SA begins blanket tax reform
Oversight committee established to help student organizations

BY SETH BROWN

Earlier this month, the Student Association created a new committee to address the perceived lack of oversight in tax proposals. The need for oversight of the unregulated system was highlighted by repeated calls for its abolition. For example, untillast year, University Rice, a former student-run library publication that had been defunct for several years, continued to receive from each student's graduation in blanket taxes. The six blanket tax proposals to reach last year's ballot, the only one to pass was an amendment to remove Rice's blanket tax.

"I think the attitude of the student body will have to change—most kids don't understand what they're voting on. The SA needs to better educate the whole undergraduate population on all of the issues."-Rachel Orosco Jones '10

Attempts by the Rice Program Council and KTRU to increase their funding by becoming subsidiary organizations of the Student Association failed.

New location, same celebration set

BY SCOTT NORGARD

Busy seniors worrying about life after Rice have at least one reprieve as their collegiate careers wind down: 100 days, a dance tradition celebrated 100 days before commencement to kick off the countdown to graduation.

This year's dance will be held Feb. 10 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Richa, a downtown nightclub. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door, and can be purchased from the senior committee representatives at desks or at the Rice Memorial Center info desk.

The door price is less expensive than it was last year. Chair of the Senior Committee junior Newman said that the committee did not want to penalize last-minute attendees. In fact, a ticket for each senior will need Rice identification or be accompanied by someone with a Rice ID. Rice, located at 500 Texas St. near the Preston stop on the metro, will have drink specials for seniors only, including $5 drafts and $4 "really drinks," which include Miller's and Budweiser.

Rice Days raises funds for the seniors' event, both in ticket sales and through an arrangement the committee has with the venue. Newman said the committee is composed of 17 seniors, with input from students and faculty from every college.

As in previous years, the dance is not technically too days before graduation due to scheduling conflicts, but a close approximation, Newman, a Jones College senior, said. Newman said the committee chose the venue because of its success the past two years and that they did not want to simply return to last year's venue, Stubb's, which drew 600 attendees. The committee expects 500 students to attend this year's event.

"Like last year, the starting budget for the event is $1,000, which was supplied by the alumni office. The committee also raised $100 from the homecoming tailgate. The committee has arranged for buses, with input from students and from the club, Newman said. The first bus for Owl Days will leave this year, Owls and Owl Days were held, and last year, Owl Days were held on a pair of Wednesday-Thursday nights.

"For Owl Days, students volunteered host prospective student overnight and take them to classes. Admit days, the students attended several panels and take a tour of campus, but do not stay overnight with a host. The cap for Owl Days attendees is currently set at 50. Rice's most hallowed holiday, Beer Bike, is tonight in the Arches: Model, the fundraiser for the student body's financial aid program."-Seth Brown

50 days (of Beer Bike)

Ladies and gentlemen, start your... pelvis? Today marks the 50-day countdown to Rice's most hallowed holiday, Beer Bike. You might want to start saving up on your sleep pretty soon.

50-day Beer Bike 50-day Beer Bike 50-day Beer Bike

Too sexy for this party

Arbitrarily, the fundraisers for the sophomore Archaic trip to Paris, it's tonight in the Senior Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The party will be at the door. You can have a sweet shirt, too. Then you'll really win with all the fastinios.

A whole new world

The World Food Fair is Tuesday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. in the Great Hall of the SRC. Swing by the Rice Food from the Muslim Student Association, Black Student Association and the Turkish Student Association, among others, as well as the free benna tattooos. Or come on up to the Wheeler office to eat all our leftovers. Your choice.
the Rice Thresher

Dates of Owl Days, Admit Days ill-chosen

Many students' first experiences at Rice consist of overnight visits as prospective students. The tradition lives on, even if over the past few years the names, dates and frequency of Rice's annual social prospective student visits have changed.
Shamsa Mangalji

I can't tell you what those scenes looked like. The Muslims can't lump inside their heads to discover why they commit these crimes. I've heard Muslims claim, "I belong to the Shia Imami Is- lam, I am proud to call myself a Muslim." I can't tell you what those so-called "Muslims" were thinking. I can tell you what I understand the real meaning of Islam. I am a Shia Imami, a word derived from the Arabic concept of "salam," or peace. With this column, I would like to give you a new perspective of my religion.

I belong to the Shia Imami Is- lam sect of Islam. My Imam, or spiritual leader, is the Aga Khan. He teaches that Islam should always be interpreted in the modern context, and that Islam's core values today are education, service to others and pluralism; there is no mention of committing suicide or massacring innocent people in our houses of worship. The Aga Khan's international organization, The Aga Khan Development Network, aims to foster hope and opportunity for progress in developing countries in which it works.

So I am appalled that these horrible extremists who claim to be "Muslim" commit vicious acts of terror that completely contradict all of the Qur'an's morals, ethics and commandments.


Shamsa Mangalji is a visiting student from Columbia University.

