Send your ex's wife a killer robe

That's what Medes did. Go hear Barbara's Medes Meditation and Dance of Yogaene, along with works by Brahms and the Falla, tonight and tomorrow at the Shepley Symphony Orchestra's concert at 8 p.m. in Stude Concert Hall.

Microsoft surface

Students play with the various applications offered on the new Microsoft Surface in room 754, at Fondren Library.

Or don't wear it to a party?

Tomorrow night, get dressed for bed, but don't actually go to bed until you break bread. Instead, head over to Hanszen from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. for their beautiful themed public party. We recommend bringing weighted pillows.

Silk robe optional

Mother, Departures, Dev. D. These are this year's three Asian Film Festival selections, which will be showing at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. tonight; 7 p.m. tomorrow and 7 p.m. Sunday night respectively at Rice Media Center's Film Auditorium. Ellew, who my...

Ostrom explains research

Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in economics, visited Rice Sept. 23 to speak at the biannual Social Dilemmas Conference, held in the Baker Institute for Public Policy by the School of Social Sciences. The program featured presentations by prominent social scientists on causes and solutions for today's collective issues. Ostrom's lecture was entitled "Co- operating for the Common Good: Challenging Supposed Impossibilities and Fallacies." During her speech, Ostrom addressed the research she had done on the management of common resources. Ostrom said that humans can work together to combat the tragedy of the commons - the belief that people, being self-interested, will deplete a shared resource

and instead create resource sustain-
ability. Ostrom's findings counteract the popular belief that this phenomenon is inevitable. Ostrom said that communities which utilize common resources can devise regulatory systems that help prevent resource exhaustion. In fact, she said that when people communicate, they manage natural resources with 94 percent optimality. Ostrom listed a few of the studies she conducted while investigating the tragedy of the commons, including how Africans maintain their grazing pastures and how Nepalese villagers organize their irrigation systems.

Regarding the latter topic, Ostrom described her trip to a village in Nepal where she observed a water-irrigation system the residents had devised to replace and thwart water theft. "The people would forever keep that in mind," Ostrom said. All of the other residents could talk about the water theft and how they could control it. "We came upon a beautiful green area, and there was a cow in the middle, and there was a cow in the middle, just frizzed in," Ostrom said. "We asked around and found a few ways to control the water theft."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, rodents can carry plague, murine typhus, leptospirosis, pneumonic plague and rat-bite fever. Although they have a good sense of smell, rice rats are not afraid of humans. 

Ostrom Rats, page 6

"[We came upon] a beautiful green area, and there was a cow in the middle, and there was a cow in the middle, just frizzed in," Ostrom said. "We asked around and found a few ways to control the water theft." 

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Letter to the Editor:

Online Comments of the Week

in response to "Sid's 'New Jobs in Imperial'" Sept. 29

While I agree that some more effort can be spent in explaining what will work and will not work, blaming Sid Rich and RUPD for enforcing a weak code and evauculating a building is unfair.

RUPD and Sid Rich did a fantastic job in controlling a situation that could have easily gotten out of hand. RUPD evacuated the building twice, both of which involved running up 14 flights of stairs to investigate the cause. They STILL let the party continue. It would have been very easy for them to cancel the party, yet they put in tremendous effort to let us enjoy ourselves.

The Sid Rich chief police, socials and menters deserve a serious round of applause. As does RUPD and everyone who helped.

As someone who assisted in evacuating the building, investigating the source and turning off the alarm, I am amazed that this even made it to print. I have turned off alarms at parties for years now from 80's to MUD to Casino Party, and in that rare case that they do evacuate, it is serious.

Antarix

Welcome, Provost McClendon

This week, the Thresher was given one of the first looks into the thoughts and life of our new provost, George McClendon (see story, page 1). We would like to officially welcome him to our community and share the parts of his vision that excite us the most.

First, we were happy to see that McClendon places such emphasis on understanding the traditions and unique attributes of this university. His three points of emphasis will help to continue pushing forward goals that the student body wants to achieve.

Environment and energy conservation have become points of interest for much of Rice's student leadership, and we feel that the decision to host the dance off campus is one of the community issues upon which both administrators and students agree. The issues in biosciences and human health fit the profile of many academics at our university and it is encouraging to see that McClendon would like to make us trailblazers in those fields. Finally, a global strategy to diversify our institution while spreading our influence across the globe brings positive returns for even part of Rice.

Rice generally has a large population of students that study abroad and wish to travel. McClendon cites both academic study abroad and extracurricular study abroad programs in his points of focus.

The Thresher also felt that McClendon's efforts to reach out to the student body in hopes of building strong bonds and lines of communication were genuine. Particularly when the university is going through a wave of unprecedented expansion, the evolution of our campus must be coupled with an emphasis on students' needs in both the future and the present. Building such lines of communication is the only way to ensure that expansion does not run ahead of the needs of the student body.

We were also intrigued to learn that McClendon is a avid musician. A ragtag band of administrators playing zydeco is just the kind of thing our student radio station would love to put on the air; however, we would advise against sending your album to KTRU just yet.

With a commitment to the student body and a willingness to strengthen our core while expanding our horizons, McClendon has one other attribute that makes him even more of a perfect fit for Rice University: He is a Texan. And for that, we are thankful.

Anna Wilde
Editor in Chief
**Qur'an burning pastor deserving of free speech**

Two police agencies in Florida recently announced that they've billed Pastor Terry Jones a total of $5,000 for police-related security related to his abandoned plan to burn copies of the Qur'an on Sept. 11. The reaction to this news has been alarmingly tepid at best and borderline absurd, at worst. A post on New York Magazine's Daily Intel blog, for instance, offered this take: "Seems kind of strange and unfair for Jones to be charged for that ... but who cares, the guy's a perp."

