Beer Bike track set for facelift next year

Addition of Duncan College and McMurtry College forces expansion of racetrack, but necessary construction won’t be finished in time for this year’s competition

BY SETH BROWN
THRESHER STAFF

While Rice’s possible merger with the Baylor College of Medicine may have garnered much attention in recent months, the focus of Duncan College and McMurtry College students has centered on a different type of expansion across campus.

The inception of the two new colleges has necessitated an expansion of the Beer Bike track.

The needed expansion to the track is not the only possible change brought about by the two new colleges — there is talk of adding additional bleachers and removing trucks from the balloon field with the interest of placing additional students. There is talk of adding additional bleachers and removing trucks from the balloon field with the interest of placing additional students. The beer bike track does not currently have enough space to safely accommodate more riders than those of the current nine colleges.

"Even with extremely experienced riders it’s hard to ride two abreast," Beer Bike Coordinator Brian Henderson said. "Should an expansion of the track not take place, this would not be possible if they were to participate alongside the other colleges. They would also only be allowed to field freshmen bikers and chasers, though transfers would be allowed to take on support roles, Henderson said.

Beer Bike coordinators from Duncan and McMurtry have stated interest in holding an exhibition race between the two colleges, which would take place before the alumni and the women’s races.

McMurtry Beer Bike Coordinator Alejandro Rodela said more applicants increases the need for new students to quickly fill student roles, but caution that too many students could potentially displace younger students.

According to Rice’s planning, the number of incoming freshmen will increase by 21 to 24 percent this year. Although numbers will not be fully accurate until the end of this year, the growth was accepted.

Although that increase was larger than expected, the growth was acceptable as part of President David Leebron’s Vision for the Second Century, Rodela said.

"But maybe increasing the number of students is not an acceptable trade-off for growth," Rodela said.

Although regular decision applicants increases the number of potential early decision applicants increases, the total goal for the class of 2014 is approximately 970 students. Last year the plan for the class was to have 850 students, but in the end that number was closer to 880.

Less academic preparation or less motivated students is not an acceptable trade-off for growth.

Chris Muñoz VP for Enrollment

"Although that increase was larger than expected, the growth was acceptable as part of President David Leebron’s Vision for the Second Century, Muñoz said. The V2C plans for a total undergraduate student body of around 9,000 students by the year 2020. McMurtry College freshman Alejandro Rodela said more applicants increases the number of incoming freshmen will increase by 21 to 24 percent this year. Although numbers will not be fully accurate until the end of this year, the growth was accepted.

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An open letter to Lance Berkman, concerning Beer Bike

Dear Lance,

By now, we’re sure you’ve heard the news: Beer Bike is changing (see story, page 1). This year, the first in which the number of colleges runs into double digits, the most sacrosanct part of Rice’s culture will look ... different. See, two new colleges have ridden in on their environmentally friendly horses and decided to crash the party, changing up the game plan and turning this year’s Beer Bike into a caudron of concern and confusion.

We don’t mean to say it’s their fault. They don’t know what they’re doing out there, and their apathy for an event they’ve never seen is to be expected. Granted, we’d like to see their sister colleges, Baker College and Will Rice College, take it upon themselves to embrace their younger brethren and show them the ropes. If Will Rice would put aside its preemptive desire to defend its sweep, McMurtry College wouldn’t be on the outside looking in at this year’s Beer Bike. The same goes, albeit to a less-competitive extent, for Baker and Duncan College. That being said, because these two new colleges will be tossed out of the nest so abruptly, possibly forming their own fraternities, any changes they make to the Beer Bike will create an awkward situation.

What about Rice? I mean, Rice has always had a beer bike, and while some Rice students are considers it a sacred rite, it’s clear that Rice has never really understood — the win was an unexpected godsend. What better way to encourage them to donate money to the university than with a victory-infused pride?

We all know BMU’s role in collegiate athletics, but I think we should rather hone our own disciplinary voices and lobby, hard, for the future of the Beer Bike. Has a nice ring to it, doesn’t it?

Think about it, Lance. Rice needs you, now more than ever. Be the hero we’ve always known you are. Save our Beer Bike.

Sincerely,
The Rice Thresher.

Congratulations deserved

Last Saturday, the football team won its Homecoming game against Tulane University (see story, page 14). This isn’t a misprint. For those following the team’s progress — even for those blissfully unaware — the win was an unexpected godsend. What better way to welcome hundreds of Rice alumni back to their former home? (And what better way to encourage them to donate money to the university than with a victory-infused pride?)

The team hasn’t had an easy season, by any means. Plagued by numerous injuries and a close loss to Southern Methodist University two weeks ago, Saturday’s win energized present and former students alike.

Our only complaint lies with the announcement of Kanye West as Homecoming Queen. Rice is known for its quickness, which is why it integrates each year into its Homecoming Court nominations: The university displays an unwillingness to follow the beauty-pageant-like competition with which other schools are concerned by nominating ridiculous public figures and luminaries. Last year, we found Kathy Collins the perfect candidate for Homecoming Queen. But Kanye West? Come on, people. Caitlin Barnett was a shoo-in — she is the best BB-gun printer. For those following the team’s progress — even for those blissfully unaware — the win was an unexpected godsend. What better way to encourage them to donate money to the university than with a victory-infused pride?

Erratum

In an article we published earlier this month (“NOM at last, the world of scantily clad” Nov. 6), the Thresher incorrectly reported that attendance at the annual Night of Decadence increased by 2,000 from last year. The attendance increased by 150. The Thresher regrets the error.

Rice-BCM merger clearly thought-out

To the Editor: Like many, I have followed the discussions involving the Rice-Bay for College of Medicine merger as closely as I could over the last few months, especially the carefully crafted reports from the Faculty Merger Review Committee, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Collaborative Activities, and the work of the supplement to the report organized and published by the Boles Report on the Medical Humanities, in which I took an active part.

