Students discuss climate change in Copenhagen

By Catherine Bratic

Walter Isle, a former faculty member, master, and university administrator, died last Thursday. He was 95.

Isle spent his entire professional career at Rice until his retirement in 2007. As a professor, he focused his academic interests on environmental literature, and founded the Center for the Study of Environment and Society in 2000. However, he most impacted Rice through his administrative work, his family and colleagues said.

"Walter had one of the most extensive and distinguished records of service to the university," Howard R. Hughes Provost Eugene Levy said. "He was a respected scholar, a fine administrator, an effective teacher, an exceptional leader, and a dedicated citizen of Rice and of Houston for many quarters over many years.

"It is especially heartbreaking to our students, faculty and staff, and the entire Rice community in expressing our sincere hope that Diane will soon be found safe and unharmed," added President David Leebron.

Forward, march!

Over 500 students cheered on the basketball team at their game against Memphis at Tudor Fieldhouse Saturday. Attendees received free Event shirts to pizza in return for their support.

Walter Isle, former master, dies

By Josh Rittenberg

While most students spent their winter breaks taking a breather from learning, one group of students traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, for a backpack look at the politics of climate change.

Nine members of the Rice community - Chalmers Environmental Engineering Professor Pedro Alvarez, five undergraduates, two graduate students and a staff member - attended the second week of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, which ran from Dec. 7-18 at the Bella Center, Copenhagen. Representatives from 192 countries took part in the 21st annual convention, known as COP15, to discuss a binding global climate agreement.

Students who participated in the conference agreed upon through an independent study course during the fall semester, CEVE 499, International Perspectives on Climate Change, the Copenhagen Experience.

Alvarez said the top priority for Rice students is the opportunity to learn about the workings of international policy.

"For one, I was hoping the students would get a broader perspective on the main barriers and opportunities that exist in reaching international agreements." Alvarez said. "I wanted them to experience the frustration and gratification in reaching a common denominator."

In Copenhagen, students attended

The Matchbox Gallery has infused Rice's campus with a new measure of student-created culture.

Students rally for Haitians

Organizations across campus provide aid

By Joscelyn Wright

THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

After a magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck the poorest part of Haiti on Jan. 12, the Rice community is pulling together its resources to support the devastated country.

This disaster struck particularly close to home for many Rice students, current and former. Diane Caves (Rake'00) was working for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Haiti, where she was on temporary assignment. She is still missing after the earthquake destroyed the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, where Caves was staying, her husband Jeffrey Caves (Will Rice'99) said.

In a statement to the university President David Leebron expressed his sympathies for Diane Caves, her family and the countless other victims of the earthquake.

"It is essentially heartbreaking to learn that alumnua Diane ... has been reported missing since the earthquake," Leebron said. "I know that Ping and I join the entire Rice community in expressing our sincere hope that Diane will soon be found safe and unharmed.

"Diane Caves also has a brother, David, who graduated from Rice in 2005. Their aunts also have been impacted by the disaster, reclaimed and visiting their relatives who are the same of the Rice students worked in the aftershocks of the earthquake for homeless boys, which within the earthquake lasted. Community involvement Center Director Marc Gregorio said.

"In Haiti close to the Rice family. In response to the devastation wrought by the earthquake — which produced an estimated 200,000 dead — the Pan American Health Organization estimates left 200,000 dead — the Rice community has begun helping raise money to repair the immense damage to the nation, which is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

Two student-run fundraising campaigns took place. The Rice Chronicle College organized a bake sale during lunch in the Key Student Center on Tuesday and Wednesday, raising over $5,000 for the Red Cross Relief Fund. Duncan freshman Kevin Padgett said a total of about 450 dollars was collected at the bake sale.

Duncan freshmen Lucas Duke-Gottberg said the bake sale began Monday, but had to continue Tuesday evening because the group had collected a total of about 100 dollars after business on Sunday. Generate

Plan on it

To be heard? Then participate in the Student Association master plan survey at rice.edu/campus/master-plan survey to ensure you have a voice.

Holes in your schedule?

Today is the last day to add a class, Seniors who plan on graduating should quadruple check to make sure they are fulfilling their graduation requirements with their current courses. Don’t screw this up guys!

Need a friend?

Set aside time between 5-7 p.m. next Wednesday in Duncan Hall 210 for a "Tech Talk" courtesy of the folks from Facebook. You can ask them to help you, but please don’t ask them to join your Facebook.

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Autry Army turnout a welcome surprise

Was there a basketball game last weekend? You tell us. Autry Army successfully enticed approximately 550 students—effectively one-sixth the size of the undergraduate population—to attend the Rice men’s contest against the University of Memphis (see story, page 11). With an intact support system, the Owls nearly overcame victories, and students enjoyed cheap pizza and the thrill of a successful athletic event.

Considering typical student attendance at athletic events is abysmal, factoring hundreds of students for Saturday’s game sounds spectacular. But what was the cost of the record attendance? Autry Army shelled out $900 for pizza and provided hundreds of free t-shirts to students. Given students’ free admission to the game, the athletic department made no profit off the stellar attendance; instead, Autry Army went into the red with these expenses. And given the exponential increase in attendance—we estimate an average home basketball game sees 20 students—we can only assume it is a result of the effort Autry Army put forth. Taking into consideration that college servers are closed for Saturday dinners, this may have been a primary motivation for students to go to the game. After all, paying $1 per pizza slice results in a cheaper dinner than those available beyond the Hodges. So then, why not stay close to one’s college and partake in university’s struggling teams, how many of us are there, game after game, to cheer on the Owls? The effect of a football team isn’t doing so hot, where are the true fans, it needs to check its appointment with an institution he does not have the real question is, and the real question is, why is there an expectation that a private institution is obligated to provide these services in the first place? However, it is cheaper to give small amounts of money for those services to outside agencies wishing to do them.

