WILLY'S PUB CELEBRATES 35TH BIRTHDAY

Inside the Pub: then & now

Willy's Pub celebrates its 35th birthday with a four-day celebration this past weekend. Although the ladies' night event was ultimately canceled, the Pub experienced two of its top saucer days during its Smoking Section concert and birthday party.

"I think the birthday party was a great success," Inventory Manager Arney Marcus said. "We've definitely very pleased with the turnout.

Marcus, a Wieser College junior, said when planning the event, he looked into whether or not the timing of the Pub celebration would conflict with other events on campus.

"To be honest, we didn't really know what to expect, because we're typically just open on the weekend," Marcus said. "There had been a few times in the past when we opened on the weekend and it hadn't been that successful."

The first official event of the four-day celebration was a concert by the Smoking Section, an undergraduate band from Maret College who played a few of its own songs and covers of popular pop songs at the pub for the last time this past Thursday as a part of its farewell tour.

Maret senior Page Robinson, lead singer of the Smoking Section, said that classes being canceled the next day probably helped with the crowd turnout.

"The crowd was one of the most engaging we'd heard," Robinson said. "People stuck around until 2 a.m. dancing... it was a pretty good night."

Marcus said that the night of the concert, the Pub was filled to capacity, which is approximately 300 people. According to Marcus, the earnings from the event constituted the Pub's biggest sales night of the year. During specials included beer for $1.25 and champagne for $2.50.

"It was hopped — that's a word I would use... mostly," Jones College sophomore Chris Miller said. "It was fun — they played a lot of really good pop songs [like] 'I've Got You' by Dee Lo and Runaways by Kasey West."

According to Marcus, the only hitch was the cancellation of the ladies' night event since the Pub had closed on Friday due to inclement weather.

The Pub's 35th birthday party Saturday night was part of a half-day of special events.

KTRU goes HD through KPFT

by Sethy Brown

THURSDAY EDITORIAL STAFF

While the FCC continues to contemplate KTRU's analog future, on Monday morning Rice's radio station will begin broadcasting on KPFT's HD2 channel using the same frequency. The technology, said that classes being canceled the next day probably helped with the crowd turnout.

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KTRU Station Manager Joey Yang said that although HD radio is not currently a widespread technology, the same was originally true of FM radio.

"The future of HD radio is uncertain, but we feel pretty confident in the opportunity," Yang, a Lovett College junior said. "The longer the technology is around, the more ubiquitous it will become."

Yang said that after paying an up front fee to KPFT, the monthly cost of using the HD2 channel will be comparable to the monthly operating costs for KTRU's 5,000 watt FM transmitter.

President David Leebron said that the longer contract so that a whole generation of students could benefit from the agree to only last for two to three years, KTRU's student leadership pushed for the longer contract so that a whole cycle of students could benefit from broadcasting on the HD2 channel.

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Owl-Socrates expands a welcome addition

Rice is expanding the OWL-Socrates program, which allows professors to record lectures and post them online for students to peruse (see story, page 4). This expansion to the academic curriculum will be extremely advantageous for students. The ability for students to view lectures online provides for exceptional flexibility. Should a student be put at disadvantage for missing class because they were sick or representing our university at an athletic event? Furthermore, students would have the option to delay their lecture after an all-night of studying; going to a 9 a.m. class on two hours of sleep is simply counterproductive if a student crashes 20 minutes into the lecture. Not only will this enhance overall wellness, but students can be reassured they were alert when attending lecture; the osmosis method of learning will not be put at disadvantage for missing class because they were sick.

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Divide between academs and ESCIs apparent

I'm not saying that the policy of the universities is fundamentally different from the policy of the government, but the difference is that the government is more systematic and has a broader reach. The universities, on the other hand, are more localized and have a more immediate impact on the communities they serve.

In terms of the government's policies, I think we need to focus on providing more resources to the universities to help them implement these policies effectively. We also need to ensure that the policies are transparent and that the universities are held accountable for their implementation. This will require a greater level of cooperation and collaboration between the government and the universities.

In terms of the universities, I think they need to be more proactive in implementing these policies. They need to be more creative in finding ways to fund these initiatives and to ensure that they are sustainable in the long term. This will require a greater level of engagement with the government and other stakeholders.