I am writing this letter as a single contribution to the ongoing discussion; it expresses the personal opinions of a single faculty member whose thoughts on the subject of medicine have been shaped primarily by three factors: five years of administrative experience as chair of a department within the School of Humanities, a profoundly interdisciplinary department for which faculty research and graduate training are key and critical components; numerous discussions with the administration about the potential merger, primarily in arranged meetings with other chairs, but also in other formal and university contexts; established intellectual exchanges and interactions with the medical school’s psychiatry and the psychology of religion and a sense of how a history of working closely with colleagues and graduate students in the department in order to form strong links at BCM and the Texas Medical Center in these fields.

My position can be described as one of "guarded optimist" and stated this way: Should the Board of Trustees, the administration and their financial and legal consultants decide that a merger is in Rice’s best interest, I am in support of such a merger.

My reasoning can be articulated in three parts:

1. Given that so much of the key institutional information is extremely sensitive and so confidential, and that even were it all somehow available, no homes being can adequately assess all the variables, much less foresee the future, I do not think it is reasonable to expect certainty or complete assurance on any decision. We take reasonable risks regardless of whether or not we choose to act, although it is true that the risks are greater if we choose to merge. Hence, I believe, in a philosophical principle, any argument that emerges from a theory or position of certainty, and I hear all the faculty positions advanced so far, including my own, as positions articulated in good faith in the light of an almost always limited knowledge. More information, of course, could emerge that would change this fundamental uncertainty and entail a clear and unambiguous "yes" or "no," but I do not see that yet, at all.

2. Personally speaking now, I want to say this: By my five years of working closely with most of the administration on a number of important issues involving the departments of the larger university, I have, in every single case, found the sounding and final decisions just, fair, balanced and final. There is no reason to believe that the present arguments and positions articulated in good faith in the light of an almost always limited knowledge. More information, of course, could emerge that would change this fundamental uncertainty and entail a clear and unambiguous "yes" or "no," but I do not see that yet, at all.

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In short, should a merger take place, the humanities have something vital and fundamental to contribute, and so we need not interpret such a major development as a "failing" event. We should rather hone our own disciplinary voices and lobby, hard, for the future of the Beer Bike. Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Chair of Religious Studies
Reed College

This letter was originally presented for the Faculty Senate before publication in the Thresher.
Health system rife with overcomplication

Alexander Bonnel

Fortunately, my parents wired me the news as "expansion," "growth," or "increased" financial imposition. During the umbrella recession, I was asked whether they would be able to afford the private health care system, "Photo from Dallas to Fort Worth." By the time I arrived at the hospital, the staff informed me that I had been uninsured for the rest of my life. They explained that I was no longer covered by my health insurance. The day before my appointment, the hospital staff informed me that I would need to pay $200 at the next day and pay $100 out of pocket.

He shows us that our use of insurance has seriously deviated from its original purpose: to protect an individual from the extreme financial burden of urgent health catastrophes. Americans now use insurance as a way to pay for all medical services, from doctors' visits to prescriptions. By holding onto every service only if someone else is inherently preventing the classic problem of moral hazard, the insurance industry sacrifices health resources because we don't know how much we may need in the future. The economic concept of demand is anathema to the insurance industry, which is built on people not knowing what they want. The economic concept of demand is anathema to the insurance industry, which is built on people not knowing what they want.

I attempted to relieve the pain I've been living with for the last year, but the hospital staff informed me that I had been uninsured for the rest of my life. They explained that I was no longer covered by my health insurance. The day before my appointment, the hospital staff informed me that I would need to pay $200 at the next day and pay $100 out of pocket.

Overloaded science courses lack student-faculty interaction

RICE YOUTHS TELL YOU

It is easy to understand why a professor like Caprette would opt out of writing any letters at all. "If you haven't already, I highly doubt that BCA professors are making huge individual sacrifices to champion our students. Unfortunately, their efforts go almost entirely unnoticed."

The most striking side of the recommendation process is the lack of transparency and the possibility of damage to our students. We are all too familiar with the process for the sake of the students. It is becoming a game with myself in which I guess how much they really cost. We keep consuming health care services but we are not aware of the cost.

A recommendation from a professor who has not had the chance to interact meaningfully with a student can only hurt both parties. In my opinion, we should do the best things we can to protect our students from the current trends we're creating.

Chelsey Bayer

In addition to the small classes promised, Rice's proximity to the Texas Medical Center and its strong emphasis on scientific research make Rice a haven for pre-med students. I was somewhat surprised by the number of students re-

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Religious differences foster dinner discussions

BY MICHIELLE PHILLIPS THRESHERR STAFF

For the first time in the university's history, the Rice Interfaith Dialogue Association, in conjunction with the Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance, hosted dinner talks Thursday at two residential colleges to discuss students' religious differences.

The two sessions, held at Brown College and Wies College, accommodated eight to 12 students, respectively. The talks were led by RIDA moderators Lovett College sophomore Katie Benson at Brown and Martin College junior David Song at Wies.

After having participants speak about their religious background and traditions, the moderators passed around a deck of cards featuring religious questions about handling evil, the specificity of prayers, questioning faith and changing beliefs.

Student were given five minutes to prepare their response. Questions were followed by several minutes of two-class discussion.

"We wanted to generate an open, accepting environment in which people feel free to share their opinions," Song said. "We felt that the structure of the cards was the best way to achieve that.

Wies College junior Teng, who attended the Wies dialogue session, said he found the discussion engaging and a departure from Rice's supposed anti-religion vibe.

"This is something no one on campus is really accustomed to," Teng said. "I didn't know what to expect from people being open about their faiths.

RIFA President Selin Shekhat said the talk was a success.

"It was a great atmosphere, for a while to the participants for open up in the beginning and once the9"ology session started, everyone really got into it and started sharing personal experiences with one another," Shekhat said.

The sessions were followed by several minutes of group discussion that continued in a one-on-one setting.

Brown College sophomore Kristen Taylor said she found the discussion engaging.

"This is something no one on campus is really accustomed to," Taylor said. "I didn't know what to expect from people being open about their faiths.

Chris Barnes said McMurtry wanted to field its own full team, and will do so if circumstances allow.

"We want to show that we have our own identity," fellow McMurtry Beer Bike Coordinator Kelsey Pederson said. "To show that proper Beer Bike atmosphere, Pederson and Barnos said McMurtry will have its own Willy Weeks (Shirt, T-shirt design) and a format it's not a复制 Duncan's Willy Weeks. So instead of following Duncan's Willy Weeks and be used in future years.