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**Winner-take-all philosophy extends poverty**

We are unable to tell if still alive while watching the Cairo-University scandal. Will we question the robbery we are? Our sentiments in the the to our predication is a check on our the government's abortion. The government must find such an effort to amend our tax code in two key ways: increasing the capital gains tax so that Warren Buffett pays a higher tax premium. The government must also further develop programs for the poor and middle classes that provide affordable education, low-cost health care and meaningful employment. As for the private sector, we must all realign our responsibility to our fellow Americans and volunteer our time, money and effort to those less fortunate than ourselves. The governmental initiatives supplemented by private sector actions will both help us to begin to Table (1) shows the distribution of income in the U.S. in 1976 has gone to the top 0.1 percent as 58 percent of real income growth. The top 0.1 percent of America has nearly tripled its portion of the country's wealth, yet, while the elite amassed such wealth, our government actually decreased their tax rate. This winner-take-all philosophy has most disproportionately benefited the wealthiest 1 percent of the U.S. Simple put, our fascination with the wealthy has been coupled with an abandonment of the middle and lower classes. This poverty is not just a statistic. It is a real problem. It is that family that cannot pay for their children to attend college. It is that family that must accept a job that pays well below the level of their loved ones. Is it Jesus Staal, a teenager who recently failed high school but cannot afford a dinner? Recently, the Census Bureau noted that the poverty rate increased to 14 percent of Americans, live in poverty. That is, a family of four earns less than $23,000, in annual pre-tax income. The average 40-year-old household of our fellow citizens live in income, unemployment.

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**Facebook vastly underappreciated**

Everyone's been gushing about Facebook these days. Mothers shout tears when they realize the disconnect of how much their kids spend on the social network. We've all been warned to " privatize" our accounts so future employers can't see our salty, snarky, periodically updated pictures. People keep tabs on their lives by posting Facebook photos—one healthy insurance company thought a woman's depression medication prescriptions — because she looked "happy" in photos. But something must be wrong for the site, or we wouldn't use it so much, right? Facebook also develops writing skills. Take note, English professors. In a recent article, Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg offered this advice: "I'm ready for hire whenever you want. I'm 25. I'm not going to go back to school. I'm ready to go."

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**Shamsa Mangalji**

Contrary to what many say, it's not "also devastating." I love Facebook as an activity, fulfilling, study break that doesn't force me to keep busy in front of the computer screen. Getting up to " take a quick walk" is much more dramatic. More often than not, my "walks" turn into a series of more questionable activities: like, stupidity, writers' queries, backwards windowing, badgering my funny friends and playing with that automatic refresh button. Facebook is a nice click away. Say it's 4 a.m. You've been trying to write a paper for approximately 5,072 years and all you've got to name is date and page on the paper. You need, Happy Friday! Get Facebook! I don't care who you are. When you get that little red notification bubble in the top of the window, your friend, a person you've heard about but had no idea where she was from or had been, is your world. He or she is your world. And Facebook is a social network, nothing more. You get unexpected perks from Facebook, making a job Post up your desire to and show people " what's on your mind." You will undoubtedly get a lot of feedback on a few uncensored offers. When I signed up on Facebook, I was a great success with a personal passion for find to her "Shirlyanne" and call her aليب. Granted, much can be said about this to a pet. Facebook is a social network for love, we are looking for a pet? A dissertation? No, that's what status comments are for. On a more serious note, the site has silenced us across the globe in two billion people to action — the Egyptian " April 6" protests mobilized people to protect governmental corruption in the country. And I multiplied across the same number of blogs, television friends to name a recent event to Facebook, this blatant attack on free expression is precious precisely because it keeps up popular figures like Jones from being silenced or assaulted by such people, because all but the slowest and most unprincipled of people will at some point find themselves in the unpopularity of some issues.

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**Eric Harrison**

There's something very ugly about the fact that the police force is treating this man as if he were not entitled to expect them to do their job simply because he had the gall to draw attention to himself and his unpopular views. The barely concealed message is as clear as it is chilling: Your right to free expression is protected, and if you try to harm me in return, you will do their jobs and keep safe that, unless you tolerate what you have to say, in which case you'll get a full trial and some indignation for making them do their jobs.

What could be a more blatant affront to free expression and the role of the police force than to unilaterally ban a man for reviving death threats and offending the sensibilities of the voluntarily superstitious? The very point of limiting government — of which the police force is a part — with constitutional protections of individual rights is that the government should neither encourage nor condemn any religious belief, sexual preference or anything else that's good or bad. The lot of its agents is only to see that an individual's right to think, believe and speak for himself is respected. Does anyone need a need of this protection than a man whose views have been met with such treatment? This scandal, unlike any other, is the embodiment of the right to free expression as a valuable object of our 1st and 4th other act of expression. On the other hand, there is worrisome apprehension of those who could be punished for a single act. These others are entitled to disagree with them and, yes, even to "offend" them without consequence. The right to free expression is precious precisely because it keeps up popular figures like Jones from being silenced or assaulted by such people, because all but the slowest and most unprincipled of people will at some point find themselves in the unpopularity of some issues.

There's certainly no need to like Jones or his pseudo message, nor to encourage a shout like the Qur'an-burning event. By all means, expect to receive your own right to free expression by criticizing the man's claims as false or backward or ignorant. But the moment others threaten violence against the man or worse still, against uninvolved people because they happen to also be Americans — no decent or principled person can sit back and say that he deserves such treatment or that he is to blame if others indulge their violent impulses and attack Americans abroad. We can any principled person stand for this act to tempt us to think that there is no way out, no way of condemning the police force to a point in which we feel our government's abandonment of its most basic duty: in fact, many people actually seem to revel in the fact that Jones is now receiving a sort of comeuppance. Why should this man have to pay some outrageous amount of money simply for having needed the police protection to which he, like everyone else, is entitled? More generally, why should he be bullied in this way for an utterly harmless bit of speech if it is the people he needed to be protected from that the problem lies. There's certainly no need to like Jones or his pseudo message, nor to encourage a shout like the Qur'an-burning event. By all means, expect to receive your own right to free expression by criticizing the man's claims as false or backward or ignorant. But the moment others threaten violence against the man or worse still, against uninvolved people because they happen to also be Americans — no decent or principled person can sit back and say that he deserves such treatment or that he is to blame if others indulge their violent impulses and attack Americans abroad. We can any principled person stand for this act to tempt us to think that there is no way out, no way of condemning the police force to a point in which we feel our government's abandonment of its most basic duty: in fact, many people actually seem to revel in the fact that Jones is now receiving a sort of comeuppance. Why should this man have to pay some outrageous amount of money simply for having needed the police protection to which he, like everyone else, is entitled? More generally, why should he be bullied in this way for an utterly harmless bit of speech if it is the people he needed to be protected from that the problem lies.
PREZ REFLECTS ON COLLEGE

The Thresher sat down with President David Leebron to find out what he was like as a college student. Leebron evoked his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1979.

