By MARGEUX CLEMMONS

Tamara Odhiambo, groundbreaking African history scholar and Rice professor of History for nearly two decades, died Feb. 25 after being diagnosed with a degenerative illness. He was 63.

A contributor to 14 books as author, co-author and editor, Odhiambo also wrote creative articles and chapters concerning African history, colonialism and various aspects of historical development in East Africa.

"He was a member of one of the pioneering generation of African historians," History Department Chair Martin Wierson said. "(He was) among the first people to really excavate and bring back to life the history of his people, so it meant a lot of work of a new kind of life work."

Odhiambo was a Fulbright Scholar at Johns Hopkins University in 1968, and taught at Stanford University and Johns Hopkins University before coming to Rice in 1978, where he later held the Department of History's Center for Faculty of Culture.

"His breadth of interest and of knowledge, to use a spear plow the globe," Associate Professor of History and long-time fellow Professor Edward Cox said. "There is hardly an intellectual debate covering any region that Dr. Odhiambo wasn't already familiar to. He looked at Africa and African studies globally."

Odhiambo earned his bachelor's degree from Makerere University in 1965 and his doctorate from the University of California in 1970.

He was jailed for a month in 1986 during the political situation in Kenya, and upon his release Odhiambo wasn't able to contribute.

"He was the vice president of the University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to Vice President for Finance Kathy cool. "Until undergraduate tuition changes at schools in the Association of American Universities. However, Collins highlighted Rice's financial aid packages as a difference between Rice and other universities."

"We're at the high end of dollar increases," Collins said. "We're not the highest, and we're still $1,000 below peer institutions in terms of the price before financial aid."

The percentage increase in the lowest in tuition since a four percent increase in the 2001-02 fiscal year, Collins said. She added that the financial aid budget will also be adjusted based on the needs of 2009's incoming class.

"The financial aid budget is going to increase substantially for a couple reasons," Collins said. "One is that the Rice has a pre-release of each year adjusting financial aid based on family circumstances, so as the price goes up and the family's ability to pay the increase stays flat or declines, Rice makes up the difference. Also, I think that budget that given the financial circumstances and high unemployment, that we'll just have more financial aid contro."

Additional changes, in turn, will be made to the need-blind admissions policy. Additional changes will be made to the need-blind admissions policy. Additional changes will be made to the need-blind admissions policy.

Track policy does not permit students to bike before 4 p.m., at which point cars are no longer allowed in the parking spaces surrounding the track area, according to a RUPD report. Morgan said.

"It was closed over spring break, " said Morgan. "We are to the RUPD report.

"It was closed over spring break for resurfacing and painting, and then the Beer Bike track occurred. The accident that caused the closure of the Beer Bike track occurred before 4 p.m., at which point cars are no longer allowed in the parking spaces surrounding the track. Once on the track, bikers are responsible for using barriers to keep stray cars from entering the track area, according to a memo sent out in November. Rice Program Council, is WhataWilly, a spin-off of the Whataburger fast-food chain, and will be on sale for $5 throughout the week.

"We're planning to do a Ben Kweller concert will be on Monday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Center Quad. The Beer Debate will take place Tuesday from 8 p.m. at Willy's Pub. They will feature Jonco College Master Nancy Geerta, Health Sciences Professor Nicholas Lammanno and Associate Director of the Office of Academic Advising Jeremy Grace.

"They will feature Jonco College Master Nancy Geerta, Health Sciences Professor Nicholas Lammanno and Associate Director of the Office of Academic Advising Jeremy Grace. Sid Richardson College junior Jacob Lindsey and Sid sophomore Graham Johnson will moderate the debates.

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Major decisions

If you are a sophomore, today is the last day to declare your major. So stop reading this, pick up your course guidebooks, and find which major best fits all those classes you've found yourself interested in. If you are a junior, the same advice applies. If you are a sophomore, you have three more years to decide what you want to do. If you are a senior, you have about six months to do so.

Ice to meet you

Ever read about ice cores? Now you have. Ever talked about them? No? Then check out the round table discussion on ice cores and economic cycles, held March 18 at 123 Rhoth-Wies Geological Laboratories. Make sure to dress warmly.

Naked, Middle-Aged

No, this isn't craigslist. Go check out "Nudity in the Middle Ages" on Monday in Herring 100, and then tell us just how revolutionary the Internet was. Or don't. What you do in your spare time is really not our business.

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Shareholder power
As major shareholders in Rice's financial decisions, students should have a greater say in investments.

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Ryan Berry earns more hardware
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The Rice Thresher

VOLUME XCVI, ISSUE NO. 22 SINCE 1916 FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009

Tuition swells yet again for undergraduates

Fees increase, endowment falls, more cuts planned to slash spending across board

By JOCelyn WRIGHT

THE RICE THRESHER

Track closed due to accident

Willy week approaches

By JOCelyn WRIGHT

THE RICE THRESHER
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Division of politics and science foolish

To the Editor:

A CANKcom headline on Monday, March 9, stated that President Obama intends to separate politics from science in regards to stem cell research. Such an idea is folly. The articulation of this society's ethics occurs in the political forum, and ethics should never be separated from science. Although the irony that the President is the legitimately selected leader to discuss such issues, a blanket statement such as this is foolish. In Fanaticus, Ian Malcolm remarked, "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." Scientific developments cannot be assumed to be progressive. For example, the technological improvements of nuclear weapons cannot be misconstrued as the forward march of humankind, as increased sophistication meant potentially increased devastation. Politics were also involved then as they are now with scientific determinism funding, as well as test and waste sites. Scientific progress can also bring ambiguous results. The industrial improvements can be attributed to the rise of modern society, but if it came with a heavy cost. In the short-term, human suffering is a result of our own choices, but if it was our society's efforts to enhance the safety of its citizens. We also urge cyclists to help reduce traffic and graduate students, who are especially relevant for undergraduates, Towards courtesy to pedestrians.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the appearance of this editorial in the official student newspaper, as well as to all those who have supported it through their subscriptions and donations.

To the Editor:

Tuition increase troubling

The recent tuition hike, announced by President David Leebron on Wednesday, comes with a mixed welcome (see story, page 1). On the one hand, we are pleased to see the university offering a comparable education for pennies on the dollar — has long been a selling point — Rice's 2009 tuition has nearly doubled. What was once a selling point — Rice ties outside of the Ivy League.

Also, signaage could almost imply that the campus is deserted. It has to end somewhere, and we hope that end is in sight.

The facts of science may not lie, but determining if we can live with these facts matters.

Leonard N. Chan
Visiting MPA Graduate Student
Fall 2008

Bike accident after math scattered

To the Editor:

A committee to study and make recommendations relating to bicycle safety on campus was formed last year. Since then, we have launched an initiative to distribute bells for bikes and began to draft recommendations for future bicycle policy on campus that encourages cycling while enhancing safety. We will soon share our positive vision with the administration.

Sadly, our talk gained sudden urgency on Feb. 27, when a member of a college cycling team was badly injured when she struck a car that was apparently crossing the Greenway track while she and others were running. Campus officials quickly assessed the situation and took the track to vehicle parking until the upcoming Beer Bike. In response to the event, the track will be closed on weekdays.