"The goal here is to represent what Rice culture for the academic year is," Pederson said. "A lot of people have concerns. Sid Rich senior Anna Rob-...
Rice ranks fourth for “best value” in nation

BY HALLIE JORDAN
Thresher Staff

In a repeat of last year’s ranking, Rice came in fourth as a “best value” private school on both The Princeton Review and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance rankings published earlier this month. The top 100 national schools were ranked.

California Institute of Technology, Princeton University and Yale University precede Rice in the rankings.

Kiplinger’s determines quality by the percentage of applicants offered admission, SAT scores, the university’s student-faculty ratio and the percentage of freshmen who earn a bachelor’s degree within four or five years.

The Princeton Review uses student surveys to come up with its results. Vice President for Enrollment Chris Munoz said, “Certainly, it is easy to conclude that our undergraduates at Rice are saying some extremely positive comments about their experience at Rice,” Munoz said.

To help students continue to afford Rice tuition, and to keep up with other schools’ financial aid policies, Rice increased its loan threshold from $60,000 to $80,000 last semester, Munoz said.

Furthermore, a student who matriculated in 2009 and after will offer be offered loans not exceeding $80,000 over the course of four years, he said.

Munoz, Vice President of Finance Kathy Collins said results for the new financial aid policies will probably not be reflected until this year’s freshmen graduates.

Collins pointed out that Rice does well in rankings involving financial aid because the university is need-blind and has always had a relatively low cost compared to other schools.

As the number of students at Rice increases, Collins said she anticipates that there may be changes in financial aid.

“I think the big uncertainty for everybody is how the economy is affecting people and how it plays out in financial aid requirements,” Collins said. “But Rice has had a practice of adjusting financial aid as family circumstances change.”

JoAnn College junior Hillary Baker-Jennings said she felt the rankings reflected her experience at Rice.

“I have enjoyed my Rice experience so far, and feel that it has not just been overly exorbitant in cost for my parents,” Baker-Jennings said.

With the university’s population on the rise, Munoz said he does not anticipate a problem with any loss of academic quality. Rather, he said the growth is beneficial for Rice.

“I believe that with our growth we are becoming a better university,” Munoz said. “It is enabling us to have more students in a more critical-mass way. Look at the geographic diversity of our class this year. Look at the academic interests beyond academic discipline. The sheer size helps us to make a richer university experience, which I think is a big part of the perception of the quality of a Rice education.”

The combination of the “best value” ranking and the number one quality of life ranking, he said, started earlier this year by The Princeton Review, speaks well for Rice’s reputation.

Munoz said Rice’s success in the “best value” category is rooted in its history of remaining in the university’s previous policy of no tuition increase, which lasted from its founding in 1912 until 1965.

“Rice is known for presenting a really great education,” Munoz said. “It is a consciousness at Rice, a sensibility change.”

By cultivating the interests of foreign nationals and overall for- eign recruitment has increased, but also to President David Leebron and his wife Ping Sun. He said they have worked hard to cultivate name recognition of Rice in China.

“We are on a positive trajectory of growing the pool of applicants again, and not just from within Texas but outside of the state and in the world as well,” Munoz said. “Our growth is beyond geotonic. We are competing for the best.”

The Admission Office has been methodically trying new recruit- ment strategies in order to increase the class numbers and to attract more potential students.

Munoz said the “Who Knows?” campaign has been very effective in creating awareness within the Rice community, and other recruitment strategies — such as increasing electronic communi- cations to prospective students via e-mail and being more responsive to inquiries from international students — have been used to raise overall awareness both in the United States and abroad.

By cultivating the interests of first- or second-year high school students and by improving methods of communication, Munoz said the prospective student pool has grown from fewer than 60,000 inquiry requests to over 100,000.

These estimates are based on the number of students who have sought out information from Rice, whether from the Web site or by person- ally contacting Rice.

The international student popu- lation has also risen significantly in recent years. The class of 2013, which is the largest and the most diverse class yet, is made up of 14 percent foreign nationals, compared with 3 percent in the class of 2010.

The three countries with the most students at Rice are China, South Korea and India.

Munoz attributed this increase to the fact that responsibilities to foreign nations and overall, foreign recruitment has increased, but also to President David Leebron and his wife Ping Sun. He said they have worked hard to cultivate name recognition of Rice in China.

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STUDENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association Nov. 16.

- SA Internal Vice President Selim Sheikh announced that the Commencement Task Force Committee will be researching and interviewing deans, as well as department heads, for graduation plans.

- Secretary Philip Tarpley held the vote on the SA Who Drew? T-shirt design. The winning design was created by Pawel Mikolajczyk, a Sid Richardson College sophomore. The design can be found on the SA Web site, sa.rice.edu.

- Treasurer Tiffany Wu introduced a new blanket tax amendment that will require clubs seeking blanket tax money to provide historical and proposed budget documents and a letter of support from their faculty sponsor, to answer general questions about why a blanket tax is necessary and to receive approval from an assistant dean.

- Parliamentarian Jonathan Stewart announced that the next SA meeting will concern club approvals.

- Sports and Health Committee Chair Ryan Fleming announced that food from Chipotle, rather than pizza, will be served at the Dec. 5 powderpuff all-star game. The committee will spend $700 on T-shirts, food and trophies for the defensive and offensive MVPs.

- Fleming, a Sid Rich sophomore, introduced the Health Assessment Project, which seeks to create a uniform way of healthy life advertising and look into social norms campaigns conducted at other universities.

- Environmental Committee Chair Carl Nelson announced that a general template for all building recycling inventories has been made. Additionally, the committee has made stickers to encourage people to conserve energy.

- Nelson, a Brown College junior, introduced the Rice Endowment for Sustainable Energy Technology, an undergraduate program promoting sustainable projects. This group of students will evaluate and carry out green proposals.

- New Student Representatives Christian Woo and Linda Wang held a free ice cream sundae booth during the Homecoming Concert and collected 70 e-mails from interested students to join the SA listserv.

- President Patrick McAnaney presided over the Senior Committee Amendment and Awards Committee Amendment, both of which passed.