Last week’s online poll results:
Are you disappointed that the Rice-BCM merger fell through?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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<td>Disappointed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not disappointed</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will wait for details to come out before deciding an opinion</td>
<td>7%</td>
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water balloon fight date incorrect

To the Editor:
“Ask, ask” to the Thresher for re-printing the facts fed to thin-skinned student athletes. The University of Memphis was granted an automatic appearance in the NCAA tournament this season. In the article “Owls ready for NCAA tournament” published Jan. 19, the Thresher reprints Brian Henderson’s assertion that the Owls had been ranked for “about a decade.” This same line of “It’s not really a tradition, it’s only developed in the past few years” is what university employees back out every time they want to take advantage of the fact that students appeal a relatively short period of time at the university. University shouldn’t be in the business of creating traditions and dates open admissions to Night of Decadence first shown in the 1990s, reded to the sports, college cheers at matriculation (started in the 1990s, ended in the 2000s), and apparently now the Rice likes water balloon fight, which first started in 1996, almost as long ago. Since the Thresher is many students’ primary source for information like this, it needs to check its facts before contributing falsehoods to the public discourse.

Robert Lee

Erratum

Last week’s column by Patrick McCarney read that Catholic Charities of Washington, D.C., would cut off all services to the homeless if legislation legalizing same-sex marriage were enacted. Catholic Charities “abandons social services for homeless,” Jan. 15). Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl said that only some services would be cut off if the legislation passed. The Thresher regrets the error.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
But the horde of exams we often outweigh many of the positives. All your friends are shackled to their laptops and textbooks, have more papers than you want to write, and there are more tests than are possible to study for and find your strengths and weaknesses from the looming pressures that abound in that final week of class.

Do this, wouldn’t you say? I know those who enjoy the inquiry, study breaks or independence that comes with exams. While many exam week brings unnecessary levels of stress that can increase susceptibility to illness and lead to poor sleeping habits and exhaustion, conditions not all conducive to performing well or finals.

However, the waste of time and physical resources is only one critique that one may have of the Rice exam system. Optional exams offer greater student independence, characteristics that Rice introduced in a university setting. Having the choice to take an exam is a student's right. In the future, all exams could be made optional or bonus.

The motions of change are inescapable upon the development of any progressive institution, and they should never be avoided out of fear of the unknown. In the motion that those in favor of maintaining the traditions of Beer Bike are often subject to, those who stand against it could not be further from the truth.

Johanna Ohn is a junior in Brown College.

Yan Diglov

In a Thresher poll conducted last November, more than two-thirds of respondents expressed their desire to maintain the status quo and retain the trucks for the water balloon fight. The primary incentive of the proposed reformed plans for Beer Bike is the elimination of trucks, contrary to a move from Campus Wide Beer Bike co-Coordinator Ian MacInnes, who called the trucks “absences” in a “main disadvantage” for balloon delivery.

While Beer Bike coordinators have been talking for years about the possibility of eliminating trucks, the opinion of the student body has been relatively static. Beginning with last year’s mandate of one truck per college, this same sentiment has been repeated. In the eyes of many, eliminating the trucks would be tantamount to removing a critical element of Beer Bike, which the group has cultivated for so many years.

The entity that built the future of the entity was on track for another previous, normative plan that would have the balloons fight in the stadium! Why has there never been an attempt to determine what the student body’s desires would be?

Landon Roussel is a Brown College junior.

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EXAM WEEK CAN CALL for special precautions

Optional exams cultivate independence

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H1N1 vaccines arrive

BY SCOTT NOGARDO
THE RICE THRESHER

Last week, Rice caught the participation bug spawned by the Center for Disease Control’s National Influenza Vaccination Week. The Rice administration, which listed the bill for about 850 vaccinations, offered the chance for students, faculty and retirees who showed up in the Kelley Lounge of the Ley Student Center last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The vaccines were supplied by Walgreens Pharmacy, which gave Rice a discount after the shots were administered.

A student-led RA search committee has been an important part of Jones College, dubbed “the Isle,” is named in his honor.

"I always try to be accessible to students," Laverdiere said.

"The most important things are to meet the students, to set an example and to roll with the punches," Laverdiere said.

"Even if I may be able to live without being woken up in the middle of the night by a party next door, I will truly miss the inspiration and support of the students here at Rice and my daily interactions with them," Laverdiere said.

"He was very calm and very gentle, notoutsized by any of the bugs that most chains have to deal with," Michie said. "You would have found his office thinking that you were in good hands."

"Rice meant a great deal to him. He spent his whole career here, and he participated in every aspect of it. He loved Jones, he loved the college system and he was willing to do administrative work to help the university," Walker said.

"Jones twice received the school-wide George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching in 1981 and 1988. He taught courses in environmental studies and in English. Perhaps the most striking aspect of Isle’s career was his eagerness to teach students at all levels, Lisa Slappey, a former doctorate student of Isle’s, said. Slappey confessed that she would sneak back into Isle’s classes after she had fulfilled her graduation requirements because she was so interested in his analysis of books.