Overall, I think we need to work together to ensure that the universities are able to implement these policies effectively and that they are able to provide greater value to the communities they serve.
Two years into the OWL-Socrates website pilot project — capturing videos of classes which instructors can watch from home — the Educational Technologies Department is expanding the project.

Assistant Director of Academic and Research Computing Gary Kidney, the program has captured certain classes in the fields of Engineering, Natural Sciences, Business and Music. Arnold suggested currently use this technology. Kidney said that he hopes to increase that number. Teaching faculty to use the technology in his discussions with them. But Arnold notes the technology or not remains the prerogative of the individual faculty members. "This project started out with just a small number of faculty in the first year," Kidney said. "We've expanded into an additional group of faculty, but it is still a long way from being commonly used on campus."

Managers of Educational Technologies Carlos Salis said the program will expand and evolve according to the needs and requests of faculty and students. "What particular products will be helpful OWL-Socrates can change," Salis said. "Our vision is that we will make this available in many ways."

Kidney said they started this project because of the maturity of the technology and student demand. The technology is compatible with Mac and Windows systems and can be used by students through request.

Chair of the Materials Science Department Andrew Meade said his students have already used the Panopto project the technology. "I thought it would be helpful for me and for the students to show up the past part of the lecture."

Chairs of the Materials Science Department Andrew Meade said he was figured it would be helpful on the schedule of student athletes, who schedule of student athletes, who can get it on-demand. This fear seems unfounded, according to Kidney, since the experiences of other universities and Rice faculty who have done it indicated that attendance is unaffected by the recordings. Assistant Classics Professor Edward Anderson said the OWL-Socrates website sounds interesting, but he would not use it himself. "I think students might not come to class because they can get it online, and it might cut back on the dialogue in class," Anderson said.

Viewing the recorded lectures requires a plug-in called Silverlight, which is compatible with Mac and Windows. It is also compatible with Linux through a different implementation named Moonlight.

The costs for software and hardware are shared between IT, the School of Engineering and the School of Natural Sciences, Kidney said. The site can be accessed by students and faculty at http://owl.socrates.rice.edu/Panopto/Pages/Default.aspx.

"Our vision is that we make this available in many ways."

Carlos Salis
Manager of Educational Technologies

It also better accommodates the schedule of student athletes, who often miss classes because of games. Kidney said the videos are useful for reviewing, too, as they are automatically indexed in a fashion that is easy to find the part one needs.

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Once the professor presses the record button, the software records the image of the lecture, the voice of the professor and the computer screen the professor is using. Following the recording, the Educational Technologies Department suggests this technology to faculty when the need arises. It is also available through request.

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INTERVIEW WITH PHYSICS PROFESSOR
HAFNER RECEIVES HACKERMAN AWARD

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THESSER EDITORIAL DEPART

The Welch Foundation honored Physics Professor Jason Hafner with this year's Normann Hackerman Award in Chemistry Research. The award, named for the chemist and former Rice University president, recognizes chemical scientists in Texas beginning their careers. Hafner earned a master's degree in physics at Rice in 1996, and has served as a faculty member at Rice for the past nine years.

The Welch Foundation, who focuses on basic research, also awarded a nanostar. And the dipole potential is not something a lot of people were trying to engineer into something; it's an obscure little effect that maybe has a big impact.

RT: What is your favorite part about conducting research?
JH: It's the freedom to pursue any aspect of research I want, anything I find interesting.

GLOSSARY

electron microscope: a microscope that uses a beam of electrons to create a high-quality magnified image
nanotubes: tiny, tube-like structures on the scale of billions of a meter
optical spectrum: the way in which a particle absorbs light

RUDY POLICE BLOTTER
The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Feb. 2-9.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES
North Colleges  Feb. 2  Theft

ACADEMIC BUILDINGS
Jesse H. Jones School  Feb. 2  Harassment

OTHER BUILDING
Rice Memorial Center  Feb. 3  Theft
Rice Memorial Center  Feb. 7  Theft

PARKING LOTS
Greenbriar Lot  Feb. 4  Failure to stop and give information

North Colleges Lot  Feb. 6  Burglary of a motor vehicle

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MUSEUM DISTRICT / RICE UNIVERSITY AREA