The SA will meet this Monday, Nov. 23, at 9 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion.
RICE & BCM: INSIDE THE MERGER

STORY BY JOSH RUTENBERG AND CINDY DINH

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC DOCTOR, LOGAN ROSS AND ARIEL SANCHEZ
When talks of a merger between Rice University and the Baylor College of Medicine began last year, discussions were held in private, but one thing was clear: Both institutions had a foot on a frontier of unknown possibilities.

For years, Rice and BCM, intertwined through shared history and the highly successful Rice/Baylor Medical School Program, have held an eye on the possibility of a merger, though the merger was always being considered as a possibility, Rice President David Leebron said.

"Getting to a merger was put forth more forcefully two summers ago," Leebron said. "BCM approached us and suggested that because of the number of issues it was facing, we should take conversations to a more serious and focused level."

Financial questions

On the surface, the pairing of the two institutions seems logical, as Rice exists without a medical school and BCM, which separated from Baylor University one year ago, stands among the few medical schools without an attached undergraduate university. However, if the details of the pairing are parsed, problems, namely fiscal in nature, quickly rise to the surface.

When Rice and BCM first signed the MOU in March, the schools both faced challenges of an economy in recession. Rice made significant cutbacks over the past year to deal with financial issues. To compensate for a $1 billion loss in endowment for Fiscal Year 2009, Rice instituted a 5% budget cut across all departments, limited pay raises to faculty making below $60,000 and reduced the library budget. Despite the substantial drop in the endowment, Rice maintains the house will have no impact on merger discussions.

Regardless of a merger, Leebron said Rice will have another round of budget cuts in the near future. "Next year, we will cut the budget 5 percent and those savings will reseed us in where we need to be," Leebron said. "It is a loss on the endowment that has caused that."

Rice's endowment fell to $3.84 billion for FY 2009, down from a high of $4.61 billion in FY 2008. In contrast, BCM had an endowment of $768 million in FY 2009, down from $951 million in FY 2008.

But the economy was not the primary reason for BCM's financial troubles. In September, BCM issued a report stating it defaulted on technical covenants, or contractual obligations to keep its capital ratio below a certain percentage, in part a result of BCM's unsuccessful efforts to construct an independent clinic after separating from Methodist Hospital in 2005. BCM signed a 20-year agreement with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in 2003, but the two organizations terminated the agreement in 2006, citing St. Luke's new direction as a primary factor in the decision. Later that year, BCM began work on its independent clinic, and began constructing the McNair campus hospital in 2007. However, due to fiscal turmoil, construction on the hospital was halted, since two years from its scheduled completion.

After Rice signed the MOU with BCM, the Moody's Investor Service placed Rice's long-term investment grade of Aaa, the highest possible quality grade with the smallest degree of continued on next page

**Note**: The text provided is a sample generated by a text model. The actual content may differ. For accurate information, please refer to the original source.
SURVEY RESULTS

Last week, the Thresher conducted an informal survey of students, faculty, graduate students and alumni. We asked them whether they supported the merger, and why they did or did not. Here are the results:

355 of 534 said they are in favor of the merger.

- 62% support the merger because of the potential rankings/prestige boost.
- 17% support the merger because of the potential financial savings.
- 12% are in favor of university expansion.
- 20% are in favor of university expansion.
- 36% want the increased opportunities for pre-med students.
- 172 of 534 said they are against the merger.
- 63% fear that Rice cannot handle BCM's financial troubles.
- 62 worry about a significant change in culture.
- 25 are concerned that the humanities will be overlooked.
- 24 said "other" or "all of the above.

MEANWHILE, SEVEN PEOPLE SAID NEITHER "YES" NOR "NO".
The acquisition of the Baylor College of Medicine is one of the biggest decisions Rice has faced in its 97-year history, and dozens of variables are to be taken into consideration before a final verdict is reached. President David Leebron, a high-ranking proponent of the merger, and professor Moshe Vardi, one of its outspoken opponents, debate the merger's merits.

We are considering perhaps the most important decision Rice has faced in more than 50 years: Should Baylor College of Medicine become part of Rice University? Ultimately, the decision should be driven by our commitment to excellence, the need for improved research and educational programs, and the best interests of Rice.

Our first responsibility is to Rice, we should be careful in the full range of views and concerns of many groups. We have listened — especially the faculty. We are considering perhaps the most important decision Rice has faced in more than 50 years: Should Baylor College of Medicine become part of Rice University? Ultimately, the decision should be driven by our commitment to excellence, the need for improved research and educational programs, and the best interests of Rice.

The Rice-Baylor merger would likely bring about one of the most profound changes in Rice’s history. It is appropriate to ask whether the “extraordinary evidence” bar has been met, a sober examination reveals that it has not. On its face, the Rice-BCM merger proposal may seem enticing. Proponents of the merger argue that combining two prestigious institutions would create a “superprestigious” institution, which would garner much larger international visibility, see its rankings increase considerably, increase its national and global prestige, and gain strength in the biomedical sciences, which may dominate the sciences in the 21st century. It is no surprise that the Houston Chronicle referred to the proposed merger in a Nov. 12, 2008 editorial as a “transforming Partnership.”

Financing the Rice-Baylor merger, however, is another matter. The Rice Board of Trustees will soon have to ask whether the “extraordinary evidence” bar has been met, and it is not clear that it has. Beyond the up-front cost of the merger, Rice is likely to face increased financial volatility in the future. BCM would likely bring with it a series of volatile sources of income: financial contributions, clinical care and state subsidies. BCM’s present $50 million annual subsidy from the state government may well disappear if Rice were to merge with BCM, and Rice’s and BCM’s budgetary models that increased stability for Rice in the past would likely fail under BCM.

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In Habit’s campus

 Ridley Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center, the Rice Dance Theatre has the opportunity to showcase its talent in the facility’s state-of-the-art dance studio. After one viewing, it is easy to see that the wait, while tedious, has been worth it.

The showcases consists of 10 performances, all but two of which were choreographed by students in RDT. TheDifferent choreographers provide diversity to the showcase, not just through their choreographies, but also via their costume and music choices.

