Endowment falls 18 percent

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

While Rice may not have lost as much as its investments at other universities, its endowment still took a hit during the most recent recession.

For fiscal year 2009, Rice incurred an $82.5 million loss on the endowment's investment returns, worth about $8.9 billion. The university also spent $215 million of the endowment, $35 million of which was received in endowment gifts, according to unaudited reports issued from the Office of the Vice President for Investments, Treasurers.

The report's final numbers show that the endowment, which was valued at $8.9 billion at the end of June 2008, had dropped 11 to $6.4 billion as of this June. As a result of the endowment losses, the university has mandated a 5 percent budget cut for each department. Exactly what that cut has yet to be determined.

The endowment, which originally consisted of $4.4 billion that founder William Marsh Rice left to the university in his will in 1904, grows on interest and gifts each year. A portion of the endowment is budgeted between department funds, scholarships, maintenance and athletics, and the remainder that grows is invested in various assets, such as private equity funds, real estate, timber and energy investments and United States bonds.

Despite a 17- to 18 percent drop in global stocks and bonds last year, the endowment performed better than those at many of Rice's peer institutions. Rice, along with most national universities, reports its annual endowment each February to the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Associate Vice President for Investments Claire Nelson said her fiscal year 2009 Harvard University reported a 21.7 percent drop in its $36.6-billion endowment, and Yale University reported a 22.6 percent loss from its endowment of $22.9 billion. The national average for a university endowment loss fell at around 17.2 percent.

"We had a good, solid performance in a tough year," Nelson said. "We haven't ramped up our policy-wise. We started.

See ENDOWMENT, page 5

Rice endowment, 1999-2009

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Let's go clubbin'

The deadline to renew registration for student clubs is next Thursday. Failure to register will result in your bank account being frozen, all reservations canceled and all advertisements removed. This is the last chance to renew clubs like Procrastinators Anonymous. You'll get to that eventually, right?

All in the family

This weekend is Family Weekend, which means a healthy dosage of the Rice Phils, SpoCo and Baker Blues for you and your family to enjoy. We encourage you to have fun but, please, keep your parents under control. You know how they can get on their first weekend away from home.

What a rec

If you can't tell, today is the grand opening of the Barbara Davis Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center on Wednesday. In addition to the 2,500 sq. ft. pool, which is only four feet deep, the Rice Center will feature multiple basketball and racquetball courts, a dance theater and banks of new workout machines. For a look inside Rice's newest addition, turn to page 8.

Nobel Prize recipient selected to speak at commencement

BY SETH BROWN
FOR THE THESHER

The Commencement Speaker Committee announced Monday that Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, will be the 2010 Rice commencement speaker, concluding a search process that lasted nearly six months.

Best known as one of the chief proponents and partners of microcredit, Yunus is the founder of the Grameen Bank, which makes small loans to the poor that can be used to help start businesses. Yunus' approach is so successful, he has been recommended for the Nobel Prize at least 15 times. Yet Yunus chose to give his money away, establishing a nonprofit to spread his concept and work internationally.

"Yunus is one of the most prominent humanitarians out there. Hopefully in the spring he'll give us a perspective beyond the ordinary. I think he will," Michael Gustie, Speaker Committee Chair, said. "It's an opportunity to speak to the people actually graduating. Yunus is the one of the most prominent humanitarians out there," Professor Michael Gustie, chair of the Commencement Speaker Committee, said. "Hopefully in the spring he'll give us a perspective beyond the ordinary, I think he will."

Yunus, a Bangledeshi who received a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1972, began his business of lending to the poor in 1976. He used the idea of microcredit, lending small amounts to those who need it, as a way to reduce poverty. His idea has since grown into the Grameen Bank, which boasts nearly eight million members in Bangladesh, and which supports a number of similar institutions throughout the world in parts of Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The announcement of Yunus as the commencement speaker for this year's graduating class marks the end of a search that began in April, before the 2009 commencement ceremony. The selection committee is comprised of a group of undergraduate students, representing this year's and last year's senior classes, as well as Gustie and three graduate students.

Gustie, who has chaired the committee for three consecutive years, said the committee changed the process to make it more relevant to students.

"We started the process earlier, and we tried to make it important to the people actually graduating," Gustie said.

Physics graduate student Kristin Jane Stone, who also served on last year's committee, said at the committee's first meeting each member listed the names of 10 people they would like to speak at the ceremonies.

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New Rec Center well worth the wait

If the brand new Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center had opened last Wednesday, the odds of us putting out this week’s issue would have been as likely as the football team cracking the top 25 in the polls. After looking over the Rec Center’s itinerary of features comes with, there is simply no way we would have elected to spend our time pumping out this Family’s Weekend edition of the Thresher (see story, page 8).

Just look at what Rice’s newest addition has to offer. Brand new banks of cardio machines. A dance studio with springy floorboards. Stationary bikes that allow for spin classes without the instructor berating you for your lethargy. Kalwall windows to both filter light and absorb excess heat, our local gyms. Springy floorboards.

Kalwall windows to both filter light and absorb excess heat, and faculty members, which were expressed three weeks ago ("New recreation center fees and financial constraints," Sept. 4), should be addressed. While not exactly exhilarating, Michael Contreras was spot-on when he delineated his concern for new. If anything, we are just glad to be rid of that Olympia-size.

Over the last week, Rice has been graced by the presence of a pair of highly-respected diplomats: Edrian Idrissov, Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United States, and Swashpawan Singh, former ambassador for India to the United Nations (see stories, pages 4 and 7). Meanwhile, it was announced that Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, would be the commencement speaker at the 2010 commencement ceremony (story, page 1).

Even though the enrollment may have dropped by double-digit percentages (see story, page 1), it is nice to see that Rice can still attract the kind of envelopes and world leaders that make our university as prestigious as we’ve been led to believe. And yet that prestige was not on full show for Idrissov and Singh, who both spoke in college commons. Lacking the pomp and showmanship of the Lames A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy — and all the perceived intimidation that students may feel when they gape at the building’s imposing tw  — the ambassadors were instead treated to the dining facilities for the university’s students.

And it seems like it was a flying success. As such, we would recommend the continuance of this lecture series. Not only does it appear that students are more likely to attend, but we are also confident that those invited to speak are less concerned with their venue than with the expansion of their message. The more ears they can reach, the broader their message, and the greater the impact they can create.

Specific signals required for bikes

In the Editor:
For pedestrians, bikes, whistles and random shouting seems random and not especially effective. "New bike policy aims for safety," Sept. 18. Perhaps you could promote signals long used by downhill skiers: "On your right!" or "On your left!" These alerts give precious information to a walker and enable him or her to decide instantly where to step — left or right — toward impending disaster.

Felicia Espy
Economics graduate student

NASA budget raise unnecessary

In the Editor:
Three billion dollars is not cheap change, as Joe Dwyer says ("NASA deserves financial support for endeavors," Sept. 18). Compare it to how much NASA spends annually on your monthly lunch budget, it doesn't even come close.

David Splerter
Economics graduate student

Let’s celebrate the first class of the new Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center.