Helen Shaw

The decision is ultimately in the hands of the voters. Rice will be a town by the college beer-bike coordination, which was a success last election. College coordinator will have the final say. Students can have their say. If the vote is currently open so stu- dents can have. Additional colleges, providing more access to the ballot box, could be thrown at all colleges. With more colleges, providing more access to the ballot box, it would be easier for students as possible.

It should be reiterated that no college community, we all understand how sacred Beer Bike is. So, whatever the outcome of this vote, it should be implemented in a way that respects the college community.

Helen Shaw is a junior at Rice College and a Beer Bike parade co-coordinator.

Amanda Roussel

University years, typically when se- eking acceptance and acceptance pro- blems are a particularly trying time for the mentally ill. As someone who suf- fered from mental illness while at Rice and has friends there with similar afflictions, I understand how the media twists and turns with a news story. Today, we see more Muslims than those behind the scenes. The mentally ill, like other Muslims, are close colleagues, roommates and friends, and are the vocal reaction to the homeless. The mentally ill lack a stable mental and men- tal refuge from the onslaught of life, just as the homeless lack a roof over their heads to protect them from the elements. Most of the time when we encounter the homeless, we meet their nonexistence, becoming sud- denly blind and dead to their being and passing by quickly with a pained but studied indifference.

"To have authentic sympathy for the mentally ill, one should first acknowledge the unhealthy extremes in regard to self-destructive trappings.

So what are the alternatives? To have authentic sympathy for the mentally ill, one should first acknowledge the unhealthy extremes in regard to self-destructive trappings. People with mental illnesses, a significant portion of the collegiate population, are close colleagues, roommates and friends, and are the vocal reaction to the homelessness. The mentally ill lack a stable mental and mental refuge from the onslaught of life, just as the homeless lack a roof over their heads to protect them from the elements.

"Common responses to the mentally ill's anguish, even when they are close colleagues, roommates and friends, are like the vocal reaction to the homelessness. The mentally ill lack a stable mental and mental refuge from the onslaught of life, just as the homeless lack a roof over their heads to protect them from the elements. Most of the time when we encounter the homeless, we meet their nonexistence, becoming sudden- ly blind and dead to their being and passing by quickly with a pained but studied indifference.

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Thomas Blakeney dies at 46

BY JCKLYN WRIGHT
Tammany Thrunder Staff

Thomas Alphonso Blakeney III died Wednesday at the age of 46.

Thomas Blakeney III was born in Houston, Texas on January 6, 1964

The following were noted at the most recent meeting of the Student Association. The minutes are now posted on the SA Web site. Each candidate must obtain three other students, give organizations in order to identify the necessity of the funds. Tiffany Wu, SA Treasurer, said that all the committees will then present each individual case to the SA, which will vote on whether to include each proposal in the general election.

"In the constitution, it is written that all requests [for blanket tax monies] must be substantiated," Wu said. "A committee will sit down and talk with the students and determine whether the projects are necessary, what other efforts are required to increase funding have been made and how the blanket tax would contribute to the organization's long-term sustainability. It also recommends the inclusion of both current and historical proposals, budgets, historical expenditures and any support from a dean or faculty member.

Wu said the requested information is necessary in order to properly evaluate requests. However, she said the committee is willing to change the process if it becomes too burdensome.

"We're not going to make it difficult for students to express their ideas," Wu said. "We will go through and evaluate each proposal and their present and future needs in the community.

"The new committee will not deal with the problem of ensuring that there are enough representatives on the committee," Hamaker said. "We will go through and evaluate how many students are actually interested in the organization.

"I think the attitude of the student body will have to change - most kids don't understand what they're voting for," Orosco said. "The SA needs to better educate the whole undergraduate population on all of the issues."
**RSVP hosts education awareness**

**BY MARIELLE SCHWEICKART / THE THRESHER**

This week, the Rice Student Volunteer Program gave students the opportunity to participate in a different educational system. The fourth annual Education Awareness Week, organized by the RSVP Education Committee, included events ranging from a trip off campus to help autistic students to an on-campus presentation by State Representative Ellen Cohen.

The Education Committee is headed by Will Rice College sophomore Liz Jackson and Wiess College senior Mimi Arnold.

The goal of the week, according to Arnold, is to broaden Rice students' awareness of educational issues.

"We are trying to spark discussion about education reform, different types of education and how to improve the system," she said.

Education Awareness Week began Monday when students volunteered at the Avondale House, a shelter that serves children and adults with autism. Volunteers spent time with students in their classrooms, helping with projects and specific subjects.

The goals were both to educate the volunteers about autism and to create awareness about educational opportunities for disabled students, Arnold said.

Lei Kham, a frosh in the College, said volunteering at the Avondale House was an eye-opening experience because she was able to work with people with different levels of education.

"I worked with a little girl who was probably about 5 or 6, and she had no verbal skills at all," Nowak said.

Arnold said she spent the morning working with children on their motor skills.

"I worked with [one girl] on manual skills like squeezing a ball and picking up things," Arnold said.

