Jewish studies minor passed

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THRESHER STAFF

More!" Rice will offer a new minor in Jewish studies beginning this fall.

The minor, which was approved by the Faculty Senate last week, is the result of a joint effort to bring a full-fledged Jewish studies program to Rice. Professor of Judaic Studies Gregory Kaplan, along with Professor in Biblical Studies Matthew Kamm, both members of the Religious Studies Department, spent the past three months obtaining approval for the minor by working with professors from a multi-

Ultimately, Kaplan and Henze aim to develop a program that will offer fellowships and internships, bring more faculty to campus and strengthen relationships with the surrounding community.

"My hope is that the Jewish studies program will create a forum where we can meet and discuss all kinds of ideas, texts and periods," Henze said. "I see this as a place of exchange for ideas and scholarship we are creating."

Henze believes students will be able to take full advantage of the new program, using elective credit to fulfill their course requirements. Additionally, Henze said the new minor will not require any new resources. Everything being proposed for the minor already exists, and the new minor will be contingent on a budget proposal, Henze said. However, the full program will necessitate significant resources, such as obtaining a postdoctorate in Jewish studies and adding faculty lines.

Eli Bengio, who has taken several Hebrew classes, said the time commitment and the low student enrollment in introductory classes might have discouraged some students from taking the courses in the past.

"Many students may be unwilling to make a five-credit hour commitment to a Hebrew class which, ultimately, isn't a distribution

course and won't serve towards any other major," Bengio, a Lovett College sophomore, said. "I think that institutionalizing a Jewish minor will give these students the incentive to take that Hebrew class."

Given the current downturn in enrollment, Henze said the program will take slightly longer to emerge, but he remains hopeful.

"I believe it will be a popular minor, not just for Jewish students, but for students of all backgrounds," Henze said.

The Jewish studies program is new to JEWISH, page 4

SA election gamblers record turnout

McAnaney voted SA president, no new blanket taxes added

BY JOCELYN WRIGHT
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

A total of 1,620 students, over half of the undergraduate population, voted in the Student Association General Elections last week. The mass of students who voted gave this election the highest turnout in well over a decade, SA Director of Elections Timothy Faust said.

The candidates were elected through a preferential voting system. The candidate receiving the fewest number of votes had his or her votes redistributed to other candidates depending on the preferential order of each individual ballots. Before any vote redistribution, Brown College junior Patrick McAnaney led the race for Student Association President race with 555 votes. Jones College junior Matthew Wengast finished as second with 411 votes. Martel College sophomore Nicholas Mascara, third place with 295 votes and Marsel senior Alexander White received the fewest votes.

Patrick McAnaney SA president

McAnaney voted SA president, Fourth place with 715. Write-in candidates took all first-place ballots. After all votes had been redistributed, McAnaney won with 793 votes in second-place position. McAnaney said he was going to take the position officially at SA Changeover on March 23. All of the candidates said they were pleased with the record turnout this year. McAnaney said Wengast and Crompton both brought in a lot of new voters.

"It was a really exciting campaign," McAnaney said. "There was a level of enthusiasm that hasn't been seen before. It shows where the SA is going and that it has potential to build on."

Wengast said he hoped his campaign had encouraged students who had not participated in the SA Senate previously to become more involved.

"That was a lot of the point of why I ran - not to break the record but for the kids who didn't really care about the SA," Wengast, who was not previously involved with the SA Senate, said.

Mascara and Wengast both said they were confident McAnaney would do well in his new position.

"He is passionate about the SA and I know he's going to do a great job as president," Mascara said.

McAnaney said he was going to use his first weeks in office to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible by arranging meetings with the incoming and outgoing officers.

See ELECTION, page 8

Rice goes to Oscars

BY JULIE ARMSTRONG & LILY CHUN
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

On Feb. 22, under the fading Hollywood sunlight, two Rice prepared made history.

After beating out reporter-photographer teams from across the nation in mtvU.com's first Oscar Correspondent Contest for college journalists, Baker College senior Faheem Ahmed and Sid Richardson College junior Anish Patel, both Rice-Baylor students, flew to Los Angeles as one of the competition's top three finalist teams on behalf of the Rice Thresher.
Rondelet loses momentum

After the bungling of Rondelet this week, the Rice Program Council's spring formal officially has a checkered history (see story, page 7). In 2007, the dance was nixed for the first time since 1964, but was resurrected in 2008. At the time, it looked like 2007's cancellation was a fluke, as the 2008 version was well-attended and well-received.

But after two abrupt cancellations in the last three years, we feel that it is finally time to mix the idea of having a spring formal entirely. If Rondelet did not have a tainted reputation coming into this semester, it surely does now. With little record of success in recent memory, students will be distinctly inclined to attempt a possible second resurrection next year.

However, this does not mean that the notion of a Rondelet resurrection should be totally abandoned. Once the current crop of Rice students exits through the Sallyport, the memory of Rondelet will march off with it. Thus, with no one to recall the dance's abrupt termination, a campaign of revivification can begin. There is no reason that anyone should be principally opposed to a spring formal, so once people realize what is in store, they may jump at the opportunity.

Before Rondelet is reinstated, there are other aspects of the planning that need to be examined. After all, there is a reason that only 60 tickets were sold. Sable believe the recent glut of after-school activities, such as 100 Days, Archi-Arts and Lovett College's Casino Party, may have created opposition to the spring formal this year. Additionally, the program's tangible results of student innovation (Thresher, Jan. 30, 2009) is more than a bit disheartening. With all of these factors bringing the dance to an ill-fated standstill, we hope the RPC will forego an immediate revivification of the dance, and instead let its ruined memory slip into the past.

New minors commendable

The proposal of the new Energy and Water Sustainability and Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities minors is a pleasing sight for a few reasons (see story, page 7).

Firstly, the continuation and expansion of the minors program is, in itself, the correct step to take in Rice's academic growth. Reinstating the minors that were originally in a vacuum, is a welcome sight. Both of these minors, have created space in Rice's curriculum for specific study, rather than simply piggy-backing on an already-existing minor.

While we are wary of a gross overexpansion of the minors program, we feel that the administration is a long way away from reaching any sort of tipping point. For now, the minors either proposed or already in existence are commendable, and we hope the program's continuation will not stop here.

Conversations deserved

After a record-high turnout in the Student Association elections, we cannot commend the student body enough for making its voice heard (see story, page 7). The SA debates were widely-watched, the messages of potential candidates were widely-dispersed, and the poetry of the election was widely-engaged, to the full extent.

We would like to extend our congratulations and gratitude to all candidates, especially those who had never been involved in the process. It was a beautiful and expansion of the SA's breadth of perspective to hear new voices, see new faces and learn new ideas from those who had not been involved in the SA from Day 1. We also admired those who had previously given their time to the SA, and we hope that those in both camps who did not win will remain involved in the SA. A variety of ideas and ideals make an institution more representative of the student body, which, after all, should be its main focal point.