Go, Thresher!
Op-Ed

THERE ARE SOME THINGS a New Yorker inherently misses when traveling to the thousands of miles from home and left to eke out in a new college environment. The hectic, buzz of a new life chapter — in my case, residing at rice boulevard and university avenue — can be quite invigorating and sadly lacking in the comforts of home.

Op-Ed is now on Twitter. Get the scoop at twitter.com/ThresherOpEds

Johanna Ohn

After my first month at rice, I can assuredly say, "New York, you are not New York, and we know it.

To be fair, the sevvy has cooked some dishes that beg to be grown accustomed to the idea of Duncan's paper plates and perpetually flooding showers, and I've taken pride in the concept of being "LEED certified" — you know, circularly-shaped bread does not constitute a bagel. Bagels are Gravy and granola, somehow, just isn't the sort of sustenance one wants to deal with before a a.m. class.

Second, "you" and "all" are unadulteratedly unrecognizable, like, isn't that a star, but it lacks a certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home. That's not to say it's not nice, but it lacks the certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home."

Firstly, your bags suck. In New York, circularly-shaped bread does not constitute a bagel. So, you can keep your bagels, but it lacks the certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home."

While it may seem that I am criticizing the effects of a New Yorker's order to segue into a promotion of socialist ideals, this is not the case. While I have not yet been to rice, I think it's safe to say that rice is a sprawling university with miles of the same greens and sugar maples — all I've never be eaten first thing in the morning.

Second, "you" and "all" are unadulteratedly unrecognizable. Like, isn't that a star, but it lacks the certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home."

One last point, the most shocking observation I've made is that the bread rice sells on campus, is, by far, not the same as what I'm accustomed to in New York. Despite what rice tour guides say, rice is not the fourth largest city in the United States. Rice is not even a city. It is a sprawling university with miles of the same greens and sugar maples — all I've never be eaten first thing in the morning.

Therefore, it is quite apparent that there are some things a New Yorker inherently misses when traveling to the thousands of miles from home and left to eke out in a new college environment. The hectic, buzz of a new life chapter — in my case, residing at rice boulevard and university avenue — can be quite invigorating and sadly lacking in the comforts of home.

An capitalist model ever closer toward cultural antitheses, it is imperative that we determine whether such a shift in the world capitalist system for exactly this reason we have a particular interest in the post-world economic organization at a macro-level. As rice culture, there is debate as to whether the local culture facilities and services the societal interests of capitalism in the us. After all, it may always have to keep our windows closed and our elevator doors in the cold.

We live in a time of unprecedented intellectual understanding, when the shift in the world capitalist system for exactly this reason we have a particular interest in the post-world economic organization at a macro-level. As rice culture, there is debate as to whether the local culture facilities and services the societal interests of capitalism in the us. After all, it may always have to keep our windows closed and our elevator doors in the cold.

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If not, it may not be the right approach to the idea of rice. The facts are that rice sells on campus, is, by far, not the same as what I'm accustomed to in New York. While rice tour guides say, rice is not the fourth largest city in the United States. Rice is not even a city. It is a sprawling university with miles of the same greens and sugar maples — all I've never be eaten first thing in the morning.

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Rodrigo Flores

It seems appropriate that the political system we have in place is so conducive to our own development into a richer, more enlightened human race. The past few centuries have witnessed the decline of beliefs and practices — and it sounds absolutely disgusting. We are effectively acknowledging that it is not worthwhile to supply you with the appropriate materials to learn about the benefits of a more enlightened, intelligent society. The rift between the two. Though we may not do much about this, I would simply prefer to limit the discussion to the current and future implications of the economic policies of the two countries.

Paul Angel

These changes, however, do not address some other, perhaps more fundamental problems with the Honor Council.

Before I begin, let me state that I agree that the Honor Code in its present form is still valuable and it is not my intention to make any substantive changes. We can safely say the economic system has brought the gains and advantages we have come to enjoy in a finite "pie." The world is not a finite "pie," but that it lacks a certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home."

"You" and "all" are unadulteratedly unrecognizable. It's like mixing servery soups, but it's like mixing servery soups.

Second, "you" and "all" are unadulteratedly unrecognizable. Like, isn't that a star, but it lacks the certain vibe that makes me nostalgic for home."

Third, biscuits and gravy should never make use of your full intellectual capacity. Why would you want to be stuck here, at the edge of medieval edifices! Did you ever have a horse? While it may seem that I am criticizing the effects of a New Yorker's order to segue into a promotion of socialist ideals, this is not the case.

Therefore, it is quite apparent that there are some things a New Yorker inherently misses when traveling to the thousands of miles from home and left to eke out in a new college environment. The hectic, buzz of a new life chapter — in my case, residing at rice boulevard and university avenue — can be quite invigorating and sadly lacking in the comforts of home.

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In an effort to increase talks by notable speakers at the residential colleges, Martel College hosted Ambassador Swaspanwan Singh last Thursday.

Speaking to an audience of about 50, Singh, the former Indian ambassador to the United Nations, gave a talk entitled "The India Story: More Fact than Fiction," where he discussed his country's current success, in addition to its development and obstacles to becoming a world power.

The talk was jointly coordinated by the Martel Peer Academic Advisers, the Indian Students at Rice and the laten B. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

Singh, who serves as India's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, said he was motivated to share information about his country after discovering how little Americans knew about India.

India boasts an enormous voter turnout for elections and is the largest democracy in the world, he said.

Around 430 million people voted in India's latest elections, a number which encompasses the combined populations of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Switzerland. Singh said most Indian citizens are so passionate about their right to vote that they would go to the extent of stealing every-thing else to keep this right.

In addition, Singh said India has made a major mark on world powers — even McDonald's Corporation. To this day, no beef at all is served at any Indian McDonald's restaurant, a demand that initially seemed laughable to the company when it considered expansion in the country in 1996.

Singh also pointed to India's geographical significance, situated between China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal.

"India is an island of stability in a difficult neighborhood," Singh said.

India's tolerance, not only for its different religions but for its own diversity, is a key to its continued suc-cuss, he said. India's focus on se-cularism is not equivalent to an absence of faith, rather a coexistence and acceptance of each other's beliefs, Singh said.

Additionally, Singh encouraged the U.S. listeners to be proactive, rather than complacent.

"I don't think you guys use your elbows enough, " Singh said.

India has the second-largest reservoir of workers and an average age of 24. While Americans may consider India to have an overpopulation problem, Singh said that India views its large population as "a stock of creativity and innovation, not a liability."

Singh went on to discuss India's success, development and impact in the world.

"I definitely didn't expect [the speech] to be as good as it was. It was his honesty that I didn't expect," Doshi, a Martel junior, said. "I didn't see him trying to dodge questions. He was consistent with his opinions, in addition to government policies."

The plans for Singh's arrival were set in motion years ago. Martel Mason Jerry Dickens had been in conversation with the university about hosting notable speakers and other events at Martel soon after he became master in 2005. Dickens, an earth science professor, was ap-proached at the beginning of the semester by Nancy Hawes, executive director for external affairs at the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business about hosting Singh.