Nowak, who said she had never heard of the Avondale House before volunteering, was excited to see that by the end of the volunteer session the girl had begun picking things up by herself.

"I learned that the amount of extra time that kids with special needs need is a lot more than our public education system can give them," Arnold said.

The goals of the week were both to educate and to increase people's awareness of issues.

"[We are] trying to spark discussion about education reform, different types of education and how to improve the system," Arnold said.

The final event, held Thursday, was a presentation given by State Representative Ellen Cohen. Cohen, who represents Bellaire, West University, River Oaks and sections of Meyerland and Montrose, including Rice University, was named to the Texas Committee of Higher Education in the 81st Legislative Session, which ran from January to June 2009.

Jackson said that each of the five major committees of RSVP, including the Environmental Committee, Hunger and Homelessness Committee, Children's Committee and the Health Committee, plan an awareness week during the year. These weeks include volunteering and learning opportunities to increase people's awareness of issues and spark discussion that exist in each area.

The next awareness week will be organized by the Children's Committee Feb. 8-12. Students interested in volunteering can visit the Education Committee's calendar of events on the RSVP Web site, rsvp.rice.edu/education-committee.

The student volunteers also learned more from the increased exposure to Texas-based educational systems.

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**1 Schedule of events**

**ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK**

The Muslim Student Association is hosting its annual Islam Awareness Week, which will run from Monday through Thursday.

- **Today:** 2 p.m., Central Quad: Open Jummah (prayer session). All students are welcome to attend this weekly prayer session. Free baklava and drinks will be served following the prayer.

- **Tuesday:** 8 a.m., Grand Hall in the RMC: World Food Fair. Students are welcome to come experience free food and music that is representative of the diversity of the Muslim world.

- **Thursday:** 7 p.m., Herring 106: Islam, Violence, & Terrorism: A 30-minute lecture and 45-minute Q&A about Islam, violence, terrorism and Muslim responses in the modern world by Dr. John Voll from Georgetown University, followed by a reception from House of Pies.

**STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WEEK**

The Women's Resource Center is hosting its annual Stop Violence Against Women Week, which will run from Tuesday through Saturday.

- **Tuesday:** 8 p.m., Women's Resource Center: Perspective and pompom discussion on masculinity and violence. The speech will focus on the "tough guy" image and how this perpetuates violence against women.

- **Wednesday:** 4 p.m., location TBD: Diane Strassman of the Women's and Gender Studies department will give a lecture on economic violence against women.

- **Thursday:** 8 p.m., Willy's Statue: Take Back the Night, a candlelight vigil and rally with reading of testimonials.

- **Friday:** Noon, Miner Lounge: An advanced discussion on rape culture. Lunch will be provided.

- **Saturday:** 6 p.m., NUMA 117: A film on domestic violence will be screened. Dinner will be provided.

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**Don't give up your password to anyone, you are getting SCAMMED!**

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

If you fall for a scam, contact your SC or the Help Desk immediately to reset your password: 713.348.help (4357) or helpdesk@rice.edu.

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**I just got your password!**

**Choose. Connect. Grow.**

Join us in the fight to make the Internet a safer and healthier place for all. Check out our website: helpけれど@bankamerica.com

**Bank of America**

**Merrill Lynch**

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**RUPD POLICE BLOTTER**

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Jan. 21-27.

**ACADEMIC BUILDINGS**

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**PARKING LOTS**

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**OTHER LOCATIONS**

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<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Evading detention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off Campus</td>
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VALUE FROM PAGE 1

Brown begins new search for replacement RAS

By JOCelyn WroT

With Resident Associates Keke MacKenzie and Carina Rogge preparing for their departure from Brown College at the end of this semester, the search for a replacement has begun. Brown master Laura Cox and college coordinator Nancy Henry, the committee is holding a reception today from 4-6 p.m. at the Brown College triennials’ house for candidates interested in the position.

Chapman said the committee is looking for people who will fit with the present personality of RAs, not people who will fit with Brown.

"We're looking for people who will be dedicated to Brown and willing to embrace us in all our quirks," Chapman said.

Brown is our family, and families sometimes do stupid things and get annoying. But you still love them and if you don't love them you're just not trying hard enough." Chapman said.

NAME THIS FONT.

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NAME THIS FONT.
"Lift" rises in Rec Center

BY JACLYN YOUNGBLOOD
Managing Editor, Staff

Your heart rate is not the only thing that will rise on your next trip to the Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center. "Lift," an otherworldly installation piece by New York artist Aurora Robson, commands attention, drawing all eyes upward upon entry to the building.

The sculpture, which hangs above the Rec Center lobby, is comprised of a logic central hub, which Robson calls "Big Boy," and several smaller structural modules made of recycled bottles and bottle caps held together by thousands of wood weaves, University Art Director Molly Hubbard said. The artist drew inspiration for the piece from solar flares.

"It's a solar system in an alternate universe," Hubbard said. "Robson said it feels like a planet that formed... and now it's cooling down. Life is about to start there, but we don't know what kind of life."