While we applaud the university's efforts to enhance the safety of bicycle tracks, we believe the weekday bicycle track closure is unnecessary. Although putting in the surrounding lot is limited by temporal influx of construction workers, there are alternatives. We wish to engage in discussion with Rice parking officials to achieve a consensus that meets the needs of all parties. Our committee continues to strive for creative solutions to transportation and bicycle safety issues on campus. Regulatory processes gain legitimacy when diverse opinions are taken into account. Towards that goal, we urge Rice community members to engage the administration and our committee. This plea is especially relevant for undergraduates and graduate students, who compose the majority of cyclists on campus. We also urge cyclists to help us improve conditions by observing existing guidelines and showing courtesy to pedestrians.

jeff Kiparits
Computer science graduate student
Bicycle Safety Committee
bicyclesafety@rice.edu

Online Comment of the Week

In response to "Two new potential minors proposed to Faculty Senate" (Feb. 22, 2009):

Will the abbreviation for Jewish studies really be IPWS? That would be hilarious.

In general, I agree with the sentiment of minors: The whole double-and-triple majoring was getting creepy at Rice. If the minors would take more classes that they are interested in, and employers would actually look at the transcripts and the individual classes, but perhaps there is too much to expect.

By getting a minor, students get a chance to branch into "different classes." Additionally, the minors organize classes that belong together in a coherent course of study, and that kind of guidance can only be helpful.

Mathias Ricken
Graduate student

Correction

In the Feb. 27 issue, a graphic on page 8 mistakenly listed Jackie Weis, Kelsey Zoetemelk, and Andrew McEvoy Patterson as Honor Council winners in their respective years. However, Honor Council Representatives are not selected based on the one with the highest votes. The elections were uncontested and allowed for multiple winners. The Thresher regrets the error.
Endowment must be handled responsibly

After the Failings of Stanford Financial, Lehman Brothers and AIG, the current economic crisis has made it more clear than ever of investing in companies that follow ethical and sustainable practices. While there are no guidelines or regulations for socially responsible investing, large institutions such as Yale, Brown, Cornell and Duke have already created similar advisory committees.

Giselle Williams and Richard Treadwell

Vote on their own general taxation.

I believe that this trend also indicates that students of limited financial means.

Kern Vijayvargiya

The problem with virtually unregulated student taxation is that it does not account for the wealth or limited financial means.

Jennifer Luo

Furthermore, people who already have conscious or unconscious prejudices toward women tend to gravitate to this kind of ambiguous message, which is so salient to top-schools without pre-existing bias in addition to reaffirming values that had hindered sexual equality in the past. I also think that this is what has led to a greater focus on gender equality, as a result of the social movement.

Kern Vijayvargiya is a Jones College senior.

Richard Treadwell is a Baker College junior.

Both are Co-presidents of the Rice Student Senate. We'll be asking you to join the Student Association and Representatives from the Investments and Treasurer Office.

MRC's "COMMAND" Shirt slogan incites sexist views

The problem with virtually unregulated student taxation is that it does not account for the wealth or limited financial means.

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TUITION

Students will include a 4.9 percent increase for masters students in engineering, a 4.5 percent increase for professional masters students in natural science and for music and architecture graduate students and a 4 percent increase for all liberal studies majors. Tuition for Rice MBA students will increase at different rates depending on the program. Office of student activities, the SA Awards Committee, the Association of Rice Alumni, and the Community Involvement Center coordinate their respective year-end awards that recognize service by students to the Rice community. An member of the Rice community may submit a nomination.

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Students helm investment group

BY MICHELLE JIN
Thresher Staff

In these times of economic crisis, the safest place to invest your money may be the newly-formed Owl Investment Group.

Founded by Martel college sophomore Chris Kopczynski, left, and Pedro Silva, right, the Owl Investment Group hopes to give fellow students investing information.

The new presidents for the nine clubs are: Kathy Kallert for Fisher, Kyle Clark for Will Rice, Emil Bakaloitas for Hanszen, Alex Bunter for Niles, Andrew McDermott for Jones, Jackie Ammons for Brown, Erin Finn for Levett, Sam Wang for Sid Richardson, Sean McBeath for Martel.

Chris Kopczynski, left, and Pedro Silva, right, founded the Owl Investment Group hoping to give fellow students investing information.

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Mayors discuss successes, lessons post-Ike
From evacuations to health plans, politicians share plans for dealing with future disasters

BY CATHERINE BRATIC
THE RICE THRESHER
EDITORIAL STAFF

Six months after Hurricane Ike hit Houston and Galveston, the two cities are still struggling to recover from the damage, and elected officials are taking a chance to reevaluate preparations made before the storm.

On Wednesday, the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and Texas Monthly co-sponsored the forum "Life After Ike: The Future of Houston and Galveston," where mayors from both cities considered what went right and wrong during Ike and what they learned.

"Hurricane Ike made landfall on Sept. 12 as a Category 2 storm. According to Edward P. Djerejian, the founding director of the Baker Institute, Ike was the most expensive storm in Texas history," Houston Mayor Bill White said. "But the biggest thing that Houston learned from Ike was "the devastation of a storm.""

White said that the more selective evacuation procedures, compared to the massive, panicked evacuations before Hurricane Rita in 2005, were very beneficial to a streamlined recovery. "The massive, panicked evacuations (like that after Katrina) may have been beneficial to the people who had to leave the coast to save their lives, but the massive evacuations caused significant logistical problems," White said.

"In order to prepare for the potential disaster that faced those who stayed in Houston during the storm, the city established non-legislative evacuation centers," White said. "We also praised the Houston medical community for their support both before and after the storm hit."

In the days after Ike, White said, "The biggest thing that Houston learned from the disaster was "the devastation of a storm.""

"We all learned to appreciate — if we didn't before — the benefit of electricity," he said. "White applauded the Houston community for its resilience and community spirit after the storm."

"In many neighborhoods, strong people with saws and chains and trucks got it done and didn't wait simply for someone from the government to show up," White said. "This was fortunate, White said, because there were severe problems in the response times of the government, and organizations such as FEMA were unwilling to give money or decision-making power to local officials."

Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said Galveston had completed its cleanup efforts, but state and federallevel delays had slowed the process down considerably. As an example, she cited the main Galveston thoroughfare which are owned by the Texas Department of Transportation, and the city of Galveston was not permitted to clear it.

In order to avoid such bureaucratic delays in the future, she suggested that federal officials prearrange contracts for debris removal, fuel supply and sheltering. Galveston arranged such contracts before Ike, she said, making the recovery process much simpler on the city level.

"An important lesson that the city of Galveston learned from New Orleans's mistakes during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Thomas said, was that "people will not evacuate if they can't take their animals." As a result, the city of Galveston evacuated 1,900 residents along with their animals.

"I can't tell you what an interesting day that was," Thomas said. "We had snakes and birds and cats and dogs and some of them had cages, but some of them didn't have cages." Thomas said she also appreciated the improved communication during Hurricane Ike, as compared to during Hurricane Rita. She thanked Houstonians for letting Galvestonians evacuate first.

Paul Burka (Hanszen '63), the senior managing editor for Texas Monthly, and a Galveston native, said he had forced Galvestonians to reconsider how safe they were.

"All of us assumed that if you lived behind the sea wall, you were safe," Burka said. "We showed that that was not true." He said that for Galveston to be rebuilt, the state must continue to ensure that Galvestonians can purchase wind insurance.

Baker Institute Fellow Joan Neuhaus Schann said that Houston and Galveston were distinguished from other cities by their "well-established protocols for handling evacuations, well-established response teams, close regional cooperation between Galveston and Houston." She noted that Houstonians were particularly prepared due to their hurricane preparedness. She also praised the Red Cross for its storm relief work, which she said was impressive considering that the organization received no federal funding. After each of the panelists had spoken, the forum was opened to the audience, which asked questions and offered suggestions for future storm preparations, including forming a multi-state health region.