Relief Gear: How is college different now in comparison to when you attended as an undergraduate?

Leebron: The students in some ways are more focused and sophisticated. They have more information; they know more about what they’re going to do in the end. When I was going to school, there were some kinds of diversions in comparison, our student population at that time was young. There’s a real majority. And of course the drinking age was 21.

R: What is your favorite alcoholic drink?


R: Do you have any funny experiences you want to share from freshman year?

L: I wrote in my roommate form that I wanted to room with a foreign student and someone who didn’t smoke. Harvard thought one out of two was okay, so I had a chain-smoking Turkish roommate. I didn’t have too much trouble with alcohol because I was used to living in Germany, used to drinking so little that I didn’t feel any pressures.

R: Are there any parties in particular as a college student that you remember?

L: Not that I went to. It was a very relaxed time. I didn’t feel any pressures.

R: Did you partake in the now popular college tradition of late-night food runs?

L: Where my dorm was as a freshman was very close. Any hour of the day, we would have late-night food runs.

R: Did you participate in the now popular college tradition of late-night food runs?

L: When my dorm was a freshman, and later the city part of Cambridge was very close. Any hour of the day, we could sort of go out. As I remember when I was a college student, occasionally that was really late, or really early in the morning, and you look at it. I think that late-night food runs were a bad thing to do. It’s important to get enough sleep. Back then I ate terrible things: cheeseburgers, french fries, tacos, and killed three Pakistani paramilitary officers and fleeing into the Perry-Castañeda Library, where he shot and killed himself on the sixth floor. Texas didn’t seem to have taken aim at anyone while firing shots outside. The campus was put into lockdown until police made sure that there were no other guns, and remained closed except for essential personnel for the rest of the day.

source: Austin American Statesman

EMANUEL POSSIBLE FOR CHICAGO MAYOR

Rahm Emanuel is expected to step down as a House chief of staff in order to explore the possibility of running for Chicago mayor. Mayor Richard Daley, in office since 1989, announced three weeks ago that he would not be seeking reelection. The White House has not yet announced a successor.

R: What is your favorite alcoholic drink?

L: Where my dorm was as a freshman and later the city part of Cambridge was very close. Any hour of the day, we could sort of go out. As I remember when I was a college student, occasionally that was really late, or really early in the morning, and you look at it. I think that late-night food runs were a bad thing to do. It’s important to get enough sleep. Back then I ate terrible things: cheeseburgers, french fries, tacos, and chocolate – there was nothing better than a hot chocolate on a cold night.

R: As a college student, what did you want to be when you grow up, in terms of career aspirations?

L: I wasn’t really sure. I thought I wanted to be an lawyer of some sort, or work for the government, in politics or something. I was very interested in issues of justice and societal change.

R: What sort of political views were you into?

L: When I was a college student, it was the end of the Vietnam War, so there was talk about that. There was a coming back to a conservative environment in the political landscape. There were big issues of civil rights and women’s rights. I wasn’t out there demonstrating and didn’t get arrested, though.

R: What do you have your college college experience your like to share?

L: The most exciting thing was just meeting new people. I was a pretty happy college student. It wasn’t all that different of an experience. I loved just walking around the campus.
BY KEVIN LIN

Tired of waiting for that special guy to make the first move, ladies? Well, with Esperanza around the corner, it is up to you to take the initiative and do it to "Take me out to the ball."

"It's a Cinderella-esque baseball theme," said Esperanza organizer and baby Lluisa and Kate Pascuzzi, one-year-old. "It's a great support system during their Boston to be closer to family. Stu-

the face of adult leadership at Sid Richardson, said. "I now see that there will be

There will be a 20% ticket increase from last year. Tickets will be sold for $29 a piece, or $45 for two.

so many more students getting to know the RAs and masters, which has created a stronger and happier college."

Many students have formed close ties with the Pascuzzis during their time at Rice. Rich Richardson junior Lauren Pemberton said she has noticed a definite positive change in the dorm since the Pascuzzis' arrival.

"The Pascuzzis have changed the face of adult leadership at Sid [Rich]," Johnson said. "I now see that they have gotten so much from their relationship with Sid and its student body."

"Being around young people all the time has broken down the barriers that most adults feel," the Pascuzzi said. "We have learned so much more from being here than others have learned from us." The Pascuzzis have already begun their search for new RAs.

Johnson said, "I like the fact that it already has different section of the park."

Whether he will go.

Rice, she said. "I think everybody who's been here or will really honor the adult/ student relationship that the Pascuzzis have started," Johnson said.

SA Research Committee Chairmen Matt Moran and junior Stephen Janda will be sending out committee membership applications to all bid RAs to begin search for new RAs soon.

the SA will next meet at 9 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion on Oct. 7. President Selim Sheikh announced the Research Mixer Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. on the Central Quad lawn, jointly sponsored by the SA and the Graduate Student Association. It will feature representa-

the METROtrain."

The Grille has two levels, with a deck overlooking the garden and a great dance floor space. Ulman said. While Esperanza was held at Minute Maid Park three years ago, this year's venue will be at a totally dif-

filed section of the park."

"I like the fact that it already has an atmosphere to it," Ulman said. "I think everybody who's seen it likes it."

The search for this year's venue started early March of last year. Other potential venues included the Natural Science Museum, the Aquarium and the Marriott Hotel.

There will be additional tickets were a result from the vote to increase the METROtrain."

So far they have created a stronger and happier college."

"I remember when we met them during the interviews," Ulman said. "They had us all crammed into their small home with their thousands of DVDs lined up around the room," Pemberton said. "Of course, no one really knew what RAs really did here at Rice yet," Ulman said. "But when Nick and Kate said we could come by any time we wanted, I could tell that they were sincere."

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Successful Families Weekend brings thousands of parents to campus

BY HENRY DENG
THRESHER EDITORS

Just as some students in the middle of their first semester began longing for home, Rice’s annual Families Weekend brought a little bit of home to them.

