Lovett • masters complete • tenure

BY MICHELLE PHILLIPS
FOR THE THRESHER

Lovett College Masters Bernard and Carolyn Aresu will finish their five-year term at the end of this semester. French Studies Professor Bernard Aresu and Carolyn Aresu, Integration Graduate Education and Research Training Administrator, will leave the laboratory for nanophotonics after staying on an extra year to facilitate their transition from an all-women’s college to a coed college.

"They’re a great team because they are exact opposites: Carolyn is the organized one; Bernard is all about action and spontaneity." — Lauren Reyes, Lovett '13

When the Aresus became masters of Lovett five years ago, Hanszen and Baker Colleges were also looking for masters at the same time. Knowing that each college had its own personality, they tried to find a college in which they would best belong, the Aresus said. "I think what’s most wonderful about college systems is... it’s a wonderful sort of intellectual, cultural and social village, and we really cherish that particular aspect of what we do," Bernard Aresu said.

They based their decision on the chemistry they felt with Lovett students, saying they hit it off after having an extraordinary experience with senior Lovett students on a tour of the St. Arnold’s Brewery in Houston. "We were baptized in fire with Lovett culture that night on that bus," Carolyn Aresu said.

Lovett Masters Search Committee Chair Lauren Reyes says the Aresus have a good feel for what Rice students need from college masters. "They’re a great team because they are exact opposites: Carolyn is the organized one; Bernard is all about action and spontaneity and

100 days until the real world

Rent increases proposed for pubs
Administrators consider raising monthly dues for Valhalla, Willy’s Pub

$615  2006
$647  2007
$678  2008
$1,678 (proposed)

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THE REDBIRD STAFF

Valhalla’s reputation for expensive beer may soon become a thing of the past as the graduate pub attempts to make up for a proposed 150 percent rent increase next year.

While nothing is set in stone yet, the increase proposed by Vice President for Investment Robert Beckwith said the rise in rent reflects an increase in university utility cost and that by raising rent on the pubs, Rice is trying to recover some of that increase.

Fortunato said he is concerned that the price increase Valhalla will have to implement to make up for lost business will make it difficult for Valhalla to remain competitive with pubs in Rice Village.

"The problem is that such a high rate increase necessitates an increased price in goods," he said. "Since the customers’ disposable income won’t increase, we will have to increase prices more to compensate.”

Fortunato said that by having establishments such as Valhalla on campus, Rice promotes a healthy, safe environment for drinking.

"The university fails to consider the intangible benefits we provide," he said. "Rice is putting a $12,000 price tag on this service.”

In addition to safety concerns, Fortunato said that without Valhalla, graduate students would have

Superstitious Sightings
Friday the 13th: checkmate a minor, walk under a ladder, attend Archi Arts tonight at 8 p.m. at The Meridian club. Tickets are $3 at the door. Catch a ride with the Salad farti. Watch out for Baker 23 runners.

Get some FDA tonight
The Center for Student Professional Development offers advice on how to make it — in the job market, that is. Students share their prior experience and awkward moments in interviews this Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 8-10 p.m. in the Kelley Lounge.

And the winners are...
Get carpal tunnels syndrome and send Faheem Ahmed and Anish Patel to the Oscar’s! Vote online at KvntU.com to send Rice’s own to L.A. as Oscar correspondent.

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Blanket taxes find ballot spot
Several clubs to put money amount up for vote in election

BY JACLYN YOUNGLOO AND JOCELYN WRIGHT
THRESHER STAFF

Peppered among the names of student-government hopefuls on the 2009 Student Association spring election ballot will be a number of blanket tax proposals.

Rice Program Council is requesting to increase its student blanket tax by $2 per month, up to $11, in two separate measures, adding $8 to its general fund and adding a new concerts fund. Additionally, KTRU is requesting a $1 increase in its blanket tax, Open magazine and The Rice Review are asking to add a $1 blanket tax each and SA Internal Vice President Akshay Dalip is proposing to eliminate The University, Rice’s $1 blanket tax.

In order to pass, the proposals — all of which have already been approved by the SA senate except Open’s request, which was proposed at the next SA meeting Monday — must be separately approved by two-thirds of the students voting in the general election Feb. 26-27, with at least 20 percent of the student body voting.

BLANKET TAX PROPOSALS

Below are new proposed blanket tax increases on the general election ballot:

- RPC: $19 ($5 increase)
- KTRU: $8.50 ($3 increase)
- Open: $1 ($1 increase)
- RPC: $1 (5% increase)

Rice Program Council is requesting blanket tax increases on the general election ballot: $19, $8.50, $1 and $1 (5%).

The current blanket tax levied by RPC is $5 per undergraduate student per year, and $8 of total goes to general RPC funds and $3 is put toward Beer Bike. RPC President Michelle Kerkstra said.

RPC proposed two separate blanket tax increase options.

RPC first proposal would increase the current blanket tax from $11 to $20, doubling the general RPC fund tax from $8 to $16 while

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the Rice Thresher

Raising Valhalla’s rent requires review

With an ever-tightening economic noose forcing the university to pay more and more attention to its budget, Rice is currently entertaining a proposal that would increase the rent owed by Willy’s Pub and Valhalla, the student-occupied bar and restaurant. The amount of money both venues owe has not been made public, but Valhalla would be on the hook for $1,678.25 per month, or $20,139.75 more per month than the graduate student hangout siphoned is paying this year.

We are fully aware that this proposal is far from finalized, but we feel that it is necessary to raise our objections as preemptively and immediately as possible.

SA President David Lashier’s Vision for the Second Century, one of Rice’s main goals for the upcoming years is the creation and maintenance of “attractive campus amenities” for graduate students. Luckily for those advocates of this goal, Valhalla is already one of the most attractive amenities in Houston, and in a world where people buy more and more attention to its budget, Rice is currently entertaining a proposal that would increase the rent owed by Willy’s Pub and Valhalla. Houston Press named Valhalla the “Best Place to Lie Around Drinking Beers” for 2008, citing good value — most beers cost no more than a dollar or two — and lively social atmosphere as two of the pub’s best attributes. Valhalla also made the Houston Press awards list in 2008 as the “Best Place for a Single Woman.” In short, Valhalla is the social lynchpin for the graduate student population, since it provides a vibrant social environment at low cost, all within easy walking distance of the dormitories.

If this financial proposal passes, the university will collect $2,300 more per month from Valhalla — money the volunteer-only pub will almost certainly have to collect by raising prices on its products. And we have to ask: Is it worth it?

At the aforementioned Houston Press awards indicate, the price value Valhalla currently offers is one of the principal reasons that boards of graduate students will flock to Valhalla. If Valhalla has to increase its prices, its clientele will inevitably disappear, and the delicate equilibrium of cheap drinks, diverse customers and relaxed culture would be at risk. More than any other tradition, this unique society will disappear.

Per student — a $2,300 to $2,500 charge per year — a drop in the bucket as far as the multi-million-dollar university operating budget is concerned — worth it? We hope the administration answers, “No.”

SA presidential candidates, keep these points in mind

But in case the numerous flyering tables at the university do not make it clear here: The Student Association elections for the 2009-10 school year are right around the corner. Luckily for those administrators given the task of achieving this improvement. When the candidates take the floor in Monday’s deadline, all of the candidates were effective or doomed to failure. Obviously, the SA’s reach and reputation are on the upswing, and if the candidate is a SA candidate, keep these points in mind.

1. Your campaign is more than an ad campaign. It is your reach and reputation are on the upswing, and whichever candidate is elected has a major part to play in continuing that improvement. When the candidates take the floor in Monday’s debates, we hope they acknowledge that role.

2. First, we hope each candidate offers a comprehensive, mixture-and-encompassing definition for the role of the SA president. A candidate with an idealized or immature sense of the office will lack the discipline and focus needed to address manageable administrative problems that will arise, and will more than likely waste precious time and resources on goals that are too broad or too idealized to fulfill.

3. Second, we hope the candidates offer specific examples of goals they wish to accomplish, as well as the means they will use to accomplish them. If the candidate is a SA president, this criteria will keep candidates grounded and focused on an effective use of resources.

4. Thirdly, the candidates need to present an attitude that fosters productivity. We do not want to see a SA president drag down the morale of the administration and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting students to general malfeasance and inciting 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Future of newspapers needs local support

In the midst of the current financial crisis, we hear story after story about the loss of jobs and Wall Street bailouts that go largely unnoticed. While bailouts for the Big Three — General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler — crowd around Congress to gather the remains of their nearly prime policies, the press are going silently into the night, as newspapers and magazines watch their advertising revenues disappear. It is a trend that started years ago.

Sean McBeath

with the intention of online classifieds, which has been ripping away business from the historical cash cows of the newspaper world. It is not a trend we can ignore, but one soundly documented over the last few years. The recently published 

"Without the permanence of the printed word to keep them honest, what is to keep our news sources from entering an Orwellian mindset, in which ... they feel no responsibility to maintain the integ

ty of our history?"

Senior gift greatly benefits underclassmen

As I step into the role of opinion editor, I find myself engrossed in the college — I find myself engaged in the classes, getting ready for graduation. But our reliance on these convenient, and that makes them concerned, these sources are more sophisticated money raised by seniors that is going largely unnoticed. While many have agreed to the allowances of the Honor Code's Article XII, it is a working system. No system is ever perfect, but after the guilty parties should not have been shunned or excommunicated, allowing them to simply sidestep the consequences of their actions. This sounds reasonable, but is a disservice to every Rice student and integrity. While the guilty parties should not have been shunned or excommunicated, allowing them to simply sidestep the consequences of their actions. This sounds reasonable, but is a disservice to every Rice student.