Thomas ended by telling the audience that she no longer feared Galveston's struggles.

"I hope you will come to Galves- ton," Thomas said. "I hope you will come to the beach. I hope you will consider living there."
D WILLY

and will follow the original parade route, starting on the south side of the campus. Chapman said the parade route was different last year because of construction. There will also be a limit of one truck per college for water balloons. Chapman said this was mainly an attempt to make the transition for Duncan College and McMurtry College smoother next year.

"It's really hard to get truck reservations," Chapman said. "We proactively set this limit to keep from adding to the number of problems next year."

Because of the one truck limit, the parade will also begin half an hour later than it did last year. Before the alumni race this year there will be a mall tribute to Bill Wilson, the former electrical engineering professor and Rice College resident associate who passed away earlier this year. Chapman said she is working with George Webb (B.B.A. '91) to plan the tribute.

Chapman said no major changes to the Rice Bike rules are being made this year. She said there were also no changes being made to the bike rules because she had discussed safety briefly with Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman.

"Obviously safety of students is imperative to this, and it's really important to keep everyone safe," Chapman said. "I don't think there have been any more restrictions than last year, but it's definitely something that has to be called attention to."

Genny Lozier Will Rice senior

LODIANMO

ODHIAIAMBO

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009

Stipend: $1000 during research appointment
Course credit: 1 per semester for two semesters
Applications due: March 23, 2009

The Humanities Research Center is accepting applications for its Undergraduate Fellowships for the 2009-10 academic year. We are seeking applications from students who have demonstrated a strong potential in the humanities, who are enrolled in a meaningful research experience, and who would like to use the fellowship to work closely with one of the HRC faculty fellows during the fall or spring semester.

Visit our site at http://rice.edu/fellowships/undergrad.html for more information.

GIVING TO RICE

www.rice.edu/advancement/tuition/giving.html

SMU COX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

www.smucox.org

Back to Top
Rice University students, faculty and staff have a new transportation option available on campus: use of a Toyota Prius or a Volvo S40 through the Zipcar program.

Zipcar is a car-sharing, membership service that makes it easy to get access to a car, for an hour or an overnight trip. The service allows members to reserve a car by phone, online or by a mobile device anytime, 24/7. Hourly rates of $7 and daily rates of $60, include gas, insurance and 180 free miles per reservation. The service was designed for the benefit of students, especially those who do not have a car on campus and for faculty and staff who need to use a car to go off campus during the day.

Rice University applicants must be at least 18 years old to become Zipcar members. There is an annual membership fee of $35 that could be used towards a driving credit, which is valid for 60 days. Rice University has two (2) zipcars - a Toyota Prius and Volvo S40 which are centrally located in front of the office of Housing and Dining at Weiss College.

To learn more about the Zipcar at Rice program, please visit www.zipcar.com/rice.
Students devote spring break to serving others

BY LY HOANG, BLANCA WALKER, AND HANNAH LOU

Instead of basking in the tropical sun, over 100 students volunteered at various non-profit organizations throughout the country as part of Alternative Spring Break (ASB), which was sponsored by the Community Involvement Center. Eight groups of approximately 15-20 students traveled to Colorado, Virginia, Mississippi, California, Washington, South Dakota, Illinois, and Costa Rica, and a total of 40 volunteers visited Galveston.

With an aim to give back, the number of available spots for the selection process was highly competitive. Though participants were asked to pay a $50 registration fee, the rest of the money for the trip was raised by each team through special events and personal solicitations. Some groups chose to fundraise by holding a raffle for gift cards and nearby restaurants and stores, while others held bake sales or sold Valentine's goodies.

Each team through special events and at various non-profit organizations Students devote spring break to serving others

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009

Students devote spring break to serving others

The Lofton, Denver, Colorado

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The Mississippi Alternative Spring Break trip worked as Teach for America volunteers at a K-6 school in Moorhead, Miss.

The Volunteers focused on helping the children prepare for their state exams. One Rice student was assigned to each class from kindergarten through sixth grade.

"We had a huge presence at the school," she said. "We were all talking to the kids and at times wore the same dress. It was unique in that way because we were part of their family.

As part of a beautification project, the Rice students worked on numerous trees outside of Rosser Elementary.

"Humanity is one continuous spectrum," Alvarado said. "They are only differing in their situation, only differing by chance.

Cedro-Weolley, Washington

On the trip to Cedro-Weolley, Wash., students had to deal with the rainy Pacific Northwest winter. The participants spent four days clearing brush from a redevelop lot in preparation for a Habitat for Humanity house. In addition, they built "good-neighbor" wooden fences and taught the children at a soup kitchen, repairing the kitchen of the north-side building.

Site members said they felt welcomed into the area.

"The most important thing was probably how friendly a small-town community can be towards us," Brown College sophomore Abraham Guzman said. "They really welcomed us into their arms to us. As soon as we arrived they provided us with almost everything... they didn't have much to give, but they still gave us what they could.

Eagle Butte, South Dakota

Those who went to South Dakota worked with the Native American tribe. While a Rice ASB trip had visited Eagle Butte, this trip was all new. The students assisted the Sioux with the Cheyenne River Youth Project, working in the yard of the children of the small town.

Chicago, Illinois

Volunteering in South Dakota for coldest trip, a group of students traveled to Chicago to do work in the homeless community with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The students were able to volunteer at the Inspiration Corporation, an organization that raises money to help the homeless community who Hope to get back on their feet, in order to be served at the Inspiration Cafe. Homeless patients need to apply and bring in at least one reference. Once accepted, the homeless clientele receive free meals in a house that is completely self-sufficient with the patients and volunteers.

"I'm so glad I got out of my trip was a better understanding of how volunteer organization can help people in struggling communities and how I want to make a difference when I graduate," Brown senior Alkaiy Dayal said.

Galveston, Texas

Closer to home, about 50 students, a part of the ASB group this year, spent five days helping with Hurricane Ike relief efforts in Galveston. Six months after the hurricane, many homes were still in dire need of repair, said leader Nicole Layne. A Baker sophomore, she said, the team, co-sponsored by the Baptist Student Ministry, paired up with an organization called Good News Galveston. Daily assignments included helping to repair damaged homes by taking off dry wall and wood panels. In addition, the students helped the News Galveston clients who lived near the center. Kwan said several groups also ventured farther to St. Leon fish village to clear debris, and a few volunteers went to the old food bank on the mainland to clean and repaint boxes used for medical supplies.

Costa Rica

Outside of the country, volunteers lived with the second largest tribe in Costa Rica in rural mountainous villages. Volunteers participated in a

90-year-old project, the Kan Tan Project, pioneered by a family within the tribe who wish to promote and preserve the ecosystem and the tribe's indigenous culture.

Although the village is tense and removed from the direct influence of modern culture, elder Kan are afraid of losing their native culture.

Hints of modernization were obvious amongst the younger generation as they listened to songs by Ludacris, Marcelo and Mushroom contributor Kali Gahoum said. "The young people are really aware of their indigenous culture but are more conflicted," Calihoan said. "They want to live like their parents, yet they don't have the means.

Volunteers helped to preserve indig- enous traditions such as cooking over a fire and wearing traditional masks. They also helped build pit latrines and reseeded the kitchen of the cultural center of the indigenous Kan Tan tribe.