The Martel Peer Academic Advisers, led by junior Bo Shi and senior Maram Salaheldin, agreed to assist with the talk following an e-mail asking for help, in addition to the suggestion of Assistant Dean of Undergraduates and Director of Academic Advising Brian Gibson, also a Martel resident adviser.

Salaheldin said the PAs' involve-ment made sense, as the group exists for academic enrichment at the college and has the manpower to help.

"We were basically asked to handle logistics," Salaheldin said. "It wasn't so novel doing it for us to do."

According to Salaheldin, the arrangements and success of the event gave the PAs more visibility, as the group is generally just known for student broske breaks and handling students' academic concerns.

Salaheldin also praised the speaker's accessibility compared to that of past notable speakers such as President Bill Clinton and the Dalai Lama. Shi and Salaheldin coordi-nated publicly for the ambassador's talk alongside Deepa Ramachandran, president of Indian Students at Rice.

Martel junior Ran Villarreal said the more casual setting of events held at the colleges made him more likely to attend them.

"Even though I've taken classes at the Baker Institute, it's intimidat-ing for undergraduates to go into lecture-series where everyone is wearing suits," Villarreal said.
The $55 million Rice received in endowment gifts came from alumni, corporations and other donors. This is up from 2008, when Rice received $33 million in endowment gifts.

Historically, the endowment supports 40 percent of the university's budget, but Nelson said this year the endowment will come closer to supporting 45 percent of the budget.

From 1912 until 1965, the endowment was invested in companies around the outer loop. Currently, the endowment includes more than 99 countries, Director of Reunion Programs and Special Events Jenni Kim said.

"Rice is a well-established and well-managed university," Nelson said. "We believe in Rice's long-term financial success.

"I want families to see that students are well-versed and ready to make an impact locally as well as internationally," Makiani, a Martel College sophomore, said.

"I'm pretty excited to show my family what Rice has to offer," Makiani said. "Some students have been planning their days and weeks leading up to this weekend.

"I'm pretty excited to show my dad around and introduce him to different friends I've made," McNulty said. "McMurry freshmen Lena Silva said. "Plus, I'm not going to stay inside at restaurants outside of the Village."

Even students who don't have family coming to visit enjoy the idea behind Families Weekend.

"My family is not coming this year, but they came for Families Weekend and my freshman year," said. "I will take advantage of the campus' wonderful cultural immersion, Makiani said.

"Houston is a wonderful place to live, and this event serves as a wonderful cultural immersion," Makiani said.

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A glimpse inside Houston's mayoral race

BY SCOTT NOGARDO

On Wednesday, May 13, the newsmakers gathered at the Rice Alumni Center in Houston to talk about the 2010 election, with the next mayoral race seeming to be in the cards. The meeting was a little more than 10 years after the last one, and the candidates were all familiar with the city's political landscape.

There was no racial profiling and no discrimination policy. The Houston Police Department has its hands full enforcing the law and fighting crime. Houstonians need to cooperate with other agencies and law enforcement, the Harris County Sheriff's office and ICE to deal with criminal activity.

On tax increases during his term as mayor:
No. I, believe we can do more with less. In the solid waste department, we cut their budget a percent, and they're actually doing more.

The solution to the economic crisis may not lie in bailouts, but in electric-powered cars. Chris Paine, writer and director of the 2006 documentary film "Who Killed the Electric Car?" spoke to an audience of 90 at the Rice Commons in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy on Monday about electric cars and their futurization in the future U.S. economy.

Director of Acclaimed Electric Car speaks on vehicle’s resurgence

By Scott Nógaard

The solution to the economic crisis may not lie in bailouts, but in electric-powered cars. Chris Paine, writer and director of the 2006 documentary film "Who Killed the Electric Car?" spoke to an audience of 90 at the Rice Commons in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy on Monday about electric cars and their futurization in the future U.S. economy.

Despite the title, Paine suspects that the electric car is not dead, but a stalled innovation that, as public opinion shifts in its favor, has just begun to stir.

On whether law enforcement should be involved in enforcing immigration:
I don't believe it is appropriate for our police department to make inquiries of immigration status at a stop. I do believe that once the person is arrested and in custody you would check a citizenship status. As you would run a check on outstanding warrants. On tax increases during his term as mayor:
No.

On whether law enforcement should be involved in enforcing immigration:
I would not authorize any police officer to profile a hard-working law abiding citizen, but I will allow the immigration law under the SB 387 program.

On tax increases during his term as mayor:
No.
Kazakhstan envoy speaks at Wiess

BY HALLIE JORDAN
THREDDER STAFF

Thanks to the 2006 film Borat, the nation of Kazakhstan has quickly, if infamously, earned household recognition. However, unlike the film’s brash and surprisingly-adept main character, Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United States Erian Idrissov, who spoke at Wiess College Monday, promoted a message of peace and progress.

His talk was part of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy’s partnership with the residential colleges.

The ambassador began his speech in front of the 50-member audience by noting that Kazakhstan, which gained its independence in 1991, is still attempting to develop its economy, culture and influence.

“From the economic and political climates, I believe we have done our homework,” Idrissov said. “I say we have achieved what we want would be a gross mistake, but we are making the first steps to building our country and society. It is still very much a work in progress.”

He said progressive development is most evident in the country’s per capita gross national product, which has increased from $600 to $10,000 over the past 18 years. The global recession, however, has not left Kazakhstan untouched, with economic growth slowing from 10 percent to 1 percent.

“A nation with an erratic history — the country has been ruled by the Turks, the Mongol Empire, and the Soviet Union — the country has been ruled by the country’s current influence and position in the world,” Wiess sophomore Alisher Kamalov said. “I especially enjoyed the fact that he gave the audience a chance to ask any questions they had pertaining to Kazakhstan.”

One way to further advance peace, Idrissov said, is through education. Though Kazakhstan’s school system still struggles to overcome the Soviet-era setbacks that plagued it, the ambassador said progress is being made.

“We will be successful if we nurture the young and healthy generation,” Idrissov said. “Our mission is to prepare them to take over.”

To give the next generation a more varied experience, the Kazakh government pays for 3,000 students a year to study abroad. Over 90 percent of the students return to Kazakhstan because of the opportunity to use their skills, Idrissov said.

After being prompted by the audience during the subsequent question-and-answer session, Idrissov addressed the matters of terrorism and Kazakhstan’s proximity to the Middle East.

“We share one border with the United States and joined the coalition after Sept. 11,” Idrissov said. “Our focus is on education. We hope it is the most efficient way to get rid of terrorism.”

Wexx master Michael Gustin worked with the Dean of Undergraduate Affairs’ office to host this event.

“I think it’s great to be more connected to events,” Gustin said. “This is a good way it can happen.”

Wexx College sophomore Alisher Kamalov, who was born in Kazakhstan and has lived in the United States, said he liked the Ambassador’s openness with the audience.