The show’s two ingénue performances, directed by Assistant Director for Dance Programs at the Recreation Center and RDT Director Leslie Scates, are improvised dances: a solo to the musical rhythm of spoken Chinese and a duet with Michael Slovich (Will Rice College ’69) who is incredibly talented in the art of spoken word and improvisation. Though it is incredibly beautiful, the performances begin to feel forced as she reaches the bottom of the barrel with originality. The uncomfortable pauses in the dances are just long enough to lose interest.

There is a need for improvement in the performance space on both sides, and there is not a bad seat in the studio. The uncomfortable pauses in her dances are just long enough to lose interest. Forced as she reaches the bottom of the barrel with originality.

Ambiance
The restaurant has a peculiar atmosphere, mixing somewhat conflicting moods and settings of both a fine-dining restaurant and a run-of-the-mill diner. This creates the former feel by utilizing dimmed lighting, attracting a sophisticated clientele, providing classy service and playing hints of upscale decor around the restaurant.

Denis’ Seafood House

Starling Oyster Rockefeller, blackened red fish with crawfish etouffee topping

Location: 2217 Royal Field
www.denissseafood.com
713-844-9500

On the other hand, the exterior’s glowing neon lights are akin to those of a movie theater or breakfast fast food. In addition, the fish board hanging on the wall was written in brightly colored chalk, a somewhat tacky touch, completely inconsistent with the restaurant’s upscale atmosphere. We felt the uncomfortable pauses in the dances are just long enough to lose interest. Forced as she reaches the bottom of the barrel with originality.

Relish: A frenzy for fresh fish

Have you been craving seafood? We don’t mean fried catfish out of a box or pop-soup shrimp in the cryovac bag. We mean the good stuff. If any of that sounds wrong, and hardly detract from the overall experience.

Tim Pawliw & Mimi Arnold

Before we get to the goods, let’s talk about the experience. First, the restaurant is not close; expect a run-of-the-mill diner. It ac-

BRILLIANT 

Rice alum Ron Bozman spoke about his Hollywood beginnings last Thursday.

Bozman, Hollywood exec, shares career path

By Jackie Ammons

Many headed out to Los Angeles to become stars, but few succeeded. One of those elite and talented individuals is Rice graduate Ron Bozman (Hanover College ’89) who has served as executive producer of box-office hits including The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Failure to Launch, The Stepford Wives and Confessions of a Shopaholic. However, Bozman is best known for his production of 1979’s Silence of the Lambs, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Last week, Bozman visited Rice to share his experiences with students, and the Theater chatted with this producer about his career at Rice and his experiences in film.

Rice Thresher: Tell me about your time at Rice.

Ron Bozman: I was here in the late 1960’s, so it was quite a tumultuous time in the university. For the male members of our class, we were facing the draft, and there was no question; you were going to be drafted. As soon as you lost your student exemption, you got your draft notice. I was fortunate enough that I failed my physical, otherwise, it was straight to Vietnam.

Rice Thresher: What were the highlights of your time at Rice?

Ron Bozman: People were really mad that the administration had only given lip service to the collaborative effort, so students rose up in protest. We had a demonstration on campus where all students put on coats and ties and ... we marched around with signs protesting the violation of trust. It was totally peaceful, utterly calm. Mainstreet resigned, and, for me, it was an emotional moment because I had known Mainstreet.

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It's hard trying to live in The Real World

Kate is back in a month; see you then; I know neither how long to wait, nor if the call is coming at all.

Yan Dimoglo

But don't cry for me, No, this time it isn't a sappy one-night-stand whose sequel I (still) await. This time, I have found myself in a situation that I would never, even in a million years, have thought I would stumble upon.

Six, my night in the Holiday Inn was no fanciful affair. Rather, it was an unexpected invitation from MTV's long-running reality show, "The Real World," to audition for a role in their upcoming 23rd season.

I know what you're thinking: 'Why in the world would a lame-ass Transfer writer — a math major, at that — think that he has a chance to be a part of one of the most sensational reality shows on TV?' I'll admit that I have no idea. On the one hand, I found something unsettling about the decision to leave Rice at the drop of a hat to spend time living with a group of complete strangers. Yes, a more accessible but less-than-dramatic decision to freely experience another part of the world. Is there a Rice student who hasn't thought for at least one second about how great it would be to stop by just a little bit, to sit and think before we enter the job market and move on with our lives?

At the same time, my friends who would regret this opportunity without as much as a second thought seemed irrational. Having millions of viewers to ridicule every mistake I make for the next six months would bring its set of setbacks, and yet, maybe getting swept up in the lives of others at the most dramatic powers of life would be worth it. I've heard that nothing good could come out of the experience I short-tightened. With a little bit of star power, think about the causes you could go on to support, the networking you may develop, the values you could experience and anything else you could do that doesn't necessarily fall in line with your future as a doctor or investment banker.

I was forced to ponder whether or not any of the dreams I may harbor would be aided with an appearance on reality TV, or whether they were worth fighting for without the television medium.

Ultimately, I was enlightened — but not by a decision. Instead, I figured that if I were so comfortable at Rice that I would never want anything else in my life, or that if I were too eager to put my college experience on hold, perhaps in both cases it means I am not going about my time here in the right way.

In the tumult of my freshmen year, I received a piece of sage advice from a source who isn't often associated with useful direction: my academic adviser. Though to this day he denies having told it, Paul Stevenson, a member of the physics department, told me that college is a time when you should be doing one of two things and nothing in between — working harder than you ever have before or having more fun than you ever have before.

I have certainly taken part of those words to heart — just ask me for my stories — but this piece of advice came back to me in the midst of my Real World pondering. Stevenson's dictum suggests to me a road-map for ensuring that the potential decision to leave Rice for reality TV remains existential.

As I saw it, any goals, achievements or experiences that I could potentially gain from appearing on the show would eventually come to me if I merely listened to the insightful physicists.

College is a weight station for us as we move on to a new portion of our life, and it is precisely our inability to halt time that creates the unique atmosphere in which we live. And concomitantly, there is no reason to believe that out places for the future shouldn't begin to develop today.

I would venture to guess that my phone call will probably never come, and I won't be able to put Rice on the reality TV map. But I take solace in knowing that the decision to leave would have been quite difficult to make and that the experience reminded me of what I really want out of my time here at Rice — not the least of which is a hot tub.