After his retirement in 2007, Isle continued to teach at the Suzanne M. Glassow School of Continuing Studies, Slappey said. These courses were primarily in environmental studies, in line with Isle’s interest in the area.

"Palmer loved working as a master," said Laverdiere. "He loved every part of it. Occasionally, he was involved in student plays."

"I had swine flu," Sid Richardson College freshman Markos Munoz said. "I got to relate to the students, to set an example and to roll with the punches," Laverdiere said.

"If you give your password to anyone, you are getting SCAMMED!

If you fall for a scam, contact your SOR or the Help Desk immediately to reset your password: 713.343.help (4453) or helpdesk@rice.edu

My password was stolen!
MEET THE NEW MASTERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010

TRADITION/HOLIDAY

The INITIAL ATTRACTION

CONTINENTAL CLUB

COLLEGE SYSTEM

FAVORITE RICE

BEST PART OF TIME AT RICE

SOUND-OFF

sat down with them to discuss traditions, expectations and their favorite types of rice.

THINGS OF RICE - IDEAS, EVENTS, PRODUCES, PLACES, PEOPLE - FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, SENIOR - TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT TO GUATEMALA, AND TO APPLY, VISIT THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CENTER'S WEB SITE AT HTTP://CICRICE.EDU

FROM PAGE 1

Getting to Copenhagen

Alvarez first spoke of the idea of bringing students to COP15 after realizing at an invitation to the conference as a delegate from Nicaragua. But instead of flying solo to the negotiations, Alvarez said he realized COP15 presented an ideal opportunity for an independent study course.

However, he said he also soon realized that getting the students to the conference would not be easy. Alvarez said he first had to secure funding to subsidize travel expenses, obtain passports for each student and get passes to the event. The latter appeared troublesome, Alvarez said, as the Bella Center only held an estimated 5,000 individuals, but at least 1,500 people had received passes to the conference. Alvarez asked Robert Harriss, President and CEO of the Houston Advanced Research Center, to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of the group. Upon receiving the letter from HARC, a non-governmental organization, focused on sustainability and development, the UNFCC granted passes to the group.

Locating a place to stay after arriving in Copenhagen was also difficult. Ultimately, the group found board on a nearby Scandinavian cruise ship. Students from Yale University and Columbia University, some groups had to travel more than two hours each day to reach the conference, Alvarez said.

Talking amidst turmoil

The group arrived Dec. 13, one week into the climate change discussion. Among those who attended the talks was Rice College professor Rachel Petersen, who focused on deforestation and its role in climate change negotiations. Petersen, an anthropologist and political science major, based her focus on an interest in exploring forest policy and the biodiversity that depends on it.

While at the conference, Petersen and her peers attended a variety of talks from politicians, NGOs and third track organizations. Participants were also able to view films on the expo floor of the Bella Center. Petersen said she attended a number of groups, including Greenpeace and Climate Justice Action, had concerns about the building's protocol and agreed to lower greenhouse gas emissions in their cities regardless of their national governments' standards. EJF is the world's largest alliance of local governments committed to sustainable development.

Returning to Rice

Petersen also recalled a number of city governments at the conference that congregated in an alliance to take action at a more local level. Many from more than 60 countries participating in the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives and agreed to lower greenhouse gas emissions in their cities regardless of their national governments' standards.

Alvarez said he was disappointed by the outcome of the conference and believes future conventions need to focus more on the major players, such as the U.S. and China, that account for most of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

"Many stakeholders were disappointed by the outcome of the conference and believes future conventions need to focus more on the major players, such as the U.S. and China," he said. "We need to recognize that the issue is all connected by a common human with joint and common responsibilities."

The Community Involvement Center is looking for dedicated and enthusiastic students to participate in an amazing two-week immersion experience to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala this summer (Approximately May 16-30, 2010).

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT TO GUATEMALA AND TO APPLY, VISIT THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CENTER'S WEB SITE AT HTTP://CICRICE.EDU

Application Deadline: 5:00PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010
as Friedman’s editorial in The New York Times, which also offered informed commentary.

“You can do all you want with the military strategies,” Friedman said, “but if the intelligence and information … nothing’s really going to happen."

Through the lens, Bearden emphasized the importance of finding a way to make American policies more compatible with Afghan realities, which he defined as military and weapons-centric strategies. He revealed what he deemed to be the “dirty secret” of foreign policies.

“Almost everything we plan for never happens and almost everything that happens was never planned for,” he said.

He added that he believes General Stanley McChrystal, Commander of the International Security Assistance Force, could be the right person to lead the military in the long term.

Marcel, College sophomore Marcelle Schweickart said she thought Bearden shared his extensive knowledge about Afghanistan in a intelligent, engaging fashion and found hope in Bearden’s suggestion for a new strategy.

“Clearly, we’ve used military (strategies) for the past eight years, and that is not working,” Schweickart said.

This new strategy might include degrading Afghanistan’s abundant natural resources, broadening its agricultural environment beyond fields of poppy and coaxing foreign investment in agricultural projects that follow the National Security Council’s Strategy for Victory in Iraq, clean, hold, build. Bearden said another important option might be encouraging a different approach to the education of young Afghan men.

Schweickart saw this new paradigm favorably, especially its potential to encourage greater education and professional development.