Amanda Melchor

A senior gift at Rice is essential—money raised by seniors is given to the Rice Annual Fund to be used for things that directly impact student life, new Recreation Center equipment, scholarships and other student needs. Though a senior gift is nice in theory, as an underclassman, I have never thought I would participate in a senior gift.

Sean McBeath is a Martel College senior and opinion editor. Amanda Melchor is a Hanszen College senior and former Thresher editor.

"Through their donations, students will not only give money to the University as a whole but also help ensure that their respective colleges reap the benefits of their donations."

Ted Wieber

Some would now argue that despite the Honor Council's time-tested procedures and the multitude of levels available to students in invoking of the Honor Code, those who are accused should still have the ability to withdraw and face no consequences. They argue that two semesters of self-administered "suspension" is sufficient enough punishment for the crime. This sounds reasonable, but the problem is that this new amendment is a result of the crucial need for honesty and consistency of judicial evaluation that our Honor System seeks to create.

Earning a Rice degree is a privilege, not a right, and no student who has cheated his or her achievement with academic dishonesty should have the same clean record as those who have toiled to succeed here with full honor and integrity. While the guilty parties should not be shunned or excommunicated, allowing them to simply sidestep the consequences of their actions.

"The plain truth is that Article XII harms many students; it does not help and severely undermines the Honor System we have all agreed to abide by."

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Article XII of the Honor Code does more harm than help

Amanda Melchor is a Hanszen College senior and opinion editor. Voting "yes" to the proposed Honor Council amendment to Article XII can be disastrous for the academic integrity of our institution by demanding that all academic dishonesty be stamped out of the judicial evaluation process. If this amendment were to pass, student candidates who have been found guilty of certain types of institutional violations will be permitted to run for student leader positions at the end of the term. This is not a preventative measure to ensure the consistency of judicial evaluation, but a cover-up for the failure of the system to properly perform its duties.

Ted Wieber is a Hanszen College senior and a member of the Honor Council.
Sid gets new coordinator

Corinne Cammarata, who previously worked as a grant writer for the Houston Area Women's Center, has filled the vacancy for Sid Rich College's college coordinator.

The Sid College Coordinator Search Committee began fielding applications after the previous office coordinator, Kelly Pembrook, announced her resignation in early December last year. She began work on Tuesday and will continue through the rest of the academic semester.

"I really like being a part of students' learning how to be adults and learning about what they're passionate about," Corinne Cammarata, Sid College Coordinator

The Sid College Coordinator Search Committee began fielding applications after the previous office coordinator, Kelly Pembrook, announced her resignation in early December last year. She worked until the end of the fall semester before leaving for a position with a counseling center.

During the interim, student volunteers performed basic office duties such as sorting mail in a two-hour window in the evenings, according to Sid sophomore Shao Bo Li.

"While Cammarata has no prior connection to Rice, she said she enjoys working with college students. "I really like working with undergraduates," she said. "I supervised undergraduate interns in previous positions, so I really like being a part of students' learning how to be adults and learning about what they're passionate about."

After working on programs concerning domestic and sexual violence for the past six years, Cammarata said she hopes to bring programs to Rice that boost awareness of these issues.

"The biggest age group for victims of sexual assault is women between the ages of 18-24, and that's the college population," Cammarata said. "I'll have to do safety programs and talk about ways to make us all safer."

One student said she was surprised by the quick selection process.

"We should have met her before she was officially up for the job," a Sid junior who wished to remain anonymous said. "I really liked how last year's RA search process had candidates come over for dinner. We all talked to them, we met with them, we interacted with them."

Cammarata said she plans to spend more time in the lunch room to get to know the students. Besides performing her office duties, she said she is excited to begin planning events such as associate dinners, graduation festivities, Orientation Week and the annual Sid Con, Rice's annual gaming conference, held at its headquarters in the EMU last weekend.

LARPers swarmed the Rice campus last weekend during OwlCon.

"I'm mostly happy for them because they've been here now for their whole five years, and they've done a really great job here," a Sid senior, said. "But I think that's a really hard position, and they deserve to have a break."

"We should have met her before she was sad to see her masters leave, she was glad that they were getting a long-overdue respite from a difficult job.

If I can be remembered as somebody who made a difference in just small ways, I'll be very happy."

Bernard Arenu
Lovett College Master

However, both students said they are grateful the Arenus have found a new leader and are looking forward to what is ahead for both of them.

Hebling said that though they were sad to see her masters leave, they were glad that they were getting a long-overdue respite from a difficult job.

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Bernard Arenu
Lovett College Master
Rondelet to be on campus, Moulin Rouge-themed

BY MARCEUX CLEMMONS
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Break out your can-can outfits; Rice University's spring formal, Rondelet, will be Moulin Rouge-themed and will take place in the Rice Memorial Center's Grand Hall on Feb. 21, marking the second semester in a row that the Rice Program Council has opted for an on-campus formal event.

The decision to keep the dance nearby was a direct response to student input about last semester's formal, Esperanza, which took place in a large tent rented for Rice Annual Fund events during Homecoming. RPC Formals Committee Co-Chair Ezra Gumuser said: "Everyone kept telling us that the best part about Esperanza was the fact that it was on campus," Gumuser, a Will Rice College sophomore said. "Underclassmen said it was accessible, and older students liked that there was an open bar."

With Esperanza selling out its 2,000 tickets and drawing nearly twice the amount of students as last year, RPC hopes the historically less-popular Rondelet will attract at least 550 attendees, RPC President Michelle Kerststra said.

Gumuser additionally cited cost as a factor in choosing to hold Rondelet on campus. Rice Memorial Center has a budget of $4,000 outside ticket sales, compared to Esperanza's $6,000 budget aside from the profit it makes on more expensive tickets. Many downtown venues, as well as being problematic for hunting students, incur rental fees. Minute Maid Park, the venue for 2007's Esperanza, required a $5,000 food purchase for the evening of the dance.

Many of the other locations RPC considered, including downtown's The Houston Club and last year's Rondelet venue, Treviño Restaurant in the Texas Medical Center, were too expensive, too small or unavailable on the decided date of the dance. Gumuser said, Rice's own Cohen House had a small maximum capacity of 300 and was too expensive for RPC's budget, she added, noting that Rondelet was particularly difficult to schedule this year since there was not much leeway for changing the event weekend due to the short semester.

**RONDELET DETAILS**
- **Theme:** Moulin Rouge
- **Tickets:** $50 (advance), $75 (at the door)
- **Wristbands:** $5 (advance), $10 (at the door)
- **Where:** RMC's Grand Hall
- **When:** Feb. 21, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

RPC will incur no charges for renting the Grand Hall, and the venue will come with many of the amenities the RMC offers. Additionally, the venue may accommodate up to 750 students.

The food and open bar will be designed by Central Market and will cost approximately $2,000 to $5,000, depending on how many upperclassmen purchase open bar tickets. Gumuser said the choice in caterers will mean a little more work for those setting up the dance, but that opting for a formal caterer might also cost significantly more. Esperanza's catering bill this year was $35,000.

"The good thing about Central Market, which was not the case with the caterers last semester, is that you can give Central Market 24-hours notice, and they can add to the food and bar," she said. "Last semester, they had to cut off the wristbands sales two weeks before to give advance numbers on the open bar; this time, people can still buy tickets the Wednesday before."

Besides an open bar, Rondelet may feature live entertainment. Lovett College junior Tristan Clement will be the DJ for the event. Clements Dined with last semester's Esperanza's student DJs and will be providing the music for this weekend's Casino Party at Lovett. Gumuser said students reacted positively to hiring student DJs.

"It's so cool to look up and see one of your friends setting the mood, because they know how to make sure everyone's having a good time," she said.

Gumuser said RPC decided on the theme after Student Center Director Boyd Beckwith mentioned the Moulin Rouge in a casual conversation, and she thought the red and black colors would accentuate the Grand Hall at night. RPC put a spin on the venue name, calling it "La Grande Salle" for the event.

Lovett senior Trevor Pittinger said he liked the decisions on Rondelet this year.

"I like the theme, and I feel like having it on campus saves a few dollars for the Rice way of doing a formal," he said.

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- 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.
Sid Richardson RA leaves

BY CINDY DENI
THE RICE THRESHER

Sid Richardson College Resident Associate Evan Stein announced at the SId Council meeting Tuesday that he will be stepping down at the end of the semester.

In addition to his work at Sid, Stein is the associate director of recreation programs.

During his five years as RA, Stein coached powerpull, participated in intramural sports, drove Sid’s truck on Beer Bike, organized study breaks after Night of Decadence and worked on several projects with Sid’s Executive Council.

Stein cited both personal and professional reasons for his resignation. "His family’s move has resulted in increased time demands," Stein said. "I am hopeful that he will be stepping out of residence hall living and working to have a family of his own.”

Stein's resignation follows moves by other RA's, including two RA's from the men's dorms, who have left to pursue full-time careers.

Stein plans to attend graduate school before moving on to a career in law or medicine.

BSA sponsors King lecture

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THE RICE THRESHER

In honor of Black History month, Executive Vice President of Electronic Data Systems Corporation John Castle spoke to students Wednesday about how the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. have transcended racial and generational boundaries.