Yan Dimoglo is a Brown College junior.

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**KTRU TOP 35: WEEK OF NOV. 9, 2009**

Various - psycho-funk 1964-1971
Various - world psychedelic funk classics
Various - jazzmen now again

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**The Rice Thresher**

**Friday, November 20, 2009**

**It's hard trying to live in The Real World**

Kate is back in a month; see you then; I know neither how long to wait, nor if the call is coming at all.

Yan Dimoglo

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**Review stuff. Get Paid. Interested?**

E-mail threshers-arts@rice.edu

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**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

Join Canterbury for a Thanksgiving celebration, followed by a delicious dinner.

Sunday, November 22, at 5:00 PM
in St. Bede's Chapel, across the street from Lovett.

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Dear Denver,

I have been seeing this girl for a few years, and we've worked on several films together. I've been thinking about what I really want in a relationship, and I'm not sure if I can afford it. I want to be honest with you about my current situation.

I'm in a difficult place right now. My parents arePress

Denver Greene

Sounding like young, old, people who tell both that what the other ones told them. That's what my life is like, but I never did anything about it because I was too busy to worry about it. What should I do? I'm just curious about the girl, not sure if she's worth it.

Condescending Carter

This may be the most messed up story I have heard yet. However, you must be very careful with people who will be able to show you some true friendship and class.

The girl has undoubtedly screwed over the girl. And she knows that, it's not impossible to go back to the way before things were. You know what you did, which was clearly a terrible mistake and should not be left unaddressed.

If she fully realizes the gravity of her actions she just might be able to redeem herself, but it will take an incredible amount of work and may not even be possible, considering she has yet to get her parents' approval. As it stands, she's just as selfish as the other one, and her actions are just as destructive. She is not a professional, not even worth it, considering she has never known what might happen in the future, but she doesn't seem to care. She needs to redeem herself, but it will take an enormous amount of effort.

The girl is a skilled liar, but she's not very good at it. She's been doing it for years, but I'm not sure if she's honest or just trying to help him control his future behavior by providing supportive information. The primal way of dealing with this is to physically define your norm, not discuss it in an unstructured, unspoken about the girl, in the animal kingdom, this method is known as "ruts." But, man, that's hard. To answer your question, I had to do this precisely the way the girl should. We need to do anything to unnerve the terrible things I can imagine; I saw those for my excuse.

服務

Tim's recommended dish

I would not necessarily recommend going to the restaurant, but he was honest with his recommendations and paid attention to his needs.

Price

Denver, like Claio Bello, is one of the most expensive restaurants we have reviewed thus far. The appetizers cost around $50, and the entrees were priced around $75. Nevertheless, the portions are enormous. The dish enters only come with two side items, which are indubitably hefty in size, and provide enough food for almost two people. However, if you wish to indulge yourself with one of the many delicious appetizers, we recommend ordering two appetizers as a meal, like Tim did, or ordering one of the smaller entrees in addition to an appetizer. This will not only save your stomach, but will also help cut costs.

Tim's recommended dish

In ordering the Oysters Rockefeller, Tim stepped outside his comfort zone and allowed his taste buds to cash in on the risk. Though the place contained just six muscles, they were quite filling and were a delectable surprise. The poppy seed dressing was light in both quality and freshness, but do not worry — this is not something you should question Denver.

Mimi's recommended dish

Mimi went a bit overboard in ordering the Oysters Rockefeller; however, she was surprised with the dish. The portions were already huge for her to handle, and the dish was not worth the extra $. Nevertheless, the dish was cooked to perfection, and she was happy with her decision.

Overall, we felt that Denver's seafood and shellfish selection was not only of the highest quality but prepared in a variety of unique dishes and cooking techniques. Its authenticity was never lacking, and we would recommend the dish without any knowing smile.

Masterson personally as matter of my college.

I was not sure what you meant by "I Taught by Pastor Dwight Edwards." However, I did have a conversation with a member of the faculty. He did not think I was very interested in becoming a teacher, which may have tipped our scales. Nevertheless, the fish was not cooked to perfection, just as the accompanying dish was.

With regards,

Tim Perival is a lid Richardson College junior and Mimi Arnold is a Wicassau College senior.

Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/therichetresher @therichetresher #thereshower

The Pathway to Outrageous Joy? Jn. 15:1

Taught by Dwight Edwards

In his work at Denver. His service may have been on the side, but he was honest with his recommendations and paid attention to my needs.
Tulane falls prey to Owls’ hunt for first win

Despite first-half struggles, Fanuzzi’s four touchdown passes in last three quarters bring victory to Rice

By Meghan Hall

Throughout the first nine games of this disappointing season, the football team was plagued with a tough schedule, a slew of injuries and some of the worst luck the program has seen in years. But it appears that karma’s intervention is finally making its way back to Rice Stadium, as the Owls (1-9, 1-5 Conference USA) defeated Tulane University 28-20.

But it wasn’t easy. It wasn’t clean and it wasn’t pretty. Tulane (7-3, 1-5 C-USA) scored twice in the first quarter, following the pattern of previous games and rattling the nerves of everyone in the stadium.

The worries were warranted, considering the Owls accrued a mere three yards on six plays over their first two drives.

But Rice did not give up between quarters, and the Owls put together a 73-yard drive in the beginning of the second quarter to turn the heat on the Green Wave. The drive culminated with redshirt sophomore quarterback Nick Fanuzzi tossing a pass into the waiting arms of senior receiver Toren Dixon, who caught his first of three touchdowns on the day.

Fanuzzi, who finished the afternoon 15-24 from the field, has evolved into a quintessential quarterback. His ability to beat his man off a 20-win season in 2008-09.

Those guys really stepped up."

Also playing in his first regular season game at Tudor Fieldhouse was freshman guard A.J. Clement. Clement upped his career high to 29 points.

"They told us to keep fighting, and we were able to pull it out," Frizzelle said.

"In the locker room afterward, the attitude was incredible," Bailiff said. "You could tell that we were going to come back in the second half and play with great enthusiasm and passion."