“The people of Afghanistan need to go industrial and boost the economy, which, in worldly matters, tends to solve economic, health and social problems,” Schweickart said, “which helps the economy, which helps the economy, which helps the economy, which helps the economy, which helps the economy, which helps the economy."

Bearden said the youngest son in an Afghan family is likely to attend an Islamic religious school where he will become a man very quickly, often by having a weapon thrust into his hands.

“Afghan boys go from childhood to adulthood; they don’t go through the ipod stage,” he said.

Bearden added that Friedman’s article was a quick recap of the attempted military conquests of Afghanistan.

Alexander the Great’s blunders in 330 BCE; the Moghuls’ mistakes in the early 17th century; the British Empire’s botched campaign from 1842 to 1919; the Afghans’ refusal to suture America’s Afghanistan war around.

Almost a quarter-century later, “This game is not going well, but the little secret is there’s only one playbook, and the Afghans wrote it, so we always end up in these fights on their terms.”

This concept of fighting on Afghanistan’s terms may hold another piece of the solution, Bearden said. “We have for the last several years been training police, but I think we should keep on trying to train men who look like Minnesota cops, and that doesn’t work,” Bearden said, noting that the U.S. should attempt to train police forces to be more compatible with Afghanistan’s cultural norms instead of America’s.

Until the U.S. can postulate in terms of the Afghans think politically, similar to the attempts by Afghanistan’s Ministry of Defense to build the Afghan National Army from the bottom up, Bearden and American efforts may fail to flourish.

Before America attempted to defeat the Persian people of Afghanistan in the 1970s, the CIA used its largest covert operation ever but the military operation in those camps to evade the Soviet Union in the late 1970s. Millions of dollars of American dollars went into purchasing weapons, training the mujahideen and ultimately building the forces that would defeat the Soviet Union’s army, Bearden said. He said the introduction of the Stinger missile into the right proved to be the weapon that changed the game in favor of the mujahideen.

Almost a quarter-century later, the Obama administration is searching for its own catalyst.

“This game is not going well, but there is a potential game-changer,” Bearden said. “If you give an Afghan an option … to do something other than carry a Kalashnikov for $5-a-day, [then] any job you could create … would probably be a $20-a-day job. They would have a stake in something and it might turn [the war] around.”
A one dollar donation does make a difference, and money adds up.

Mac Griswold
CK Director

Homemade fruit tarts and cupcakes were some of the many items Duncan College students baked Monday and Tuesday evening for their bake sale to raise money for the Red Cross Relief Fund. The bake sale, which took place Tuesday and Wednesday in the RMC during lunch, raised over $1,000 for help in Haiti.

"It was a lot of fun," Duncan College junior Judy Huang and Erin Waller said.

The first part of the fundraiser will be in collaboration with the Office of International Students and Scholars and Rice Student Volunteer Program in a campaign to raise money for the American Red Cross. An anonymous donor will give one dollar for every person who donates, Executive Director of OSS-Adria Baker said. In the first two days of their campaign, Baker said they had already raised over $560. The drive will continue through Feb. 28, and people who make a donation are also asked to write a message to the people of Haiti on large poster board cards, which will be in the residential colleges next week.

"We're going to be collecting all that money and then present that as one big check on behalf of the Rice Student Association," McAnaney said. Griswold said he was impressed by students’ quick response to the disaster in Haiti, and stressed that giving money was the best way to help.

"The best way people can help is monetary donations, but it's tough for college students who want to help," Griswold said. "If a one dollar donation does make a difference, and money adds up.

"Without Haiti, there wouldn't be independence in Latin America," Duno-Gottberg said. Haiti's independence movement in the early 19th century that preceded other regional movements. "We... see Haiti as a poor country full of violence, but really what we are now in the Americas owes a lot to Haiti. I think they deserve the attention and help, but also the way of coming together as a community for that cause is important."
Bublé's Crazy Love a bit too crazy

BY BRIAN REINHART
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Michael Bublé's fans have traditionally had to tolerate long waits for his CDs, but until now the wait has been worth it. His fourth studio album, and the first in more than two years, Crazy Love finds Bublé branching out into new styles and new artistic directions, often with mixed results. The high points are magnificent, but too often on Crazy Love his soft, singer-songwriter innocence is lost to his desire to do something dramatic and unique.

There are a few times on Crazy Love that bring to mind the best of Bublé's past work. For collaboration with a couple of guest artists naturally for a touching rendition of the standard "Standards," and with Sharon Jones for the spunky "Baby (You've Got What It Takes)" in an exciting number with funky backing vocals, and "All of Me" in a classy jazz piano trio that gives Bublé a chance to let his golden voice take center stage. Perhaps the most successful song on Crazy Love was written by Bublé himself, penned with help from Alan Chang and Amy S. Foster. "Haven't Met You Yet" is certainly a highly contemporary pop song, sappy and rhythmically charged. It is a long way from Bublé's customary appeal of Standards and blue numbers - but that doesn't stop it from being the best song on the whole album. It's catchy, fun, and, of course, wonderfully sung.

Crazy Love


On the other hand, at least one song on the album is absolutely awful. The opener, "Cry Me a River," is a sentimental ballad of lost love that Bublé and his band play over a theme that would make Ian Fleming proud. While Bublé sings heartfelt lyrics like "Cry me a river / I cried a tear over you," his orchestra contributes an action-movie scoring, with the percussion imitating gun shots, electric guitar and violin evoking Bond themes and the brass generally sounding pungent and annoying.