After spending four months working on the piece, Robson drove the artwork from New York City to Houston and arrived on campus Friday, Jan. 16. The sculpture was installed from Jan. 11 to 13, during which time about 20 people met with the artist, including Brown, Art Committee members, faculty, staff and students.

The installation of the piece was not without its trials, and Hubbard said it was plagued by several mechanical problems. The lift used to take the artist and his suspended sculpture to the structure. The lift malfunctioned numerous times during the installation, delaying completion until 3 a.m. on Jan. 16.

The piece, which was previously unnamed, was named by Robson after the lift, Hubbard said. "(Robson) said, "I was in the car and thinking [of] all the problems and what happened with the lift the lift (of course, that's the name!"

Hubbard said the installation has been a conversation starter, adding that "if we didn't have this piece, here, it may be something they would never see."

Hubbard said this program, which fulfills the criteria of the "one-half of one percent" program, will be applied to all new construction and renovation projects.

"It's important for students to see that background isn't all," she said. "If we don't have this piece here, it may be something they would never get to see."

Hubbard said the art committee has been working to find suitable artwork for some of the newest buildings on campus, including the BioScience Research Collaborative. Duncan College, McMurtry College and the Brookhollow Pavilion. Each of these buildings qualifies for one-half percent of the budget of a construction or renovation project.

"I think it will skew the perception of Rice, that only stay until 5 p.m.," Hanover College sophomore Stephanie Heivens said.

Winged Owl editor-in-chief Mike Gustin said he was surprised at the choice of days.

"During the last day of classes, on which there is a College Night, the activities on campus are not going to be typical," Gustin said. "It might not give them a representative view."

But even if it is not necessarily representative, that does not necessarily mean it will be in vain. Associate Director of Admission Laura Villafane said Owl Days and Admin Days are important because they give prospective students the opportunity to create a better idea of what Rice is like.

"College is a long-term investment, and it's important to visit," Villafane said.

She said the Rice community does a good job of going out of its way to make people feel comfortable, often being especially accommodating on visiting days and students showing themselves to be unexpected, approachable people.

So for the possibility of extending Owl Days in the future, Villafane said it would be difficult given the large number of attendees.

"It has to be understood to give up two nights, and we need good exposure," she said.
Another week's end can only mean another trek into the Taco District for the Throne's most courageous thrill-seekers. In the second installment of their culinary adventure, Van DePol and Ben Lopez, our lovingly scruffy duo of tacologists, strait for the installment of their culinary adventureous tiuill-seekers. In the second trip to the Original Ninfa's, located on 2704 Navigation Blvd., everything that began as such an exquisite occasion had fallen. After the chain's branches in 2001, Ninfa's made this task most arduous when he said he could never come back to the Taco District. But that's not what the Taco District is about, and it's not what Heidi - or, Ninfa's - ever stood for. And though I could never knowing that Ninfa's had just moved on to serve a more refined customer, it was hard to deal, emotionally, with this self-deception.
His new installation, *Gli*, uses the same principals he mastered while creating his first works with metal. However, the installation also demonstrates the evolution of Anatsui's conceptual and aesthetic vision. As a site-specific work, *Gli* was designed with the openness and space of the Rice Gallery in mind. Anatsui was intent on allowing his piece to coexist with the space, highlighting the gallery's high ceilings and broad walls.

In order to further elucidate and highlight the structure of the room, Anatsui turned his creative spirits to the idea of a wall. Within the last year, Anatsui visited Berlin, Jerusalem and Togo, noting the common factor of the walls, both physical and ideological, which linked the three locations together in spirit. In the Berlin Wall separating Western Europe from the communist Eastern bloc and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem symbolizing the battles and Palestinians, Anatsui realized that walls, wherever they are, symbolize obstacles and barriers.

Additionally, and on a more personal level, Anatsui registered his work's connection with West African history by keeping in mind the legendary Topolewo wall built by a tyrannical king to separate the region from Ghana. Anatsui described how the clay wall, 20 feet thick, provided security for the king at the cost of “subjugating the people” of Ghana.

But though the wall formed a physical limitation of the walls, both physical and ideological, which linked the three locations together in spirit. In the Berlin Wall separating Western Europe from the communist Eastern bloc and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem symbolizing the battles and Palestinians, Anatsui realized that walls, wherever they are, symbolize obstacles and barriers.

Anatsui believes that walls are "something that can close you in," though they also incite a sense of curiosity in the individual trapped on one side of the divide. Walls initiate the imagination and provoke the individual to leap mentally over the wall to picture what is on the other side. According to Anatsui, a wall reveals more than it hides, and thus it challenges the individual to use his or her imagination to surmount physical obstacles.

The inspiration for Anatsui's latest pieces... was a bag of garbage he found in the Nigerian countryside.