Firstly, we would like to commend Baker College sophomore Fa- heen Ahmed and Sid Richardson College junior Anish Patel on their recent jaunt to the Oscars (see story, page 1). They could not have represented Rice in a better light, and their inclusion of the student body displayed the amenable and open nature of the Rice community.
Natural diversity would benefit campus

Investing care in our natural environment would increase campus creativity and productivity. Not only would our learning environment be more vibrant, we could truly nature beautiful biodiversity to the problems that we face today. Think of it as a way to connect with the natural world. Who knew vine tendrils spiral first clockwise and then counterclockwise? Who knew the role of tropical flora and fauna? To understand these things, we need to develop a sense of stewardship.

I'm most frightened thing is that policies are often overlooked: the Rice University Natural diversity would benefit campus. Published in the lost and found service along the way. While we are often talking about the importance of natural diversity, let's talk about the apple that landed on Newton's head.

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Op-Ed
Christine Pao

The most frightening thing is that policies are often overlooked: the Rice University Natural diversity would benefit campus. Published in the lost and found service along the way. While we are often talking about the importance of natural diversity, let's talk about the apple that landed on Newton's head.

Sahil Gujral

Sahil Gujral is a Martel College senior. The information gaps are powerful. The historical record gives us a clue. Historically, much inspiration for new competitors to drive down the prices of health insurance. Even veteran doctors frequently find themselves shocked at the things insurers refuse to cover.Whether we want to be a new player in such a system or not. The health insurance market is opened up to new entrants. They could pass the cost of the new system to the consumer. What happens when we have many more players in such a system? The situation changes. We need more competition in health care.

RUPD deserves respect from students

Christine Pao

From the Campus Watch Program to the lost and found service, to the Night Escort, it is evident that RUPD goes to great lengths to protect us and our property.

It's not hard to imagine that Rice would be the first to do so. However, it is not within the presence of RUPD to have the power to perform basic functions. RUPD is, after all, subject to the same laws as any other organization. In fact, it is the very conditions that we, the students, face that give us the right to do so.

It's not hard to imagine that Rice would be the first to do so. However, it is not within the presence of RUPD to have the power to perform basic functions. RUPD is, after all, subject to the same laws as any other organization. In fact, it is the very conditions that we, the students, face that give us the right to do so.
Mae Bariff said, "Really, people dents at Rice," Lovett Freshman studies is, by nature, interdiscipli- rather, the degree would in- colleagues become successful by getting grants, publishing books or hiring faculty. "I talk about how great my faculty are and how wonderful our students are and constantly spend a lot of time talking to them," he said. "We have a really fabulous group of colleagues and my task is to make sure everyone knows that." He said one of the greatest re- words of being chair was watching colleagues become successful by getting grants, publishing books or getting promoted. "They do [become successful] on their own, but you know that you're probably helped make the road a little smoother for them and not gotten in their way," he said. "People moving forward — that's the cool part." Wilson also said he has enjoyed seeing the department rise in rank and continue its tradition of excel- lence. According to U.S. News and World Report, the political science graduate department ranks 29th in the nation. Over the past few months, he said the most trying part of being chair has been deciding where to cut budgets. "Every chair is in exactly the same boat right now," Wilson said. "We're all struggling with how to make ends meet without hurting people." Wilson came to Rice 25 years ago after being recruited by Joseph Cos- per, the Dean of Social Sciences at the time, and former Rice professor Political Science David Brady, who has been serving as a Sid Richardson College associate since 1990. Wilson said he is looking for- ward to going back to doing re- search and teaching. "Those are the two things I re- ally love about this job," he said. "This is a really great environment for learning, teaching and doing your research." Wilson said Rapgado has been talk- ing to people in the department and that the announcement of his successor will come soon. Rapgado's final decision will then be ratified by Provost Eugene Levy, and the new chair will assume Wilson's position on July 1.

After a five-year tenure, Political Science chair Rick Wilson will step down June 30.

BY CEDRY DUSH
THE RICE THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Former Israeli ambassador to EU speaks on Israel's stances on conflict

Oded Eran, former Israeli amba- sador to the European Union, spoke on campus last Friday about the sta- tus of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the process of international negotiations. He was accompanied by "The Peace Process in the Middle East," a political science graduate student from an Israeli official's perspective.

Eran is currently the director of the Institute for National Security Stud- ies after an extensive career in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Israel's ambassador to Jordan and as the head of Israel's negotiations team with the Palestinians since 2000. During the lecture, Eran said Israel's ethnic composition is diverse, with 20 percent of the population Russian, 20 percent Orthodox Jews and 20 percent consisting of Isra- elis of Arab origin who, he said, have the same full rights as any other Is- raeli. He said with so many different groups, it would be difficult to adopt a two-part electoral system similar to the United States system.

"Many parties [in Israel] call for reform in the electoral system to make it more stable," he said. Following a recent election in Israel in early February, Eran said that issues the new government will need to focus on are relations with both Arabs and the rest of the world, including the United Arab Emirates. Before a peace process, we need to deal with Palestinian nuclear effort and military effort," Eran said. "Izra- lians have accumulated enough raw material to produce the bomb. The threat is not only to Israel but to Muslim and Arab states.

Though there have been three dif- ferent Security Council resolutions to stop Iran, none have encouraged Iran to reconsider their positions, he said. "Nuclear capability, coupled with anti-Israeli ideology, is a threat," he said. "I believe the Iranians see as rational as anyone else and would consider the cost-benefit of what they're doing, and hopefully will make the right decision." Another issue of importance is the content in Jerusalem, which Eran said is home to shrines in the form of the Rock as well as the re- mains of two Jewish temples. This is a region loaded with history and emotion, he said.

Nuclear capability, coupled with anti- Israeli ideology, is a threat. I believe the Iranians are as ra- tional as anyone else and would consider the cost-benefit of what they're doing.

Oded Eran
Former Israeli ambassador

"Cold peace is better than war," he said. Eran recommended that coun- tries focus on gradual, realistic goals instead of a comprehensive catch-all solutions. "I would propose partial solutions in the West Bank and leave it for the time being," he said.

The slow progress in establishing a comprehensive agreement is a political figure in the region, he said. "We believe the courage to go to [negotiation]," Eran said. Eran said the problems with Pal- estinians began with Yasser Arafat, who believed he was a prophet. "He couldn't bring himself to put his name to a document in 1993, which compromised with the Jewish, or Arab, or anyone," Eran said.

One question from the audience asked the U.S. should play a role in negotiating with the Iranians. Understandings must be reached by the immediate parties involved, he said, including an example of how awkward talks between Israel and Egypt were done secretly behind the U.S. lines. You need the U.S. as a player which the two sides approach when they cannot reach an understand- ing," he said.