What inspired this madness? Bublé sings as loosely as he can in order to be heard over the background, relentless orchestra behind him, and the result is embarrassing to hear. This "Cry Me a River" should have been left in a river, without a paddle.

Fortunately, nothing else on the album sticks to these depths, although "Georgia on my Mind" is rather disappointing, this time because both the musical arrangement and vocals are one of a kind with the song's style, and because it opens and closes with another nod to James Bond soundtracks. In Bublé vindicating to sing in the next film.

A couple of other songs are disappointments, too. The title track, "Crazy Love," is sappy, dull and because getting as it winds on. Bublé's new LOVE, page 9

Taco Trek: Villa Arcos Tacos

Our intrepid Thresher reporters track down the tastiest tacos in town

BY VAN DINGLOW AND BEN LOPEZ
THRESHER STAFF

The pursuit of men are many, ranging in levels of scope and difficulty. But few pursuits can be compared to a single challenge that beckons only the bravest of college students: finding the source of Houston's most cherished and material - tacos.

Van Dinglow, a vegetarian pen- ding enthusiastic with a pen- chant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly conversation, is joined by Ben Lopez, a hot, fast executing enthusiast with a pen- dant for friendly 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A Word With Your Wardrobe: The trouble with buying boots

Alongside my personal battle with the comforts of sweatpants and flip-flops, one of my top concerns at Rice and around Houston is the weather. This is especially troublesome when it comes to seasons that really should exist, like winter. I flip-flops, one of my top nemeses.

Houston's seasons as "January and year" does not require so much insulation and snow exists for more than a couple of those places where leaves fall. In retrospect, may have been a poor investment into the discussion is because over the years it has affected my acquisition of a certain closet staple: boots. The reason I'm bringing weatherproofness, however, and the length of the boot shaft itself is the limiting factor in terms of wardrobe application.

Boots are as varied as the distinct signs of winter that Houston lacks. Disregarding the awkwardness of the term "boots," that is pretty much what an ankle boot is in one that covers or hits right below the ankle. Their selling point is that they mimic the feel and look of any other boot without the added bulk. This makes it easier for them to be altered with hardware or other fun boot-related details, much more than what a normal boot is used to. My only beef with these is that, although they work so well with all past styles, they essentially cut the wearer off at the ankles, this makes playing with proportions of skirts difficult and could easily translate into "ankle" anything.

Elevating the leg chain, mid-calf to knee-high boots are basically the ideal lovers of your legs. They can be threads with nearly any item of any length in your wardrobe, not to mention their abundance of diverse styles, from biker to cowboy. Their ideal lovers of your legs. They can

Not all teen pregnancies are unplanned.

TACOS FROM PAGE 8

Neatly arranged "Heartache Tonight" sounds like the soundtrack to the old Pink Panther movies, which at least provides a welcome break in the Bond theme. "You're Nobody till Somebody Loves You" begins well enough, romantic and seductive, but then Buble's full orchestra weighs in and mars the moment. Every Love is interesting because it shows Buble experimenting with different musical styles, but it is for dishes only, mainly because not all these new directions lead to success. "Haven't Met You Yet" suggests he could have been a superstar as a pop singer or the leader of a bar band, and his performance

Not all teen pregnancies are unplanned.
By Van Doodles
THE RICE THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

In the courtyard behind Sewall Hall, hidden out of everyday sight, an institution has emerged that has taken a new and interesting turn. It is a student-run hall, in a formerly empty space, which has been transformed into a vibrant hub of creative activity.

The Matchbox Gallery, so named because of Rouse's desire for its diminutive size by its director, Marissa Brown, has started. Robert Beck, began as a whimsical idea in the beginning of last semester, leaving behind a broken-down party scene, remnants of an unoccupied space in the Visual and Dramatic Arts department. It was initially a small idea, but the concept of a student-run gallery has since expanded.

And so the Matchbox was born. The idea was received with enthusiasm, and the gallery was set to open, the students had gathered at Rice to hang their work, and the Matchbox's first exhibit featured an installation that depicted a broken-down party scene, remnants of an unoccupied space in the Visual and Dramatic Arts department.

Along with a new rug that was donated to the Matchbox, the gallery was set to open, the students had gathered at Rice to hang their work, and the Matchbox's first exhibit featured an installation that depicted a broken-down party scene, remnants of an unoccupied space in the Visual and Dramatic Arts department.

But another aspect of his decision-making showed itself: the space is small doesn't mean that the ideas have to be small. "It is interesting to see how non-Arts students, along with House and campus, respond to the art," Rouse said. "What it means is that not only is this something that the students are behold, but also that this room is something that needed to happen. And its success speaks for itself."

Creating tradition

There is no premier form. Brown has been experimenting with balloons and party decorations for some time, and the Matchbox's past exhibitions feature installations that depicted a broken-down party scene, remnants of an unoccupied space in the Visual and Dramatic Arts department.

Deflated balloons hung from the walls with strings of party flags and candies, making it look as if she and Rouse had emptied the Matchbox's first installment. The gallery's second showing, Brown's installation entitled Another Time, Another Place, featured a sculpture that depicted a broken-down party scene, remnants of an unoccupied space in the Visual and Dramatic Arts department.

The Matchbox now had funding for new lights and equipment in place for future shows, along with some rainy-day funds, but the grant also clearly meant much more. "It was a really happy day when I found out that I got the grant," Beck said. "It meant that not only is this something that the students are behold, but also that this room is something that needed to happen. And its success speaks for itself."