Anatsui's conceptual and aesthetic vision also demonstrates the evolution of his or her imagination to surmount physical obstacles. It is easy to see this concept of a wall within *Gli*, which opened to the public yesterday and will host a talk by Anatsui today at noon. The title of the installation is actually the Ewe word for wall, disruption and story, further enforcing the intersection between the paradoxical qualities of physical limitations and mental freedom contained in the notion of a wall. Anatsui's installation is comprised of two giant sheets of connected, flattened aluminum screw tops suspended from the ceiling, raising the "wall" to the very top of the ceiling.

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Additionally, and on a more personal level, Anatsui registered his work's connection with West African history by keeping in mind the legendary Topolewo wall built by a tyrannical king to separate the region from Ghana. Anatsui described how the clay wall, 20 feet thick, provided security for the king at the cost of “subjugating the people” of Ghana.

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Anatsui believes that walls are "something that can close you in," though they also incite a sense of curiosity in the individual trapped on one side of the divide. Walls initiate the imagination and provoke the individual to leap mentally over the wall to picture what is on the other side. According to Anatsui, a wall reveals more than it hides, and thus it challenges the individual to use his or her imagination to surmount physical obstacles.

The inspiration for Anatsui's latest pieces... was a bag of garbage he found in the Nigerian countryside.

Anatsui's conceptual and aesthetic vision also demonstrates the evolution of his or her imagination to surmount physical obstacles. It is easy to see this concept of a wall within *Gli*, which opened to the public yesterday and will host a talk by Anatsui today at noon. The title of the installation is actually the Ewe word for wall, disruption and story, further enforcing the intersection between the paradoxical qualities of physical limitations and mental freedom contained in the notion of a wall. Anatsui's installation is comprised of two giant sheets of connected, flattened aluminum screw tops suspended from the ceiling, raising the "wall" to the very top of the ceiling.

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Relish: A taste of the "BBBig" Easy at BB's

In a salute to the New Orleans Saints football team that recently made it to the Super Bowl, we decided to have some New Orleans-style grub this week at BB's Cajun Cafe. And like the team's play in last Sunday's NFC Championship, our café went all out, creating two things. First, that BB's will start delivery in a few weeks, and second, the menu is undergoing a bit of modification, so none of the items we sampled may not be available in the future. Still, that shouldn't discourage you from trying out the place.

Ambience

The restaurant is small but well-equipped, offering a variety of seating options. The food is served in a casual, down-home style, perfect for a quick lunch or late breakfast. We recommend coming on the weekend or during the day, as the place can get busy.

Food

We ordered an appetizer, two entrées and two glasses of wine. The appetizer was a mixed salad with a variety of cheeses, which was perfectly portioned and fresh.

The main course consisted of a chicken and sausage gumbo, a classic New Orleans dish. The gumbo was rich and flavorful, with a perfect balance of spice and sweetness. The chicken and sausage were cooked to perfection, and the rice was fluffy and aromatic.

The entrée was a shrimp and grits plate, which was served with a side of blackened fish. The shrimp were perfectly cooked, with a nice char on the outside. The blackened fish was also excellent, with a nice kick of spice. The grits were creamy and perfectly cooked.

For dessert, we ordered the banana foster, a classic New Orleans dessert. The bananas were caramelized and the sauce was perfectly sweet and spicy. The ice cream was the perfect complement to the dish.

Price

The total for our meal was $60, which is reasonable for the quality of food and the atmosphere of BB's Cajun Cafe.

Service

The service was excellent. Our server was knowledgeable about the menu and made great recommendations. The wait time was reasonable, and our food was served promptly.

Conclusion

If you're looking for great New Orleans-style grub, BB's Cajun Cafe is worth a visit. The food is delicious, the atmosphere is inviting, and the service is top-notch. We highly recommend trying their gumbo and shrimp and grits.
SPORTS

Tigers outclaw Owls
Women’s basketball drops match to Memphis in overtime contest

By Teddy Grodek
The Sheridan Story

With adrenaline running high and expectations continually rising, the women’s basketball team had all the momentum in the world coming into its only game of the weekend, a weekend road match-up with University of Memphis last Saturday, an elite program in Conference USA.

Unfortunately, the Owls (9-10, 2-3 C-USA) needed just a pinch more momentum, as they fell 59-58 in an overtime thriller that was just as intense as it was close.

Memphis (9-7, 2-3 C-USA) controlled the first half of the game, bettering as it was close. But somehow, they did just that, and the first half ended with Rice only four back of the Tigers.

The second half was a wild one, as the Owls tied the game a few minutes into the half and began a back-and-forth tussle that would last the rest of the contest. Rice’s shooting percentage, only 1 percent in the first half, kept pace with the Tigers, and the Owls matched up better with Memphis on the boards and in turnovers.

Owls split matches with Islanders, Longhorns to begin spring season

By Chris Pettijohn
For The Thresher

The women’s tennis team discovered last weekend that the University of Texas is not just talented at football; they know something about serving as well. The Owls (4-1) managed to get one point on the board, but their play was not nearly enough to take down the No. 1 Longhorns (6-0), who took the weekend match 6-1.