A whole week without the conse- quences of modern technology as volunteers a new perspective, Calihoan said. "We were taught to appreciate what we had so much more," she said. "They were welcomed by the people there.

Cassey Michelle and Cindy Dish con- tributed to this article.

GSA ANNOUNCEMENTS

• March 13: Beer Ball
• March 17: St. Pi Day @ Valhalla, 5-close
• March 18: Real Air Day @ Valhalla, 5-close
• March 26 - TMC Happy Hour @ Valhalla, 6-6 p.m.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association on March 9. The SA meets every Monday at 9:30 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion.

• Internal Vice President Akshay Dayal announced that the Student Association's changeover, when the officers elected in last month's SA election officially take over, will take place March 23.
• New Student Representatives announced that a sidewalk-chalk event, Chalk the Broch, will take place Friday and Saturday near Broichstein Pavilion.
• The Student Life Committee announced that polling to gauge student concerns will take place next week.
• The Academics Committee released a poll to collect student opinions about the quality of academic advising after the dismissal of the PIK system.
• Elections Chair Timothy Faust announced spring elections are approaching for SA Secretary, University Court appointments, Honor Council at-large representative, Campanile editor-in-chief, and several other positions.
• Senator Selim Sheikh proposed improvements to the university clubs approval system.
• Parliamentary Christopher Warrington modified the approval of three new university clubs: Rice University Dance Marathon, Rice Entrepreneurs, and Rice Triathlon Team.
Come work for the Thresher. It's buckets of fun and you get paid to boot. We're always looking for good people to help us write stories, shoot photos, lay out pages, copy edit, and manage our web site. Interested?

THRESHER@RICE.EDU
Hanszen snatches Senior Gift victory

BY JOSHDUBB
THREESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

If she were not wearing her hijab, most passersby might not notice Rice Senior Fatima O’Leary was a devout Muslim. O’Leary, who teaches neuroscience at St. Edward’s University in Austin, took on campus last Tuesday, not about the intricacies of neuroscience, but about her religion and the struggle as a converted Muslim.

The lecture, entitled “Women's Jihad,” was the first in the Islamica series sponsored by the Muslim Student Association. O’Leary, who was born and raised as a Catholic in Ireland, converted to Islam when she was 16. At that time, she knew nothing about the Islamic faith except what was in the Koran, the Islamic holy book, which she received as a gift from a Grandmother. After visiting the Koran, O’Leary said she realized her true beliefs were confirmed in Islam rather than Christianity.

“I never thought I changed my religion,” O’Leary said. “I washed my religion...I never doubted God’s existence — only the practice is different.”

She described the source and value system of the Abrahamic religions is the same, but praying to the Almighty was her deciding factor.

“I spent about three to four months thinking, ‘Who is Jesus?’ O’Leary said. “I went through prayer and meditation, and I had the book to learn from God’s revealed message rather than other interpretations to the Islamic faith was inspiring.”

Student Association, O’Leary’s conversion to the Islamic faith was inspiring. O’Leary said she had no doubts about her decision, despite her parents’ attempts to intervene and change her decision.

“This was my first jihad,” she said. “I wanted to honor and respect my parents, but also honor my own faith.”

When converted, O’Leary lived for a year and a half in Ireland before moving to the United States. During her time in Ireland, she said she knew no other Muslims in her community and felt there was no one who could relate to her struggles.

“Nothing could stop me, not was, nothing,” she said. “The only thing I feared was my creation.”

While there, O’Leary said she had an intense reflective experience where she came to know her sino weaknesses and vulnerabilities and felt it served as a guideline to improve oneself.

“I encourage Muslims to go on bai'at as they can, to better understand oneself,” she said. “It still takes an ongoing, strong, persistent jihad to wean the practice and context of God in my daily life.”

Khan said the Islamica series is intended to bring Muslims on campus together and also to let non-Muslims learn more about the religion in a casual environment.

“On a campus that’s largely non-Muslim, it’s our duty to spread the message of Islam and let people find out about it,” Khan said.
Taking a ride on the West Side ... Story

BY TIMOTHY FAUST
Thresher Editorial Staff

With tremendous productions like Urinetown (2007) and Holis, Hammer! (2008), in recent years Wes's Tablertur Theatre has established itself as the annual college musical theatre powerhouse. But the reputation is double-edged: this year's production, West Side Story, was met with both fantastic potential and extraordinary expectations. When the stars align and all the gears within the production synchronize, the product is meeting expectations. Unfortunately, these moments are spread too thinly across the production's two-hour runtime. Wes may have bitten off more than it can chew.

West Side Story, written by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, is a 1957 adaptation of Romeo and Juliet that replaces the feuding Montagues and Capulets families with two Hill's Kitch- en street gangs: the all-Anglo Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. The show has become one of the more influential works in the history of American musical theatre, largely because of the unprecedented complexity of its choreography and innovative music. Producing the show necessitates a fastidious attention to the details of its dancing and its music, and for the most part Wes's production succeeds with only a few lapses.

The leading lady and lead choreographer Natalie Salves's work is exhilarating and is by itself worth the cost of admission. As viewed by Houstoner sophomore Delphine Zimmerh and Hasmann junior Teresa Ann Virginia Bayer, Salves brings uplifting energy to the production as swarms of Jets and Sharks throw themselves across the stage in intricate, expressive dance numbers.

The cast of West Side Story features a handful of markedly talented dancers among a group of more amateur performers, although some rough patches of loose timing baffle even energetic numbers. What the show might lack in precision, however, it reclaims with spectacle. As a world existed in which street gangs broke into spontaneous dance, these jets and sharks would call it home.

Getting the most out of Houston's music scene

With culturally explosive Austin a three-hour drive away, Houston's music scene has never quite taken off the way it potentially could.

Andi Gomez

The main problem, as anyone who's seen Houston's sprawl can attest, is that the scene is way too spread out. Unlike Austin, where you can jump from venue to venue relatively easily and see multiple bands for cheap in one night, Houston requires a bit more effort.

Because of the disconnectedness of this subculture, with the venues all over the place, the artists, record labels, radio stations and fans need to matter something that they haven't yet figured out: networking.

This current disconnectedness didn't arise out of ignorance. If you were to talk to almost anyone in the industry, they probably would tell you this collaboration has needed to happen for a long time.

It seems like it's been a couple of frustrating years stuck at this point, but people are finally trying to change this problem. Just look at the energy that goes into First Press Houston and Houston Press music events. Maybe I'm just being incredibly idealistic, but thinking something exists before it does is a very effective way of making it magically appear, right?

Although it may take a bit longer than we'd like, the wheels have been starting to turn for Houston's music scene, if for no other reason than because we have had a plethora of talented bands forming in the past few years that call Houston home. But when it comes to Houston Press, there's always the chance that they'll head to the greater pas- tures of Austin, which we simply can't let happen.

The music scene needs a cohesive fan base that both recognizes the gems that we have, and one that's always ready to discover more. We already have some great institutions that draw in huge crowds on weekend nights. Walter's on Washington, Reliant Social and Pleasure Club, Austin's, The Mix, Jet Lounge and Rusty's Father's Pub are just a few of the venues that are well

The weekly scene

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

RELIANT PARK, 1 RELIANT PARK
WWW.HERMANN.CITY

Rodeo
Quick! What's the state sport of Texas? That's right, it's the rodeo! The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo continues this weekend at Reliant Park, with paid seats starting at $16.