The event was sponsored by Ows- ls for Israel, the Consulate of Israel in Houston and the Baker Institute Student Forum with the intention to shed light on another perspective on these highly-debatable topics.

For Israel is an unfriendly student group founded after the Gaza Panel held on campus last month. "We felt there was not enough of the Israeli perspective on campus," Issam Lieben, a Sid Richardson College senior and member of Ows- ls for Israel, said. "This lecture was part of our mission to bring speakers to campus that can educate the com- munity on the Israeli point of view."
Griffins to replace Morrices as Hanszen masters in fall

BY MARGEUX CLEMMONS
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Hanszen College announced its new college masters during a Hanszen-only lunch last Friday: Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Bob Griffin, his wife Ann and their children, six-year-old Liam and three-year-old Meredith, chair of the Hanszen Master Search Committee Tod Wieber said.

Wieber, a senior, said he and Hanszen President Abbie Ryan presented the Griffin family, who emerged from an elevator at the end of Wieber’s speech, in front of the biggest Hanszen lunch turnout he had ever seen.

“This was not instigated by me at all, but Hanszen gave them a standing ovation,” Wieber said. “There were tears in people’s eyes. Wes and Barbara (Morriss, the current Hanszen masters) were front and center to welcome them, and it was a very touching moment.”

The Griffins will not begin their five-year term as masters until May, but they will attend Hanszen events and visit the Morrices to discuss the mastership for the remainder of this academic year, Wieber said.

The master search, which began in October, came to a close in December when the committee submitted two finalists out of three applicants to President David Leebron, who made the final decision.

The Griffins came to Rice in August from New Hampshire, where Rob Griffin was an associate professor in the Earth Sciences Department at the University of New Hampshire.

The couple met 20 years ago as undergraduates at Tufts University and will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this year.

Both Rob Griffin and Anne Griffin plan to play intercollegiate sports for Hanszen, and Ann Griffin, who has an MBA and over five years of consulting experience, may teach college courses and become involved in Hanszen’s philanthropic efforts, Rob Griffin said.

“I personally would like to get involved and be a steward for environmental issues that Hanszen is involved with,” he said. “I would love to have Hanszen have environmental issues be part of their mantra—not to inflict my ideas on anyone, but because I think there’s a lot of opportunity for student involvement and my family being involved as well.”

Ryan, a senior, said that meeting different masters while being college president enabled her to appreciate the different ways masters could contribute to the college, and that she is looking forward to the uniqueness the Griffins will bring.

“It’s been a while since Hanszen has had young blood and had young kids in the masters’ houses,” she said. “It will be an interesting dynamic for Hanszen, and I think it’s a different side of the mastership that we haven’t seen in a while and will bring new life to the college.”

Rob Griffin said the timing was good for the family and that his children were at an appropriate age to learn and profit from the advantages of being involved in college life.

“We wouldn’t do this if we didn’t think it would be beneficial for our kids,” he said. “We want to take them to the powderpuff games or the Hanszen shows that are kid-friendly so that, as much as possible, we make Hanszen events into family time and vice versa. They do call it the family college.”

Wieber said Hanszen has not had a master from the math, science or engineering departments since 1987. Rob Griffin mentioned he looked forward to helping dispel the myth that science lacks a warm and fuzzy side.

Rob Griffin said the residential college system was discussed at length during his initial interview at Rice, and that after hearing about the mastership, he and Ann knew they would want to eventually participate.

“One thing that I felt was missing in my previous x,y was really the opportunity to become involved with undergraduates and students both in lab as well as outside the lab, so the culture at Rice really appealed to me,” he said.

The committee liked that Ann Griffin was a die-hard Harry Potter fan and was amused when Meredit Griffin could sing all the lyrics to High School Musical.

When [Rob] had an interaction with someone, he would remember the vast majority of the names, and that really impressed us.”

The Griffins will be replacing Wes (left) and Barbara (right) Morris as the Hanszen masters when the fall 2009 semester rolls around. The outgoing couple have been masters for the last five years, joining Hanszen in 2004.
Refurbished Fondren lounge thrives

BY MICHELLE JIN
THRESHER STAFF

During the fall semester, Fondren Library’s Sarah Lane Lounge, previously an open study area, was renovated into a place where students could relax and snack. The library added colorful beanbag chairs, posters of book covers and snack and soda vending machines to the lounge, Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology Diane Butler said.

“Our idea was for something kind of fun and colorful, a room where students could come in and do whatever they wanted to do: hang out, or talk, or study,” Butler said.

The project started last fall, when Student Association Environmental Committee Chair Sara Hartnett, a Hanszen College junior, sent an e-mail to the library with the idea for an area in Fondren where students could unwind and have a snack or a cup of coffee, Butler said.

Afterward, library staff decided the Sarah Lane Lounge on the fourth floor was the best place for such an area, and went about redecorating it. The walls were painted, vibrant furniture was ordered and posters from the annual Friends of Fondren Gala – a dinner and auction for Fondren’s Special Collections Endowment – were put up.

“They’ve done a lot with it in the last few months,” said Sid Richardson freshman Daniel Willis. “When I came here last semester, there weren’t any posters, and the walls hadn’t been repainted. I really enjoy reading and studying here.”

The library also created a student advisory committee after receiving Hartnett’s e-mail. The committee, made up of library administrators and a handful of graduate and undergraduate students, gathers input from the Rice community and meets to discuss what improvements the library could make to better cater to the needs of students and staff. Students are still welcome to join the advisory committee and bring suggestions as to how to improve the library, Butler said.

“One suggestion that the committee had was that the library extend its hours on Friday and Saturday nights. When the committee surveyed the Rice community, the responses were mixed — about half the people said they would use the library during those hours, Butler said.

During the fall semester, the library tested this idea by extending its hours and remaining open until midnight on Friday and Saturday, but it reverted back to the old hours at the start of the spring semester.

“The numbers just weren’t there... to justify the additional staff that we had to have,” Butler said. “There just weren’t many students who were coming to the library and using the library after 10 p.m.”
Two new potential minors proposed to Faculty Senate

Potential minors include energy and water sustainability, poverty, justice and human capabilities

BY MELISSA TSANG
THE RICE THREESER STAFF

Aside from the newly approved Jewish studies minor, Speaker of the Faculty Senate Deborah Harter said the undergraduate curriculum committee from Rice’s expanding portfolio of minors.

The Faculty Senate’s approval of the new studies minor program last week may inspire students to consider interdisciplinary and departmental minors in the future.

Harter said the purpose of offering interdisciplinary minors to students is to expand interest in and exploration of other fields outside of students’ major fields.

“The minors provide an opportunity for exploration into another field and some coherence to the courses that go beyond one’s major,” Harter said. “There is also a desire on the part of the faculty that these minors be as interdisciplinary as possible, that they bring together established, new connections and focus on a single, very specific field.”

Harter pointed to the newly-approved Jewish studies program, approved Feb. 18, an exemplary interdisciplinary minor.