“I thought that the speech was very informative, especially to those that don’t know much about Kazakhstan or its current influence and position in the world,” Wexx sophomore Alisher Kamalov said. “I especially enjoyed the fact that he gave the audience a chance to ask any questions they had pertaining to Kazakhstan.”

Jones College Dean Susan Wu, one of the undergraduate committee members, said for the most part the committee listened to the members of the graduating class.

“There was a lot of student input, group discussion, discussion between seniors,” Wu said.

Of the names initially compiled, the committee drew together a list of the top 20 speakers. This was submitted to the Office of the President, which then began contacting the prospective speakers.

“The people weren’t ranked, per se, but the president’s office knew we were very excited about Yunus,” Wu said.

Wexx College senior and committee member Tracy Daniker said she was very pleased Yunus accepted the offer.

“Hopefully people will be excited when they do some research and find out what he’s about,” she said.

Because of confidentiality issues, the committee members interviewed were unable to name others who had been considered, but Daniker added she thought the appointment was significant.

“Although Yunus will not be paid to speak at the commencement, which will be held May 15, a donation will be made by Rice to his charity, and a special award will be given to a graduating student, either an undergraduate or graduate, selected by the awards committee, who has contributed to Yunus’ cause. The award winner will be selected by the awards committee.”

We want to bring speakers to campus that the full community has access to, such as those in the President’s Lecture Series,” Leebron said.

As for the competition between universities for speakers, Daniker said Rice does an admirable job of avoiding the sort of one-upmanship that other universities get involved in.

“Rice takes a really good approach,” Daniker said.

Lebron said he found it hard to justify the high cost of bringing in a prominent or prestigious speaker.

“We want to bring speakers to campus that the full community has access to, such as those in the President’s Lecture Series.”

President David W. Leebron and the Rice University Board of Trustees

INVITE YOU TO THE DEDICATION AND GRAND OPENING OF THE
BARBARA AND DAVID GIBBS RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER AT RICE UNIVERSITY

FRI Dy SEPTEMBER 25
2-4 P.M.
New Recreation Center boasts bigger space,

BY JOCELYN WRIGHT
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

After a year and a half of construction, the much-anticipated Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center opens today at 2 p.m. The center more than doubles the square footage of the former Rec Center, and boasts a variety of new rooms, spaces and workout facilities that will be available to students, faculty, staff and their families, Director of Recreation Programs Tina Villard said.

The increased size of the Rec Center allows for two outdoor pools, including a 50-meter competition pool, two classrooms, a dance theater, four multipurpose rooms, a cardio and weight-lifting room, a multipurpose activity court gym and several spaces for students to lounge and watch games. The new center also includes two outdoor basketball courts, four racquetball courts, two squash courts and an outdoor adventure center. Villard said the entire building is also equipped with Wi-Fi.

The Wellness Center, previously located next to the Brown College master's house on the north side of campus, has moved to the Rec Center. Its facilities have been expanded to include two acupuncture rooms, a massage room, a classroom and a conference room. Student Health Services, however, will remain at its current location, in the same building that housed the Wellness Center.

Membership for undergraduate students is $75 annually, which is included as part of tuition. Annual memberships for graduate students are $120, and memberships for faculty, staff and retirees range from $288 to $720, according to the Rec Center's Web site.

However, availability may be expanded after Rec Center administrators examine the facility's demand. "After we're done working out the details, we may expand availability of the Rec Center to alumni and the community as well, but our primary concern remains students, faculty and staff," Villard said.

Villard said the center was largely paid for through a major donation from Barbara (Brown '73) and David Gibbs (Will Rice '71), in addition to smaller donations and funds from the Rice endowment.

The 50-meter outdoor competition pool includes three-meter and one-meter diving boards. The bulkhead in the center of the pool can be moved for water polo or competitions. Construction of the pool is not yet complete, but Villard said the pool is scheduled to open at the beginning of November. Once open, the pool will be open year-round, excepting inclement weather.

The entrance has a lounge area and a floating staircase which leads to the second floor. At the operations desk, students can reserve rooms and equipment and purchase items such as shampoo and locks from the Pro Shop. The new entrance will also make it easier for the Rec Center staff to keep track of the students entering and exiting the building, as it requires them to swipe their cards to enter.

The indoor basketball gym on the second floor is made up of four full-size basketball courts, and can also be used for volleyball and badminton. The gym can be divided two or four ways, depending on student and instructional needs.
new equipment, myriad upgrades to facilities

donations from other alumni.
Villard said the need for a new recreation center grew as the intramural and club sports on campus were over-crowded by the Rec Center department. She said President David Leebron was instrumental in pushing for the construction of new facilities. The Rec Center solicited feedback from students through surveys and an advisory committee that talked to the colleges to determine what facilities
students most needed. A feasibility study for the building was completed in 2006, and construction began in April 2008.

"They really fast-tracked this project to make sure we got the building in," Villard said.

In compliance with Facilities, Engineering and Planning's goals for all of its new buildings, the Rec Center should receive LEED Silver Certification for its sustainable construction, FE&P Manager of Communications Suzanne Glenn said. Several windows in the Rec Center are made out of Kalwall, a material that absorbs heat and cold and also filters light.

"This material also cuts down on energy costs, as less air conditioning will be needed for the facility. "When the building's lit and it's dark outside it kind of looks like a lantern," Glenn said.

While the Rec Center is being introduced to the new community, the former Autry Court is undergoing a facelift. Villard said much of the space at Autry Court will disappear when the temporary metal building, located adjacent to the outdoor tennis courts, is removed. She said the two back gyms will continue to be used for certain club sport practices but that many areas in the building, such as the pool and the locker rooms, need to be revamped.

Head online to ricethresher.org to check out a video tour and audio slideshow of the new Rec Center.

Unlike at Autry Court, the men's locker room in the Rec Center will not have communal showers.

At 3,000 sq. ft., the theater is the largest of the four multipurpose rooms. It will be used mainly for dance classes and clubs such as Rice Dance Theater, as well as LPAPs. There are two changing rooms, and the ceiling is designed so that the entire room can be blacked out for theater productions. All four of the multipurpose rooms feature sponge floors, which produce double the bounce of regular floors.

The cardio and weight room in the Rec Center is nearly triple the size of that in the former Rec Center. Each machine has a personal viewing screen, and several have embedded televisions where students can attach iPods or media devices and listen to their own music or watch TV shows and movies on the screen. There are two E-Spinners, which offer individual spinning classes, and four machines that come with programs that pit bikers against each other or let them work as a team. There are five different types of elliptical machines and track trainers. Currently, the room is only 75 percent full so that the Rec Center administrators can observe which machines are the most popular and purchase more of those. There will also be a fitness desk in the room with staff to answer questions about how to use the new machines.
Wiess One-Acts deliver varied, enjoyable show

BY JANE LAYBER
THE WEEKLY SCENE

Whether in communist Russia or 1940s Mexico, whether dealing with disorganization at times, the actors were having so much fun that they aren't talking forget to stay in character. This clutters the scene and distracts from the dialogue.