While the spread favored the home team, the numbers in the box did not paint the Owls' chances in an optimistic light. Tulane had collected more first downs, more rushing yards, more passing yards and fewer turnovers.

That confidence proved necessary as between easy wins over Sacramento State University (2-0) on the following Tuesday at Tudor Fieldhouse.

Tulane (3-7, 1-5 Conference USA) scored twice in the second half of this game last Saturday, 2:30 p.m.

The following drive also looked promising, with Rice facing a 14th down at an 8-yard field goal attempt. But with 36 seconds left on the clock, the Owls were unable to convert a fourth down, allowing the Green Wave to advance to the four-yard line. But with 36 seconds left on the clock, the Owls were unable to convert a fourth down, allowing the Green Wave to advance to the four-yard line.

"I've been there before for him. He operates the offense line," Bailiff said. "They held us up for Nick to give him time to get the ball down the field and (tackle) Toren Dixon [to] step up and play the way he played."

The following drive also looked promising for Rice, bringing the Owls to Tulane’s eight-yard line.

The Wildcats (1-0), who are especially effective in one-on-one situations and excelled from behind the arc, where he hit on 10 of 14 attempts over the three-game swing.

Recognized last year primarily for his prowess from the free throw line, where he led Conference USA in 86 percent, Fitzrallz credits the summer he spent on campus for his improvement.

"After last year, me and the coaching staff had a discussion on what I need to improve on," Fitzrallz said. "This summer I was here working out, working on ball handling and shooting coming off screens."

Jackson, who started all three games as point guard, is the team’s second-leading scorer at 16.2 per game. His ability to bear his man one-on-one helped the Owls (5-0) when the offense grew stagnant in backcourt sets, but he

To win the game, the Owls had not done much to differentiate their performance from any previous game’s. However, according to Bailiff, the difference was pure emotion during halftime.

"The locker room was incredible," Bailiff said. "You could tell that we were going to come back in the second half and play with great enthusiasm and passion."
McWill defeats Jones in double-overtime thriller
Martel gets revenge against Sid Rich, sets up McWill-Martel championship in Rice Stadium

By Ryan Glassman

McWill 13, Jones 12
(Doubl OT)

The official start time for the semifinal between McMurtry College-Will Rice College and Jones College was 9:30 p.m. Monday night, but the real game did not start for another hour and a half. Facing chilly temperatures on the Jordan tower of the Intramural Fields, the game was scores less than a minute left on the 15-yard line, Jones could not McWill defeat Jones in double-overtime thriller McWill threatened to score with less than a minute left. With the score tied 6-6, McWill

On the first possession of overtime, Jones took over from the 20-yard line and went to the ground with Miller. The quarterback gained running y yards on four straight plays, getting a quick score for Jones with a five-yard touchdown run to take the 6-0 advantage. However, the extra point attempt was unsuccessful as Miller threw a pass just past the right of the goal post. McWill needed at least a touchdown to force a second overtime, but could win it with a score and a field goal. Scully took a left on the first play of the drive, picking up six yards on the play. After a five-yard pass to move the ball inside the 10-yard line, junior quarterback Jes Scully threw a strike across the middle for a touchdown. With the score tied 6-6, McWill stood just an extra point away from the title game. The team came out with four wide receivers to the right, but a pass attempt was tipped and fell incomplete, forcing a second overtime.

McWill started the second overtime with a nine-yard pass on first down, but a running play on second down resulted in a six-yard loss and forced a third-and-five. Scully dropped back to pass and eluded a rusher, stepping back and lofting a pass just before having her flags nullified. The pass was brought in the five-yard line by sophomore receiver Melanie Landry, who ran the rest of the way for the score.

On the extra point attempt, McWill again put four receivers out to the right, but this time there to a releasing tight end on the left side. The ball was caught in the endzone, giving McWill the win.

McWill freshman Sharae Robinson stretches for the goal line as several Jones defenders pursue her in vain. McWill-Martel championship in Rice Stadium.

Women falter against Mavs, Aggies as season commences

By Teddy Godke

The women's basketball team started their season like they finished their last one — with a pair of losses. The Owls (0-2) traveled to the University of Texas-Arlington last Friday and Texas A&M University Wednesday to open their season, but found that the expected" unsere within the men's squad was not going to come about as easily as anticipated.

Last season, the women fell to UTA (3) by a five-point margin in a game in which freshman guard D'Prat Smart was one assist and two rebounds short of a triple-double. This time around, the Owls came out of the locker room sporting ice cold, making just 29 percent from the field and 13 percent from behind the three-point line in the first half. They were down by nine points, 36-27, going into the halftime break.

Starting the second half, however, the Owls found their shot, and baskets began coming more easily. They out scored the Mavericks from the field and behind the three-point line, putting themselves within nine points at half time. However, the Owls were ultimately unable to compete with the Mavericks in 21 second half free throws, losing by a score of 81-64.

"The first game is for learning," sophomore forward locker Stanley said. "We had a lot of players that have never played Division 1 ball before. It was a little bit of a wake-up call that we need to work harder."

Two freshmen led the team in minutes in their first games, guard Jessica Gowsitz (38 minutes) and forward Lacee Nwora (28 minutes). Both scored in the double digits in their collegiate debuts, with 12 and 10 points, respectively, and both also contributed on the boards, as Gowsitz had five rebounds and Nwora grabbed two.

Sophomore guard D'Prat Smart scored 17 points, but was only played 19 minutes after stumbling into foul trouble. She eventually reached the maximum five personal fouls, and had to watch the remainder of the game from the bench. Foul trouble proved common for the Owls, as they committed 28 personals to UTA's 19. Senior guard Tara Watts also had a disappointing night, as she was only able to contribute 11 minutes to the Owl's night before receiving five fouls.

Wiley was also smashed on the boards for the night, losing the rebounding battle by 17. UTA junior forward Shalyn Martin pulled down 11 rebounds on her way to a double-double double.