Before the team faced off with Texas, however, it began its spring season with a win against Texas A&M Corpus Christi last Wednesday. Due to poor weather conditions, the team could not play its season opener on campus at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium, and, at the last minute, had to move its match to the indoor courts at the Galeria.

But the sudden change of venue did not throw the Owls off their game, and they ended up on the winning side of a 6-1 decision.

Of the six singles players, five breezed past their opponent with no player losing more than three games in a set and each winning in straight sets. Junior Rebekka Hanle started the contest off on a high note, easily winning her No. 1 singles match in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. Hanle was not alone in her single success, as four other Owls upset their matches in similar fashion. Lin (6-2, 6-1), sophomore Ana Guzman (6-2, 6-1), junior Jessica Jackson (6-2, 6-1) and sophomore Alina Rashid (6-1, 6-0). While senior Kasey Cho dropped a close three-set match, she helped the team put up points by winning her doubles match with Guzman 8-1. Jackson and junior Varsha Shivasankar also won their doubles match 8-2, and Lin and Hanle took the finals doubles match 8-0. Impressively, Rice’s doubles teams went all of their matches decisively, collectively losing only three games out of a total 24.

Though the team encountered little difficulty with the match, Head Coach Elizabeth Schmidt saw that TAMUGCE (8-2) still showed resistance whenever possible.

“We were pushed, and when we were pushed we responded as resoundingly as they did against the Islanders. The team’s only point came from Jackson, who upset the number 56th-ranked Vanja Conovic. Jackson’s win marked the second time in as many tries she has defeated Conovic, keeping Jackson’s perfect record against Texas intact.

While Rice — which will face Texas State University at the Galeria Tennis & Athletic Club tomorrow — dropped six points, the scoreboard did not reflect the team’s plan. Cho took 224th-ranked Krista Domino to three sets, winning 6-4, 2-6, 10-8.

Men’s tennis sweeps away season’s first contest

Last week, junior Oscar Poddubskiy said the men’s tennis team was “flashing at the mouth” to get the season underway. After a pair of 7-0 sweeps to begin the spring slate, it’s easy to see where all that team came from. The 34th-ranked Owls likely rose up rank University 54th-place match-up University last weekend, a weekend as close as possible.

Despite the fact that Lauren and Prairie View A&M took the pinches of the Wednesday evening to push them into the top 75, and further lower the pressure of the Wednesday evening to push them into the top 75, and further lower the pressure on the scoreboard did not reflect the team’s plan. Cho took 224th-ranked Krista Domino to three sets, winning 6-4, 2-6, 10-8.

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Men's basketball hopes to end skid this weekend
After close loss to Tulsa, keeping Owls winless in conference, Braun hopes to right the ship

By Yan Digilov

The men's basketball team enjoyed a light schedule last week, as the team only played one game during the past seven days. After dropping a tight game against the conference-leading University of Tulsa, Rice (6-13, 0-6 C-USA) is taking the time to recuperate and prepare to end a seven-game losing streak with inconsistent play and missed opportunities.

Their game against Tulsa (16-4, 7-6 C-USA) proved to be one of their most competitive road games this season. But just when it looked like Rice might have a chance to steal a win from the conference-leading Mustangs, that light was snuffed out. Not for lack of talent, though, but because of a lack of focus, according to Head Coach Ben Braun.

"It is a confidence issue," Braun said after his team ran its road record to 0-6. "It is about a belief that if you stick to your system, it will work at home or on the road. Good teams don't go away from their principles." Among those principles has been a strong attack from the low post, continued with an excellent performance from junior center Trey Stanton, who finished the day with 11 points and nine rebounds. Freshman forward Arsalan Kazemi contributed eight points and 11 rebounds, helping the Owls get another game on top of the rebound battle.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Braun said of the contest against Tulsa. "We played so hard and so well, but you have just got to do the little things. You have to remember that you can't just play 37 minutes, you have got to play the full 40." Down the stretch, turnovers emerged without cause, and despite having the lead multiple times throughout the game, the Owls could not close out the game in the final minutes, falling by a score of 62-58.

"We had four recruits that came here that night, and every recruit was talking not just about the game but about the student support section," Braun said. "That was huge for us in terms of locking in those kids. They are excited to come to Rice, and I think our environment had a lot to do with it."
Swimming lurches out of gate
Team unable to maintain fall's momentum against SMU, UNT

By Floyd Ray

Although the main team closed out 2009 with a win at the Delta State Holiday Invitational, the team will try to find a way to avoid losing against other teams after this semester. Rice's first C-USA meet is set for this weekend at University of Texas at Brownsville, which will provide the Owls' first real test of the season. In College Station, Texas, when the Owls regained the ball, only their free throw line and the game on the line.

The Owls are also in action in the C-USA tourney that is set for Nov. 21-23 at the University of Texas at Brownsville. Meanwhile, Rice's first C-USA meet is set for this weekend at University of Texas at Brownsville, which will provide the Owls' first real test of the season. In College Station, Texas, when the Owls regained the ball, only their free throw line and the game on the line.