But that's only half the fun. Outside is where you'll find live music, great food, random junk to buy and more. Plan your visit by hitting up the web site.

Treasure
Y'all from buried pirate booty to the crap your parents forgot to mention. Space Center Houston's new Treasure exhibit looks at the history behind treasure hunting. While you're there, take a tram tour, eat fries shaped like stars, land the shuttle and touch a real space rock. Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. every day of the week. Tickets start at $19.55 plus $5 for parking.

Sharks
Forget the boat, you'll never need bigger eyes. Sharks all swins into the Wortham IMAX at the Museum of Natural Science today. Presented by Houston, the film represents a culmination of nine months and 300 dive hours worth of shooting. Prep the site for times and tickets.

Wortham IMAX - HMNS 1 HERMANN CIRCLE WWW.HMNS.ORG
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When a small wall of an album, or rather half-CD, started with only "Bishonen Idolpop Genocaust," found its way into the KTRU station, most people did not know what to make of it. The album had the design of a robot and the sound of something that, to the normal listener, had the design of a robot and the rather half-CD, marked with only "Bishonen Idolpop Genocaust." It seemed everyone was simply interested in reviewing stuff for money. However, it is truly brilliant at the same time.

The album is reminiscent of a boss fight from one of those old eight-bit thriller games, but taken on a crazy twist. It is insanity, yet it is truly exhilarating how well all the pieces fit together despite the fact that the vocals are the epitome of pure hell. To appreciate Bishonen Idolpop Genocaust, one must be ready to accept that even electronica can be great.

KTRU Pick of the Week:
Bishonen Idolpop Genocaust

By Miguel Quinch

artistic and the
human
air

sound of a man apparently mourning in the background. The beat picks up for the next few seconds until, all of a sudden, the man begins wailing like a banshee and everything collapses.

One of the onerous tracks is reminiscent of a boss fight from one of those old eight-bit thriller games, but taken on a crazy twist. It is insanity, yet it is truly exhilarating at the same time.

The bluesy and sleepy and the drum machine blend well together despite the fact that the vocals are the epitome of pure hell. To appreciate Bishonen Idolpop Genocaust, one must be ready to accept that even electronica can be great.

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West Side Story boasts one of the largest college theater casts in recent memory. As an ensemble their choreography is captivating but their voices are frequently muffled, both by the orchestra and unclear articulation.

As individuals the cast displays a wide range of talent and experience. With radiant voice and precise poise, Baker freshman Erin Dahlstrom delivers one of the year’s best leading performances as Puerto Rican born Maria. Rice theater can only hope she sustains throughout the entire performance with the same level of performance with the same level of second act standout performance. Hawley has a face that exudes a winning enthusiasm, a stunning red dress and goatee, both by the orchestra and disconnect between the production and the audience and disconnect between the voice and the needs of a performance space. Too often the performers give the impression that they’re presenting a slideshow of West Side Story: The Movie. They drift from scene to scene not because of any internal characterisation but because, quite simply, it’s what they’re rehearsed.

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Women's track earns three-peat

by Natalie Clericuzio

They say good things come in threes. That maxim rings true for the Rice women's track team as the Owls won their third consecutive Conference USA Indoor Championship Feb. 27-28 at University of Houston's Yoe-

man Fieldhouse.

Not only did Rice win the meet, but the Owls recorded more points (132) than in the previous two championship

meets, beating out Houston (108) and the University of Central Florida (56).

But most impressive of all, Rice was not guaranteed the win going in. Head coach Jim Bevan looked at the

meet ahead of time but was still un-

certain of Rice's chances to win.

"On paper, UCF, Houston and us

could all get enough points to win," Bevan said. "Going into it, I did ex-

pect it to be a three-way battle, but our young ladies stepped up.

Senior Lennie Wate led the Owls by winning the mile, 3000 meters and placing third in the 800. Her multiple

efforts were ones she said to take the honor of highest overall score at the meet.

However, Wate was not the only Owls who contributed to Rice's win — not by a long shot. According to Bevan's estimations before the meet, Rice, Houston and UCF all had the talent to win the conference title. At the meet, Rice competitors across the board found a way to score with 19 out of Rice's 28 competitors earning points.

Additionally, several Owls per-

formed better than their seeding dic-

tated. Junior Brittany Hodges helped Rice's event of overall achievement by improving her score in the pentath-

lon, the first event of the day, with 200 points. Her fifth-place finish gave Rice four points on the scoreboard to start the meet, even though she was not expected to score at all.

On Saturday, Rice placed in nearly every race of the day, with runners racing in the mile, 400 meters, 60-me-

ter hurdles, 400, 800, 1500 and 3000 meters.

Behind Wate in the mile was junior Mariah Rice, placing third, and junior Brittney Wate, placing seventh. In the 400, Rice placed second, third and fifth.

In the 800, Rice placed third and fifth.

Bevan said he was especially im-

pressed with Rice's performance.

"Shakora continues to perform at her usual level," head coach Wayne Gua-

bis said. "A pitcher dealing the way he's dealing can really give a team hope. I don't mean just the immediate

adrenaline fix, but hope.

Since dropping the final series game against Cal Poly on Feb. 21, the ninth-ranked baseball team has faced two more of their peers. This past week against Oral Roberts University, while Rice dropped that game 5-3, the Owls did not lose another game in March, bringing their record to 8-4 in the three-week-old season.

<BEST BASEBALL, page 22>
Senior Emery Carter may have struggled at times this season, but her great performance helped the Owls push UCF to the brink in the Conference USA Tournament.

Men's basketball moves on in C-USA
by Brody Rollins and Yan Digilov

It is never too late to save the best for last. The 10th-seeded men's basketball team played the part of Cinderella at the Conference USA tournament, winning a close game to advance to the quarterfinals.

The Owls took on the University of Alabama-Birmingham on Wednesday as the Owls held off the Blazers with a late-game surge. The Owls' lead was never less than 10 points, and they took a 63-50 lead into the half.

Despite the victory, Head coach Don Pohl said the team is not satisfied with their performance. "We were in the game right until the end," he said. "We gave ourselves a chance to win."

No regrets
Learning to play without regrets was something that both of the departing seniors learned in their time at UCF. After a promising freshman campaign, the team was unable to make it to the NCAA tournament. Nonetheless, the seniors are proud of their time at UCF.

"We were in the game right until the end," senior Emery Carter said. "We gave ourselves a chance to win."

"It was a good feeling that even though our season wasn't as good, we still fought in the end," senior Tara Watts said. "We gave ourselves a chance to win. I was proud for the team.

The team will now advance to the quarterfinals of the tournament against the Clearwater College Owls. The Owls will play on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The University Eye Institute

Let our nationally renowned vision experts provide comprehensive care for your family.
by Tracy Dassker  
Feature Sport

The swim team may have finished the regular season with a few more losses than last year, but that didn’t stop the Owls from making their mark at the Conference USA Championships. Rice finished the meet, held from Feb. 25-28, in third place with a total score of 908 to Southern Methodist University (940.5) and cross-town rival University of Houston (934). Although they had come in second place at the CUSA Championships the past two years, the women were not upset with their third-place finish, “I don’t think anybody on the team is disappointed with the third-place finish at all,” sophomore Kait Chura said. “I think that we’re looking forward to next year.”

The Owls produced some excellent swims — some of the best in Rice history, in fact. Over the four days of competition, they set seven new school records. On the first day of competition, Rice started strong, finishing in third place in the 200-yard medley relay. Seniors Skylar Craig and Carolyn Miller and juniors Angela Wo and Pam Zelnick broke the school record with a time of 1:41.96.