According to Director of Reunion Programs and Special Events Jennifer Harding, this year’s Families Weekend, whose theme was a “Dynamic Community,” brought more than 1,200 parents to campus. The event was coordinated by Harding, as well as Carl Nelson, the chair of the Families Weekend Steering Committee. Both Harding and Nelson, a Brown College senior, said that the weekend was truly successful without any reports of problems.

According to Harding, this Families Weekend was similar in structure to those of previous years, with many events, such as the Rice Program Council/Passport to Houston event at The Menil Collection, offered a new venue or focus. The “Dynamic Community” theme focused on the 11 residential colleges working together to create a dynamic Rice community.

“Having all 11 college open was an exciting first,” Nelson said. “The individual colleges’ master breakfasts on Saturday morning was a success that I think parents really enjoyed.”

In the opinion of Nelson, who has seen many families weekends as Student Association external vice president, the key difference from previous years was the number of attendees. Parents of first-year students typically characterize the majority of adult attendees, and with the largest-ever class of freshmen, there were a lot more parents.

However, even with more people, he believes that everything went as smoothly. Nelson acknowledged that the rain delay at the Rice versus Baylor football game was an inconvenience, but it could not have been prevented and was not really a problem.

“I can’t think of any big issues that we had,” Nelson said. “The only small challenges were getting volunteers for some events. That said, there were a lot of happy parents coming out of the weekend.”

Both Harding and Nelson said that faculty lectures were one of the best parts of the weekend. The turnout for each lecture was any where from 20 to 80 people, with some lecture topics appealing to a broader range of tastes while others had a more specific audience.

These talks included “The Magic of Film: How the Director Manipulates Our Response to a Movie’s Story and Characters” by English Professor J. Dennis Huston and “Global Health Technologies: How Rice Students are Changing the World” by Biomedical Engineering Professor Rebecca Richards-Kortum.

One of the most popular presentations was Saturday’s culinary arts demonstration by Senior Executive Chef Roger Ekhoff. Nelson said, Close to 100 people attended to get a taste of the food that students typically experience. According to Ekhoff, parents were impressed by the healthy options presented in the serving line.

Computational and Applied Mathematics Professor Steven Cox discusses the connection between music and arithmetic in a lecture to parents Friday. The lecture was called “Music Is an Occult Practice of Arithmetic in Which the Spirit Is Unaware That It Counts.”

Parents and students grab dinner in the parking lot outside Rice Stadium before the Rice-Baylor game Saturday. The game, which was delayed by a storm, ended with Rice losing to Baylor 30-13.

RATS

FROM PAGE 1

Rats have to be seen to be believed. Rats can also cause fires when they chew through electrical insulation. Other pests have been noticed around Rice. While FE&P has kept fire ants under control, cockroaches and ants, a type of small, fast ant that is often confused for a fire ant, are posing another ant problem.

Wasa freshmen Katherine Spahn called Micham, a West junior, because ants were becoming a big problem in her second floor room. Micham has bought Raid and sticky traps, but Spahn said the ants continue to come in through holes in the caulking of the window. However, Spahn said she has not yet told FE&P in order to allow them to come out and address the problem.

Smith said that ants, once established, can be incredibly hard to get rid of. However, FE&P and H&D have successfully kept ants out of the majority of the buildings around campus and have had no reports come to them about problems inside. Furthermore, they have seen an increase in their business by keeping room doors closed and not leaving food around outside. If pest problems are serious, report them to H&D or FE&P so that they are aware of the problem and can address it immediately.

Successful Families Weekend brings thousands of parents to campus

THRESHER STAFF

ENRIQUE ENG

Parents and students grab dinner in the parking lot outside Rice Stadium before the Rice-Baylor game Saturday. The game, which was delayed by a storm, ended with Rice losing to Baylor 30-13.

RUPD POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported by the Rice University Police Department for the period Sept. 15-28.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Wess College
Sept. 16

Hanszen College
Sept. 17

Baker College
Sept. 21

Lovett College
Sept. 25

Baker College
Sept. 18

ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

Jessie H. Jones School
Sept. 15

BRC
Sept. 21

BRC
Sept. 23

Gardiner Hall
Sept. 27

PRAXIS LOWS

West Lot
Sept. 16

Greenbriar Lot
Sept. 21

North Colleges Lot
Sept. 24

OTHER LOCATIONS

Off Campus
Sept. 15

Facilities & Engineering
Sept. 16

Fondren Library
Sept. 21

Off Campus
Sept. 24

Rice Memorial Center
Sept. 24

Rice Village Apartments
Sept. 26

Rice Village Apartments
Sept. 28
The Rice student-taught course program has been steadily gaining a different sort of national reputation over the past two years.

The student-taught course program at Rice started in fall 2007 with three student courses praised at Rice and Will Rice College. In all, 15 courses were taught this semester, with subjects as diverse as North Korea, custom gaming and witches.

Rice has recently acquired various buzz-inducing rankings, including #1 in Quality of Life from The Princeton Review, #1 in Materials Science from Time magazine, #2 among national universities from U.S. News & World Report. However, Rice's student-taught course program has been steadily gaining a different sort of national reputation over the past two years.

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Deep Axess

Deep Axess, a term for a short-term project organized by the Rice architecture students, aimed to design a visitor center located in the Fondren Library quadrangle. The group of four students decided to focus on the academic building's lobby area, known as the Visitors' Center, to create a space that would be more accessible and inviting. They suggested incorporating universal access features, such as unisex bathrooms, to cater to all visitors.

The group's design, named Deep Axess, consisted of a hydraulic elevator at Fondren's quadrangle, a promenade for exhibitions, and a visitor center to provide transparency and spatial experiences. They emphasized the importance of natural light and materials, proposing glass and steel structures to allow for freer circulation and the visual effect of transparency. Glass would be used extensively as material for the exterior, creating a solid mass to interrupt the visual flow and enhance the library's appearance.

Archis compete to design visitor center

Archis, an architectural society, held a charrette to design a visitor center for the Rice University campus. The goal was to create a space that would be more popular and central as a visual part of the Rice campus. The visitors' center would provide a dual perspective of Rice, outward over the campus views and inward over the intellectual activity happening inside the library.