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Rice's first season in the Big 12
TWIN 0 FROM PAGE 10

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A Fighter's Paradigm

Rice MBA student opens mixed martial arts gym geared towards spreading the emerging sport through Houston

BY YAN DISLOV
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Just a few years after the climax of baseball’s steroid era, in the wake of a controversy, MMA, fighting through federal prison and amid constant allegations of drug use and manipulation in the NBA, the integrity of American boxing and Mixed martial arts has never been under more scrutiny. As such, it is little wonder that many fans have been looking for legitimate sports to feed their competitive sides.

Division I wrestlers, the gym’s ability to incorporate high quality wrestling with an emerging MMA culture has set the Paradigm crew apart from other gyms in town.

We didn’t want to have a traditional MMA crowd,” Shelger said. “We didn’t want to have the tattoos and steroids. We want to have an environment where everyone feels comfortable. We are serious about what we do, but you don’t walk into our gym and feel like you’re in prison.”

An emerging blend

To some, there is an obvious allure to combining the skills needed to snap an arm or suffocate an opponent with punches and kicks to the face. But while what you see on TV are not the best characters, MMA is the reality. UFC, the world’s most popular mixed martial arts promotion, has allowed Paradigm to become a home for its members. But Shelger is quick to point out that those with backgrounds aren’t the only ones welcome in the gym.

“IT takes a little bit of courage to overcome the stigma attached to MMA,” Shelger said. “To just give it a shot, a lot of people are intimidated to walk in with a bunch of guys that are going to beat them up on the first day.”

Getting people to shed those stigmas has allowed Paradigm to become one of the top gyms in town. Their greatest feat has been to attract top experienced wrestlers from far away from League City and Katy while drawing in the average Joe from just down the street. Merging the cultures of an emergent mixed martial arts scene with an esteemed wrestling culture is still the task that Stewart had been trained in Kung Fu before coming across the sport of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in 2003. Stewart began training at Paradigm after meeting Shelger through the Rice MBA program, which boasts an unexpectedly quality crew of martial artists.

“Ex-athletes will have the advantage of cardio and physicality, but the great part of Jiu Jitsu is that anyone can learn it,” he said. “Because combat is on the ground, there is a steep learning curve. Within six months of training I will see people easily dominate matches that are new to the gym.”

Breaching the divide

Because the sport can be used as a form of empowerment for women, mental escape for martial artists or simply cardio work out. Paradigm is designed in a

ParaGym kickboxing instructor Gulled Ahmed, known to students as Coach G, left, works with a student at Paradigm Training Center. Coach G is a former U.S. Open featherweight champion in kickboxing and has trained and competed in San Shou, Muay Thai and Full Contact Rules kickboxing.

PARADIGM TRAINING CENTER

COURTESY PARADIGM TRAINING CENTER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010

WRESTLING CULTURE IS STILL THE TASK THAT STUART HAD BEEN TRAINED IN KUNG FU BEFORE COMING ACROSS THE SPORT OF BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU IN 2003.

\"EX-ATHLETES WILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF CARDIO AND PHYSICALITY, BUT THE GREAT PART OF JIU JITSU IS THAT ANYONE CAN LEARN IT,\" HE SAID. \"BECAUSE COMBAT IS ON THE GROUND, THERE IS A STEEP LEARNING CURVE. WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF TRAINING I WILL SEE PEOPLE EASILY DOMINATE MATCHES THAT ARE NEW TO THE GYM.\"
FRIDAY JAN. 29- FEB. 4, 2010
follow us 24/7 at twitter.com/threesheral

TUESDAY

OH MY GOSH AMAZING MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD

Drop by the KMC Grand Hall at 8 p.m. for the World Food Fair, featuring food brought to you by the Muslim Student Association, Black Student Association, Turkish Student Association and BUIZ. The food is all free, as is a raffle for attending. ArchiArts without actually attending. So for a shiny T-shirt but no ticket.

WEDNESDAY

How to take over the world with robots

Mark Spoon, from the University of Texas at Dallas, is here to give a lecture on "Synchronization and Coordination of Multi-Robot Networks." You can find out how to get all of your robots to work together and design a plan for using true robots to dominate the globe. Also, "Spam" is a really cool name. The lecture is in SLL Mechnical Engineering Building at 4 p.m.

GROUNDHOG DAY!

Go to the ricearchives.com, click "Old Archive" and do a search for Groundhog Day. People-a-random from my old op-ed. "Groundhog Day could be... quite a drinking good day!"

THURSDAY

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE

Mike Peardon, research geophysicist at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, has noticed some unusual activity in the Kilauea Volcano. Does this mean the volcano is simply undergoing some natural changes in its structure or is the thing going to blow in a stack and kill all of us? Better ask to Poland's talk to 100 Keith-Worx Geological Labs at 4 p.m. My prediction: Kilauea Volcano explodes ironically on December 23, 2012.