“The minor in Jewish studies brings together in very interesting ways a whole variety of texts,” Harter said. “Texts from history, philosophy, art, literature and more generally. This enables for a very interdisciplinary approach to one that is from all kinds of perspectives.

“This is not a minor in a particular religion; it is a minor that reflects a very important segment of our cultural past and I believe that there will also be ways in which some of its courses will include and encourage discussions that bring together some of the political confrontations of our day that are so important and make possible engaging interest and study, for example, in Arab studies and the Muslim tradition as well.”

MINORS

Since the Faculty Senate voted to create minors in 2007, Rice has added five to its repertoire:

- Sociology
- Global health
- Business
- Financial and computational modeling
- Jewish studies

The process for a potential minor to be approved by the Faculty Senate takes about three to five months.

In addition to interdisciplinary minors, Rice has also begun to develop departmental minors as well. However, Harter said departmental minors do not need to go through the Faculty Senate to become approved.

“Any department will be able to select a different configuration of courses and a smaller configuration from the major and declare a minor,” Harter said. “When the student declares the minor, they’ll have to take the courses for the minor and the major.”

For prospective students, it is important to note that these minors are so ambitious that not only will they be double majors and triple majors, but they will be double and triple majors with double and triple minors.

“Certainly the desire is not for this to create new achievements, necessarily, for all our students. We are hoping that these are simply ways to bring into coherent focus a variety of courses that can provide for the students’ new perspectives,” said Celestine Shih, who is majoring in bioengineering, thinks a minor would complement her coursework.

“Engineering keeps most students busy, it’s really hard for engineering majors to focus on other areas,” Shih, a Weiss College junior said. “The [water and sustainability] minor would branch off of engineering without diverting too much of our energy.”

Aside from the newly approved minors, whether departmental or interdisciplinary, will create students to take on more courses on top of already busy schedules.

“There are some faculty who are a little concerned that our students are so ambitious that not only will they be double majors and triple majors, but they will be double and triple majors with double and triple minors,” Harter said. “Certainly the desire is not for this to create new achievements, necessarily, for all our students. We are hoping that these are simply ways to bring into coherent focus a variety of courses that can provide for the students’ new perspectives.”

Harter recalled the time when the study of women, gender and sexuality minor was used to be interdisciplinary minor and noted SWGS ultimately progressed into a full major.

“SWGS has become a major because that has become interesting as a field, and it remains richly interdisciplinary,” Harter said. “All of these minors have the potential to become major fields at some point in the future.”

Harter said she encourages students to talk to faculty members if they are interested in starting up new minors.

“I have some real confidence that Rice students will find a way, each of them, to use the structure of interdisciplinary minors to enrich and personalize their education at Rice,” Harter said. “Students should know that when they see something, connections that they would really like to put together, that they can talk to the faculty and get something going.”

Rice axes Rondelet due to low ticket sales

BY BIANCA WALKER
FOR THE THREESER

After only 460 tickets were sold for Rondelet, the Rice University spring formal was canceled last Wednesday, three days before it was scheduled to take place.

The formal would have had a Mardi Gras theme and taken place in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center.

Rondelet, which is hosted by the Rice Program Council, has been a Rice tradition since 1947. Turnout sold out and widely praised.

“Everyone was so excited for students as well as guests,” said assistant dean of students Boyd Gummerson, who had a student ticket bought for him. “It was a really short semester,” she said. “There were a ton of events happening every day, so I was too busy studying.”

Assistant Dean of Students Boyd Beckwith declined to specify how much money the RPC had allocated toward Rondelet expenses, but said the cost of the RPC went around $500 with the cancellation and have plans to use the remaining funds from Rondelet’s home budget.

“We are going to pour [the extra money] into the RPC and Willy’s Pub Performance Series, and we’ll do one more performance,” Kerkstra said, noting that local rapper Pat Tony will perform April 9.

“Then the money that we don’t spend we’ll use on the take-me-out to the half game t-shirts or use for trips.”

Call and you could save. Class dismissed.

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i RESULTS OF THE 2009 SA GENERAL ELECTION

Student Association
President: Patrick McAnaney
External Vice President: Kimberly Mahnani
Internal Vice President: Selin Sherif
Treasurer: Tiffany Wu

Rice Student Volunteer Program
Chair: Alice Tran
External Vice Chair: Grace Chang
Internal Vice Chair: Danielle Avelson
Treasurer: Tina Cal
Secretary: Sarah James

Honor Council
Senior Representative: Jackie Ammons
Junior Representative: Kyleen Zentnick
Sophomore Representative: Andrew McEoin Patterson

University Court
Sophomore Representative: Angela Wu

Other Positions
Rice Program Council President: Michelle Kerksite
Rice Review Editor-in-Chief: Casey Michel
KTRU Station Manager: Rachel Orosco
RTV5 Manager: Trevor Rice
RTV5 Program Director: Brandon Cisneros
Representative to the University Council: Alexander Wyatt

Issues and Amendments
1. To remove University Blue's blanket tax:
   - Fall (66%)
2. To increase Rice Program Council's blanket tax:
   - Fall (67%)
3. To increase Rice Program Council's blanket tax for major events:
   - Fall (47%)
4. To increase KTRU's blanket tax:
   - Fall (47%)
5. To establish Re: The Rice Review as a subsidiary organization:
   - Fall (41%)
6. To establish Open magazine as a subsidiary organization:
   - Fall (45%)
7. To amend Article XII and remove Article XXI of the Honor Council Constitution:
   - Fall (46%)

Final vote tally: 1,610

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Deadline: March 20
A circus comes to town
Some colleges drink, some colleges dance, but not all ride Saharan-styled SUVs. On Tuesday's Hanszen College changeover, a few special guests roamed the grassy desert of South Main.

1. Hanszen senior Marta Bjornson tentatively tests out Porkchop, one of two camels who ventured to Rice Feb. 24 for Hanszen's changeover.

2. and 6. Hanszen master Barbara Morris get a chance to climb atop Gunther, which, all things considered, was probably better than riding the alternative. "It was between the camels and a monkey that serves drinks, but we didn't have enough money for the monkey, and there were some concerns that it was a little too much like a slave. The camels, though, are used to this. Apparently they come from a long line of riding camels, and they're Houston's No. 1 camels, although I didn't know Houston had a preference," Morris said.

3. The couple that rides camels together, stays together. Here, Wes (left) and Barbara Morris (right) decide to give Gunther a simultaneous ride.

4. Junior Peter Hutley, Hanszen's treasurer, leads classmate Saneal Rajanahally atop Gunther.

5. Hanszen freshmen Thomas Motter and Ann Wawrose lead Porkchop around Old Wiess Field. At only $400 to rent, the camels were perhaps the most expensive — and slowest — lawnmowers Rice has ever employed.
Shopaholic film
missing a left shoe

BY JACKIE ANIMONS
THEATER STAFF

The basic difference between: the two is that Prada exposes the dark side of the fashion world while Shopaholic simply embraces the joy of fashion. The contrast between the film’s Stark - the former is relatively serious while the latter is completely light-hearted - and thus illustrates Shopaholic’s lack of substance.