Re-Visitor's Center

The Re-Visitor's Center, led by Angelini and White, aimed to modernize Fondren Library by tearing apart the inside of the building and creating a large space inside the library. They proposed leaving the third and fourth floors intact to be transparent because of the hydraulic elevator at Fondren's quadrangle. Glass would be used to form the group's name, which was a play on words, combining "touch" and "access," as it represented the idea of opening the library to the public.

They were trying to completely re-envision how we dealt with Fondren as a building.

Andrew Daley, Architecture Society President

"The first and second place projects were trying to solve the problem of being a visitor inside of Fondren. Daley said, "They were trying to completely re-envision how we dealt with Fondren as a building." Deep Axess and Re-Visitor's Center said they would love for their ideas to be implemented at Fondren, but they acknowledged the large amount of funding their designs would probably require. Dean of Architecture Sarah Whiting said the charrette was a competition of ideas, a way to draw out exciting student ideas in a very short time in contrast to the long-term projects involved in extensive planning over many years, and was not intended to be used to choose an official proposal for the visitor center. Although the administration was very interested in seeing what sort of ideas the architecture students would have, the lack of funding available requisite for the designs also makes it unlikely for the designs to actually be implemented.

The panel of eight judges was made up of President David Leebron, University Librarian Sue Lowman, School of Architecture Assistant Dean Thomas Bockstein, Assistant Professor for the Rice School of Architecture Nayan Khan, School of Architecture Professor in Practice Douglas Usher, Vice President for Administration Kevin Kirby and School of Architecture Wortham Fellow Neeraj Bhatia. On Sept. 10, the panel held a roundtable discussion, where the architecture students could attend, about the designs. Whiting said the charrette was an amazing opportunity because their designs were looked over and discussed during the roundtable discussion by a wide variety of people, including Leebron. He said it was interesting and helpful to hear opinions about their ideas from people other than architectural experts.

Daley said more charrettes were likely in the future — the goal is at least one per semester. The spring semester project, he said, would probably involve a smaller scale and the most promising designs may be implemented.

McDonnell said the charrette was different from most other architecture projects because it was on campus and involved people who interacted with every day. The fellow team members agreed that the charrette gave them an opportunity to work on something more real and tangible than their usual more theoretical architecture projects, and considered the charrette a nice change in that they could discuss the "off-campus" center design with anyone.

Whiting said architecture students should always be thinking about how to redesign the world to make it work, look, and act better. She said the charrette exemplified this concept.

The students were not just solving a problem, and they were creating a design that's isolated from reality," Whiting said. "They're creating a new world that reimagines that reality."
Which Owl will use the latest technology and sometimes even invent it? Join us, and you will.

Many Rice University graduates have worked with Chevron to meet the world’s demand for energy. Chevron is working every day to responsibly explore, develop and supply energy that keeps the world moving forward. Discover what it’s like to be a key member of our team and work in an environment that rewards collaborative thinking and innovation. Visit us at www.chevron.com/careers to find out when we’ll be on campus. Join us, and together we can accomplish great things.
The next Great American Novel?  
Jonathan Franzen's Freedom stirs the Melting Pot

BY ALEX BUCKEY

According to Wikipedia, a Great American Novel is one that, when it is published, insightfully captures the zeitgeist—"the spirit of the times." also according to Wikipedia—of the nation. Time magazine pegs Jonathan Franzen as this generation's Great American Novelist, and his new book Freedom is the work that clinched the title for him. That kind of instant canonization makes reading Freedom an interesting challenge. Not only do readers have to think about whether they like or understand the book, they have to decide whether their zeitgeist has been captured.

Franzen has been on the unofficial Great American Shortlist since 2001, when his novel The Corrections earned the National Book Award and got him into an infamous public dustup with Oprah. Freedom came out in August and has already gained truly stunning amounts of critical praise, a No. 1 spot on The New York Times best-seller list and a path back into Oprah's good graces—the hardcover carries an Oprah's Book Club sticker.

Of course, a novel this big is bound to have detractors, and Freedom has provoked a lot of ideological flamethrowing, backlash. Commercial Fiction powerhouse Joel Bin Picoult and Jennifer Weiner use the novel's publicity blitz as an opportu- nity in their grievances about critical coverage of fiction by women, while other writers skipped politics in favor of the standard literary gripes. Even so, when compared to the usual critical re- ception of a new 450-page novel—complete critical indifference and dismal sales—Freedom is a superhit. The book has earned the right to have its claims to social relevance taken seriously. And Franzen is even an overly fabled protagonist of his own social observations aren't as fresh as he be- lieves them to be. There is, for example, an up- and-coming musical act in the novel called Tutti Picnic—a name that isn't funny enough to be a joke indie band name but just so slightly tone-deaf that it belies the author's unfamiliar- ity with the subject at hand. This type of jarring near-miss is typical of the Franzen mode of so- cial criticism. His endearing closeness with his main characters is in contrast to the awkward yet knowing distance he keeps from popular culture, like the portrait of an uncle who smiles indulgently and asks if your iPhone comes with Twitter.

It's easy to push back at a book that is such an unqualified success. The truth is that Oprah and The New York Times like a new novel, so they're not likely to be a successful book of fiction is compellingly, beautifully executed and written with the kind of brave intelligence that doesn't define itself in opposition to human frail- ility. If Freedom fails to capture the zeitgeist, the fault may lie with the zeitgeist and not the book. Who started the idea, so well-worn in the world of fiction, that one couple's strained marriage or one family's dignified despair could capture the spirit of the times? Maybe we should be true to the American zeitgeist to simply temper ourselves. In the personal details, forget the big picture and realize that every American is unhappy in his own way.

The novel suffers from an overabundance of fluid sex scenes (if you like your porn graphically and extremely earnest, try literary fic- tion) and symmetrical pairings that track each other to make the piece," Gardner said. "It will feature graffiti in- stallation, one could ask whether the pictures come through with Twitter."

The Social Network, Nico also explained how his char- acter story about a few very flawed, competitive and discontented humans that end up sagging under the weight of great American expectations. The plot of Freedom is simple, and the reader is given the gist of the book's central conflict in the first few pages: Walter and Patty Berglund are a young married couple who greatly enjoy a St. Paul neighborhood in the suburbs and proceed to raise children in the haven they create. Walter is an environmental lawyer and Patty is an ideological nut. Both are admired by their neighbors, attractive, smart, determined and capable of social relevance taken seriously. And Franzen's Freedom installation looks like a sort of shaggy creature that can be controlled and manipulated in a simple rope and pulley system that runs smooth and silent.

