going gets tougher as they play both ranked St. Mary's on Friday and 15th ranked Fresno State on Saturday.

"Every match is going to be a battle," Schmidt said. "We are excited to play these higher ranked teams. At the end of the day, rankings are just numbers. I want to go out and play Rice tennis and show them what we can do."

RICE VS. LSU

Women Saturday, 1 p.m.

Waxahachie Balcon Rouge, La.

Historic Rice hosted the two teams' last meeting, which saw Rice fall to LSU in overtime. The Owls took the lead with straight set wins and second in the nation.

Typically, these losses would have shaken the team, leading to question and a possible rethinking of the lineup. But after losing in straight sets, the Owls have taken a back to life off the courts.

"We're going to stay close to them, make sure he stays busy, and he'll play tennis as his best. It's a matter of hours to have the team start to fall apart on the court," Rosa reiterated the team's solidarity in support of their teammate, noting that the notion of failure is not an option.

"If you over play LSU at UM in any frame, it's not a whole lot of fun," he said. "We've lost to LSU the last two times we played them... so maybe we can turn them around."

Rice has one match up with LSU in March and then played preferably for the best Owls at the lower ranked Tigers came in 3-1. Rice defeated junior Christoph Miiller in three of their first three matches and brought him to the campus without a win. Typically, these losses would have shaken the team, leading to question and a possible rethinking of the lineup. But after losing in straight sets, the Owls have taken a back to life off the courts.

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The Owls dropped three doubles matches — the first time that has happened all season.
penetrating within ten feet and pulling up. I'll just like to take a moment to reflect on just how bad the Lions actually are. They are slowing down for me. Over time I got in tune with how that wasn't slowing down for me. Yes, fifty games under .500. Over time I got in tune with how the game wasn't slowing down for me. Over time I got in tune with how the game wasn't slowing down for me.

Perka posted the second double-double of his career in the win, scoring a career-high 21 points to go along with 11 rebounds.

Sophomore center Tray Stanton added another double-double for the Owls, who out-rebounded the Kittens by seven in the game, something they will have to do against the up-tempo Cougars.

Houston has emerged as a contender for second place in the conference despite losing a number of players from last season. All those things will come with hard work and toughness on my part. All those things will come with hard work and toughness on my part.

"When I first started, it was the speed and physicality of the game that threw me off," Fizzelle said. "I handled it pretty well, but the game wasn't slowing down for me. Over time I got in tune with how the game wasn't slowing down for me. Over time I got in tune with how the game wasn't slowing down for me."

And it keeps players in college. Sam Bradford, Tua Teohol Cob McCoy. Three Heisman finalists, three players returning to college. Who has the first pick of the 2009 draft, you may be asking? The Detroit Lions, of course.

In the current era, the student-athlete who cherishes the commitment to get his student-athlete aspect of his career fulfilled is a rare breed at the higher levels of sport. People were shocked when I got a relationship for you: Joey Harrington, Charles Rodgers, Mike Williams. Those other receivers. Detroit is where receivers go to die, and quarterbacking a terrifying.

Sam Bradford, Tim Tebow, Colt McCoy. Three Heisman finalists, three players returning to college. Who has the first pick of the 2009 draft, you may be asking? The Detroit Lions, of course.

It's almost romantic, honestly, that a team could so fully know the concept of defeat. Over the last seven years, the Kittens have gone 31-61. Yes, fifty games under .500.

As long as the sports are there, the squad maintains their commitment to take on each unexpected challenge with a bright outlook for the future. It's very frustrating to be in last place," Watts said. "The pressure is gone that we have had in the past, but I would rather be winning. It is frustrating, but we are here to play baseball. It is going to be fun no matter what. Even when we lose, we have times where we play really well, and that's when the game is fun.

This sentiment has been especially shared by many of the young players on the squad who may have been oscillating between greatness and mediocrity, but are dedicated to getting the Owls back to a spot in the standings that the younger players have never experienced. "You always see hints and sparks of fantastic play," Hypolite said. "When we put a together, I think that is going to be something amazing. I honestly do.

For recaps of basketball games please visit www.ricethresher.org

Thresher Sports Quiz

1.) Have you found a brown coat lying around campus?
2.) Do you enjoy getting paid for your original writing?
3.) Are your friends always telling you to join a newspaper?
4.) Are you interested in joining the Thresher sports team?

You answered yes to any one of these questions. Good job! You love sports.

For more information about the Morty Rich Scholarship and Alan Grob Prize, or to make a nomination, visit the Community Involvement Center's website (http://www.rice.edu/service).

Nominations are due by Friday, March 20 at 5:00 pm.

Now seeking applications for:

Morty Rich Scholarship and
Alan Grob Prize

Do you know someone who has demonstrated a commitment to service? Or have they been a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves? Honor them with your nomination.

Self-nominations are accepted.

To promote and recognize community service, the Rotary Club of West University Place offers an annual $3000 scholarship to a continuing undergraduate student at Rice University.

For more information about the Rotary Scholarship and to apply, visit the Community Involvement Center's website (http://www.rice.edu/service).

Applications are due by Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 pm.
OWLCON '08: THE REAWAKENING

OWLCON '08, Houston's premier gaming convention, opens today. You wanna play "table-top" and live action role playing games (including RPGA events)? On hand. You wanna mess with "miniatures games and events?" Plane by them. So what? It's OwlCon! Everything goes. Save 50 percent with a Rice ID. It's like Wally Pipp's calendar paradise but with less sex.