While Prada employed great wit and depth, the storyline of Shopaholic is too crude and too shallow to keep the audience engaged. In the plot, the main character Rebecca Bloomwood (Isla Fishers) is a successful journalist living the high life with a big debt. She, along with her friends, has a great friendship and they love each other.

In Shopaholic, Rebecca Bloomwood (Bouton Heart by Who’s Ina Fiske) has an addiction. She faithfully goes to her support group meetings and un- willingly tries to get rid of her bad habit with the support of her best friend. (What Happens in Vegas? Kristen Bitter) and her parents (Rick Kitefick: An American Girl Jean Caidal and Speed Racy’s John Goodman).

Yes, Rebecca’s problem is pretty serious. She’s got to clean up her act. When watching this film, one can’t help but compare it to Prada.

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

THE WEEKLY SCENE

BELLY DANCING

If you’re still in town on Tues-

day, head over to Avant-Gar-

den to check out the Moroccan

Moon Belly Dance Show. The

show starts at 8:30 p.m. and

features dancers such as Gabi-

ella, Patra, Jenna Ali Nari, Sara

Sireena and many others. There

is no cover or admission charge,

but donations are welcome.

AVANT-GARDE

www.avantgarde-

houston.com

PUPPETS

Gathering artists from around

the world, the Alley is presenting

seven different medium pup-

pet shows. Each show pro-

duces its own puppetry and

each puppet is crafted in all the
different forms in contemporary art.

The event is free, check the

website for hours.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM

www.camh.org

WATCHMEN

Will you be watching the Watch-

men on Friday? “Visiary” di-

rector Zack Snyder’s (Dawn of

The Dead, 300) latest flick will be

in theaters in exactly one

week. If you’re one of the few

remaining people on Earth who

haven’t read the graphic novel,

the Rice Bookstore will have

a few copies left, so stroll over and

buy one! Confused? Check out

the website below.

www.watchmenmovie.com

DINNER

Director John Rando’s (Unfor-
town) hilarious story about a man

who overwashes his welcome to

a prominent family’s home, will

be presented Thursday. Tickets

are $25. Check the website for

showtimes and tickets.

www.alleytheatre.org
Two Owls land on the Red Carpet
Rice students Faheem Ahmed and Anish Patel represent college students, Rice at 81st Annual Academy Awards

O SCARSA F R O M  P A G E  1

had supported and voted for them instead of just explaining that they could excite and represent their fellow students on the Red Carpet. By promoung themselves through the humorous parody of the now-Oscar-winning song, "The Halo," they made the movie that would win Best Picture, Slumdog Millionaire. Rice's team cracked the win.

The Red Carpet
Once Ahmed and Patel arrived at the Academy Awards, they took to the carpet and interviewed the likes of Tina Fey, Zac Efron and Robert Pattinson.

"Because we both seen The Wrestler, I asked [Pattinson], 'Who would you be afraid to smack her around too much. Then, since he played a vampire in Twilight, I asked what other supernatural creature he'd like to play. 'Satan,' he said."

But the A-listers and glitterati were not the best interviews, said Ahmed, instead, that honor went to the kid stars of Slumdog Millionaire. "The kids were transported literally from the slums of India to the Red Carpet, almost like a real-life version of the movie, and they were so excited to be there," he said. "They jumped around and taught us dances and stuff. Their excitement was easily reflected in how we were feeling, because it was the first time there for all of us." On the other hand, Ahmed said his worst interview was with a veteran of the spotlight, Anthony Hopkins. "First of all, I was super intimidated, and I kept feeling like I was going to eat me like Hansel," Ahmed said. "Secondly, he seemed in a rush, like he was just too cool for school. I asked him two questions, and then he had to go." But perhaps the most memorable moment would be the strangest one. Ahmed said Heath Ledger's family accepting the award for Best Supporting Actor proved to be "memorable."

"His sister started talking about Heath, and everyone was quiet," Ahmed said. "Then out of nowhere, some douche who couldn't wait until he was finished started yelling. We were broadcasting live from the Oscars! Slumdog Millionaire just won Best Picture or whatever. Everyone was like, 'What the hell?'"

Despite the interruptions, Ahmed said he and Patel still enjoyed getting to be on the Red Carpet.

"It washardt — a super cool experience," Ahmed said. "It's cool just to see that these people look exactly like you. They're really nice, down-to-earth people. A couple of them are probably really pompous, but in general, they're great. And the Academy! The Academy is full of hardworking, amazing people — they're really the unsung heroes of the Oscars."

Rise to fame
Although the journey from Rice to the Red Carpet is not quite as monumental as Jamal's new to fame and fortune in Slumdog Millionaire, Ahmed and Patel have a few things in common with the sensational character played by Dev Patel, namely, their story spread fast. From SABAsearch, a blog of Houston's South Asian community, to the Houston Chronicle to ABC news, their story spread through the city. The Internet spread it even faster. Before Rice News had added the winning duo to the "Who Knew?" campaign roster, a Canadian blog had run photos of them at a press conference in L.A., taken by a photographer from Michigan. The next day, their story was picked up by The Times of India, the most widely read English newspaper in the world. Ahmed said many members of the press recognized him and Patel because the president of the Academy had mentioned them in a press conference. A few even congratulated them for their work in Slumdog Millionaire, of which they were not a part.

"Lots of girls kept walking up to us and saying, 'Great job, fantastic work,'" Ahmed recalled. "We just look at each other and say, 'Yeah. Thank you so much.' But when we had to elaborate, we would tell them that we weren't really in the movie. Even their parents got involved in the minor media frenzy. In a Feb. 18 interview with Patel's hometown newspaper, the Corps Christ Courier-Times, his father, a pedestrian, said he had told the building caretaker, "I don't mind you going to Hollywood, but keep your target on medical school." Regardless of their future, the two will see this past experience as one of the highlights of their journalism careers, and certainly one of the least expected. But it may be possible that this was written all along. In an early interview, Ahmed had proclaimed solemnly that he and Patel would win. With a reference to Slumdog Millionaire, he explained, "It's the year of the Indian."

How right he was.
We don’t sell

Cocaine.

We sell advertising for the *Rice Thresher* and make tons of money on commission (probably more than any other student job...unless you count that weird drug dealer who drives the Miata). We, Joseph and Thomas, are graduating this year and are currently looking for replacements to fill the positions of Advertising Manager and Assistant Advertising Manager. We’ve held the position for 3 years and it’s pretty rewarding: piles of cash, tons of free food and drinks, Coffeehouse discount, etc...