It's really more of an interaction between the paper and the readers themselves. Those are what opened and pulled off each other and were contingent on each other to make the piece," Gardner said. Looking at the pictures and the ex- ecution of the installation, one could assume that Nico had been working in sculpture and structural artwork for some time, but he originally worked in oil paints before switching to structure-based art, mostly because the oil paints made Nico feel like "was dying inside because they were so chemically-based."

In between bites of sandwich, Nico also explained how his char- acter story about a few very flawed, competitive and discontented humans that end up sagging under the weight of great American expectations. The plot of Freedom is simple, and the reader is given the gist of the book's central conflict in the first few pages: Walter and Patty Berglund are a young married couple who greatly enjoy a St. Paul neighborhood in the suburbs and proceed to raise children in the haven they create. Walter is an environmental lawyer and Patty is a stay-at-home mother. They are attractive, smart, determined and admired by their neighbors, though mostly from a polite dis-
Classic Flicks: Flaherty’s Nanook of the North

How often does the first of anything start out as second? We don't see too many people driving around in Model-A's, nor do we see anyone carrying textbook-sized cell phones these days, nor do we see anyone pretending you are eating in Seville or Madrid. Sometimes you have to lie. One often has to distort a thing to catch its true spirit. Staged or not, Flaherty forcefully documents the reality of what it is to be human.

Forget Bear Grylls — it’s real-life man versus wild in Robert Flaherty’s documentary Nanook of the North.

Nanook of the North

Director: Robert J. Flaherty

Released: June 14, 1922

Flaherty has been criticized for staging the events on screen, a fact he never hid — if you pay attention to the opening credits, you’ll note that Flaherty was credited as the film's writer. Werner Herzog, whose documentaries also rank among the most engag- ing ever produced, is also known to stage events. But the staged action in Nanook of the North is as real as it gets. When Nanook is hunting a seal, there are no gymnastics or special effects involved — he is really hunting a seal. All of Shakespeare's works were set in the Bardic era, but what do they look like now? Or do you even care? The same challenges with seven or eight vegan dishes prove to be a good dozen vegetarian options with seven or eight vegan dishes. The ideal number of dishes to order is two to three per person, unless you're really starving. Not only does this give you plenty of food, but if you are vegetarian, it gets you out of the bread and butter, all the way, and the whole fruit and veggie line. The final delight of the evening was the black and white bean soup, artfully presented as a silky smooth concoction. The purees were layered so that the black bean puree was on top and the black bean on the bottom. The perfect effect made the experience of eating fun and leave you wanting more. The only disappointed hot dish was the Spanish black bean soup, artfully presented as a silky smooth concoction. The purees were layered so that the black bean puree was on top and the black bean on the bottom. The perfect effect made the experience of eating fun and almost comforting in their predictable limitations. Flaherty managed to capture the spirit. "Sometimes you have to lie. One often has to distort a thing to catch its true spirit." Staged or not, Flaherty forcefully documents the reality of what it is to be human.

Gardner From Page 10

Then my senior year paranoia kicked in and I had to ask Rico about post grad life. What about things like jobs? How well did his time at Rice shape what he’s doing now? “It’s weird getting into the art scene in Houston,” Gardner admitted. “After the show at [PRH] this artist that came to do a critique at one point asked me to do this show in spring at some park, so it’s just word of mouth and connections and whether or not they like you.”

Nico went on to talk about how even chance encounters can lead to opportunities — while joking with a stranger in line about the sandwich shops at Whole Foods, the man Gardner is to apply to the center, who then encouraged Gardner to apply to the center. “Talk to everybody that you know and sometimes people will want to help you more than you think they will.” Gardner said. As for his time at Rice, Nico said it was hard to get used to the small outdoor seating area. The sound of the cars is not nearly as loud as it is to the viewers. The film is in black and white, it’s not difficult to imagine a present-day face facia facing the same challenges as Nanook did decades ago.

Other brilliant titles by Flaherty include Man of Aran (1934) and La Bamba (1987). A DVD version of the original 1922 print is available at Tandem Library, but if you feel that you must watch the film right away, you are in luck. The film of the North is in the public domain, so here’s one film you can legally stream from the Internet (try www.archr.org) and watch on your computer.

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In the week since then, Adams' optimism is not only alive, but thriving. The Owls opened the week and conference play last Friday with a 2-0 victory over the University of Tulsa (5-5, 0-2-CUSA), sending a message to Conference USA that their 3-5 start to the season was an aberration by scoring in the game's 2nd second. Junior forward Hope Ward blasted the first shot of the game off the right goal post, immediately leading to the second shot of the game, a goal by senior defender/forward Kenly Taylor that put the Owls up for good.

Rice recorded the match's final goal in the 45th minute, when sophomore defender Lauren Latin converted a penalty kick, scoring her first career goal.

Rice did not wait quite as long to celebrate her second career goal, which came in overtime of the Owls' thrilling 2-1 victory against conference rival Southern Methodist University (5-2, 0-2-CUSA) on Sunday. Her free kick from close to 40 yards away in the 93rd minute emphatically capped the emotional match, which had been Ward give the Owls the lead in the 77th minute on a free kick, only to watch as SMU tied the game 61 minutes later with a goal of their own.

The Owls' victory over SMU did more than even their record at 3-5. It moved them to 2-0 in conference play, giving them a share of first place. It also showcased Adams' new, more aggressive offense, a secret she declined to share earlier in the week.

Rice's well-documented offensive strategies cannot be totally dismissed after a good two-game stretch, but whatever formation change Adams has made looks to be working, as evidenced by LaGro's first two career goals, both coming as a defender.

The Owls will look to continue their turnaround this weekend, when they host the University of Texas at El Paso (5-1, 2-0-CUSA) today in a Conference USA match and will continue conference play as Colorado College (4-2-1, 0-1-CUSA) comes to town on Sunday.