In his lecture entitled "Martin Luther King Jr.: Preacher, Leader, Scholar," which was hosted by the Black Student Association and the Leadership Rice, Castle detailed the story of King’s civil rights movement and the qualities that made King a successful leader.

Castle said he found King an inspiration for aspiring leaders and bases his own values on the principles King has set. He said King’s leadership ability is something everyone could learn from.

"King never lost touch with his people," he said. "He got down to the trenches with them. Too many corporate executives today have lost touch with the concerns of their people.”

Castle said in addition to his charismatic leadership, King’s successes result from a firm set of core values.

"His core values were well defined and came from Christian faith," Castle said. "He understood those values and modeled them. Many of our leaders only talk the talk. King didn’t expect from others what he wouldn’t do himself.”

Castle said King constantly risked his life to spread his message of equality, recalling the 19 times King went to jail for his cause, fighting for equal rights for blacks.

"He had a higher calling,” Castle said. "He saw life in more important terms of making a difference, beyond selfish interests.”

He said he saw himself doing King’s work by participating in the Dallas Foundation, which currently owns and operates a building in Dallas, he said.

Castle also said he saw King as a battlefield general whose cause was rooted in the Constitution and America’s ideals. "Through careful planning, strong leadership and effective communication, Castle said he believes King formed a style of leadership that defined his ability to bring about effective and lasting social change.

When discussing King’s accomplishments, Castle cited King’s final "Drum Major" speech, given at his funeral.

"He wanted his entry to say ‘I’ve fixed a committed life," Castle said. "I find that inspiring. We’re taught to think about our entry as a reflection of our life, I’ll like to see my life like King’s, a life committed to higher values.”

Castle, who was raised in East Texas, experienced segregation in his childhood and said a combination of events helped him to see the insidiousness of racism. Now he has come to appreciate someone with that kind of courage, who died for their convictions, he said.

Hanszen College freshman Myles Hughes said he enjoyed Castle’s speech. "I think he did a good job relating King’s teachings to modern issues,” he said.

BSA President Chuck Franklin, a Wiess College senior, said the BSA and Leadership Rice always look for speakers during Black History month and that Castle fit the bill.

"Valhalla[,]” Castle’s life was impacted by Dr. King, we thought he would be an appropriate choice,” Franklin said.

At the end of the lecture, students had several questions for Castle, including what King would do if he were alive today.

"He wouldn’t have gone into politics," Castle said. "I think he would have continued to speak out against a lack of equality. Poverty was a big part of his life. What are we doing to make this place an opportunity for all?”

Hanszen College seniors Duncan Shepard and Erik Peterson perform at Hanszen's Mardi Gras party last Friday night. The duo won second place and a $75 prize for their efforts.

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WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR RICE UNIVERSITY ID

BY CINDY DENI
THE RICE THRESHER

Sid Richardson College Resident Associate Evan Stein announced at the SId Council meeting Tuesday that he will be stepping down at the end of the semester.

In addition to his work at Sid, Stein is the associate director of recreation programs.

During his five years as RA, Stein coached powerpull, participated in intramural sports, drove Sid’s truck on Beer Bike, organized study breaks after Night of Decadence and worked on several projects with Sid’s Executive Council.

Stein cited both personal and professional reasons for his resignation. "His family’s move has resulted in increased time demands," Stein said. "I am hopeful that he will be stepping out of residence hall living and working to have a family of his own.”

Stein's resignation follows moves by other RA's, including two RA's from the men's dorms, who have left to pursue full-time careers.

Stein plans to attend graduate school before moving on to a career in law or medicine.

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WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR RICE UNIVERSITY ID
Director of Sponsored Research steps down from post

BY LY HOANG
FOR THE THRESHER

Director of Sponsored Research Nancy Nisbett said farewell to Rice Wednesday after nearly five years as a staff member.

The Office of Sponsored Research is directly responsible for aiding faculty and researchers in submitting grant proposals to both federal agencies and corporate industries. All research projects must be submitted through the office, she said.

Nisbett plans to move to Florida, where her husband is a tenured professor at the University of South Florida in the school of public health. She will work at the USF college of public health research office.

"My husband and I have been living apart for several months now," Nisbett said, "it was my decision to put my personal life ahead of my career."

Under Nisbett's guidance, the Office of Sponsored Research has increased in size and made technological improvements. Nisbett streamlined many of the procedures in the office to be more efficient, which she said resulted in an increase in the number of grants received. She created a process called document imaging, which allows electronic submissions of proposals.

Michelle Pratt, Compliance Administrator at the Office of Sponsored Research, said Nisbett's changes brought a new perspective to the office.

"I think she has brought a fresh attitude and experience to our office," Pratt said. "We needed to be updated."

Adviser to the Dean of Natural Sciences Kathleen Matthews and Vice Provost for Research Jim Coleman said Nisbett was vital in enhancing Rice's research portfolio and profile.

"Nancy's greatest accomplishment has been to create an office of sponsored research with a clear attitude that their job is to facilitate the faculty to do research, and to do whatever they can to enable faculty to get the proposals submitted and to get their awards," Coleman said.

"That has certainly helped our faculty be as successful in their research as they have been."

Staff Assistant Ligia Leismer said Nisbett also impacted the Rice community—"not only through her professionalism, but also through her genuine care and concern for her staff workers."

"Nancy is the most supportive, the most fair, and I had just gotten through the worst time, I can honestly say, of my life," Leismer said. "I just can't say enough about her, she is just the most wonderful boss I have ever had in my life."

At her farewell party, Nisbett quipped, "This office is kind of like a 'one-for-all and all-for-one' office."

A selection process is underway to find a new director for the Office of Sponsored Research. A search committee is actively reviewing applicants with the help of a consultant firm, Oppen. Plans are to have a new director installed by June, according to Coleman. In the interim, former Assistant Director Heidi Thomson is the acting director.
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UPTOWN 4500 West Loop Blvd, 713-500-6311
Ron Paul speaks on economy, smaller government

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THE READER STAFF

Republican Representative for Texas Ron Paul spoke to Rice students last week to share his personal opinion on the state of the economy and discuss how to ensure the United States back to a responsible fiscal system.

"The system we have today has failed," he said.

Paul, a two-time presidential candidate, decided to become involved in politics after President Richard Nixon took the United States off the gold standard in 1971. Since then, United States currency has operated on the fiat system, where the value of the money is based solely on faith in government to back the value of the currency. In 1975, Paul became convinced that the Austrian School of Economics, a system that encourages laissez-faire economic governance, was the appropriate way to run a national economy. Concerned with rapid U.S. inflation from the fiat system and a foreign policy he believed was building an empire at the expense of future generations, Paul ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and won.

Recent developments in the U.S. economy have shifted Paul back to his original focus on restructuring American fiscal policy.

"The important thing to recognize is that [the old system] has ended," Paul said. "We are in an economic crisis, and we are embarking on a course that will destroy the dollar."

Paul claims that, for years, the United States depended on other countries, with the greatest U.S. export being the dollar. In addition, Paul asserts that the Constitution does not permit the current fiat system, backing only gold and silver-based currency.

Paul said that his ideal role of government would be a small one that interferes less in the day-to-day lives of ordinary people.

"Washington believes people are dumb, and that the government needs to take care of them," Paul said. "What we really need is a better understanding of how freedom works."

He also warned students not to panic in times of crisis, and he criticized the Patriot Act, which he called a hairy action.

"Americans were terrified; we allowed the government to do whatever was necessary, to spend as needed," Paul said.

Lovett College freshman Rachel Alexander said she did not think a hands-off government would be a good idea.

"If the government doesn't have some restriction on businesses, larger businesses may become corrupt and smaller businesses may suffer," she said.

Paul said he sees an easy solution to solving America's economic troubles but a public reluctant to accept the consequences. By sticking to only policies that a limited interpretation of the Constitution would permit and enduring a few years of tough times, Paul believes the U.S. economy could be back on track in a matter of years.

"If we don't change our ways, this go-round will be a lot worse," Paul said. "So many is your age group know what's going on. It isn't difficult for us to reverse our trends, and I come to you with a sense of optimism."
We've kind of had a 'do it yourself' motto for a while, but now it's kind of getting out of our hands.

Rachel Orosc0jones '10

In the past year, KTRU received money from the President's Programming Fund, the Student Audience Fund, KTRU's Student Initiative Grant, the residential colleges, the AS, the Graduate Student Association, RPC and KTV. Oroso said if the blanket tax increase passes in the election, some of KTRU's donated money could go towards other organizations.

"We should be able to support ourselves without using grants which could go to other clubs and other blanket tax organizations," Oroso said.

KTRU's expenses would still be three to four thousand dollars above blanket tax revenue after the proposed blanket tax increase, but Oroso said this was a manageable amount of money to fundraise each year.

"It's much easier to fundraise $3,000 to $4,000 than $16,000 to $18,000 each year," she said.

Open

Open is requesting to receive a $1 blanket tax, but they currently do not receive any blanket tax funds. Open Editor in Chief Rachel Solnick said this fund would cover printing costs and allow the staff to focus on the magazine's content instead of raising money. Solnick compared Open to R2, remarking that R2 is funded by the English department, but Open does not receive any departmental funding.

"In kind of puts a barrier to the quality of products we can produce when we're spending 50 percent of our time financing (Open)," she said. "We can produce a better quality publication and have more services as a club if we can receive a blanket tax.

Solnick said Open provides students with information about sex and sexual health that they cannot find in other publications.