We recommend that a couple of freshmen or sophomores take the job with a desire to keep it for a couple years because you get to know the advertisers and have the chance to build a strong revenue base. The workload is weighted towards Monday and Tuesday with very little work at the end of the week and even on the days we are here, we rarely stay after 5:30pm.

If you are interested, send a resumé or whatever you think makes you qualified to *thresher-ads@rice.edu*. The two new hires should expect to start training in the coming weeks. Being a Beatles fan is a plus.
Today, every band seems to have a can, and country music the domain penned at least one anti-Bush ballad. Blew the sound, as blues had previously been largelyly been African American, and country music the domain of rural whites.

A decade later, anti-war and anti-Bush demonstrations spilled into the streets as demonstrations showed the power of the people. The 9/11 attacks and the war on terror have paved the way for the Civil War, as blues had previously been largelyly been African American, and country music the domain of rural whites.

Deanne Nguyen

This annoyed me greatly, because even though high fashion tends to be uncomfortable, it is still entertaining and inspiring to see that creativity in clothing cannot be confined to its own structure. Unfortunately, all I had were sweats of the same color and a few pairs of shoes. But I was determined to give it a try.

Andi Gomez

Choreography is an award-winning performer and transgender activist who has toured around the country since 2002. He has performed at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, and has been featured on several TV shows, including Dancing with the Stars and So You Think You Can Dance. Chavez's performances are known for their political and social commentary, and he often incorporates elements of drag into his choreography, challenging traditional gender norms and expectations.

Finishing his piece, Chavez turned to the audience and said, "This show is about me, my journey, and the struggles I've faced. But it's also about the struggles that others face every day. I hope you leave here with a new understanding of the world we live in."
Above, Will Rice senior Josh Levin and Martel seniors Alex Crompton and Laura Greenwell get their groove on at KTRU's Battle of the Bands last Friday. Their band, The Cosmonauts, came in second place, while The Boat Show seized first place.

On the top left, Wiess junior Tiffany Kim does her best Donatello impression at last Friday's long-awaited Lunar New Year celebration, which was held in the Grand Hall and coordinated by Rice Asian Societies.


On the lower left, Lunar New Year participants pose while finishing one of the event's many and varying dance numbers.

On the lower right, Houston band Rapture of the Deep, featuring members Matt Kic on guitar and M. Seibert on bass, tore up Anderson Hall last Saturday at the Archi Arts fundraiser concert.

On the bottom, students sweep the air with grace while performing a fan dance at Lunar New Year.

---

The sense of immediacy and rawness created by these original human moments are perhaps the Tuareg's strongest moments of protest because they convey the powerful identity and unwavering pride of this marginalized nomadic group. Even apart from the remarkable cultural context, Group Inerane's African electric sound is like nothing else—and that's revolutionary in itself.
The Owls, and junior guard Cliff Gorham specifically, will have to do a better job containing Coleman tomorrow if they are to have a shot at playing spoiler in Houston’s run for a NCAA tournament bid.

“We’re really excited to play Houston back at home,” Gorham said. “We’re just not sure who we’ll be to beat the first time we were so close. We just want to do a good job of controlling the tempo and getting back.”

Head coach Ben Braun reinforced Gorham’s excitement at returning to Houston.

“It’s great to have this game back at our place,” Braun said. “We’re so close last time that it’s a great opportunity for us to come back and hopefully return the favor. If we play well, I like our chances of being able to knock them off, it’s going to be a great game.”

In order to win Saturday, the Owls will need to put last weekend’s disappointing loss against SMU behind them.

The Owls entered the game on a high after their 7-6 win over Rice. Though the Owls have only won three of their last eight games, the record is deceptive, in five of those losses their margin of defeat was in single digits. One of those games was lost in overtime, and three were decided by three points or less.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Though the Owls have only won three of their last eight games, the record is deceptive, in five of those losses their margin of defeat was in single digits. One of those games was lost in overtime, and three were decided by three points or less.

**Valky A. Wallace**

Although the Owls have struggled against the stronger competition, they have showed their resilience against some lesser competition.

The Owls will need to prove they belong amongst the powers if they want to advance past the first round once again.

**Men’s basketball better than weak record suggests**

**by Brody Rolllins**

**For all the back and forth of a basketball game, it is ironic that most comes down to a single possession. The men’s basketball team was feeling the irony last Saturday, overcoming a six-point deficit only to come up short in the final seconds. Losing 66-64 to Southern Methodist University last Saturday in Dallas.**

The Owls (6-8, 3-10 CUSA) have certainly stepped up their play in the past three weeks, it is hard to decipher that improvement from their record, which finds them winning only two of their last seven games.

However, last Saturday’s three-point loss against SMU (9-7, 4-1 CUSA) marked the team’s third defeat by three points or less in that same stretch. For the season, Rice is 15-3 in games decided by fewer than five points, which stands as the most noticeable carryover from last season.

The team hopes to change that pattern this weekend when they face cross-town rival University of Houston on Saturday afternoon at Tudor Fieldhouse.

Their last meeting in a packed house at Hofheinz Pavilion, the Owls rose to occasion and silenced the crowd until the final minutes, when the third-place Cougars (8-4, 4-1 CUSA) pulled away with a 76-62 win.

Like many other games this season, Rice faced a deficit at halftime but battled back in the second to tie the game at 46-46 with under four minutes to play. But that was as close as the Owls would come as Houston phenom Audrey Coleman put the Cougars back up for good by making a pair of three pointers that ran the clock down to under one minute away.

Coleman scored 22 of his game-high 28 points in the second half and nearly single-handedly lifted the Cougars to victory. Cougars head coach Tom Penders has said believes Coleman may be the top player in the conference and is a lock as a draft selection wherever he chooses to declare for the NBA draft.

The Owls have a top player in the conference as well in Rice's Keondre Walker, a top three point shooter in the conference and a good all around player.
Women deliver rout at home after road struggles

by Prem Ramkumar

While the Seattle, Wash., rain was washing away the women's tennis team's chances at a successful road swing, the competition was washing away Rice's chances at a successful road swing. The 75th-ranked Owls fell to 8-4 this past weekend at the Northstrom Tennis Center. A pair of losses against then-40th-ranked Sacremento State and then-34th-ranked University of Washingcton.

Sacremento State, undefeated on the year, came into the match with momentum after pulling off an upset against Washington the day before. With a drastically combined experience and talent, the Hornets took it to the Owls in a 5-2 decision. Junior Julie Chao and freshman Alex Rauch managed to secure the only two points of the match with straight-set wins over Alison Tsan and Joyce Martinez, respectively.

Though the match did not look close on paper, the Owls were a tie-breaker, a three-set match and a doubles point win away from an impressive upset. Junior Rebecca Lin lost a 3-6, 6-1, 5-7 decision to Clarisse Bara, and sophomore Jessica Jackson dropped a 6-2, 4-6 match to Luba Schifris at the No. 3 singles spot, and the Hornets took doubles despite Rice's nice win at No. 1 behind junior Julie Chao and freshman Ana Guzman's strong play.