The Owls have always been optimis- tic, but this year's run of a couple of wins over the weekend, their optimism might become an epidemic.
Volleyball splits conference matches on the road

Southern Miss proves tough test for defending conference champs; Owls look to UTEP

**FOOTBALL**

**Volleyball splits conference matches on the road**

The twin record the volleyball team compiled during their brief stay in Houston did not make any Owl feel too optimistic, as the true mark of the team was revealed during the team's journey to Hattiesburg, Miss., to take on conference rival the University of Southern Mississippi (8-3, 1-1 CUSA).

In their first meeting with Southern Miss on Friday, the Owls had their way, as they swept both games 25-21, 25-20, and 25-22 for a 3-0 victory. Their only loss was a narrow 25-27 win for the Golden Eagles. Junior middle hitter Ashleigh McGill led the team with 14 kills while sophomore outside hitter Laurie McNamara added 12 kills.

Senior setter Meredith Schamun led the team with 37 assists while senior libero Tracey Lam had 23 digs.

Eagles fought back to split the weekend's matches. The Owls won the first set in dominating fashion, 25-17, before going on to lose the next three sets, 25-27, 25-23 and 26-24, respectively, in the last five years. UTEP has started off strong this year with a 9-0 overall record and 2-0 in conference. UCP is going in the opposite direction, with a 2-6 record and 1-2 in conference, 7-7 overall.

Volleyball head coach Genny Volpe's last start is no fluke and will be tough for Rice to penetrate their defense. "UTE always had a very good defense," Volpe said. "They are a very good defensive team and they are scrappy."
Men's cross country races to best finish at OSU

Young runners continue to challenge and provide support for seasoned veterans

University in Stillwater, Okla. The eight-kilometer race was longer than any that most of the freshmen had ever raced in their cross country careers and while the challenge proved difficult, Rice still crossed the finish line with a seventh-place finish, its best ever appearance at the Cowboy Jamboree. Head Coach Jon Warren (box) realized the distance may have seemed insurmountable to some of the younger runners, but wrote it off as one of the many learning experiences in collegiate cross country.

"The distance may have scared some, and I didn't think they handled it as well as I thought they would, which isn't surprising," Warren said. "Eight extra minutes doesn't seem very long when you're sitting in a chair, but when you're tied from running across a variety of terrain. It's a different story. [Freshman] Anthony Ursull was feeling sick, so I'd like to give him a chance to run one healthy.

That removed one, Woodward, land-

scape and flat fields helped Rice get a great sense of managing difficult terrain out- side of fighting through swarms of other runners and the Owls certainly posted the best. Redshirt junior Michael Trejo took the way for Rice, finishing in 25:04.4, which earned him 2nd place, while redshirt sophomores Gabe Cuadra and Robert Husted finished 27th and 29th place, respectively.

Finishing out the scores for Rice were freshman Ryan Davis in 31st place with redshirt freshman Anthony Lausten but far on his heels at 26:53, just four seconds behind Dopp. Redshirt freshman Alex Weidlersteiner and fresh- man John Canale rounded out the top seven for Rice in 59th and 76th place, respectively. Warren commented on how three runners have cemented themselves among the top five for Rice, while the other four spots in the seven that will make up the squad for Rice at the conference meet are still in flux.

"We've got the consistent guys so far with Gabe, Michael and James since they've been in our top five every meet," Warren said. "Our top five has definitely not been the same at any meet, which is okay as long as people come through. If we can get more consistency in our four through seventh spots, which I believe we will, then we will be in excellent shape." This point in the season, Rice is more concerned with the times that are coming from his runners in the fourth through seventh spots as opposed to the runners who are actually turning them in.

"It's hard to tell if our times are as- secure as we want them because the whole meet was significantly slower than last year," Warren said. "We had really great conditions last year, but this year the heat index was 80 to 85, so it was a little warmer than what we would have liked."

Despite the slower pace of the race, Rice was still able to put its top runners in the mix with some of the racers from the other teams in the meet.

"The overall field was outstanding, with Oklahoma State being the returning national champion, and with Gabe and Matt to be where they were excellent," Warren said. "That was tough a field as well as last year, and that includes regional.

by Jonathan Myers

Women's from page 13

Thompson said. "It's a very com- petitive cross country atmosphere. It was really good for Farrah and Meredith to go there and soak up the experience because it was their first real cross country race."

It was a good introduction for Nationals and Pre Nationals because even at those stages they won't see a bigger meet than Grak. It's good that they get that exposure right away.

While Rice was competing, confer- ence foes Southern Methodist Univer- sity, University of Tulsa and Universi- ty of Texas El Paso had the weekend off in preparation for another major early-season national meet, the Notre Dame Invitational this weekend.

Out of that group, UTEP will be the ones to watch at Notre Dame, as they host a national front runner, Riper Kimpton.

In 2009, Kilmus finished ninth overall at the NCAA championsh- ship meet, which earned her All-Ameri- can status. She was also recognized as Conference USA Female Cross Country Athlete of the Year, the first time that honor had been awarded to a freshman.

However, regardless of the compet- ition they are up against this season, the Owls are prepared to do what it takes to make their way back to the na- tional stage, according to Thompson.

"We know we have a ton of poten- tial and as a team there are a bunch of really minor things that are in our way and this meet showed us just how much of an effect they're having on our right now," Thompson said. "We want to get to Nationals and this meet showed us it's abso- lutely doable if we just stay healthy and stay on the track we're on, then we're going to have a really good time in November."
**The Calendar**

**OCT. 7, 2010**

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**FRIDAY**

**Set your alarm**

Get up early and join the Women's Resource Center as they battle breast cancer with a 5K run/walk today at 7 a.m. at Rice Houston Park at 7 a.m. No experience or speed is required, and you can register for the race at the door. Registration is $35 and it is for a good cause, so get your lazy butt out of bed and go battle cancer!

**Intense flavor**

If you love salsa, then you're in luck. McMurry Philanthropy is hosting its first annual salsa-making contest today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the McMurry Commons. Participants can sample a myriad of different salsas. Featuring an all-star panel of chef celebrities from our servers, the event is sure to be a blast! The best part is, not only can you sample all the different salsas, but you can feel good about it too, because the proceeds go to the Pakistani Food Relief Fund.