A collection of short one-act plays put on every during the fall semester by Wiess Tabletop theater, the one-acts are intended to teach Wiess freshmen about acting in a fun and low-key way, and this year it has certainly succeeded in its goal. Although there are some small errors present in the production and a noticeable lack of cohesion at times, the actors' enjoyment is having so much fun that the audience can barely help but join in their enjoyment.

This year's one-act play, beginning with "Smoke Stacks," which consists of a programmer of 50 minutes, is a short play dealing with smoking and the scenes progress through a variety of locations and characters, from a house where a man and a woman are sitting at a table, to a parking lot, to a room in a hotel room.

Because the scenes cover such little distance in time and space, even lines are similar and contribute to the audience's lack of attention. The scenes progress through a variety of locations and characters, from a house where a man and a woman are sitting at a table, to a parking lot, to a room in a hotel room.

A heart-warming end to the show takes a lighter turn with "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." The "choose your own adventure" version of Trotsky's death from time to time brings a smile to the faces of the audience. He also showed he can speak for himself, while still injecting a bit of humor into the scene.

The face value of my ticket was $50 paid to see the Backstreet Boys and Frankie Veil's perfomances, but to see the beauty of art is priceless.
A Word With Your Wardrobe: Backstage at the Simon Malls fashion show

If you've ever wondered what it's like backstage at a fashion show, you're about to get a taste.

Deanne Nguyen

Last Thursday, I had the pleasure of working behind the scenes as an intern at the Simon Fashion Now full runway show, which kicked off the night on a majestic pop-up runway over the Galile’s ice rink and was held exclusively for the press and VIPs. In a nutshell, the event followed the three-day animated window display of the clothing that will soon be available in stores, focusing on ready-to-wear luxury and mid-range sportswear – wear and dressing to the nines.

For those of you familiar with the fashion industry, you are probably aware that this is slightly unusual. Designers generally show their collections out of season – fall in the spring, and vice versa – because it takes time to make arrangements with buyers and produce garments in mass quantities, all the while hoping their pieces will end up being featured in key glossy magazines across the globe. Though this may one day be the case in Houston or for this show in particular, the principle remains the same: getting people excited about the new season’s clothes.

Monday

And excited we were, those of us working backstage, despite the long list of to-dos. In order to keep up, I had to follow the show’s preparation protocol to the letter. First, the presentation’s outfit, or “looks,” are selected weeks in advance by representatives from the various participating stores and the head stylists.

Models are chosen and specifically assigned their looks. The intern then pulls the clothes from the store, but not before accounting for all the pieces and any damage on the clothes, and drag veritable trains of garment racks to our provided hotel suite to hold the clothes. So begins the arduous sorting process.

Tuesday

Everyone takes a breather before the mounds begin. Time for some shopping!

Wednesday

Looks for each model are grouped and placed in order they are to appear on the runway. Shirts are marked with the model’s name and the item’s store, and the rolls are taped to minimize scratching.

Garments are then refitted and pieces that require tailoring are rushed off to be handled, lest we end up doing it ourselves. Labels and instructions for dressers — the people who change the models’ outfits, or “looks,” are selected weeks in advance by representatives from the various participating stores and the head stylists.

Monsters are chosen and specifically assigned their looks. The intern then pulls the clothes from the store, but not before accounting for all the pieces and any damage on the clothes, and drag veritable trains of garment racks to our provided hotel suite to hold the clothes. So begins the arduous sorting process.

Friday, September 25, 2009

Dressing to the nines

Clockwise from top: The fully-loaded garment racks are pulled in; view from backstage; a model awaits her turn on the runway.

Check out ricethresher.org for a photo slideshow with more pictures from the event.

Kid Cudi blazes into stratosphere with Man on the Moon

BY CASEY MICHEL

The Rice Thresher editorial staff

Kid Cudi does not have Drake Car- ry’s ego. He doesn’t have King LeBron’s Skills-covered hands, nor does he have the city’s penchant for exportingcrippl- ing depression. He has nothing, and nothing, you would associate with Cleveland. And he’s about to change that.

Cudi’s major-label debut, Man on the Moon: The End of Day, puts the Mad in the Madonnas. Cudi’s songs are as eclectic as his Mexican-African- Native American heritage. Throughout the album, Cudi blends his bittersweet, viscerally real rapital, emotional voice with Ratatat, Ennio Morricone-like strings, and Common to remain and re-imagine one of the Lady’s hits and he’s true passion shine through as an anthem to all those who enjoy a hearty wake or bake.

Most of Cudi’s songs are an ode to “buying for boredom,” obsessing mental life with the diet of marijuana. Cudi’s first hit, “Day ‘N’ Nite,” sounds like a “Steve Jobs [freestyle] [flow] [writing] [instaboy] [flow]” to the world. And despite Cudi’s songs are an ode to “buying for boredom,” obsessing mental life with the diet of marijuana. Cudi’s first hit, “Day ‘N’ Nite,” sounds like a “Steve Jobs [flow] [flow] [flow] [flow]” to the world.

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Love Happens never gets off the ground

BY KAITY CHURA
FOR THE THRESHER

Someone, somewhere, is terrible. For a while, Love Happens seemed destined to be a movie about love, you would think. The movie happens to be for you. Nope.

Now, if you are looking for a movie about coping with emotional baggage, maybe this film is more up your alley. Love Happens is sure to attract groups of giddy females on a girls’ night out or cute couples holding hands, expecting a miasmic comedy, but most still will find themselves shaking their heads, slowly turning to wrap their minds around the train wreck they just faithfully watched. A better title for this movie would have been Death From Venus.

I am not a professional, so when I can come up with a better title, you know there’s something wrong.

But it wasn’t just the title that was disappointing. After seeing Aaron Eckhart in No Reservations and Jennifer Aniston in Along Came Polly, it seemed like the mixture of the two of them would create wonderful comic chemistry, and the movie itself was forced, was not meant to be.

Still, most of the time one wonders why that Eckhart made something out of a horrible role. Aniston in all her, I would think, seemed like a good idea, but on the screen it was definitely not, being stiff and forced. Perhaps the turkey Eckhart proved his acting chops and, somehow, kept the audience from pulling out their hair.

On the other hand, Aniston, a talent in her own right, needs to keep waiting for her right romantic comedy. In this, she seems good, but not good enough to make her the lead in a movie like this.

Aniston and Eckhart. Maybe it is. Had he not been wearing a wig throughout the movie, the audience would have thought about who was wearing whose hair, and their romance never would have stood a chance.

All in all, it’s a good idea about the two of them, I’m sure to attract groups of giddy females on a girls’ night out or cute couples holding hands, expecting a miasmic comedy, but most still will find themselves shaking their heads, slowly turning to wrap their minds around the train wreck they just faithfully watched. A better title for this movie would have been Death From Venus.

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Football stumbles against another Big 12 foe

By Meghan Hall

If you wanted to, you could say that the foot-
ball team's game last weekend proved difficult
to watch. From the previous two, The Owls (0-3, 0-1 Confer-
cence USA) fell to sixth-ranked Oklahoma State Uni-
versity and lost their third-straight game. The next big test
is to run their season into an early hole.