"It was great that we were close, but that's not good enough," head coach Elizabeth Schmidt said. "We can take confidence in that, but I don't believe in moral victories. We had situations we didn't take... We cannot give them an inch, or they will take it. If we are up, we have to learn to finish them off. It was a very close match, it's great to be right in there with those teams, but we aren't satisfied with being right in there anymore."

The next day, the Owls took on an even higher ranked opponent in the Huskies, looking to avenge their previous day's loss to the Hornets. As a result, the Owls came out firing and caught the Rice off guard in a 7-0 rout. In a completely dominant performance, Washington did not give up a single set in the entire match.

"We did not perform our best, but it was a great taste of what competition is to come," Jackson said. "It has made us refine our goals and [made us] even more determined to improve and work harder than any other team every time we step out onto the court."

The Owls returned to action back at Jake Hess Stadium on Wednesday against Lee College, where they once again demonstrated their resilience with a 7-0 rout. In a flip of their match against Washington, Rice swept the doubles point and did not drop a single singles match.

Next, Rice travels to Kalamazoo, Mich., where it takes on No. 6 Western Michigan University tomorrow. The following Tuesday, the team will head to Columbus, Ohio, against the highly-touted and ranked Ohio State University squad.

In the next ten matches the Owls will face six ranked opponents. Wins against any number of them could launch them towards their goals of a conference championship and NCAA Tournament berth.

"We have learned a lot from this past week of tennis," Schmidt said. "We learned how to play indoors for the first time this year. The points are faster. Our serve are faster. We have to give ourselves less margin of error to be successful. We are playing indoors again this weekend, so we have to learn to adjust. I am glad that we got exposure though — it will definitely help us for our next two matches indoors."

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date   Opponent         Location
2/28   Western Michigan  Kalamazoo, Mich.
3/03   Ohio State        Columbus, Ohio
3/16   Louisville        Louisville, Ky.
3/21   South Alabama     Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/27   UTA                Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
3/28   Utah              Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
4/05   UNLV             Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
4/11   Northwestern State  Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
4/12   SMU              Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
4/16 - 4/19   C-USA Tournament  Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
5/08 - 5/10   NCAA Tournament  TBD

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Women's Tennis 2009

Rice – 2009/10 scholarship program

BP America's 2nd BP / Rice Scholarship program

Each student selected will receive $10,000 for the 2009/2010 school year

Applications are due by March 20th, recipients will be notified by April 15th

Who: we encourage the following to apply –

- all undergraduates majoring in Mechanical or Chemical Engineering, ECON, MANA, CAAM; for those with strong quantitative skills interested in energy trading
- graduate students interested in careers in Petroleum Geoscience

The prizes: $10,000 scholarships toward your 2009/2010 tuition and fees

How: please send an electronic copy of your resume, unofficial transcript and a brief cover letter describing your interest to:

- Economics, Managerial Studies, CAAM majors: Lindsay.Roemmich@bp.com
- Engineering majors: Josue.Villesca@bp.com
- Petroleum Geoscience: James.Lemaux@bp.com

More information: BP representatives will be available to answer questions at the RMC on March 12th from 12-2pm, or you can send an e-mail inquiry to the above contacts.

By Prem Ramkumar

Women deliver rout at home after road struggles

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4/12   SMU              Jake Hess Tennis Stadium
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Men continue struggles against ranked opponents

by Casey Michel
The Thresher Editorial Staff

There is something out there that will help the men’s tennis team beat a ranked foe. The Owls had it, whatever it was, during early-season wins over then-No. 17 University of Miami and then-No. 33 Texas Christian University.

But for the last three weeks, that unknown, unnamed and untouchable something or other has gone missing, in the process pinning Rice on the wrong side of four of its last five matches. With last Sunday’s road loss to No. 66 Florida State University, the 26th-ranked Owls have now dropped to 8-5 on the year, and what once seemed like a promising season has come to a grinding halt.

At least, that is the way it appears. Although the contests have lately young opponents,” was all but one of Rice’s defeats came by the slimmest of margins. Had a single point fallen in the team’s favor in the losers against No. 33 Texas State, then-No. 17 Louisiana State University or then-No. 37 University of Kentucky, Rice could be looking at its current seven-week road streak in a different light. Everything’s a loss to then-27th-ranked Wake Forest University, but at least it was close, as the final two matches would probably have gone the Owls’ way.

Plus, the team can win on the road, as evidenced by last month’s 4-3 squeak-by of Miami and Friday’s 5-2 win against No. 22 Hampton University. But for whatever reason, the Owls have recently gone without that extra ingredient needed to put them over the top.

Assistant coach Efe Ustundag (Bakr ’99) said he thought the missing component was the tenacity that comes with mental fortitude.

“It looks like some of the time, when we’re up, we are hoping that the opponent is the one who makes the mistakes,” Ustundag said. “We don’t have the courage to go after them, and we’re afraid to do what we have to do to put them away.”

Nowhere was this inability more evident than in the Owls contest with the Seminoles. In doubles, Rice started the match in convincing fashion. After Florida State’s then-No. 1 Yves Aubone and Vlad Mora
dez knocked off Rice’s 49th-ranked duo of senior Christoph Müller and Toby Scheil, the Owls bounced back with a pair of wins in the two remaining slots.

The Seminoles bounced back in singles and Mora
dez once again tested Scheil, but in the weekend’s most impressive match, No. 43 Müller downed No. 19 Aubone 6-1, 6-0 at the top of the ladder. The win ran Müller’s record to 11-0, and for the second time in four weeks the senior earned Conference USA Player of the Week honors.

However, this would be the last lead Rice would hold on the afternoon. Junior Bruno Rosa, ranked 28th in the nation, suffered his second loss of the weekend against No. 95 Clint Bowles, and classmate Chong Wang, who had dropped four straight matches, extended his losing streak with a 7-5, 6-4 defeat against Maciek Sykut.

Chris Cloer then ended Rice’s shot at a come-from-behind victory with a three-set win over freshman Sam Garforth-Bles, and Rice was forced to limp home with a 4-3 loss.

“We had absolutely no business in winning the doubles point at Florida State [but] a couple of the guys stepped up and carried their partners.” Unfortunately, we can’t sub somebody in at singles to give them that boost.

Efe Ustundag Assistant coach

For Ustundag, the wins of the week doubled win was dulled by the lack of focus shown in the singles set.

“We had absolutely no business in winning the doubles point at Florida State [but] a couple of the guys stepped up and carried their partners,” he said. “Unfortunately, we can’t sub somebody in at singles to give them that boost.”

Rice will now get a bit of a break, going nine days before its next road contest with the 33rd-ranked Uni
dersity of San Diego. The Toreros are struggling just as mightily as the Owls, having lost five of their last seven.