"I know there's an American national general health survey, but the results don't really reflect and reach the student body as predominately as ours does," Solnick said. "It definitely makes a change to the environment in terms of how the campus views sexuality.

Solnick said even though reviving a $1 blanket tax from each student would not cover all costs of printing Open, it would be much easier to fundraise.

R2's proposal to eliminate UBlue's blanket tax at Monday's SA meeting. Unfortunately, he could not be reached for comment.

R2

R2 is requesting to implement a $1 blanket tax. R2 Editor in Chief Megan Scarborough said if UBlue's blanket tax were eliminated, R2's proposed $1 blanket tax would replace it and the change would not affect students, who would still be paying $1 annually for a literary magazine.

"If Blue has been flagging for a long time, and R2 just became a club officially through the SA on Monday," Scarborough said. "Basically we're just looking to get that $1 that UBlue has been getting for years for our own use because the SA really wanted to support a literary magazine, and R2 has been that for the last five years."

R2 currently receives some funding from the Humanities Department, but since it is specifically earmarked for literary purposes, it cannot be used to print art.

Scarborough said the $3,000 or more R2 would make from the blanket tax could enable the magazine to add an art section and help increase the size and frequency of publication of the magazine in general.

"Students don't really have an outlet for visual art right now, and it would make a lot of sense to put that in R2 because that was what UBlue was originally doing," Scarborough said. "$3,000 would make it so we could do that and expand our reach on campus."

"I'm reading pages right now, I have no time to engage in penis debate."

"I am not the News Editor, so I am not bound by rules..."

"You look sad. Have a cock ring."

"You wearing tights is not enough to make me want to come."

"So it's actually sodomizing it? That's interesting..."

"CS3 is Gandalf, reincarnated, on PCP. Super strong and completely unaware of his inhibitions."

"For Thresher editors there are only six days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Whursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

JUST LOOK AT ALL THE FUN YOU COULD BE HAVING EVERY WHURSDAY NIGHT...
Head 2 Head: Fanboys

Two reviewers give their two cents on the comedy

BY BRIAN REINHART
AND JOE Dwyer
STAFF WRITERS

Brian: The most frustrating movies to watch are the bad movies which could have really been classics. Fanboys has all the makings of a fantastic comedy: a brilliant premise, funny characters, silly situations, a deep and abiding love for geeks and a cameo by William Shatner. So its total failure to generate laughs makes the movie not just bad, but incomprehensible.

The plot is, frankly, hilarious. We are in the year 1998, and four bad, but incomprehensible, fanboys have many connections, a deep and abiding love for Star Wars, and a desire to attend the first ever screening of Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace, months before its official release. Along the way the fanboys have many misadventures, including brawls with evil Star Trek fans and a crazy pimp named Roach (voiced by the legendary Seth Rogan). In other words, we have a perfect recipe for comic excellence and a glittering parody of the subculture that inspires Star Wars maniacs that lives to this day.

How did the people making a movie that sounds so promising screw it up so badly? Let us count the ways.

First, Fanboys takes the usual cast of a young adult buddy comedy (an assembly of losers and geeks plus the token hilarious fat guy), and it is almost immediately distracted us from the laughs which will ensue by telling us that one of the characters has cancer and, about to die. Eventually his tragedy drives the rest of the movie to irreverence, incredibly cheesy lake-palooza.

We then get some badly written speeches by the dying friend (The Girl Next Door's Chris Marquette) about the meaning of friendship, the tragedy of death, and how this whole trip to Skywalker Ranch has really been all about love all along. The Phantom Menace is the way in which it uses all the speeches by the dying friend (The Girl Next Door's Chris Marquette) about the meaning of friendship, the tragedy of death, and how this whole trip to Skywalker Ranch has really been all about love all along. The Phantom Menace is the way in which it uses all the

In many ways the best and most telling line of Fanboys comes when the badboys are contemplating the prospect of finally seeing The Phantom Menace. One friend turns to the others and says, "What if the movie sucks?" The joke works for obvious reasons. It is funny, true, clever.

Joe: Startling: Sam Huntington, Dan Fogler, Kristen Bell
Rated: PG-13
Released: Feb. 6

What's worse, Cancer Boy looks exactly like Jerry Falke, who maybe a sadder fate than Cancer.

The problems continue. Fanboys does not do so much tell jokes as bludgeon us with them. At one point, a girl appears at a Halloween party covered in blue tarps and proclaims, "I'm Piccasso's blue period!" That is funny enough, but then she decides to explain the joke is everyone. "Blue period. Get it? Period! Ha ha."

Worse, for a movie which allegedly pays homage to Star Wars, the inside jokes are surprisingly shallow. The allusions to the original films are usually cloying and obvious, and the questions posed to the fanboys in order to test their Star Wars knowledge are generally at the introductory level. At one point our heroes fall into Lucas' garbage chute and the walls begin closing in, a wonderful tribute to the classic scene in Episode IV, but the resolution is just plain stupid. They discover that the trash compactor has an emergency exit. Another difficulty with Fanboys is the way in which it uses all the old buddy-comedy clichés. We have seen most of the movie before, have heard most of the jokes before and know all of the characters from movies like Superbad and Sex and the City.

Only the light sabers and Jedi mind tricks really make this film any different. They certainly do not make it funnier.

Do we get some comes from actors associated with the original Star Wars series, including Billy Dee Williams (Lando Calrissian) and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia). Most memorable is star, with Shatner's sly appearance as himself, but almost all of his tiny part is shown in the movie's trailer, which ruins the surprise.

In any case, the best and most telling line of Fanboys comes when the badboys are contemplating the prospect of finally seeing The Phantom Menace. One friend turns to the others and says, "What if the movie SUCKS?" The joke works for obvious reasons. It is funny, true, clever.

Think you've picked out the perfect Valentine's flick? Think again

I just about died last year when my boyfriend picked out Monty Python and the Holy Grail for our movie date on Valentine's Day. While Monty Python has its strangely funny moments, it is strangely disarming on some levels, and I don't quite find it to be an appropriate viewing experience for couples hoping to share some quality, romantic alone time.

Jackie Ammons

Even for Valentine's Day, some guys of the shoot'em-up persuasion may find a true chick flick a little bit hard to swallow. They shouldn't have to spend their lives outside the hedges, both around Rice and in the Houston area, for this week.

By Jackie Ammons

THE WEEKLY SCENE

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

BASEBALL

It may be a while until the next World Series, but that shouldn't stop you from hitting up Minute Maid Park tonight at 8 p.m. for a behind-the-scenes look at the stadium. Tickets run a mere $5, $4 before the game and online and are limited to the first 150 people. Good luck!

MINUTE MAID PARK
501 CRAWFORD
WWW.ASTRICOM

LEGALLY

Your girlfriend forced you to see the movies, now go see the show onstage! Theatre Under the Stars' presentation of Legally Blonde: The Musical continues at the Hobby Center this weekend. Hit up the site for tickets and showtimes, but be forewarned that ticket prices are a little on the steep side.

HOBBY CENTER - SAROFIM HALL
800 BAGBY ST
WWW.TUTS.COM

SCREENING

On Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Southwest Alternate Media Project will be screening A Class Apart, a new documentary about the post-World War II struggle of Mexican-Americans against discrimination. A panel discussion with the filmmakers will follow. Admission is free, but check the link to save your seat.

TALENTE BILINGUE DE HOUSTON
333 S. JENSEN
WWW.HOUSTONPBS.ORG

CINE CHINO

What better way to spend Valentine's Day than by watching the Chinese National Acrobats do their thing over at Jones Hall tomorrow at 2 p.m.? The show starts promptly at 2:15 p.m. and its $25, which is a steal.

JONES HALL
615 LOUISIANA
WWW.JONESHALL.ORG

FREE FICKS

You do realize that we have a lot of movie tickets left over, right? You don't want us to go to waste, do you? They're free! But only while supplies last. Just check out the site to claim your free tickets for the show, they will run you a mere $0.

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**Creepin' with Coraline**

By Faheem Ahmed

Remember Tim Burton’s The Night Before Christmas? That stop-motion animated movie that you parents accidentally took you to as a child, thinking it was just another Disney cartoon before realizing way too late, after seeing images of hurdled skulls and burning bodies, that the movie might be too real for a little kid?

While Coraline might not be as visually gruesome, it’s in the same vein. Marketed as a children’s fairy tale gone wrong and awarded a PG rating (I’ll have to disagree), this film is surprisingly adult and definitely way too creepy for the average six-year-old.

Coraline is directed by Henry Selick, the visionary behind The Nightmare Before Christmas and James and the Giant Peach. Selick is wonderfully imaginative when it comes to animation, using a mix of stop motion and Claymation to beautifully illustrate his landscapes and characters. In addition, Selick often adds a shade of darkness and twisted humor to his cartoons, resulting in a very disturbing combination.

The basic premise of this film is that Coraline (voiced nicely by Dakota Fanning) has just moved into a new house with her parents. Her father (the Mac commercial’s John Hodgman) and mother (“Desperate Housewives” Teri Hatcher) are busy editing a gardening home magazine, with the perfect blend of fantasy and horror.

If you’re really aching to go to the theatre this weekend, then Coraline is probably the most entertaining film to watch. The plot is predictable, but the movie is fun and inventive. The overall production of the show is decent; symbolic touches and suspenseful acting carry the show. Unfortunately, the novice directing by Brown junior Keisha Harrison and Bridges has her doing “The Little Cobbler” Snortcher That Could,” one of the most entertaining monologues of the night, given a frank talk about her sexual encounters as a child. Several other serious or semi-serious monologues are presented, and each is dealt just the right mix of sensitivity and frankness. Potential attendees should not be scared away by seriousness, in The Vagina Monologues, it works.