A lasting presence

With the gallery's newly assumed financial longevity and a group of interested artists genuinely awaiting the next showing, Beck began taking proposals for the remainder of the year, and for the first time he learned another necessity of the trade—sending rejections.

The proposals began pouring in, and Brown examined them, leaving them to be worked on. Beck began serenely delimiting the creative future of the Matchbox.

"We want it to be a space where young artists who never have showed before can experiment and see how their work stands in a small space," he said. "It is unprecedented like that. We don't care if it is balloons or paintings."

But if the success it has endured suggests that the Matchbox may be here to stay, it may be the legacy of a small idea like this that provided an inquisitive pub, an interdepartmental competition or running nailed phase four of a master's thesis. For certain, it has already moved Arts and non-Arts students, along with House community members, to take part in a school tradition we've never really had—one in which people can eat, drink and enjoy some art.

Unconventional space

In the Tryon Gallery, one student-run entity with formality of a student-run entity with funding and support from across campus has been transformed into something entirely different—a student-run art space housed in a former professor's office, now one of the school's hottest destinations.

"We really didn't have a vision be-}
Women's basketball rebounds, rises above top C-USA opponents

By Teddy Grodek

Last weekend, the women's basketball team faced what could only be called a do-or-die situation. They lost their two key conference games, and then had to face Rice, who was previously relegated to sparse playing time. They fell behind seven points early, but were able to fight back and tie the game at 28, before Rice pulled ahead two going into the half. The Owls were down until five minutes left in the game, but they were able to come back and win, making 38 percent from the field and 29 percent from the three-point range.

Against Marshall at home on Friday night, Rice pulled ahead two going into the half. The Owls did not shoot particularly well in the first half, but they were able to come back and tie the game at 28, before Rice pulled ahead two going into the half. The Owls were down until five minutes left in the game, but they were able to come back and win, making 38 percent from the field and 29 percent from the three-point range.

Overall, the Owls were able to take the game out of Marshall's reach. With their recent winning streak, Rice proved that the former basketball team has what it takes to compete on the court. Rice will use this newfound momentum to prepare for their upcoming games, against Temple and University of Houston, as they continue to build their season.
RICE WOMEN’S TENNIS 2010

After struggling in 2009, Owls turn to newfound growth and experience in hopes of retaking conference crown

By Christopher Pettijohn
FOR THE THRESHER

At a university like Rice, it’s simply a matter of time before one becomes wise. Heading into the 2010 season stacked with players possessing plenty of experience, the women’s tennis team believes the time has come for that acquired wisdom to pay off and to eliminate the disappointment created by several close losses last season.

Same core, new edges

Followers of last year’s women’s tennis team will notice that the face on this year’s squad has not changed much. Though the women may look older, the team returns seven of the eight players of last year’s team, losing only one senior, Emily Read (Hanszen ’09).

While the additions to the team may be minimal, freshmen Mechel Ragan and Danny Trigo will immediately have the chance to make an impact. Ragan, a walk-on from Corpus Christi, has already impressed Head Coach Elizabeth Schmidt.

“She just brings a ton of spirit and energy and really has all of the tangibles that we’ve been looking for,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt said she expects the energy Ragan puts into the matches and the spirit she brings to the team to boost team morale in close matches and the spirit she brings to the team.

Ragan and Danny Trigo will immediately have the chance to make an impact. Ragan, who is ranked 74th in the nation in singles, is coming off a spring season with just one loss, and she holds the team’s hopes of continued success.

With these two additions, the team is more than prepared to vie for a conference championship, despite getting ousted in the semifinals of the C-USA Tournament last season.

But the additions will only go so far as the returning players can take the team. Among those coming back, seniors Julie Chao and Rebecca Lin will be, as one may imagine, instrumental in leading the team. Junior Rebekah Hinnie, who is ranked 24th in the nation in doubles, is coming off a spring season with just one loss, and she understands how to approach matches better and what it takes to win those matches. Maturity will also be a deciding factor in the close matches this year, as the players will be more prepared to keep a level head during high-pressure situations.

And chances for winning are always helped out by camaraderie among teammates. As such, Schmidt introduced a new buddy system this year to help the two new players adjust to the team. The players were assigned older players who acted as mentors.

Ragan says she thinks the buddy system greatly helped her adjust to college.

“I love it,” Ragan said. “It helped me feel included right away and gave me someone I could talk to about anything right from the start of school.”

On the horizon

But as much as the team gets along, winning should help matters. The women may find victory a bit easier this year, but they will still need to...

[See WOMEN'S page 14]
**RICE MEN'S TENNIS 2010**

After four years of heartbreak, Owls see depth in 2010 as best shot in years at busting Tulsa barricade

By Casey Michel

**SPORTS 13**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010**

The story is as old as it is depressing. It makes coaches wince, players grinace and fans wonder if a curse has been placed on the men's tennis team.

This year, in a sport culture reared on winning, and in a sport team. I don't think it has anything to do with a curse. "I just feel that for the last four years Tulsa's just had the better team. I don't think it has anything to do with being cursed or not," Ustundag said.

Ustundag offered a better explanation, a less supernatural and more human one. The Golden Hurricane's dominance of the Owls over the last few seasons: Arnone Brugues, who helped thrash Rice last year while ranked No. 1 in the nation, Urges, who graduated last spring, has been a thorn in Rice's side for years, so it's cause for excitement among the Rice community that his name no longer graces Tulsa's roster.