**Movies galore**

The Asian Film Festival kicks off today at the Rice Media Center. The festival features three award-winning films from Hong Kong and South Korea over three days. Show up tomorrow for "Mother."] All three days are admission free!

**Shepherd symphony**

The Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra is performing at Studie Hall in Alice Pevy Bridges Hall today from 8 to 9:30 p.m. They will be performing several pieces, including Beethoven’s 9th. Be there or be square. Enjoy.

**Campus-wide insanity**

Will you need to wear your birthday suit? Your best bet is to wear what you sleep in, unless of course, you do not own a birthday suit. If that’s the case, you can get some of these helpful costume suggestions. Phallic-shaped fruits or sleepwear never get old, grab something spicy and suit up Stinson style!

**MONDAY**

**Pub competition**

Willy’s Pub is having a college competition this week to see which college can get the most students to go to pub. From today until Oct. 8, stop by Willy’s and buy anything there (chips, pizza, beer) to get more points for your college. The college with the highest percentage of students to purchase stuff will get $100 toward their next pub night. Each student only counts once, so bring your friends, or at least steal their ID cards.

**How do I love thee**

If you like, you know, poetry and stuff, then you should go to: The Rice Revue’s reading series. It’s an evening of readings that goes from 9 to 11 p.m. in Kelley Lounge in the RMC. There will be free desserts and coffee there, supplied by Coffeehouse. If you’re interested in reading for this event, let us know by e-mailing them at rimagazine.edu.

**Future researchers**

The Office of Fellowships and Undergraduate Research is having a lecture today entitled “Preparing to be a Researcher: Things I Wish I Knew as an Undergrad.” The content of the lecture is kind of self-explanatory, so if you’re looking to go into research, you might want to listen. The talk is today from 6 to 7 p.m. in Farmworth Pavilion in the RMC.

**Dance festival**

The Texas Dance Improvisational Festival kicks off today from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Barbra and David Gibbes Recreation and Wellness Center. Register beforehand if you’re interested in participating. The festival runs until Oct. 9, and you can find out more information about it at tdif.blogs.rice.edu.

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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
E-mail: thresher-calendarchase@rice.edu
Campus Mail: Calendar Editor, Thresher, MC-624

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For the beautiful piece of artwork below, and for keeping the Calendar editor from bursting into tears because no one reads this page, the Thresher would like to thank: Eric Lastufka and Kathy Li (First Place)

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Eric Lastufka and Kathy Li (First Place)
**Are you ready for some football?**

Yes! Good. Start with poking the SMU quarterback on Facebook.

This week you may have noticed that Rice University's third-best marching band, the MOB, placed fliers in your college commons about this weekend's football contest against Southern Methodist University. These confusing pamphlets depict SMU students as "brin ice cream" and urge Rice students to look to "center field" at halftime. Students of Rice know that most of you understand that is a, the no, and an. It's rather funny, and it boggles the mind. I've only had a very nice notice of your Saturday's festivities. Traditionally the game is won or lost on the field. While we would love to see Rice destroy SMU in this capacity, the battle in the stands will be imperative. Rice students, we need your support. You don't have to plan. You don't have to think. You don't even have to be conscious. The To-Do List below should serve as a baseline, but continue reading for the specifics. Enjoy yourselves, and remember to stay classy. Unless we are ahead, then give 'em hell.

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**Knowing Your Enemy**

**How to blend in with the SMU students**

1. The backward Polo hat is key to the Rice look. Don't forget it. Don't let there be a rice turf of hair flowing out the back for that finishing touch.

2. It is rumored that SMU students who do not own Ray Ban sunglasses are immediately expelled.

3. Crow neck, you say? Only boys who buy their SMU shirt at a kiosk should wear it.

4. "What are you in, bro? Oh, Rice doesn't have frats? What do you do on weekends, then?"

5. More for accessibility than for function, SMU students are known to carry around wads of 50 cent bills.

6. Smirnoff Ice for so last summer, the boys have moved on to Loko.

7. If they aren't wearing slacks and a blazer you can expect an ocean of madras. Ladies, this goes for you too.

8. The guys and gals of SMU just don't wear loafers, they wear cool and rare versions of the popular logo shoe. Don't embarrass yourself by wearing a brown pair.

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**To Do List:**

1. Wake up
2. Buy Aloha Luminous Armor
3. Goat Heads
4. Want to tailgate
   -RiceBlackDeuce-
5. Goat second Heads
6. Earl Thomas IV for hot dogs
7. Enter stadium
8. Needs SMU's players and coaches
9. Leave for half time
10. Kenter to stadium if Rice is close
11. Pass out
12. Wake up
13. Go to Rice's party!
14. Don't get a boner

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**HECKLING GUIDE**

- **What can you really say to distract a guy who is having as phenomenal a season as Padron? Nothing, really. That's why we need to respect and return to more liberal forms of criticism.**

- **Kyle Padron also gets up the tips of his hair. This is an obvious yet easy heckling point.**

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**KYLE PADRON**

- **SOPES OB-SOUTHLAKE, TX**

- **What can you really say to distract a guy who is having as phenomenal a season as Padron? Nothing, really. That's why we need to respect and return to more liberal forms of criticism.**

- **Kyle Padron also gets up the tips of his hair. This is an obvious yet easy heckling point.**

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**ALDRICK ROBINSON**

- **SENIOR- WAKANACHIE, TX**

- **Leads the team's receivers with four touchdowns on the season.**

- **Is apparently sincere of fully opening his eyes in any photographs.**

- **What the hell kind of city is this guy from?**

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**BLAKE McJUNKIN**

- **JUNIOR- GLE-BLANO, TX**

- **Somebody forgot to block the Halloween pictures on Facebook. Ruh roh.**

- **He seems like a nice guy. So please don't make fun of his last name. Really, don't.**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

- **SMU was banned from playing football from 1987-1988 for paying their players. Now they are ranked.**

- **SMU is ranked 50th in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Rice is ranked 12th.**

- **SMU is home to the George W. Bush Presidential Center. We can't really talk though, because we have a whole institute for that Reagan dude.**

- **The university's motto in English translates to "the truth shall set you free."

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The Backpage is satire and is written by James Kohli and Connor Hayes. Jokes aside, be safe and go support our football team this weekend.