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The Vagina Monologues

**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES**

Now Showing: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., Brown College Commons

Thankfully, most of the actresses do a great job. Brown College junior Caroline Parce in “My Angry Vagina” provides comic relief and a wonderful performance as she talks about tampoons, tightness and visits to the gynecologist. Hanszen College junior Dena Evans, the only double-actress, provides credible and adorable performances in “They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy,” “They Tried” and “A Six-Year-Old Girl Was Asked...”, respectively.

Hanszen senior Abby Ryan, in “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy,” shows the most commitment, especially as she makes her way from an “almost” to a “triple orgasm.” Her monologue, one of the last, is probably the most memorable. Although the acting is not always great, the trusting performances of Turner, Beyer, Ryan and many others compensate for those more novice actresses.

While many of the pieces result in treatments of laughter, there are also quite a few serious ones. Although audiences usually dread the monologues because they deal with rape and violence, the actresses make these scenes without making the audience overly uncomfortable. They are serious, yet, very watchable. In “My Vagina Was My Village,” Hanszen freshman Kar Shilson provides a touching look into a raped Romanian woman’s ordained. Lovett College senior Ali Bridges, in “Little Cobbler Snortcher That Could,” one of the

**BY ALICIA HERNANDEZ**

FOR THE THRESHER

Mostly downhill. Foundation, Cootchie moaners. Cunt, Dignity, Gladys Siegmund, Vagina. Organom. Final testimony. Righteous anger. You name it, The Vagina Monologues has it. Because it’s mostly here, the stage of The Vagina Monologues is set for good acting. Costumes are simple black suits with small touches of red. The lighting is simple. Ultimately, the show is an intimate experience between the audience and the actresses.

Gettin’ it on with The Vagina Monologues

BY ALICIA HERNANDEZ

FOR THE THRESHER


The Vagina Monologues

By Alicia Hernandez

The Vagina Monologues, facilitated...
The movie's iTunes cal" chick flick and that it goes beyond the conventional realm of the genre by cutting out cliches. The movie's lack of certain undesirable, overly-sentimental and predictable traits makes it more original. For example, after showing the words "he's just not that into you" on the screen, the movie immediately cuts tocfg imig for the girl's phone ringtone. This fresh approach makes it interesting.

The film begins by focusing on GiGi (In the Land of Women's Jennifer Connelly) and Ben's (Ben Affleck) attempts at dating and courtship from her friend Alex (Zac and Mini Make a Porno's Justin Long). It then examines married couple Ben and Janine (Yes Man's Bradley Cooper and Jennifer's Jennifer Connelly), including Ben's flying with yoga instructor and singer Anna (Vicky Cristina Barcelona's Scarlett Johansson). Focusing on Ben and Janine's relationship are Beth (Marley & Me's Mira Sorvino) and Neil (Good Ole' Zeta's Ben Affleck), an ex-couple but still uninterested couple of seven years. Additionally, "He's Just Not That Into You" portrays platitude may seem exhausting and confusing, but he's just not that into you that it organizes their characters' work and other experimental/non-commercial work and other experimental/non-commercial work. Some listeners may find this sonic chaos head-turning, but for others it is a grounding and discussion on the murky boundar-ies between music and note. Here, Worcestershire, according to the Recording Association of America, the record was released out of it with other sensory modalities—visually and spatially, especially. For example, listening to "Yeah to Nang" gave me the image of a rusty metal hinge creaking back and forth, and thinking about that helped me "see" a kind of depth and texture to the music. ... Do you connect sound with other senses? MW: I suppose submergedly I always do. I listened to Daveo Moch's brilliant beat book about the record, also called The Beatles' Second Album.

MW: How much of your music is improvised? MW: I hope this doesn't sound dis-sonant, because I definitely don't mean it to be, but what different-ence does it make? To paraphrase Cecil Taylor, the only thing that the listener knows about is the sound that he or she hears.

MW: What other projects are you working on at the moment? MW: I'm working completion of a three-month work which en-tails multiple—sometimes up to 20—overlays of percussion, elec-tronics and blowing into a cymbal placed on the surface of various drums, which produces an almost horn-like sound. That will hope-fully be released in the fall. I'm also assembling a longer work for Above Records in Greece. That should hopefully be completed by the end of March, but I'm not sure of its release date. That one will incorporate multiple overdubs of crumbl ing instruments (electric and acoustic) and electronics, as well as percussion.

Practical Alex (Zac and Mini Make a Porno's Justin Long) gives ever-hopeful GiGi (In the Land of Women's Jennifer Connelly) some necessary advice in "He's Just Not That Into You," the chick flick based on the bestselling book.
A Word with your Wardrobe: Pre-Rondelet notes on the James Bond look

What happened in these days when men put on the tips of their shoes and dressed to the nines simply to go out for lunch? Where is the man who makes ladies do double takes with their eyes? Where is the man polished to the tips of his shoes who looks like loosened and discarded? What have we come to? Where is the man who makes ladies do double takes with their eyes? Where is the man that they used to?

Pre-Rondelet notes on the James Bond look

Deanne Nguyen

Granted, men are 20-somethings year-old students who have things to do, grades to save and little time to take care of their daily appearances, but what can be said about a man who seems to be under an even greater level of pressure, with stressors controlled? How does one explain why James Bond looks so damn good all the time?

Although his baldly vast pool of wealth accounts for the luxury brands Bond can afford, money is not the only reason he looks so good. Bond's body; otherwise, he comes off as almost juvenile and not in control of his profile or just very formal events. It can be worn, but there are rules nonetheless. Four, and it not only looks like it, but it also feels like it.

The jacket is the most important part of the suite. It sets that undeniably masculine tone of his presence. It can be top, but it's best to create the illusion of a V-shaped torso of strong, broad shoulders and a tapering waist. The shoulders should hit right above the belt, and the middle should sit a little in from the sides. Bond's suit looks a little on the thin side.

The shirt and tie have to play nicely with the suit. The color of the shirt should match the suit. The color of the pants needs to match the shade of the shoes. Bond often does not wear a belt, and there is no need for one. He is an apparently effortless look that is not demanding attention but commands it. It's a word that is synonymous.

There are rules for the Bond suit, not like you're playing dress-up in your daddy's old clothes. Bond does not sport polo and T-shirts for his tropical endeavors, and shorts are not at all for the Bond image. In fact, keep in mind that he is European, and he often wears them on the street side.

Finally, Bond doesn't touch his watch or his ivory. Through his regime seems strict, it's a small price to pay for the result. Instead, they are considered the Bond uniform. It is less a cummerbund, but never both at the same time. Bond does not use accessories to show off bits of his personality; his actions do plenty of that. Instead, they are ticking, or look closely to see that his watch isn't one to flash brand labels. You have a word. And, gentlemen, isn't that what it's all about?

Deanne Nguyen is a Will Rice College sophomore.

This Week's Fashion Dares from Deanne:
1. Dress head-to-toe in your significant other's favorite color on V-Day.
2. Go commando.
3. Don't wear a hoodie.

Meeting mtvu's new stars

Anish Patel

Fahim Ahmed

A month ago, an anonymous A&E editor stumbled upon an email triform "Report at the Oscars were a Wrap!" interesting, ambitious, college journalist was wired to send in videos showing why they should be chosen to represent their colleges as interviewers at this year's Academy Awards. Nonetheless, the editor forwarded the message to the head of the team, and Freddy Hunter, lead writer, was chosen as the best student, all Bonds maintain for them. It's a word. And, gentlemen, isn't that what it's all about?

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**THE WESTON FROM PAGE 14**

in a million years approach anything close to the demands that can be recorded. Many recording contracts have drowned artists over the years.

Claiming ownership is tricky. In that, where samples are involved, it's easy to point to the use of a new sample when it's something like Queen quoting Joplin's "Good Times" in "Me and Bobby McGee." Ones Like the Dust," that's seen as an homage, as a not-so-subtle wink, even though it's a not-so-subtle dig at Bernard Edwards' baseline. There's also instances like the house-killing version of "My Favorite Things" on John Coltrane's "Live in Japan," it's credited to Rodgers and Hammerstein, despite the fact that very little of the music played in that hour can be directly attributed to them.

**Thresher:** Tell me about one band or musician that has inspired you the most, as you think that more people should be listening to.

**MW:** I don't think I can narrow it down to just one. Trumpeteer-composer Bill Blass has been making incredible music for 50 years, and in the last couple of years has been doing one of my most intriguing and exciting work. My bandmates in Barn Owl, Chris Cooper and Andy Creppon, are getting into it. I put out two records last year, under his non-descript recording guise, Han Pfeifer Nine, which are rollicking, solidly brassed. Andy’s approach to the electric bass is completely twisted and always stunning. I'm lucky to have him as a bandmate.

**Thresher:** How are your live performances different from your recordings?

**MW:** Very little of what we do on record is what we do on stage, as a matter of fact. If you booked a band like this, you were in for a rude awakening. I'm947] not sure what you think of your show, but that's not to say that the uninitiated can't enjoy it and have a good time watching it. Unless they're Trekkies. Or Brian Reinhardt.