Ustundag is actually only one of three seniors from Tulsa's impre-"sionary 2009 squad who left the team, and the Golden Hurricane's top two spots on the ladder are now vacant, ready to be filled with a new crop of players looking to continue building Rice's hopes of a conference championship. If you think Tulsa is reaping the benefits, though, Ustundag is quick to correct your perception. "They've been doing it," he said, laughing. But he still thinks that this year, perhaps more so than any year in recent memory, Rice's depth may finally push them over the hump that has stood in their way for so long.

"It's difficult to say right now if our chances are better or not," he said. "I just feel like we have a little bit more experience throughout the lineup right now than they do."

**Transfer of power**

Ustundag appears correct in that assumption, because while the Owls last year lost stalwarts Christoph Müller (Wien '09) and Tobias Schreil (Jönköping '09), both of whom spent considerable time at the top of the lineup, they have been replaced by a pair of transfers who have already seen their fair share of playing time. Senior Nathaniel Needleman came to the Owls from the University of South Florida, and his play in both fall and in practice has earned him to the upper half of the six player lineup. He will likely be joined at the top of the lineup by fellow transfer Oscar Podlewski, who departed from his home country to play the Owls last year, when four new freshmen landed at Jake Hess Ten- nis Stadium. However, those four are no longer the starry-eyed youths who struggled through inexperience, notably sophomore Sam Garforth-Bles, who was ranked early in the 2009 season, and sophomore Tomas Fachbacher, who at one point last year won 13 straight matches.

The top of the lineup, though, will be just as formidable for the Owls. The team will be anchored by senior Bruno Rosa, who last season ranked 40th in the nation—a relative disappointment, considering he's beaten multiple top-10 play- ers in his Rice career.

"We're extremely good low down in the lineup. We've got a lot of op- tions," Podlewski said. "However, the top of the lineup will really de- pend on us... If Bruno and someone else at the top of the lineup play extremely well, we'll be a tough team to beat."

Singh appears set, but unfortu- nately, Miller and Schell managed to take with them the best doubles team Rice has seen in years. The doubles team is traditionally the biggest question mark Rice has entering the season, and this year is proving no different. The early parting of Needleman and sophomore Christian Saravia looks promising, but the other two slots are still up in the air.

Still, Ustundag doesn't see the uncertainty as a problem. "I don't necessarily think we have a huge hole up and down the lineup," the coach said. "I think we can com- pete with anybody in the country, and certainly with the schedule we have, we are going to compete with everybody in the country."

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**EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK**

Join the Rice Student Volunteer Program’s Education Committee for the following Education Awareness Week Events:

**Monday, January 25**

Morning of service at the Avondale House

Come help children with autism on their history projects at the Avondale House from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Mimi Arnold (arnold@rice.edu) or Liz Jackson (liz.jackson@rice.edu) and meet at the RMC Circle Drive at 8:00 am. For more information about Avondale House please visit their website: (http://www.avondalehouse.org/)

**Tuesday, January 26**

Education Panel in Keck 100 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Panel participants will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of public, private, and charter schools. You will hear from representatives from each type of school and be able to ask questions. Thai food will be served.

**Wednesday, January 27**

Afternoon of service with One-on-One Mentoring

Work and play with elementary school children and help them with their homework in partnership with One-on-One Mentoring. One-on-One meets every week at this time, but this is a special preview session so you can try it out and see if it's for you. Please meet at the RMC circle drive at 3PM.

**Thursday, January 28**

State Representative Ellen Cohen in Miner Lounge

Meet State Representative Ellen Cohen to discuss her thoughts and policies on education reform as well as her participation in the committee for higher education. You will be able to ask questions and dessert will be served.

If you have any questions about Education Awareness Week events, please contact Education committee co-chairs, Mimi Arnold (arnold@rice.edu) or Liz Jackson (liz.jackson@rice.edu)

**Sponsored by the Rice Student Volunteer Program (RSPV)**

To learn more about RSPV, please visit the following website (http://www.rice.edu/rsvp) or come to a general meeting - every Monday night at 9:00 pm in the Miner Lounge of the RMC.
MEMPHIS kept making run after unfamiliar situation may have played Rice had led a game on their home energy after a delicate start was a re-
fate, however, the Owls would once again work on its way to what should be a resounding fashion, knocking off Texas A&M-Corporal Christ University 61-49 at home Wednesday. But the Tigers will provide as much, if not more, of a test for the team. This win gives players and coaches an idea of where they stand for the coming season.

And it will also give them a chance to see just how much they have learned from last year and how wise they have become.

A win Saturday will give them hope of still face a bevy of talented squads. “We are going to be tested every week,” Schmidt said, “We’ve got 21 matches and all 20 are going to test us.”

According to Schmidt, the road challenges will help the team reach conference championships. Many times tested allows for improving themselves and advancing to the NCAA tournament.

FOR HER EFFORTS OVER THE WEEKEND, THE TEAM’S schedule only gets tougher from here. The Owls travel to the University of Tulsa tomorrow to face the Golden Hurricane (15-3, 4-0 C-USA), a team currently leading the conference standings.

In order to join them on top, the Owls will have much work to do, a task that Braun thinks is feasible. “It is not going to happen overnight,” the coach said. “We are going to have to continue to fight and continue to learn. Improvement sometimes has nothing to do with record. It has to do with how dedicated you are to getting better, and I think these players are doing that.”