But the score wasn't surpris-
ing, because the feeling of the
game was vastly different than
the previous exasperating
losses against the University of
Alabama at Birmingham and
Texas Tech University.

This was Rice's third
straight game on
the road, and we
wanted to get it out. Even though we were
down, we told ourselves, "We can play with these
guys." Just because they're Big 12, just because
they come from Oklahoma, they're the team that
doesn't mean anything. They put on their boots
the same way we put on our socks. They're hu-
mans like us. We approached the game, 'Hey, even though
we're down, we're going to give 110 percent effort
and let things take care of itself.'"

Thanks to part in four first-time starters, the
defensive defense locked ready
to play. They held the Cowboys (2-0, 1-0 in the Big 12
opponent, against Texas Tech
1-2 weeks ago, the Owls
kept it close through halftime
but went scoreless 2-7 in the
second half.

In last Saturday's game, however, Rice found itself
on top in the second half, up 17-10, before
falling to the Cornhuskers 24-17 in the third
quarter. A large part of this in-
defensive efforts on both sides, as neither squad put
any points on the board through the first two
quarters. The two teams gained a combined 53
yards in a quiet first half that featured six punts and
three turnovers on downs. Wiess faced a
defensive line and a pair of running plays, Wiess faced a
defense stepped up to the challenge, stopping a
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Game of the Week

Wiess 13, Hanszen 7 (OT)

Wearing its traditional black and goldened
uniforms, Rice entered Sunday's showdown
with rival Hanszen, knowing one thing: They
were going to live and
and let things take care of itself."
Rumor has it that the men's cross country team was chanting the popular Under Armour slogan "We must protect this house!" before the start of Saturday's Rice Invitational. While no one will ever know for sure, it was nothing to be ashamed of.

Their finish would have made the folks at Under Armour proud.

The Owls successfully built on their performance three weeks ago at the Johnny Morris Invitational, finishing an impressive first at the Rice Invitational. With the University of Houston only running three runners in the race, and thus not counting towards the team scoring, Rice achieved a perfect score of 15 with five of the first six runners across the finish line.

Senior Simon Bucknell took first place for the Owls in the men's race, finishing four-tenths of a second before the 5,000-meter race. Redshirt freshman Matt Carey was 21 seconds behind him in third place, with fellow redshirt freshman Gabe Cuadra and James Llanas taking fifth and sixth places respectively.

Head Coach Jim Warren (June '88) was pleased with the team's accomplishment but quickly brought a realistic viewpoint to the circumstances of the meet.

"Today was a victory," Warren said. "The meets with national appearance of the season — the Rice Invitational. While no one will ever know for sure, it was nothing to be ashamed of."

The meet was the first collegiate competition for six freshmen, allowing them to see their feet in Division I competition while still on familiar ground. The team, now composed of four returning runners, including a scattering of the 2008-09 season, is looking forward to seeing how strong their team can be once they have competed against other teams, but we're looking forward to the several unattached Owls to run the several unattached competitors. The freshmen are learning a lot, and the upperclassmen are helping a lot. Warren also praised his team on running as a group, a focus the team has maintained in their previous two meets.

"We need to run smart and as a group, like we have been talking about," Cuadra said. "We really don't know where we are talent-wise right now in comparison to other teams, but we're looking forward to the several unattached competitors we will help us down the road."
Soccer avoids loss in deadlock against New Mexico

By Teddy Grodek

The Owls and the Lobos both longed for the victory on Friday, as the women's soccer team played to a tie. Unfortunately, they both could not earn the Owls (2-4-2) a win.

Facing the second-seeded University of New Mexico at home last Friday, the Owls played their way to a 1-1 draw. The Lobos (8-1-3) entered the contest as one of only 20 undefeated teams in the nation and had recently beaten their school record for consecutive games played without a loss, which they extended against Rice.

But to have tied the Lobos was an accomplishment in itself, especially considering how obviously Rice lagged in the first half. Even though the score was tied 0-0 at halftime, the Owls had been on the defensive most of the time. The Lobo offense was stepping it up and really getting going. According to Lucas, this seemed to create another mental lapse for the Owls.

"One of the things we're trying to work on, and that we've noticed this season, is that we have to play the whole 90 minutes," Lucas said. "We can't have any four- or five-minute mental breaks. That is something we're really trying to focus on going into conference play, because it's those little five-minute mental lapses that end up costing us."

Rice quickly regained its sharp play and once again created opportunities for the team to score. Once a ball ricocheted off the crossbar, forcing Lobo goalkeeper Kelli Cornell to dive multiple times as the Owls attempted to even the score. As the game drew to a close, Rice had not yet managed to score an equalizing mark, but the women were still fighting valiantly. Lightly

...continued}

For more information and to apply, go to: www.macquarie.com/usc
**COMMENTS**

**Staying true to the Gray and Blue the weekend**

The last time we saw the football team, they were hosting a golden Texas Bowl trophy in the sky, the crimson spectacle to an odd season in which Rice grabbed its first bowl win in 15 years. The Owls started that night with big legs and in the heart of the West Division Stadium.

My, how time flies.

The NFL draft whistled away and then the NCAA season collapsed. James Casey3 miles down the road, and a new life of football sidelined the well-coached guitarist Chase Clement. Going to see a hit, with former offensive coordinator Tom Herman birthing a rice to Iowa State, and our defense parted with three starters, disrupting a scheme that was just getting a handle on how exactly to stymie opposing offenses.

The offense was gutted. The defense was left to ride the storm.

College athletics easily lends itself to rebuilding schema, and this year's unit is far better than a Notre Dame fan and alcoholism. The quarterback situation has had fans in the dark for months, with Nick Fanuzzi and John Thomsen-

ing to the misery the 2009 season and its descending from the Texas Bowl to

O FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 13

close enough for freshman running back Charles Ross to take the ball in for a touchdown each time.

"Defensively, I was so proud of Nick Fanuzzi and the performance he had where he led us three scoring drives in a row," Bailiff said. "We've got to build on that. We've got to keep improving." Second senior Thomas Shepherd got some playing time in as well, completing 12 passes for 199 yards. The two quarterbacks combined for 368 passing yards, Rice's highest total of the season.

The receiving duties were once again spread wide among seven different receivers, with senior Tom Dixon collecting his first 100-yard game of the season with 120 yards on nine catches. Senior Jason Goodwin made his first career start for the Owls, leading the rushing attack with 15 yards. Ross netted seven rushing yards but accounted for 21 of Rice's points.

"Just to see the end [of the drive] result with scoring I think is just huge for us, because in the previous two games we were making some good drives but we couldn't punch it in and get six," Fanuzzi said. "I think it was just big for our team. It also just showed the defense, 'Hey, we're going to go out there and score,' kind of like lift up both sides of the football. ... It's unfortunate how the game ended, but nonetheless it was a lot of fun and was great to be out there and play some football." Fanuzzi was not the only one enjoying himself, as Clements credited the experience as a game-changer.