**Thresher:** What's the most joyful noise you’ve ever heard?

**MW:** That's a tough one. When we did our temple run, Clifford Brown's first solo on "What Is This Thing Called Love?" in Carnegie Hall, is one. The way we would use the auto salvage yard. I work in, which is missing the catalytic converter; laminate Rennie "5709"; the Beatles' "She Loves You"; Jerry Lewis screaming and shouting; Public Enemy's "Fight The Power"; and the Eclectic Bites that Keith Moon closed out a live version of The Who's "Bargain" with.

**Joe's Take:**

A lot of the students were shouting "You guys suck!" and walking out. There were 400 people at the beginning and 50 at the end.

**Joe's Take:**

I was in a triad with bassist Mike Bullock and sound engineer David Gross, and we played for most of the student body of a small college. As with most of my shows, we didn't really know how we would be received, but it didn't really matter, we were just on to the students. A lot of the students were shouting at us "you guys suck!" laughing and walking out. There were 400 people at the beginning and 50 at the end.

**Joe's Take:**

A lot of the students were shouting "You guys suck!" and walking out. There were 400 people at the beginning and 50 at the end.

**Joe's Take:**

But I think it's important to remember that, as with most of my shows, we didn't really know how we would be received, but it didn't really matter, we were just on to the students. A lot of the students were shouting at us "you guys suck!" laughing and walking out. There were 400 people at the beginning and 50 at the end.

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A lot of the students were shouting "You guys suck!" and walking out. There were 400 people at the beginning and 50 at the end.
**SPORTS**

**Women’s basketball looks for spark against familiar foes**

by Yan Dligov

After completing half of the season’s conference games, the women’s basketball team has yet to register a win against a Conference USA opponent. Now, the team will be forced to put the past behind them and acquire a new attitude while playing against some familiar faces.

The Owls have not been able to compose themselves in tight spots, some-what as anything else.

Quintero hopes they can show once again. The most obvious factor that has been lacking throughout their recent losing spree is a balanced offensive attack.

In the game against George Washington, freshman E'Tawsha Smart was the high scorer with 22 points, followed by senior Madison Fallon’s 17 and junior Tara Watts’ 15. Of those players, only Fallon has maintained a high level of play, allowing opponents to focus on preventing her from getting to the basket. The Owls have been seeing some missing passes from anyone else on the squad.

"That is we were to come together consistently," sophomore center Melissa Wittmayer said.

"Right now, we don’t have one person that is doing everything. Possibly the most consistent person is Fallon right now, with her attitude leading the team and the way she plays on the court.

Smart is still not taking part in full practices as she recovers from a foot injury. Before her injury, she was the leading scorer and regularly played 37-40 minutes per game. Since returning, she has not scored double-digits and has been characteristically losing the ball with regularity.

"I am just playing the role of a basket ball mode," Smart said. "I am slowly trying to get back, but it is a struggle... My injury hasn't really healed itself yet, I am disappointed." 

Along with putting points on the board, Smart regularly contributed to the intensity on the court, a charac-teristic that the team has missed as much as anything else.

"We are a really quiet team," Williams said. "We are an unemotional group of girls. If we are executing, but we are not. Past of the reason we are not is because we aren’t communicating."

The lack of emotion has manifest-ed itself throughout, as the Owls have not been able to compose themselves in tight spots, some-thing they last did against George Washington. With only one senior on the team, and a circumstantial shooting slump from Watts, there has been a desperate need for a leader to step up and carry a sense of urgency.

"It has been really tough and it has been embarrassing," Wittmayer said. "We are a really quiet team. We aren't communicating. The reason we are not is because we aren’t communicating."

But there does not seem to be anything that can motivate the team and make those mistakes. You have to keep working on it, and more im-portantly, get that mental toughness back into real contention.

Head coach Greg Williams (Han-derson '97) said that his team is ready to play against their rival.

"You are always surprised when that happens," Williams said. "It is not like we changed the starting lineup. We just played this team on Wednesday.

"Our next four games will be re-marshaled against C-USA opponents, and it will be a challenge for the coaching staff to maintain a positive attitude in the face of a ten game los-sing streak.

"We are a really quiet team. We aren't communicating. The reason we are not is because we aren’t communicating."

After the Owls and the University of Texas-Pan American last night, the re-sults of the match up were not avail-able at the time of publication. UTEP (1-3, 0-0 C-USA) was responsible for the first loss of E'Tawsha’s recent seven-game losing streak, and the Owls are 1.5 points away from the total record of junior Jessica Hughes.

Quintero, who is ranked 10th in the nation, played well, and has made a big contribution in the loss.

"This is the meet where we hope we see the kids coming around. We’re bringing in some depth, and we’ll get some results we’re happy with."

**Women’s basketball looks for spark against familiar foes**

**Track posts impressive numbers in Nebraska**

Colwick soars to the number one spot in the nation after easily winning Meyo Invitational with 5.60 meter vault

by Jonathan Meyers

To take a line from Aesop’s fable, the men’s track and field team’s performance this week was the same old song and dance.

Although the team split up for two separate meets, the clear headline was once again junior pole vaulter Jason Colwick, who vaulted an incredible 5.60 meters at the Frank Speagle Baker Invitational in Lincoln, Neb., on Saturday to break not only the indoor record he set last past week, but also the outdoor record of 5.35 meters he set last spring at the Texas Relays.

To complete the story, Colwick was named Conference USA Male Athlete of the Week for the second time in a row, as his vault not only easily won the meet, but also set the meet record. Colwick is now the owner of the na-tion’s top collegiate mark in the pole vault, and he is currently 15th in the world this year.

Head coach Jon Warren (Jones ’91) said he was not surprised by Colwick’s repeat performance.

"He went from No. 3 in the nation to No. 1 in the nation," Warren said. "It’s very difficult to top a meet record and get No. 1 in the nation. He’s vaulting well enough, or could be vaulting well enough, to talk about... medaling in the Olympics.”

Colwick was not the only pole vault star for the Owls this weekend.

Freshman Clayton Chaney soared in the high jump at Yeoman Fieldhouse two weeks ago. He finished fourth by shooting 15.81 meters to finish first at the C-USA Indoor Track and Field meet.

Freshman Collin Shur-ter also had a good performance in the 400-meter dash, with a time of 50.37, good in the nation this year.

The Owls also continued to get solid performances in the long jump.

The Owls have continued to impress with their strong showing this semester, as Warren said he had a good idea about both the men’s and women’s track and field teams.

"We are a really quiet team," Warren said. "We aren’t communicating."

"It is not like we changed the starting lineup. We just played this team on Wednesday.

"The key for this weekend is knowing that we have a second chance to make amends," assistant coach Car-los Quintero (Baker ’98) said. "That is what we are trying to do."

The Owls last played a complete, quality game 11 games ago, on Jan. 5 against George Washington Univer-sity, flashing all the attributes that...
Basketball focuses on ECU

by Brody Rollins

We’re not for University of Hous-

ton guard Ashley Coleman, who

played perhaps the finest ninety-
six minutes of basketball the men’s basketball

team has seen all year, Rice’s execu-
tion and patience on the offensive end

would in all likelihood have ended

the team’s two-year losing streak against

its C-USA rivals. The Owls exploded to 19-point

lead in the first half and

owned the court.

The Owls (15-7, 6-3 C-USA) 76-70 at Tudor Field-

house. While the Owls played well enough to have

a chance at winning with five minutes left, but a series of missed

opportunities and a series of unfortunate events

forced the Owls to a loss.

The Owls capitalized on the Owls’

man defense and the Owls were

not able to do all season.

In the loss to Houston, the

team is 8-15 with three wins

under the glass.

One drill, called “circle the wag-

on,” mimics game-type situations by

spreading five offensive players

across the court and forcing the de-

fenders to rotate to a different player

with each blown whistle. Once the ball is

shotted, the defender, often in

transition, must find his man and box

out for the rebound.

To make up for its struggles

rebounding the ball, the Owls have
ded nearly a third of their prac-
tice time in recent weeks to drills de-
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Amigos de las Americas
City Hall Fellows
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Ten Thousand Villages
HealthCorps

Communities in Schools
M.D. Anderson
Cultural Embrace
ACLU of Texas
Envision America

College for All Texans
Writers in Schools
Bering Omega
Beto Texas
Habitat for Humanity

For more information and a complete list of participating agencies, please visit the Community Involvement Center’s website: http://www.rice.edu/service

Sponsored by the Community Involvement Center

Women's tennis sweeps week's competition

by Prem Ramkumar

The women’s tennis team continued their fantastic play by managing to win every single point in their last two matches against Louisiana-Lafayette and Prairie View.

Because of rare showers in California this past weekend, the team postponed their trip to 6th ranked St. Mary’s and 7th ranked Pepperdine. Fortunately, first year head coach Elizabeth Schmidt was able to quickly schedule a match against Louisiana-Lafayette last Saturday.

The Owls used this as a tune-up match so as not to let a precious weekend go by without out a match play. The team dispatched the Ragin’ Cajuns 7-6, running their season record up to 6-4.

With dominant doubles play from Julie Chan and Ana Guzman, the Owls showcased their aggressiveness by sweeping the doubles point and clinching the match with straightforward singles victories from still-undefeated sophomores Kassidy Harknett (Wiess ‘08) and junior Bruno D’Agostino.

“With an opportunity to sweep the doubles point and clinch the match with straight-set singles victories from still-undefeated sophomores Kassidy Harknett (Wiess ‘08) and junior Bruno D’Agostino, the team fought hard to win the match. The doubles point was a great start for the Owls, and the singles matches followed suit, giving the Owls a 6-0 team victory.”