The coaches and the players are anxious as the season begins—but it is not nervous energy as much as it is excitement for this season’s possibilities. Because tomorrow, Rice will be on its way to what should be its best shot at a conference crown in nearly six years. And if it could have done so, that is enough.

“I can’t wait,” Podlewski said. “I can’t wait.”

Center for Civic Engagement Fellows Program

Summer 2010

Interested in receiving a $4,000 stipend to conduct an independent research or design project with a faculty member and a Houston-based community partner in the summer?

Applying to the CCE Fellows program?

Visit http://ccerd.rice.edu/fellows/ for more information about the program and a copy of the application.

Applications due February 9, 2010
FRIDAY 22

The Archives of Hope
Drop by the Hines-Rosenbaum Gallery (in Sewall Hall) at 6 p.m. to join the Rice Young Demo- crats for the viewing of HBO’s documentary, “By the People: The Election of Barack Obama.” There will be food from the travell- ing New Pizza Truck.

TUESDAY 26

A word on human trafficking
Millions of people are still being sold into slavery every year, even in the United States. David Barsam, a theologian at the University of San Francisco, is here to talk about the problem and what we can do about it. Drop by the Sheed Auditorium at McNair Hall at 7 p.m. to listen to the talk, presented by the Westminster Center for Christian Ethics.

FRIDAY 29

A very special event
The Southwest Association has asked you to join them at 6 p.m. to take their survey, jump on the Internet and go to www.surveyspeak.com/poll-survey, click to type the hyperlink between master and plan.

SECRET MASTER PLAN!
Actually, the Rice University master plan is not a secret, and the Southwest Association wants your opinion on it. To take their survey, jump on the Internet and go to www.surveyspeak.com/poll-survey, click to type the hyperlink between master and plan.

Wednesday 27

Dude, the facebook guys are coming to Rice!
I know you go to Rice and you don't know what relaxation means. It's time for Evening Nirvana, a 20-minute relaxation session in the Rice Memorial Center Chapel. Call your friends and come unwind at 5 p.m. If you're snow-avoided, please come prepared. These sessions occur every week, so do the Afternoon Nirvanas every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and the Morning Nirvanas every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday 28

Exhibit opening at the Rice Gallery (in Sewall Hall)
The artist is the awesomely named sculptor El Anatsui, who will be speaking about his work at 6 p.m. Also on hand: Lisa Steinle, Assistant Curator, Museum for African Art, New York, NY. Rice will be premiering music from Nigeria and Ghana. Admission is free.

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: thesresh-calendar@rice.edu
Campus Mail: Calendar Editor
Thresher, 611-524

Note from the editor: If you do not submit your item using one of the above means, I may still print it if you invite me to a Facebook event.

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The Calendar
JAN. 19-25, 2010
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Tim and Doc (the old BPEs) published their Backpage Conspiracy Board last year in an attempt to unmystify the mysteries of Rice's secretive administration. As a result, Doc was deposed to Thresher Design Editor and Tim "graduated" to "California" (if by "California" you mean the bottom of Brays Bayou).

Fully aware of the consequences, we've searched every inaccessible nook and forgotten cranny of Rice University for the answers you've been craving. It's our responsibility to stir the pot since this week's front page is as dull as Friday dinner. Well, consider the pot stirred. Everything you've ever wondered about the future of the university and its international playboy president can be found in one place. Your very grip with reality teeters...

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Come teach for us themategy! No experience necessary as all training is provided. Full and part time positions available. Dynamic and energetic teachers wanted. Pay rate starts at $8-$15/hour. Call 281-276-7743 or email rice-jobs@testmasters.com.

Tutoring position available. Looking for dependable, caring academic tutors to work with students grades 1-12 after school hours and possibly on weekends throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Hourly rate is $25/hour. Please contact Alyson at At-Home Tutoring Services for more information.

Affordable Housing. One and two bedroom condominiums with close proximity to Rice University. Tenants courts, swimming pool, rice grounds in well maintained complex. To schedule a viewing, contact Tom Hoke 713-805-5097.

New highrise condominium 2 bedroom 2 full bath panoramic downtown views, 1 mile from Texas Medical Center. Leases $900/month for sale. Great amenities 24h doorman. 812-586-9151.

**OTHER**

Health insurance is offered thru Cigna, BCBS, Humana, United, Aetna. Popular national health plans available thru IMG at 1-800-432-8794.

**ADVERTISING**

We reserve display and classified advertisements. The Thresher reserves the right to refuse any advertising for any reasons. The only advertisement is the responsibility of the factual content of any advertisement. Publication of ads indicates acceptance of advertisement by the Thresher. Display advertisements must be received by 1 pm, on the Monday prior to publication.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- 1-7 words: $10
- 8-15 words: $20
- 16-45 words: $40
- 46-105 words: $65

- Cash, check, or credit card payment must accompany your classified advertisement, which must be received by 3 pm on the Monday prior to your publication.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Annual subscription rate: $30
Individual rate: $15
Nonsubscription rate: $5

**Advertise with us!**

Contact Alyson at At-Home Tutoring Services for more information.

The Thresher is a student newspaper published every Friday. Backpage is written, designed, and printed by students at Rice University. Please consult the Thresher online for more information. The Rice Daily Bulletin @rice.edu is the University's official news source. Please consult both.