"The most important thing that we did differently from the past two games is that we actually had fun," Clements said. "We went out there and we decided we were going to be accountable. There have been many times where we've been in the right position, we've been having great game plans for the past two games and we've just got to make the plays. The most important thing to strive for is being accountable to the brothers next to you."

As it may be to the dismay of the Comesdersons, this year's team doesn't seem to be in the top 15 this season. But there's still a lot of games left. Tomorrow the Owls return to Rice Stadium for the first time all season as they host Vanderbilt University at 7 p.m. in the home opener. So far this season Vanderbilt has yet to defeat any Football Bowl Subdivision school. Rice lost a tight contest against the Commodores last year on the road, so the team is ready to avenge one of its few 2008 defeats.

"We are learning lessons from losing, and I want to start learning some from winning," Bailiff said. "Even though we've improved as a football team, we still make mistakes that we're going to have to eliminate... If we get our best players out on the field, I think we can compete with them, and if we eliminate these mistakes I'm talking about, and we continue to improve, I'll have our chances."

http://blogs.riceathletics.com/sports

**FROM PAGE 12**

forward to the next."

It is clear that the Owls will have tough competition in both races, especially with the University of Texas-El Paso adding two new members to their team, which now features six native Kenyans. Yet Warren is confident and eager to see what the future has to hold for the team, both in this season and the next.

"By the time we go to conference, I expect Tulsa to be in the top eight to 10 teams nationally, and UTEP to be in the top 15," Warren said. "The regional meet is key. If we can get a couple guys up near the front, and overall have a 30-minute average with the runners, I think we will place well." I'm very excited about the years to come, since four of our top five guys at last week's meet were either freshmen or sophomores."
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passing attack as junior quarterback Valicia Miller connected twice with junior Maria Failla on long touchdown passes, including one within the final 30 seconds to preserve a Jones victory.

Lovett 13, Baker-Duncan 12
Lovett responded from Saturday's loss with a win on Sunday, the league's first victory in over two years. Pewluk and junior Shauna Rassin- sen were pivotal in the win, as each in a touchdown reception of over 50 yards. Baker-Duncan, in the final play of the game, had a pass attempt intercepted by Lovett senior Erin Finn. Sophomore Brigitte Bennett played a stellar game on defense for Lovett, knocking down five passes in the second half to help the winning cause.

Will Rice-McMurtry 28, Brown 7
On the first play of the game, Brown senior running back Jackie Amonte hello for a 50 yard touchdown and nabbed the extra point for a 7-0 lead. Will Rice-McMurtry then marched down the field during their first possession and read the game. The rest of the first half was a defensive deadlock, with neither team scoring again. In the second half, however, Will Rice employed its play-action package, moving the ball down the field well to score more touchdows.

Jones 18, Sid Rich 12
In stunning fashion, Jones defeated Sid on Sunday afternoon with a comeback for the ages. After trailing 12-0 late in the fourth quarter due to a pair of touchdowns passes by Sid senior quarterback Ashley Thompson, Jones took over on their own 20-yard line with under three minutes left. Jones sophomore Nas- na Okorie took a toss 80 yards for a touchdown, cutting the Sid deficit to half. After forcing a three-and-out, Jones got the ball back and scored again with just 17 seconds left, this time on a pass from Miller to Failla. Jones did not convert the extra point, and Sid got the ball back on their own 35 with 17 seconds left and the game tied 12-12.

Thompson threw a long pass on first down, but Jones junior Gabri Quarter intercepted a pass, returning the ball to the Sid 25-yard line and running out of bounds with two seconds left. On the final play of the game, Miller rolled out to the right and lobbed a pass to the back of the end zone, where Failla hauled in the game-winning pass as time expired.

Sports Poetry Corner: Remembering the Success

After the printing of Copy Editor Anna Wilde's column on the ever-changing David Robinson last week, the Thresher received another example of Anna's literary talent. Mr. Richard Wilde, Anna's father, submitted a poem, Remembering the Success, written by Anna in eighth grade for the San Antonio Poetry Fair.

Hair slightly graying and success just a memory, the old man still towers over the crowd—locals and tourists who flow slowly, mimicking the river next to them. Everyone desires the man, but he is not recognized for his height. Who could forget the solemn expression and clean cut attitude displayed on the old man's face 10 years ago? Who could forget the savoir of the franchise, the 71 points, dunkers, jumpers, blocks, and boints, the leadership, the form of the hearts of San Antonio. The man who touched lives around the world, known simply to all as the Admiral? Memories of jubilation, defeat, faith, love, all in his eyes as he greets each fan with a wistful smile.

Powerful stuff, to be sure.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING TO VOLUNTEER ABROAD

For more information visit the website of the Rice Developing World Students' Scholars Program, www.rice.edu/developingworldscholars. If you're interested in learning more about the program and how it can benefit you, please contact Rice Developing World Students' Scholars Program at Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77251. The deadline for international opportunities is Friday, September 25.

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FRIDAY

Hello, parents!

Welcome to The Rice Thresher Calendar. This is probably your student's favorite section of the newspaper, so we're excited to bring you...it's the handiest guide there is for your Weekend Experiment. Carry this page around with you whenever you go and you'll never again wonder what to do next. (You can recycle the rest of the paper.)

Why don't you start small...

Very well. Wade Adams, the director of Rice's Nanoscience and Technology, is delivering a special presentation on nanotechnology at Rice in Dunnington room 110. The talk begins at 3 p.m.

You always told us not to eat before getting in the pool.

But we're rebellious college students, so we will be celebrating the opening of our new swimming pool at 5 p.m. by feasting on free Chik-Fil-A chicken and then playing "water volleyball." This is also a great time to explore the rest of the brand new Barbara and David Gibb Recreation and Wellness Center. It will actually have an open house before the pool party begins. Stop by and enjoy!

Artsy fartsy

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston is hosting an art show for students and their parents this evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you haven't registered for free tickets, hop on the few shuttles at Lovett Hall and head over. If you have, check the RMC info desk, but they may all be gone already. Four cool galleries will be open and the event will be hosted by students from the Shepherd School of Music.

Not to be confused with That Thing With Cayla Grant, Doris Day, 1962)


If Vanderbilt wins tonight, just remember that they have to put up with the Nashville music scene.

The Rice football team takes on Vanderbilt at 7 p.m. tonight over in the big stadium. Come watch our football team, ranked the fourth team in the nation by ESPN, take on Vanderbilt. This could be the night we turn it around! I hope.

They've been writing this show for months

The Rice Players' fall presentation, "Spoofenstein: Combustion in a Rice Improv comedy troupe, and they're putting on a show of madcap skits, jokes and absurdities tonight in Herring Hall starting at 8 p.m. Last year they acted out myDybovich's novel, "The Maroon-Brown." This year I'm going to give them "CS" by Sid Richardson."

On this day in 1969

On this day in 1969, the Beatles released their next to last and possibly best album, Abbey Road. The iconic cover, laden with satire, satiric titles that Paul McCartney had died, is just a teaser for the treasure of music within. It has "Here Comes the Sun," "Something" and "Maxwell's Silver Hammer," and that's not even mentioning the ridiculously great medley at the end. My favorite Beatles song? Out of college, money spent / Live for today, pay the next eighty / All the money's gone, nowhere to go. But I hope that can't be two years from now.