I'm a college secretary. When do I get a sex movie?

The Open movie series kicks off tonight with Secretary, a movie about (according to IMDB) a "smart, quick-woman in her twenties who returns to her hometown in Florida after a brief stay in a mental hospital" and then has crazy, depraved, hedonistic sex with her boss. This family flick screens at 7 p.m. in the Weiss College movie room.

"If you can't slam with the best, I'm a college secretary. When do I get a sex movie?" - Proust

The Bad Plus

Da Camera of Houston hosts acid-jazz sensation The Bad Plus tonight. I've been listening to them since I stumbled upon their first album on Kazoo in high school, and while they're not perfect, they're pretty god-darni spectacular. The show begins at 8 p.m. at Colin Theatre, and tickets start at $30, with student rush tickets selling for $5. Listen to anything from "Props" to their kickoff cover of "Iron Man."

SUNDAY

Hitting us with the hard stuff

Shepherd School's pursuit will finish while OwlCon LARPers squeal as the Houston Symphony performs Star Wars and More. John Williams at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Hall, 4601 Louisiana Street. Tickets are expensive, starting at the $70s, but call and see if there's anything cheaper. She'll love you forever.

MONDAY

Quick! Someone call the equal rights sheriff!

Queens and Allies will screen Below and Outlaws tonight at 7 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion. This movie examines love from all sides: gay, straight, single and not. Apparently it's been garnering accolades all left and right, so stop by Farnsworth and feel all warm and fuzzy just in time for the Student Association meeting.

THURSDAY

Remember that creepy grad student from last year? Hoping for a visit this year too.

Nice Program Council will host their annual Crush Party at 10 p.m. in Willy's Pub. Hopefully you've filled out your surveys by now. I'm glad they finally included privacy points on it. My top match is guaranteed to be easy.

FRIDAY

FRIDAY 6

OWLCON '08: THE REAWAKENING

FRIDAY 6

The Rice Owls will host their aerial dominance tonight at our boys in blue deplume University of Southern Mississippi's basketball team. Maybe, if we're lucky, Manhattan College senior and maxed Richard Romeo will he...
Excerpt from “Grasping the Hill of Destiny” by Doug Izazle

Chapter 9

Elrod said, “Very well, the fellowship of nine shall carry the ring to Morod and destroy it in Mount Orodruin.” Aragorn interrupted. “If I may, I feel the need to introduce you to a good man of noble mind. His name is Boromir of Gondor, and he is the greatest warrior of his people, and he has lost all but one of his men, and he is one of my best friends. I believe that he would be a valuable addition to our fellowship.”

“Very well.” Elrod said. “This fellowship of ten shall carry the ring to Morod.”

Chapter 14

“Ooh, Doug!” gasped Arwen. She panted, and heaved her generous bosom, which wrinkled under her shoulders, like two kelpiads in a Dolphins dufail bag. “You are so handsome! And so smart, too! You deserve very special treatment, one of a frigid middle-aged-wife who has lost all of her youth and charm.”

“Ooh—Doug.” Arwen.

“Sigh, my strong and good-looking friend,” Aragorn said. “Arwen is a beautiful maiden. She will never grow old and have children or make you sleep on the couch. She will do well by you. Now you have even been curious what it feels like to lay with a man?”

“Erm—Doug stammered.”

“Hush, Doug,” putred Arwen reductively. “Have you ever heard of what you Earth men call an ‘Etel Tower’? Here in Middle-Earth we call it the ‘Tower of Orthanc.’ Close your eyes and let us show you some sensational delights.”

Chapter 38

“Gives us the preciouses!” Gollum screamed at Frodo, leaping for the ring around his neck.

A tall silhouette, long hair rolling over toes of petrels and Deborah, appeared in the volcanic entrance. “Stop right there!” Doug said manfully, but Gollum had already knocked Frodo out with a rock.

“Ooh! It’s ours!” Gollum spat gleefully. “Two proton torpedoes! The preciouses!” Gollum screamed at Frodo, leaping for the ring around his neck.

“Back from whence you came!” Doug shouted, and hurled the ring into the fires of Mount Doom. Suddenly, Frodo came to. He stopped Doug on the back, like a brother, but not the kind of brother who would show you into your seventh-grade locker andlock it in the front of your girl you liked. “Ooh! Doug! You saved Middle-Earth! I’m so glad that you’re my best friend and that you’re here instead of in some stuffy auxiliary office for a run down paper company in the Northern Midwest where nobody really respects your contributions and you feel like you’re drowning in some Excel files and the guy across the outside won’t stop playing his computer and the thermostat is always just a few degrees away from comfort and the intern keeps eating all the chocolate-filled donuts that Thelma leaves in the break room on Fridays. Say, have you been working out?”

The Gathering

Girl, I see you stititin’ there! Confidently poised with a well-balanced swamp/island pool. You’re running a blue/black deck. [Aggro/discard isn’t that.] And every time you come from that deck, sugar: That kunky way you punch in your brains (and Dad’s) if only I were a half-ore! Half ore!

The Backpage is satiric and is written, poorly, by Timothy Faust and Eric Doctor, former BPE Steve Jackson, you are not forgotten! Thank you for Mliscues.

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