Following their superb swim, senior Carter Warren, sophomore Erin Mattson and freshmen Nicole Delays and Shelby Bounty broke the 800-yard freestyle relay school record. Warren also contributed to a third-place finish, her 2:06.80 time was good enough to punch her ticket as a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championships.

Mattson’s leg of the race was the second-fastest 200-yard freestyle in Rice history, earning her an NCAA provisional-qualifying time.

"Last year we broke six record marks, but Brittany Massengale’s (Old Richardson) 1:57 was part of five of them," head coach Seth Hunter said. "This year was more team, effort-wise. A lot of names on the record board are going to be different." On the second day, Rice came back to break two more school records. Craig, Zelnick, Wo and Miller qualified for the NCAA Championships.

"It is more of a testament to the school history, earning her an NCAA provisional-qualifying time.

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One of the Owls’ top performers was Freshman Whitney Bottoms. She finished fourth, Delaloye was fifth, and juniors Wade and Pye also received spots in the national meet this year is exceptional. Her mark in the 3000 is 9:27. However, a chaotic hand-off left Delaloye scrambling to recover the baton from Washington spending five seconds out of position. This was a tough race, but her 2nd place in the 200-yard butterfly, setting a new school record at 1:59.41, was eighth.

Craig broke an 11-year old school record in the 200-yard butterfly at the CUSA Tournament with a 1:59.41 finish.

"Even the last night when we were kind of out of it Rice rang for sec-

projected to win the meet, Bevan was holding his breath until she cleared the 100-meter landmark. As Freshman Donna Olliver also placed in the pool vault, finishing right behind her at 12.57. Rice also scored in the triple jump, with sophomore Sarah Agora and seniors Tracie Wade and Pye also earning spots in the national championships.

In addition, Merilee, Pye and Wade traveled to the Arkansas Last Chance meet this year, a competitive meet, although none posted times last time to continue competing. At Notre Dame, the EMU had a strong opening season leg from John, the fastest time in Rice history, at 9:32. However, a chaotic hand-off left Delaloye scrambling to recover the baton from where it had rolled off the track. Realizing her team would not earn a national qualifying time, Bevan pulled the team before Watty’s final leg.

The next day, Watty wrote herself into the Rice record books after finishing fifth in the mile. Watty ran the mile in 4:40.6, the fastest time in Rice history, surpassing Pam Klassen’s mark of 4:40.5 in 1988. Her sixth-place finish was good enough to punch her ticket to the national meet.

Bevan attributed Watty’s performance to her transition from a soccer player to a national caliber, elite runner.

"She’s matured to the point that she is an extremely competitive as accomplished runner now," Bevan said. "Two years ago she started to break five minutes. Now she can run sub-five minutes for two miles, continuously without a break."
Men's track places third overall at C-USA Championship

by Jonathan Myers

Going into spring break, the men's track and field team was primed to put the finishing touches on the masterpiece that was the 2008 indoor season, but a third-place finish at the Conference USA Indoor Championships had the Owls feeling like the last movement ended on a sour note.

Despite several outstanding performances, Rice had several minor injuries and mishaps that ultimately led to their diminished performance at conference.

Head coach Jon Warren (Jones '98) seemed to have had somewhat higher expectations for the team at the meet. "We had a very disappointing meet," Warren said. "To be honest, it wasn't as good as it could have been, but we had injuries prior to the meet, and then our meet just didn't go well. For having a disappointing meet, I guess that's pretty good."

Many things seemed to unravel during the course of the two-day meet, as Warren noted that strange ailments haunted the Owls over several events.

The issue with his performance at conference last week was his choice of pole," Warren said. "He can clear that height easily with the right pole. I think he'll do real well... he's got the ability to win." Sophomore William Meyers did well at the LSU Last Chance Meet on March 6, throwing a personal best and taking first at conference, while sophomore Clay Baker finished fourth.

Men's tennis finds groove in doubles

by Casey Michel

The men's tennis team has not always had the best luck playing doubles. Despite owning a singles set that clinched top 10 rankings throughout the decade, the doubles team has consistently been a weak point for the Owls. For one, there's the beginning of each match, creating question marks that always mocked Rice's progress. This year seems to be different.

After one of the Owls' top players, 49th-ranked junior Bruno Rosa, faltered early on, and junior Chang Wang, the third best Owl, departed due to court issues, Rice's singles play has been marked by relative struggles.

However, there has been the doubles team that has kept Rice's season alive, much to the pleasure of the coaching staff. "The key, which we've been struggling with, is protecting leads and finishing off matches," said Warren. "It's always good when you win a 9-2, 8-2 match and in singles you win three in a row in straight sets... it would be good not to all of a sudden fall asleep and all of a sudden find yourself bunting on the court.

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Even though it was a strong comeback, Schell's performance was not the highlight of his week. The senior has been half of Rice's toughest doubles duo this year, partnering with Miller to headline Rice's doubles attack. Although the two only have an 8-1 season-to-date, their ranking was attained by battling with the strongest pairs Rice's opponents showed.

Before last week, Schell and Muller's best performance was an 8-6 win against the University of Memphis' 12th-ranked tandem of James Armstrong and Adrian Niskey. But that win was eclipsed by their run in last weekend's South Pacific Cup.
Rice hosts post-career workshop for Dynamo

by Jonathan Myers

As the Houston Dynamo professional soccer team prepares to start its fourth season against the Columbus Crew on March 21, many of its players are preparing for life after their playing days. Members of the team attended a sports business seminar held in Rice Stadium’s “R Room” on Tuesday afternoon, discussing the topic.

Rice Sport Management professor Dr. Clark Haptonstall, right, speaks with Houston Dynamo players Stuart Holden, left, and Brian Ching, middle. Haptonstall, along with Dr. Jimmy Disch, Dr. Jason Sosa and Tom Stallings of the Sports Management department, discussed different ways the MLS players could enter the sports business world once they retire from soccer.

Haptonstall and the Sport Management department, focused on providing the players with a crash course in handling interviews, as well as an introduction to the opportunities that exist in the sports industry for former athletes. Nearly two dozen members of the team were present at the three-hour seminar. The players listened as Haptonstall gave a candid presentation of the ways that the members of the Dynamo could parlay their soccer careers into success working in the front office or scouting divisions for soccer franchises. Haptonstall also focused on interpersonal skills, networking and showing the athletes how to present themselves to the media during interviews during and after games.

Haptonstall instructed players to be cautious about representing themselves, teammates and opponents in a positive light when giving quotes, despite the very “Dynamo-friendly” media present in Houston.

Defenderman Julius James, a recent acquisition from Toronto FC, spoke highly of the presentation. “I think it’s really important [to think about post-career opportunities], especially for athletes,” said James, who was recently acquired for former MLS MVP Dwayne DeRosario. “I was originally thinking soccer, but after this meeting I was able to think about all these different things they were talking about, so I can use my abilities and opportunities to network with people.”

Plans have been tentatively set for a follow-up conference in September, although the second seminar will be more tailored to the players’ specific interests within the industry. Haptonstall said he was looking forward to another meeting, considering how eager the Dynamo players were during Tuesday’s discussion. “The athletes were definitely enthusiastic about the process,” Haptonstall said. “Many of them stayed late and talked with the faculty members for about an hour after the presentations.”