But despite the lower ranking, Ustundag knows that the Toreros will provide a test, and that his team needs to regroup if they are to stand a chance at a victory.

“I don’t know if there’s one trick that all of a sudden turns around,” Ustundag said. “It’s time for the boys to step up.”

Junior Chong Wang’s play has not helped Rice’s recent road woes. The powerful righty has lost five straight

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For Ustundag, the wins of the

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Tel 713.752.3325
Caught in motion, but not caught out

BASEBALL
FROM PAGE 15
Haynes and freshman Andrew Benak. A one-out double by J.J. Thompson in the fourth inning brought the score to 6-4, and Frizzelle accounted for the 1-0 lead with five seconds left.

ROSE 
from page 15

In his first career start, Benak rebounded from his earlier outing and handled the Cougars well, throwing 3.2 innings with one earned run. After he departed, Wall completed three innings of scoreless relief. Senior Jordan Rogers and juniors Jared Rogers and Abe Gonsalves contributed from the bullpen as well.

The team appears to have regained its footing, as its defense appears to have recaptured its focus and the team has kept up the torrid offensive pace. After four games, Rendon leads the team with a .600 batting average and six RBIs, and Hague and Smaistrlak also compiled a composite .318 batting average. Despite the sub-.500 record, they are showing signs of progress the coach sees as significant.

"The talent's there, the chemistry's there," he said. "Experience is the key to this team."
The Greatest Story, Thresher, MS-524

Note from the editor:

There's no way this could end badly. Road trip!

Zombie. There's no way this was, but they advertise "2 Nights in Discovery..."

It's spring break.

It's time for him to show the world what he's learned at my feet. And time for me to step forward and take credit.

Because, as they say, behind every success there's a ripoff. It's like five bucks for a ticket. Which is not a bad deal, except that scientists have thrown you into the garbage can of despair!

This is why it's time for me to let him fly solo.

His first line was, "Hello, Green Bay! Pardon me for my cheesy jokes. Get ready for the new Rice Playwrights Festival. Five top plays will be selected to be read before a panel of members of Houston's theater scene. Questions and submissions to Hansen junior Teresa Reyer, who can be found at shaverey@rice.edu.

Who Watches the Watchmen?

Insha'Allah, a lot of people will come to this event.

It's two awesome lectures in a row as William Ross, a convert to Islam, will come to this event on Tuesday at 4 p.m. Robert Penn O'Hara makes it three awesome lectures in a row with a talk and Q&A about his life as a convert to Islam. It's the first installment in the Muslim Student Association's Islamic series of talks aimed to help non-Muslims learn more about the Islamic faith. All talks are free and place are TBA as we go to press, but watch out for flyers around campus.

Who Watches the Watchmen? Answer: you! Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy concert's at 8 p.m. in the Duncan Hall.

Violinist Sergiu Luca and pianist Brian Connolly team up for a Shepherd School faculty recital in a Shepherd School Recital Hall. Pianist Yaacov Bronislaw will be on the piano.

I don't know about you, but this is what I think about when I think about HIP.

Do you know what this means, Casey? It means you have failed. In a private school, an 89 percent is a B, perhaps a B+ for more lenient teachers. This month, when the admissions office stinks with the wasted ink of crushed dreams, shouldn't we reconsider whether we can afford to harbor someone with these sorts of standards?

Loyal readers, we sounded the clarion call: Vote the Backpack. You responded, with gusto. The Backpack owns 11% of the Thresher. Now, heed our second alarm:

FORCE CASEY TO WITHDRAW FROM RICE

DEAR CASEY,

89 PERCENT. IN THE UNCONTESTED RACE FOR THRESHER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, YOU COULD ONLY PULL 89 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

We have ended your reign of terror before it had the chance to begin. As we would with a sickly and burning banana, we have thrown you into the garbage can of the 2009 General Election. Your career as Thresher editor-in-chief is already tainted; like a victim of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome your legacy at this institution will grow malformed, repugnant and unloved. You are now and forever stained. 89.

Do you know what this means, Casey? It means you have failed. In a private school, an 89 percent is a B, perhaps a B+ for more lenient teachers. This month, when the admissions office stinks with the wasted ink of crushed dreams, shouldn't we reconsider whether we can afford to harbor someone with these sorts of standards?

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WILLY'S PUB

MONDAY, MARCH 9
Senior Night

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
Friends and Seahfield Trivia

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Lumberjack Pub Night

THURSDAY, MARCH 12
One word..... FLANNEL! O yeah, and beards

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
Villi's Thresher Pub Night

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Club Willy

$2 AT THE DOOR
FREE ENTRY UNTIL 11 PM
Housing

Stadium Area, 2 1/2 condo for rent. Two miles from downtown, washer/dryer, pool, parking, 700 square feet, $324/month. Please contact: Bob, 713-246-4631.


4301 Richmond. One bedroom apartment available. 600 sq ft with balcony, hardwood floors, dishwasher, great closet space. One parking space in gated lot. Central air/heat, pool, on-site laundry. $650 + elec and water lease with deposit. Contact: Andree 713-534-3344.

Summer nanny. West U family needs a reliable, loving, and trustworthy nanny for 3 kids 3 to 10 years old. Must have experience and references. Call 713-622-3111.

Business

Inanimate Carbon Rod

The Inanimate Carbon Rod intends to continue running RTVS with the same dynamic, virtuosic and engaging programming that has marked its past. It promises to continue RTVS's most popular segments, including the "Cocktail Feast" featuring shots of Mints 2007-'08, "Will Rice Dicks Around" and "VLC Error Screen.

Other notable write-ins

- Saddam Hussein and Roni Dietz, SA President
- Wet Dreams of Selim, SA Internal Vice President
- Cocaine on the toilet seat, KTRU Station Manager
- Window, the Grey Elephant of the White House, SA President
- A gay lumberjack, RSVP Treasurer
- no kern no don't, SA President
- The Handsome Stranger Who Saved Esperanza, RPC President
- WHO WWUWWWWWWWWWW, UCourt Sophomore Representative
- Myself, the sun god who dwells within me, SA President
- no ken no don, Honor Council Sophomore Representative
- Bullywinke J. Moose, Honor Council Junior Representative
- A Piece of Dog, SA President
- Josef Stallin, SA Internal Vice President
- mom where are you so it's cold outside, UCourt Sophomore Rep.
- GANNING THE GRAY ELEPHANT THE WHITE HOUSE, RSVP Treasurer
- My dick. At least it knows what the SA does., RSVP Internal Vice Chair
- Kielo, the killer whale, SA Treasurer
- Toodles von Wankerson, SA President
- pol pot, Honor Council Senior Representative
- A BIG SACK OF BOOTY, RSVP Treasurer
- Mosul, I have hair pasta, RSVP Internal Vice Chair
- Hon. Judy Scheindlin, UCourt Sophomore Representative

Classifieds

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Want ad

Help wanted

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