If the Owls are to succeed this season, they need to match up with other teams in rebounding and to keep their players on the floor and out of foul trouble. "Moving our feet is one of the biggest things we've been emphasizing," Associate Head Coach Carlos Quentin said. "Keep the flow of the game where we have to go to bench a little earlier than we would like." Five days later, the Owls traveled to Texas A&M (2-0), who recently defeated national powerhouse Duke University, ranked 19 in the AP poll. The Owls, who have also gotten off to a bit of a slow start, as the Aggies touched them to the tune of 66-60. Shooting troubles plagued the Owls, yet again, as the team shot only 36 percent from the field. Additionally, Wiley did not score the ball well, losing 29 turnovers to Texas A&M's 17, and the team continued to lose the attention of the referees, picking up 26 team fouls.

Foul trouble limited the playing time of both Stanley and Gowsitz, who led the Owls in scoring with 10 points. Wiley will play a visit to Stephen F. Austin University (3-0) today at 5:30 p.m. in search of their first win on the season.
Volleyball traps Cougars
Owls finish regular season with 3-Sweep; prepare to host tournament

By Paul Fitzgerald

The Owls (8-15, 13 C-USA) opened their match with Houston (6-21, 0 C-USA) looking for a dominating victory to conclude conference play.

The Owls were competitive in all three sets.

Rice's execution allowed the team to win three straight games to take a 2-0 lead.

Senior setter Natalie Bogan contributed a kill and a dig, backing up the set winning Rice's 2-4 lead. Rice notched a kill for the match, setting the tone and outside hitter Ashleigh McCord's 1.11 kills for the match, second to sophomore Jenn McClean's 10 kills for the match, second to sophomore Jenn McClean's 1.60 kills for the match, second to sophomore Jenn McClean's 1.60 kills for the match.

"Defense is one of the biggest parts of Rice volleyball," Bogan said. "Without our defense, we wouldn't be able to run a lot of our offensive plays." While the seniors certainly appreciated the senior night victory, fellow coach Genevieve Volpe believes they understand it was still work to be done, especially if they are to improve over last year's loss in the semifinals of the C-USA tournament.

"All four seniors have been a part of the team for all four seasons that we've been here, and winning on senior night was the icing on the cake," Volpe said.

"It was a great way to honor them with that type of win, but they all want to go out with a conference championship on their home court." The Owls will enter the tournament, which begins today at noon at Tudor Fieldhouse, as the fourth seed. Rice will begin the postseason against fifth-seeded Marshall University (9-9, 14-2 C-USA), which the Owls suffered a 3-0 defeat at Tudor Fieldhouse on Tuesday.

"We're not satisfied necessarily because Rice cross country holds it self to a very high standard," Shorall said. 

"But that being said, we had seven people who never were out there before, and we finished fifth-best of all the teams in the region. When you step to that level, that's a very high standard, and we've done that," Shorall said.

"We've made up for that type of win, but they all want to go out with a conference championship. That's the only way we can do it," Volpe said.

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FOOTBALL

OFFSIDE: OF THE WINNING A REGULAR-SEASON CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP, A GOAL THAT THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE. HOWEVER, THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL OF A NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARED TO BE WITHIN GRAB."NO LEASE/NO DEPOSIT

SOME MONEY FROM THE WINNERS' POOL TO ADOPT A PET, AND THE REST TO A VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND CHARITIES. THE WINNERS HAD A LARGE AMOUNT OF CREDIT FOR THE WAY THEY HANDEDLY AVENGED THAT LOSS WITH A 13-0 BEAT DOWN WEDNESDAY EVENING. THE TWO TEAMS PLAYED A SCORELESS FIRST QUARTER, BUT THE DEFENSE DOMINATED THE GAME PAVING THE WAY FOR THE OFFENSE TO DOMINATE THE SECOND HALF."NO LEASE/NO DEPOSIT

CROSS COUNTRY: FROM PAGE 16

MARTEL'S DEFENSE REMAINED STOUT THE REST OF THIS SEASON AND FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE TEAM."NO LEASE/NO DEPOSIT

POWDERPUFF PREDICTIONS: FINALS

MARTEL BUT ONE MISTAKE GIVES THE SENIORS A CHANCE AT THE TITLE."NO LEASE/NO DEPOSIT

POWDERPUFF FROM PAGE 15

THE WINNERS' POINTS WERE AS CREDIBLE AS ANYONE IN DISCUSSING THEIR LEAD FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON AND FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE TEAM."NO LEASE/NO DEPOSIT

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Stop domestic violence before it becomes a canvas.

Dancing is a good habit.

They're going for two!

This is your chance to finally design the whole palm of your hand. Proceeds benefit Daya, a non-profit serving women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence.

And it's now being presented by the Visual and Dramatic Arts Department in Hamman Hall. You can see the musical tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 for Rice students. This is the last weekend for The Threepenny Opera, so don't miss it.

According to Facebook, today is:

- Parking Day
- A past production, though probably not one you'll be inspired by in the fact that the composers would have, on instruments to the compositions themselves.
- They won't be any scarlet "A"s at the party. lones doesn't really go in for kissing them on the forehead.

This is the Calendar editor's little way of saying that no one's better suited to read this week than the people who are reading this week. It's a cool show. You should be there.

According to Facebook, today is:

- Hug a Muslim Day.
- Halloween
- Skanksgiving
- A classic — something that everybody wants to have read, but no-one will ever actually read.
- Getting out of bed after a dream about soccer

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It tortures us to inform you that Rice’s beloved Beer Bike track is inadequate to support the number of teams present for this year’s race. Rice’s two new residential colleges don’t have enough room to stand in the cramped track space provided. Biking in these suffocating conditions is downright unsafer. Furthermore, using that current track could lead to unreliable and inaccurate intelligence about the winnable race. The Beer Bike Committee has considered different ways conserve space around the track, such as laying chuggers on their backs and pouring beer onto the track. This was deemed to cause more brain damage than the morning of Beer Bike itself.

What Rice needs is your help. The university would like to coerce more space out of its existing Beer Bike track to make room for Duncan and McMurtry Colleges’ respective bike teams. We already have techniques in place to enhance the size of the room for Duncan and McMurtry Colleges’ respective bike teams.

We need your assistance and approve our enhanced track fabrication techniques, we would gladly name the track in your behalf. Generations of Rice students would happily revel in the glory of the Alberto Gonzales Beer Bike Track, chugging beer and puking in the midday sun to honor your contributions to both the university’s reputation and the country as a whole.

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