FRIEDAY

Terrorism and free pie

Georgetown University professor John Voll is giving a talk in Re- ning Hall, 2 p.m. We'll be dis- cussing the relationship between Islam and terrorism and assessing questions about the religion's attitude toward violence. After the lecture, there will be free pie from the renowned House of Pizza.

Free beer Stein for seniors

Whipa! Actually you have to don donation Stein to get your free beer Stein. Donate to Rice Annual Fund Senior Pub Night, in Villy's Pub at 11 p.m.

Mr. Tomato Head

Happy birthday to Dan Gause (91), who thoroughly described himself, "People that are really way behind me in my... attitude toward violence. After the

Houston Astros Park Path to Auditions!

Do you love Thresher's unique mixture of events, events, zany jokes, events, zany jokes and events? Do you like it so much that you wish you could write it? Here's your chance!

NEED TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The deadline for submission is in p.m. The Monday prior to publication.

Submit items are printed on a space-available basis.

Submissions method

Email: thresher-calendar@rice.edu

Complimentary Mail:

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Email: thresher-calendar@rice.edu

Complimentary Mail:
Do you know who the best dance studio is? There are many professional dance studios where you can get the best training. But, it is not required. Brain 713-298-8783.

I have been reviewing help for their two children, 11 and 13. I read that there are two different providers of biological and chemical weapons to state sponsors of terrorism.

We have been engaged in a profitable endeavor of national pride with our partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I said, "We hope to strengthen these ties with the international community for bringing order and fight a new world order. I mean, it is the year of prosperity and society quality of life in your area.

Since 2005, Rice has also been making steady gains in the Most Kids Friendly On-Campus Bar category. Why? The answer by Harry Worshole attributes Rice's current number four position in recent changes to Pub's policy.

We've learned drinking games and stepped up our nightlife security in order to transform Pub's image," Worshole said. "In just a few years, Pub has gone from a wrested hole of scum and villainy to the next Chuck E. Cheese. We're even trying to secure funding for a ball pit, though I can't make any promises right now."

For example, Rice in now the number two supplier of biological and chemical weapons to state sponsors of terrorism. For example, Rice in now the number two supplier of biological and chemical weapons to state sponsors of terrorism.

The Princeton Review's online database of college rankings is available to parents and educational advisors for a management-

There will be an unusually large number of on-campus events to disrupt and confuse prospective students during Owl Days, according to Assistant Dean of Undergraduates Matt Taylor's top secret campus calendar. The Office of the Registrar has graciously moved the last day of Classes to April 20 for the sake of this joke. Of course, this means that Mason and Wexler Colleges will be threatening their respective Spring College Nights on April 20. In the eyes of a college ex-will Rice will also be hosting an Owl Mayonnaise Days. Will Rice will be hosting a Disney Prin-

"I mean, how can you 'abuse' prescription drugs?"

I mean, how can you 'abuse' prescription drugs?"

"No, I'm farting!"

"The masses don't have aカラーition's reaction to the latest col-

"I'm pretty sure this porn isn't actually happening in real time."

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A starry-eyed prospecie has her dreams of quiet, academically-minded higher education shattered in this artist rendition of Owl Days 2010.

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I said, "We hope to strengthen these ties with the international community for bringing order and fight a new world order. I mean, it is the year of prosperity and society quality of life in your area.

Since 2005, Rice has also been making steady gains in the Most Kids Friendly On-Campus Bar category. Why? The answer by Harry Worshole attributes Rice's current number four position in recent changes to Pub's policy.

We've learned drinking games and stepped up our nightlife security in order to transform Pub's image," Worshole said. "In just a few years, Pub has gone from a wrested hole of scum and villainy to the next Chuck E. Cheese. We're even trying to secure funding for a ball pit, though I can't make any promises right now."

For example, Rice in now the number two supplier of biological and chemical weapons to state sponsors of terrorism. For example, Rice in now the number two supplier of biological and chemical weapons to state sponsors of terrorism.

The Princeton Review's online database of college rankings is available to parents and educational advisors for a management-

There will be an unusually large number of on-campus events to disrupt and confuse prospective students during Owl Days, according to Assistant Dean of Undergraduates Matt Taylor's top secret campus calendar. The Office of the Registrar has graciously moved the last day of Classes to April 20 for the sake of this joke. Of course, this means that Mason and Wexler Colleges will be threatening their respective Spring College Nights on April 20. In the eyes of a college ex-will Rice will also be hosting an Owl Mayonnaise Days. Will Rice will be hosting a Disney Prin-

"I mean, how can you 'abuse' prescription drugs?"

I mean, how can you 'abuse' prescription drugs?"

"No, I'm farting!"

"The masses don't have aカラーition's reaction to the latest col-

"I'm pretty sure this porn isn't actually happening in real time."

"The masses don't have aカラーition's reaction to the latest col-

A starry-eyed prospecie has her dreams of quiet, academically-minded higher education shattered in this artist rendition of Owl Days 2010.