SATURDAY

They don't actually (anyone can act accurately), but they act with wonderful expression!

The Rice Players' fall presentation, in the Importance of Being Earnest, is the shortest play ever written, and tonight is opening night. Visit Hamman Hall tonight to catch the show ($6 for faculty, staff and alumni). If you miss it, there will be more performances this weekend and next weekend. After this the Players will pull a Stupendous, and head for the hills.

WEDNESDAY 30

Relax!! Stay Calm!!

It's time for Evening Nirvana, a twenty-minute relaxation session in the EME Chapel. Beginning at 5 p.m., calm your stressed out mind with relaxation techniques and let those problem spots and relationship problems slip right out of your mind. If you're still-addicted, you should know that these sessions occur every week, so the Afternoon Nirvanas every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and the Noon-Time Nirvanas every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

My roommate and I plan to make Club Fondren T-shirts. But, while we wait for those shirts, check out a talk today about some more reasons to love everyone's favorite literary Jane Segal, one of Fondren's librarians, who will be telling us how to use "New Research Services and Resources at Fondren Library in a chat during this lunch hour. Learn more by beheading to Beall Hall 535 at 11:30 a.m.

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THURSDAY 1

We...really...will...will.... Give You Money!!

How To Submit Calendar Items

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

Submission methods
Fax: 713.348.5238
Email: thresher-calendar@rice.edu

Note from the Editor: Including the Calendar's five favorite translators!

Gregory Rabassa has published English versions of several great works by Gabriel García Márquez, including One Hundred Years of Solitude, The Autumn of the Patriarch and a Death Foretold. García Márquez has often said that he thinks Rabassa's English version of Solitude is even better than the Spanish original.

Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky are a husband-wife duo who have produced numerous translations of the great Russian novelists, including Crime and Punishment and Anna Karenine, as well as 30 short stories by Chekhov.

Walter Kaufmann was a German-American philosopher who earned his paycheck translating Nietzsche, Goethe and Hegel. This is the second week in a row I've given his name in the Thresher.

The Calendar editor's mother translates Turkish into English and vice versa, and is responsible, for among other things, Turkish Pokeman cards and the Turkish subtitles to Jurassic Park.

Noteworthy...the Calendar turns 20 in November.

To apply for summer jobs, see the Career Center by 4 p.m. Monday. The deadline is November 15.

Applicants are sought for the Dr. Bill Wilson Student Initiative Grant. The fund supports innovative student projects that will improve undergraduate life at Rice. Emphasis is given to improving the academic life of students, but anything worthwhile except salaries and travel will be considered. Organizations supported in the past include: The Underground; Rice Crew; On-Rice.com; Rice Recycling, the Sanctuary, the Humanitarian Medical Orchestra, Club Field Hockey, Brown College Theatre, and KIRU.

Submit 6 copies of a short (2-3 page) proposal describing the project and including a detailed budget. The deadline is 5 p.m., November 5, 2009.

Mail to: Dr. Bill Wilson Grant c/o Mike Gustin, Master, Wiess College MS 738
SUGGESTED USES FOR THE FORMER REC CENTER

Swimming Pool → Dog Fighting Pit

According to Wikipedia, President Lennon's favorite hobby is dog fighting (and if it says anything else then you should fix it). Lennon has had the Lennon became infatuated with dog fighting while he was a student at Harvard Law School, where dog fights are a common Friday night activity. Civic could provide a fun and entertaining escape for students by hosting constant dogfights in Autry's old, empty lap pool. More importantly, Rice's biology students could breed a race of super-aggressive "house" dogs that would keep the cash flowing our way.

Lockers Rooms → Porn Set

Everyone knows that the best scenes in the History of classic pornography start in steamy, dank locker rooms. Autry certainly has those. I mean, where else can a group of wet, naked girls enjoy each others' company in privacy? Rice has two gender-themed locker rooms and an endless supply of co-eds desperate to have sex with anyone or anything. Deebie Does Houston, here we come.

CLASSIFIEDS@rice.edu

HELP WANTED

TUTORS WANTED. LEARNING2, supervises them until approximately 4:00 pm on most Mondays during parents weekend. Contact: 713-348-3287, Chemistry, Physics, French, Spanish, and references required. Call Eric 713-901-5634.

Driving Needed to transport female high school student home after school. Must have own car, $8 per hour including insurance & gas provided. This is not a long term gig. Pay is $5 per hour (up to $83.33/week) 713-901-5634.

Tutor and earn $20/hr with General Academic, a company incorporated by Rice students. GeneralAcademic.com tutors or shadupmpton@gmail.com.

Rice Oaks area attorney search firm seeks energetic, quick learning individuals to assist with database management in addition to occasional probate work. The primary responsibilities will be to input and update data into the firm's proprietary database of Houston lawyers, law firms, and corporations. This requires highly organized, detail oriented individuals with the maturity and judgment to handle confidential information with discretion. The atmosphere in professional but easy going, and the people are friendly. The position has long been staffed by excellent Rice students looking for a part-time position that accommodates their class schedules. Pay starts at $9/hr and upwards. Contact Victor Brooks (Jones email: victor@brookslegal.com).

Graduate Student seeking experienced reader for term paper. Salary negotiable. 713-901-3126.

2004 Jeep Wrangler sport - Black with lift kit, white tires, front & rear grill guards. Looks hot, but both.

Weight Rooms → Underground Casino

Never mind those pesky laws against gambling in Texas: Houston could really use a proper casino. The closest big-name slots are in Lake Charles, Louisiana, which is a few hours too far for students who grime about walking to the Village for dinner on Saturday night. The old rec center's half-empty weight rooms would make the perfect space for cages, blackjack and other entertaining ways to throw away money.

Corrections and changes: [email protected] (713) 901-5634. Won't believe how many dogs were harmed in the making of this issue.

THIRSTY THURSDAY

Oh, my 7th grade daughter in English/Trap, looks hot, hot, hot!!

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Rice Amenities Rents

Rice students could breed a race of super-aggressive "house" dogs that would keep the cash flowing our way.

Tutor looking for students to pick up girls at 6 pm you. From school and sports practices until approximately 5:00 on Thursday, close to Rice. Car and references required. Call 713-901-3126.

Babysitter wanted: Rice faculty and have parents need a responsible sitter (female preferably) to help enjoy an occasional night out. We bidable with hours for 6:30-9:30, in half hours, References encouraged. Pay $8-10/hour. Call 713-901-3126.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

ADVERTISING

We accept display and classified advertisements. The Thresher reserves the right to refuse any advertising for any reasons. Additionally, the Thresher does not take responsibility for the final content of any ad. Placement advertisements are non-cancelable once placed. All advertising must be submitted to the Newsroom by the Monday prior to publication.

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CLASSIFIEDS

1-20 words $5.00

21-50 words $10.00

Current classifieds can be viewed on our website at www. Thresher.com.

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