Looking for a summer internship or a career in the non-profit sector?

Stop by the Good Works Internship & Career Fair

Thursday, February 19
RMC - Grand Hall
2 pm - 5 pm

Learn about full or part-time employment opportunities, paid and un-paid internships, and year of service programs.

Lousiana State narrowly defeats men’s tennis

by Casey Michel

Yes, the men’s tennis team lost to Friday to No. 2, Louisiana State University. Rice’s third loss in a row came after a win of 3-1 in Baton Rouge, La., dropping the 27th ranked Owls to 7-3 on the year and marking the midpoint of a laborious, seven-week road trip.

But that is not the main storyline to emerge from the Louisiana contest. The team fought with and won for the Owls’ come from behindΩvictory.

Christoph Müller was not expecting a jump to the top. Granted, this is his senior season, but after three years of playing second-fiddle to Ben Harrison (‘09) and junior Roso – the team’s top option last year – Müller had always been relegated to a secondary position on the squad.

However, Rice’s sluggish start to the season allowed Müller an opportunity to prove himself. On Friday, Müller’s coaches slotted him at the No. 1 position against then-No. 2 ranked LSU, but it came with a catch. Instead of facing the Tigers’ second toughest opponent, Müller would instead face a foe who, he, and the rest of the country, knew well: Michael Venus.

Venus, like Müller, has been the second best performer for the entire spring season. But while Müller was only No. 2,000 in his squad, Venus is No. 2 in the nation.

“We felt Christoph’s game had elevated and he was ready to give [No. 1] a shot,” assistant coach Efe Ustundag (Baker ‘99) said. “We felt like it was a good match.”

Last March, then No. 49 Müller dropped a pair of match points against then-No. 74 Venus, resulting in Rice’s eventual 5-2 loss. That first go-round, it would appear, taught Müller a few lessons, because on Friday he came out with his strongest performance of his senior year.

“It doesn’t matter to me where I play. I was happy about [being No. 1], but it doesn’t affect the way I could have performed, or tried to perform,” Christoph Müller.

But before Müller could have his rematch, there were other matches to be played. The Tigers faced fresh-saloon with a sweep of doubles, the second time a team had blanked the Owls’ doubles slate in as many weeks. Roso and junior Chong Wang gave the best shot at getting on the board, but their late hold against LSU’s Mark Bowtell and James Closkey faltered in an 8-6 defeat.

 Singles then opened with Roso’s rebound against Cluskey at No. 2, a 6-1, 6-3 victory that gave the 26th-ranked LSU its first win in three matches.

Two spots down the ladder, freshman Sam Garforth-Bles took on Sebastian Carlson. The Tiger stormed Garforth-Bles, ranked 600, at the first set and hung on in the second set to take a 6-0, 6-1 win and put his team up 2-up.

Freshman Isamu Tachibana took a point at No. 3, but Wang and senior Tobias Sallie defeated the Tigers for a 6-1, 6-0 win that gave the Owls the confidence of a 1-0 lead before beginning the match. The Owls continued strong play with five singles victories and a doubles point. The doubles teams both registered 8-0 wins by playing aggressively and dictating the style of play, a successful strategy that brought the Owls a 6-0 team victory.

“We played good tennis,” Schmidt said. “Our doubles was very impressive, and we only lost six games on the day. I’m very happy with the way they are coming together right now.”

The Owls showcased their depth chart by withholding stars Julie Chan and Ana Guzman from the action while still managing an easy win against the Panthers.

Louisiana State narrowly defeats men’s tennis

by Prem Ramkumar

The men’s tennis team lost on Saturday against a short-handed Prairie View A&M University that arrived with only five players.

Defeating the third singles spot, the Owls gave the Owls the confidence of a 1-0 lead before beginning the match. The Owls continued strong play with five singles victories and a doubles point. The doubles teams both registered 8-0 wins by playing aggressively and dictating the style of play, a successful strategy that brought the Owls a 6-0 team victory.

“We played good tennis,” Schmidt said. “Our doubles was very impressive, and we only lost six games on the day. I’m very happy with the way they are coming together right now.”

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UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Men’s Tennis 2009

DATE OPPONENT LOCATION
2/21 Florida State Tallahassee, Fla.
2/22 Furman Tallahassee, Fla.
3/03 San Diego San Diego, Calif.
3/13 Duke Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/15 Southern Miss Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/17 Texas Austin, Texas
3/20 Texas Pan Am Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/21 A&M Corpus Christi Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/22 San Diego Jake Hess Tennis Stadium

See TENNIS, page 22

Junior Rebecca Lin defeated Prairie View A&M’s Melissa Guerrier 6-0, 6-1 on Wednesday at home.
Someone should really consider allow-
ing Alexander Zinchenko to men's track meets with a boom box. That way they could blast the spooky electronic music that announced Ivan Dragol's triumphant entrance into the arena be-fore his bout with Rocky Balboa in Rocky IV. A fog machine wouldn't hurt either.

The Brown College freshman, who mar-
ticipated at the beginning of the spring se-
mon and had spent all of the weeks in the
United States, is quickly establishing himself as a member of the Fantastic Four who com-
gride Rice men's shot corps. Rounding out the
Four are freshman Will Meyers, junior Philip Adam and sophomore Clay Baker, who took first place at the Feb. 16 Leonard Hilton Invita-
tional. However, Zinchenko, a 6-5, 250-lb. be-
twist, is the only one who originated from across the pond.

While Zinchenko may share his massive
build and his Russian heritage with Drago,
that's where the similarities end. You'll find
no sinister hypodermic needles or massive
futuristic workout machines in this Rus-
sian's dorm room. Zinchenko got his impres-
sing frame naturally, as both his mother and
father were Olympians in the shot put: His
mother was a part of the Austrian Olympic team). But Zinchenko is the only one who originated from across the pond.

Born in Russia, Alex moved to Lisbon, Portu-
gal, at the age of seven, after his parents signed
a contract with a local club. Despite his parents' collective success in the throwing ring, Alex didn't try the sport until recently.

"I started track and field just two years ago," Zinchenko said, "I mostly played handball and soccer, both indoors and on the street. In Europe, we don't have the conditions for a stadium, so we didn't have indoor events like they do here. The training remains the same, however. If you don't have confidence in yourself, you aren't going to perform well."

"The self-correction doesn't come without sup-
port. Despite his lack of experience in the sport, Alex began a mystic rise in the shot-putting world starting in 2001. In August 2001, while most Rice students were getting ready to head back to the confines of the hedgerows, Alex was representing Austria at the 12th IAAF World Junior Champions-
ships in Belfast, Ireland. His passport actually states his nationality as Austrian, even though he has never lived there, thanks to the fact that his
father was a part of the Austrian Olympic team.

Alex finished 15th at the event with a throw of 17.2 meters, and his personal best heading into the indoor season was 18.6 meters.

"Theoretically, I feel like I am at the same level as Baker, so it's legitimate to want to win. But I am persistent, and used to setbacks," Zinchenko
said. "But in Portugal, I had a huge advantage in
my size. The competition in Portugal was ex-
terior, but in the U.S. it's a little different. In Portu-
gal and Europe, I was one of the better guys, but
here there are hundreds of guys across the coun-
try that are on the same level as me, or better. I
think the difference in competition and facilities
might be bigger between Russia and Portugal
than between Portugal and the U.S."

Zinchenko participated at the Leon-
ard Hilton Invitational two weekends
ago and finished eighth overall, contrib-
uting to the Owls' first-place team finish.

"In Europe, a lot of times you don't prepare for indoor (events), but he does have great potential," Warren said.

Zinchenko brought to America the
ability to throw the hammer.

"Rice was the only school that off-
ere me a scholarship, and it had a
good reputation academically, so I
decided to come here," Zinchenko
said. "Houston is a nice city, and
it seems like there is a lot of stuff
to do."

The question you may be wondering
now is how this Russo-Portuguese man,
who represented the Austrian junior na-
tional team at the junior world champi-
onships, ended up at Rice. It turns out that
he came for the same reason that many
others in Rice Athletics came.

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to do."

It seems that Zinchenko has ad-
justed relatively well to life at Rice,
academically and socially.

"There's a possibility of doing
everything here," he said. "When I
want to go out and party, I can
find people to do that with, and
a place to go. When I want to
study, I can do that, too. My
roommate is great at support-
ing me and helping me with life
in the U.S."

As far as whether his know-
edge of multiple languages,
along with a foreign accent, has
helped him with the ladies, Alex
is a little more candid.

"Most of the girls here are
friendly and approachable," Zinchenko
said. "Maybe my accent is good, I don't
know. Sometimes I tell them
I'm Russian, and
sometimes I tell them I'm
Portuguese. Either way it
works, since I can speak
both languages. I don't
exactly look Portuguese
though, so they figure out
pretty quickly I'm joking."

It appears that the
Rice men's track team has
found in Zinchenko an
athlete with a story unlike any other. Despite his calm
and friendly demeanor,
it is still possible for Owl
fans to one day hear Alex
issue a simple warning
to opponents: I must
break you.
Surprise at Alex’s ‘Roid use totally unfounded

by Natalie Clericuzio

In case you haven’t heard, a report came out yesterday that Alex Rodriguez used steroids for several years, starting when he was a 20-year-old professional baseball player. And you’re right, I know this sounds like a punchline.