Wade Barrett, the team’s captain, bemoaned the end of his career, recognizing the value of it and said he wished he could have sat through a program like this early in his career.

Guscy Michel contributed to this article.

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.
Midwest trip challenges women

by Prem Ramkumar

The women's tennis team did not kick off its spring break the way it hoped, falling victim to two heart-breaking losses to bondable teams in Western Michigan University and Ohio State University. Instead of giving themselves the much-needed boost, the Owls dropped to 9-6 on the year.

The losses may have had something to do with the locales because instead of soaking up the spring break sun on the beaches, the women suffered through freezing temperatures in Kalamazoo, Mich. The unranked Owls faced against the sixth-ranked Broncos, falling 4-1 in a match that highlighted their weaknesses in doubles and ineptitude with close matches as their youngest players, ophthalmic Jessica Jackson and freshman Alex Rach, each fell. After being split in doubles, the Owls valiantly fought back from the 1-0 deficit to split the singles matches. Jackson, who was not initially started at the No. 2 singles spot to allow senior story with her strong individual effort with a 6-7, 6-8, 6-1, 6(2)10 victory at the first spot against Kirsten Flower. "I'm really proud of the way she has been playing," head coach Elizabeth Schmidt said. "To take the match against the first seed from Ohio State is huge. That just shows we have the talent to compete with these teams. That win was a huge boost for her and the team."

Schmidt is demanding more work in doubles because that solitaire point has been a huge difference-maker separating the Owls from wins against Western Michigan and Sacramento State University, whom Rice lost to on Feb. 21. Given Rach's match point opportunity to clinch the victory against the Bronco, closing out matches, uniting with even current concerns about consistency, will continue to be the focal point as the season draws to a close.

"Our team sees how close we are," Schmidt said. "They gave everything they could. We keep putting ourselves in the position to win, but that's not enough. We still have a way to go."

The Owls take on 35th-ranked University of Louisville tomorrow. The Cardinals are currently 5-6 on the year. Next, they return to Jake-Hess Tennis Stadium on March 17 for their next ranked opponent playing host to No. 56 University of South Alabama.

Sporting Jessica Jackson follows through on her return in Rice's 7-0 sweep of Lee College on Feb. 25, the team's most recent win.

Seniors

FROM PAGE 17

a struggle mentally adjusting to the fact that you are not a pro player."

Fulton was asked to move from a starting position on a team that made an NCAA tournament run her freshman year to coming off the bench and contributing in any manner possible in '09-10.

Carter was also forced to find a new role on the team. In high school, she had just managed to secure a starting spot on the squad ahead of Valencia Breyelleski (COLLEGE YEAR), who went on to be one of Rice's most prolific scorers of all time with 1,371 career points.

"I was at the beginning of coping with the first major injuries of their careers proved challenging for the two freshmen members of the duo of Christy McKinney (COLLEGE YEAR), who had to work her way back to playing for Cameron University in 2006, each finished their careers at Rice carrying some valuable lessons.

Fulton noted that difference existed between them, but the value of work hard was always stressed. "In our practices [with McKinney], we just ran and ran..." she said. "We were really in shape that season... But both (coaches) made me reach my potential. It was a struggle at first, but looking back on it, I appreciate it."

The experience and growth began for Fulton as soon as she began playing at Rice. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into," said. "At the high level of competition, you are playing competitive basketball, but in college... the level of competition escalates. Everyone wants the ball so badly."

While she was never able to take a trip back to the NCAA tournament after her freshman year, after her junior season, Fulton exhibited the importance of playing to one's full potential in her final year, and indeed, her final match on the court.

The lessons of elders

"Though McKinney recruited Carter out of high school, she was only coached by Williams in her time at Rice. An emotional coach by nature, his leadership beckoned Carter to give nothing short of her best effort, despite lingering injuries that kept her off the court for stretches throughout her final two years. "He is very passionate about the whole game in general," she said. "He expects a lot because he is so into this game."

Those high expectations led to big disappointments at the conclusion of a difficult season, which saw the Owls only win two of their last 15 games. Now, the process of realizing what went wrong begins. Most disappointing to the Owls has been the lack of development throughout the season and the duration it took for the players to get accustomed to playing with one another.

"Why aren't we a 10-12 at a certain level?" Williams asked. "Well, it is not because we aren't trying to teach them things they need to work on. They haven't made a certain commitment to carry that forward, to apply what in games and stay dedicated to what they are doing. I have to say some of [us] haven't done that."

The final game of the year proved that the pieces of the puzzle are all there, but it is taking time for them to fit properly. That performance has also served as an important motivational tool for the young squad. It is interesting to note that only a year ago, a U.S.C. squad full of freshmen finished last in NCAA standings and lost the first round of the tournament after dropping the first game by two points.

Williams has elected not to waste a moment, beginning off-season workouts right away. Now, the current Owls will apply the lessons of the season on the court, while the former Owls will be challenged to use them off the court.

"I played basketball at the Division I level for four years, and it is not because we aren't trying to reach them things they need to work on. I feel like since I have done this I can do anything, I am not saying the world is going to be a piece of cake, but I am equipped and ready."

Want to make an impact on the culture of service at Rice?

Applications are now being accepted for the inaugural year of the Rice Service Council.

The Rice Service Council will have four different initiatives:

1. Create a forum in which Student Service Organization leaders can learn, share, and benefit from each other;
2. Coordinate a campus-wide annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration;
3. Increase volunteer leadership development, including coordinating a Fall Service Retreat; and
4. Advocate and work on the awarding of the Community Service Grant, Spirit of Service Awards, and service-based scholarships.

For more information, or to apply, visit the Community Involvement Center's website (http://rice.cic.org/).

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 16, 2009.

Taize

Wednesdays 9:00 P.M. Rice Chapel
BY BASEBALL
FROM PAGE 16
reported both a midweek win over Houston and a sweep of the competition at the College Classic. After the Rice Classic the following weekend, last year’s team stood at 9-5. This year, Rice has no visible respite from a schedule that so far has been fairly grueling. After this weekend’s four-game series against the Owls, which is ranked No. 20 by Baseball America, the Owls will host the University of Texas, Baseball America’s new No. 1 team. The Longhorns are 12-1 on the year, their only loss coming against Stanford University last weekend.

After that, Rice has another midweek game at Houston before heading to Baton Rouge, La., to open C-USA play with a series against the always-dangerous University of Southern Mississippi.

“I think since we’ve played such a hard schedule coming up to this point, and seen such quality arms this year ... we’ve been prepared,” Berry said. “So now when we look at who we have to play with San Diego and Texas and Houston and Southern Miss, they do have very good pitching, but luckily we’ve seen that pitching up to the point. So hopefully we can adapt and win those games.”

The Owls will look to ride the coasts of their recent success to wins in the coming weeks. Their turnaround in the past nine games has been mainly a result of more consistent pitching, not just from Berry, but from fellow junior Mike Ojala, freshman Tad Smith and the bullpen staff.

Through overshadowed by Berry, Ojala has strong together three very impressive starts in three appearances, the right-hander has allowed only four earned runs despite giving up seven hits per contest, and he is averaging nearly six strikeouts a game. Meanwhile, senior Jordan Rogers has emerged as the bull- pen ace, holding opposing hitters to a measly .098 batting average through 12.2 innings pitched.

Ojala said the emergence of the pitching staff has been as much as a total team product as anything else. He said the team has found a great chemistry off the field that translates into success on the diamond.