I get it. He’s the guy with the ridiculous contract that’s going to pay him millions and millions of dollars to keep his team in the Division Series and possibly win the World Series. But you know what? I was actually surprised by the news. As were many of us have feared. As steroid use really is just as widespread as many of us have feared. As widespread as many of us have feared. As widespread as many of us have feared. As widespread as many of us have feared.

Yes, I intentionally used the word “as” four times in one sentence. Because that’s how widespread steroid use is. The playing field is one in which players are expected to use steroids to gain an unfair advantage.

Without penalties, and in the case of steroids, without a way to be held accountable, it’s easy to see how widespread steroid use has become. It’s easy to see how many players have felt the need to use steroids to keep up in this “Everybody’s doing it” era, so why wouldn’t they?

This is why widespread steroid use is so new to us: the era. The performance-enhancing drug era. The era of performance-enhancing drugs. The era of performance-enhancing drugs. The era of performance-enhancing drugs.

So when Alex Rodriguez tested positive for using steroids, it was no small surprise. As was the news that he had continued to use steroids after his suspension had ended. As was the news that he had continued to use steroids after his suspension had ended. As was the news that he had continued to use steroids after his suspension had ended.

When I first heard the news that Alex Rodriguez used steroids, I was noth

ing but shocked. The report triggered a San Andreas fault-line straight through my world; it created a blow to the gut that could have turned Lennox Lewis into a pile of mush.

Shuck. Clear and sharp. Painful and wrenching.

All of this, all of this reverberation, wrought by a man whose transgressions should have been limited to blandishments and Material Girls.

Years ago, I unreservedly extolled the fact that my childhood love, baseball, turned out to be smoke, mirrors and a whole lot more.

But steroids would not have been the only reason that baseball has become such a jaded sport. The teams I grew up with were laboratories, comprised of dishonest players, desperate pitchers, the search for an impossibly edge.

We all know the names. We all know their transgressions. Mark McGwire was the original villain, dug up first and cutting us the deepest. Roger Clemens was thestitute this traitor to his profession, this traitor to his nation’s loyalty. They were, are, were, are, were. The teams I grew up with were laboratories, comprised of dishonest players, desperate pitchers, the search for an impossibly edge.

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The teams I grew up with were laboratories, comprised of dishonest players, desperate pitchers, the search for an impossibly edge.

Years ago, I acquiesced to the fact that steroids were just that: a steroid era. The era. The era of performance-enhancing drugs. The era of performance-enhancing drugs. The era of performance-enhancing drugs.

I imagined where the current teams, filled with wealth, met their previous counterparts and studied with the knowledge that we could measure time based on wins, losses, and their posterior, and their posterior, and their posterior, and their posterior.

This makes what Alex Rodriguez did feel more than the years of widespread steroid use. I watched baseball, my childhood love, baseball, turned out to be smoke, mirrors and a whole lot more. I watched baseball, my childhood love, baseball, turned out to be smoke, mirrors and a whole lot more.

At least Alex Rodriguez did his best to make the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had.

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At least Alex Rodriguez did his best to make the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had. He made the best of what he had.
Astros shortstop pleads guilty

Miguel Tejada pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to misleading Congress about steroid use. Tejada withdrew information in August 2005 when questioned by a House committee about ex-Astro Roger Clemens' use of steroids and human growth hormone. Tejada, the Houston Astros' shortstop, admitted to purchasing human growth hormone but said he discarded the drugs before using them. Prosecutors say he has no evidence proving otherwise. The misdemeanor can be punishable with up to a year in jail, but Tejada's attorney Mark Tuohey believes Tejada will only receive probation.

The success continued as Lin won the 50-yard butterfly backstroke. Senior Angela Wo won the 200-yard freestyle, while Land and Hill took first and second in the 500-yard backstroke. Rice also had stellar performances in the 500-yard and 1,000-yard breaststroke and Ackerman and freshman Shelby Bottoms snatched the top spots in the 50-yard freestyle.

The Owls finished the meet by winning the 200-yard freestyle relay — freshman Allison Godbee, Warner, Ackerman and Gu hit the wall at 1:40.39.

Assistant coach Jada Hallmark (Bid 153) said the meet was a welcome opportunity for the team to have fun with competition. "The meet gave us a chance to swim some off-events, which was exciting, fun, and not very much pressure," Hallmark said. "The team did a great job. They still got up there and raced each other and the clock and competed." — Tracy Dansker

The swim team beat the University of Texas this weekend where they will take on the University of Arizona Wildcats and host Texas Tech University.

The Owls return to action in Lubbock this weekend where they will once again be good battles, but I think our team is excited and we are more than prepared. — Lauren Schoeffler

The Rice Owls are 7-7 overall.

The Owls entered a group of runners in the University of Houston All-Comers Meet, held on the UH campus. Freshman Lucie Cincinatti improved her time in the 60-meter hurdles, finishing fourth with a time of 8.88 seconds. Junior Shannon Moran placed fourth in the long jump, turning in a leap of 5.93 meters. Lastly, freshman Brittini Brown and sophomore Tina Robinson finished fifth and sixth in the weight throw, respectively, each throwing 15.06 meters.

Field goals — Rice 25-63 (Foster 6-13, Wade 10), Houston 24-57 (Coleman 8-18, Calhoun 4-7)

Rebounds — Rice 33 (Stanton 11); Houston 42 (Shelby Brown 14, sophomore Karen Gerken 11)

The Owls return to action in Lubbock this weekend, after defeating Incarnate Word this weekend, the swim team is 7-7 overall.
Boof
Friday the 13th is like a mini Hal- loween that happens between one and three times a year. Fear of Friday the 13th is called “paraskavedkatriaphobia,” and it is not as well-grounded as a generally ridiculous condition. Which leads us to:

When you believe in things you don't understand and you suffer, superstition ain't the way.

Don't look for Steve Wunder to make an appearance tonight at the Archi-Arts party at the Meridian. The tires look bad, and the Anderson window painting in the quad is pretty dope. The day is appropriate, the theme is pretty decent, and now all I need is a concert. Lots and lots of $5 pre-sale from sophomore archis and $12 at the door, and buses will haul you between the Meridian and the Sallyport for free.

Happy Valentine's Day!
A real Valentine from the mid-19th century reads:

R stands for red,
Which you can give a smart crack,
And ought to be used
For a day on your back.

Now that's inspired. We stole this idea for this week's Backpage. If you're having trouble telling that special someone exactly how you feel, get your scissors and turn the page.

DIKEMBE ALERT
Lovett's Central Committee voted to name one of the girls in the facade "Tits McGee."

Lovett College hosts their annual Cavalier Party tonight at 10 p.m. in the Lovett Commons. This year's theme is "Valentine's Day at the Playboy Mansion." It's an interesting theme, but it doesn't lend itself well to costuming. Is it R-rated? I don't know. I'm going as Batman, because after everything, Bruce Wayne is always described as a millionaire playboy.

It's about time that you started to apply yourself.
The Baker Institute for Public Policy Student Forum is accepting applications for the 2009-10 school year! They're due today, so log on to bide.lice.edu and ensure your ascent to the stars.

Sun's gonna rise in a mile.
Ever hear of Citizen Cope? He's a pretty cool singer-songwriter, and he's performing tonight at the House of Blues with Alice Smith. Go on YouTube and listen to Cope, a.k.a. Clarence Greenwood, perform "Sun's Gonna Rise" or "Bullet and a Target." Doors open at 8 p.m. and tickets cost $25.

Feel the rhythm! Feel the rhyme!
Get on up! It's Vision time!
The Minority Admissions Committee, fresh on the exhilaration of the start of Vision Weekend, hosts Rhymes & Rhythms to night at 8 p.m. in Willy's Pub in the Rice Memorial Center. Show up and compete in an open mic and a dance contest! Win prizes, maybe? The power is yours!

DID YOU KNOW?
This is the worst concert you could possibly attend this week, month or year.

Where's the best concert you could attend this week? Casey Michel's going to be EIC? Have you ever read a column by that guy? He can barely form a coherent opinion about sports, let alone run a newspaper. Now the Backpage — the Backpage, we know what's going on. Don't you want your interests represented in the Thresher leadership? We're the only page of the paper that you actually read anyway (besides the Calendar, of course), so you might as well have us running the show. We maintain close ties to university leadership (see below), and we care so much about this newspaper that we're writing this obnoxiously long statement about why we should be Editor-in-Chief.

You can't spell "Vision" without "I!"

There are 11,000 applicants competing for 890 spots in the class of 2009, and this weekend we're going to try to win the "under-represented minorities" among them. If you're doing this weekend, make him or her love you and then they'll be set for the rest of their life.


The Deadline for submission is 3 p.m. The Monday prior to publication.

At the Backpage. Because without the front page, would fall off.
Opportunity! Potential 40k plus. hour + bonuses. Fantastic Part-Time services and setup appointments. $10/24 BACKPAGE motivated, enthusiastic telemarketer pay. Call 713-529-6762 or e-mail maintenance and updates of web-website design and shifts Sunday - Thursday. Contact: calling alumni to tell them about at Rice! Join other Rice Students in the Annual Fund. $9/hr plus bo-713-348-4363, backpage@rice.edu

Frequent Sinner Card Redeemable for the loss of 10 purity points.*

You and me, we've got great chemistry; Like diatomic oxygen, we've meant to. But perhaps we would add a third atom to our Because everyone knows that three oxygen atoms equal ozone, creating a protective layer around the Earth that prevents us from being exposed to deadly ultraviolet radiation. And that can't be bad. Let's Have a Threesome, Valentine! From:...