“We don’t care who’s on the field, it’s the chemistry in the locker room and the dugout — it’s unbelievable,” Ojala said. “Everybody gets along so well and everybody’s so confident in everybody else. There are a lot of leaders on the team, and it’s great, and I’m excited. There’s no doubt in my mind that we can go to the College World Series and win it this year.”

But if Rice is to win its second na- tional championship, they will have to find a more consistent offense. The team is batting .297 on the year, which is mediocre at best, and the Owls are leaving an average of eight runners on base per game.

Additionally, as a whole, Rice has had its struggles, even though I knew full well that it could never happen. Baseball was a business, and Griffey’s game was no business naming Salerno Field’s co-field.

And yet, a trickle of hope never went out. The lone event that light- ened Griffey’s burden was an inter- league return to Seattle in 2002. When he pledged to retire as a Mariner, I felt the idea that a one-year con- tract was in the future — a consolation prize, little more than gestural symbolism, but better than nothing.

After all, my life was not a Hallmark movie, nor was it a child’s book complete with the happiest of endings. What more could I hope for?

I knew some things are beyond the reach of fate. I knew that two weeks ago, something broke that mold.

Griffey, a free agent for the first time in his life, signed with the Mariners.

The birth of my first child will have a tough time replicating the joy that over- came me when I heard the news. I don’t know if I’ll ever fully understand, I don’t know how this all happened, this otherwise, this patently unfortun- atable, could have come about.

I know it’s sentimental, sport. Evokes those warm emotions that would make Shakespeare pale in awe. It’s become a shriek for me to hear, to acknowledge, and to unleash more passion into the sporting world than necessity. In the end, three men who throw leather pubs around a field of grass. Their movements are inconsequential, and there’s no rea- son for the idolization that comes with each passing generation.

Or so you say. See, that inconst- ant is something you won’t be able to do. Your arguments fall on deaf ears, for I am no longer a kid. I am 18, a young adult looking back through the images of my childhood. But if you try to find me on April 14, I’ll be at the Mariner’s home opener, looking down from the stands at the image of my childhood.

During the telecast of that fateful Game 5, announcer Brent Musburger said, "Ken Griffey is fulfilling his des- ign." Musburger may have been 14 years early, but he was right — Griffey’s de- sign has come true. And my childhood, unlike so much else that goes away to the world, has become complete.

Some people may say that the Rice of this year is better than the Rice of last year. I believe they are right in their own way, but I also believe that Rice is in the College World Series.

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No one wants a fella with a social disease

And that’s what you’ll be if you don’t go see West Side Story, Wives Tabletop’s spring play. The show’s on tonight and Saturday night at 8 p.m., and there are three more performances next weekend. Tickets are $6 for Rice students and $7 for everyone else. Be sure to wish the cast and crew a hearty “Knock you!”

Straighten up and fly right?
Open, Rice’s literary sex magazine, is proud to sponsor a screening of the movie that is the History Channel, in the Weiss College movie room at 2 p.m. It’s a film about an all-American girl, Megan, who gets sent to “sexual redirection” school because her parents are afraid she is becoming a lesbian. Rogers Krohn directed the movie three scars (not of four). Check it out!

Yes, Virginia, there is hockey in Texas
The Houston Aeros Hockey Club informs us that tonight is Rice Night - discounted $8 tickets above the end zone and $5 parking. Buy your tickets at the RMCC information desk! The game is in the Toyota Center downtown at 7:00 p.m. Also, THERE WILL BE A BROOMBALL GAME AFTERWARDS.

Major Major Major Major
If you’re a sophomore, today is the official deadline to declare a major at the Registrar’s office.

According to Facebook, today is:
Hug an Engineer Day. And we all know they need it.

Take your soul mate
Soul Night 2009 is here, resplendent with fantastic food and after-dinner entertainment. The soul food dinner is at 6 p.m., followed by a night of song, dance and spoken-word presentations. Tickets are $6 for Rice students and $7 for everybody else.

It’s Pi Day
Be sure to celebrate everybody’s favorite irrational number.

Ban out the candles
An anonymous source informs the Calendar that today is Thresher Opinion Editor Christine Pau’s birthday. I would say let’s all wish her a happy birthday, but that’s not how we do it at Rice. Prepare to unhang!

Beware
The Ides of March!

Rice baseball alert
Rice vs. University of Texas, 6:30 p.m. right here at Reckling Park. Fun fact: back when UT invented the “hook ’em horns” hand gesture, rowdy Rice fans responded with a “Peck ‘Em Owls” motion of their own, which combined the elegant simplicity of a raised middle finger with...well, actually that’s all it was. Somebody got offended at the mean of Owls flipping Texas the bird, and the Southwest Conference authorities had to intervene. But that was decades ago, and memories are short. That said, let’s all wish this opportunity to revive a grand old tradition!

Let’s do it like they do on the History Channel
At 4 p.m. in Herring 101, a guest lecture by University of London professor Sherry Lindquist investigates nudity in medieval art. I quote: “Here we will interrogate relevant examples of nudity in medieval art in order to understand better how this category of imagery operated in a complex matrix of socially coded meaning.” If you’re a person who wants to go just so you can see titilating pictures of the nudes of your choice, let me ask: Have you ever seen medieval art?

So that’s why they need tenure
It’s the Beer Debate! At 10 p.m. in Willy’s Pub, come see your professors debate about not very professorial things while getting increasingly hammered. You’re not going to see this in class!

Which college placed fifth in the 1988 alumni race?
Answer: Lovett. And other fun trivia tonight at Willy’s Pub’s Beer Bike Trivia Night. The trivia begins at 11 p.m.

More baseball!!
Rice vs. University of Houston, 6:30 p.m. on enemy territory. Oh, and in 1972, UH introduced its own hand gesture. It was the same as UT’s, except you raise your middle finger along with the index and pinkie. They call it a “cooper claw.” No wonder UH is such a lame school.

Blow out more candles

THURSDAY
He likes white women and he likes green Jell-O
Yes, “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged” is opening tonight in the Sid Rich basement! As a longtime fan of the play, I am totally pumped. If you’ve never seen it, you should be excited too. It’s the funniest play appearing at Rice all year. Plus, when the dust is cleared, you’ll have seen every single work Shakespeare ever wrote in one evening. Including the sonnets! It all begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are $5.

What a will? Week 2009

THURSDAY
Willy’s Waffles
TUESDAY, MARCH 17
WILLY’S WAFFLES
BEER DEBATES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
BEER BIKE TRIVIA
THURSDAY, MARCH 19
INTERNATIONAL BEER NIGHT
FRIDAY, MARCH 20
PHIL’S PHRIDAY

Willy’s Pub

Join the O-Week 2009 Diversity Facilitating team.
Applications available in the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the colleges.
Due date: Friday, March 20, 2009
**CLASSIFIEDS**

**GENERAL**

**Classifieds**

**Housing**

- Off-campus housing
- Renters: 610, behind Ikea. Please email me at jeremy.mostre@yahoo.com.

- Roommate: monthly rent

**Help Wanted**

- Home Help: $15 per hour. School is located ten mins. from home which is located near 610 and I10, behind Ikea. Please email me at JudithPhdjudith@yahoo.com.

- The Backpage is satire and is written, poorly, by Timothy Faust and Eric Doctor.

**Advertising**

- Advertising Managers: 713-348-4363, Thresherif@rice.edu

**Subscriptions**

- Annual subscription rates:
  - Domestic: $120/year international
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- For more information: 713-592-9800.