Casual dining is more fun at The Chelsea Grill
Teach-in panel discusses source of unrest in Egypt

BY JOCelyn WRIGHT
THE THresher STAFF

More than 150 people crowded Keck Hall 202 to listen to three panelists speak about the riots in Egypt and Tunisia Tuesday. The teach-in, called “Witness to Revolution: A Teach-In on the National Protests in Egypt and Tunisia,” began with speeches by History Professor Usmaan Makdisi, Mark Bebawi, founder of the radio program “The Monitor” on KPFT 90.5, and Economics Department Chair Mahmoud El-Gamal, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

History graduate student David Getman introduced the speakers and the situation in Egypt and Tunisia. He said most Americans’ immediate reactions to the images of the protestors was one of immediate sympathy.

“We want to get behind the Twitter revolutions,” Getman said.

El-Gamal said he thought the problem was much bigger than Egypt and Tunisia.

“It’s a global problem,” he said. “The system is broken, and we need to fix it, and I don’t know how.”

The issue at stake, however, are far more complicated, Getman said. He cited James A. Baker III, who recently said this breakdown of Egypt’s regimes was one of immediate sympathy.

“We are one family rule,” he said. “One family rule, we have seen in a society where everybody hates everybody. We have seen from a lot of different academic perspectives, that the system is broken, and we need to fix it.”

Getman said Obama was concerned about democracy being established too quickly out of fear of the collapse of the American foreign policy in the Middle East, which is why this conflict is so important to Americans.

So far, the official reaction of the American government has been one of ambivalence, which Makdisi said echoed U.S. policy in areas such as Latin America and Asia.

Makdisi said the U.S. was afraid of Arab democracy because currently, America dominates the Middle Eastern order.

“They are all regimes that essentially follow or have acquiesced to U.S. hegemony,” Makdisi said. “The U.S. would rather have stable regimes rather than anarchy around popular regimes that may disrupt the U.S. power order.”

Bebawi discussed the complexities of the relationship between Egypt and the U.S. In 2010, $1.5 billion went to strengthen Egypt’s armed forces, while $265 million went to economic aid and another $1.5 million went to training.

Although this money was labeled as aid, Bebawi said this label was misleading because it was not aid spent on typical things like infrastructure, education and civil society. Bebawi added that the average Egyptian did not benefit from any of the money that was spent.

Makdisi gave some background and overview of the conflict. He said the system of government in Egypt and Tunisia was representative of all of the regimes in the Middle East, where there is not democratic representation due to either one party or one family rule.

With the exception of Syria and Saddam, these regimes were all backed by the United States.

On one level, Makdisi said these uprisings against dictatorial and democratizing regimes.

“We can see from images and news this is essentially a popular uprising against oppressive regimes at the most basic level,” Makdisi said.

On another level, though, these conflicts were a challenge to policy. Makdisi also cited Baker’s argument that what was happening in Egypt represents American values of freedom but also represents a threat to U.S. authority.

Makdisi said support for the protesters was not based on Islamic or religious ideology but rather the human concern for freedom.

“It’s remarkable how much support there is for what are basically popular revolts,” Makdisi said.

Bebawi also echoed Makdisi’s critique that the American media was misleading because it was not aid spent on typical things like infrastructure, education and civil society.

Estimated protestors:

• 10,000-
• 1,000 - 10,000

Protestors’ demands:

• 10,000
• 1,000 - 10,000

= 0,000 GRAPHIC BY CHECK ALBAE

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www.Houston.Tulane.edu

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011
Three colleges have picked new masters, who will start their five-year term in the 2011-2012 school year. Will Rice College chose Associate Professor of Sociology Bridget Garman and Mike Reed; Wiess College chose Associate Professor of History Alexander Byrd and Jeanette Byrd; Jones College chose Associate Professor of Linguistics Michel Achard and Melanie Achard. Each week we will feature the new masters of an individual college.

Michel Achard

Married to Professor Achard; works for Symantec

Since 1997

We were Associates at Will Rice

Block was the most Rice-specific tradition, but O-week is such a great way to get to know all the new students. I followed my husband.

Melanie Achard

Since 1997

We really liked the camaraderie and sense of community. Of course, there is nothing like being on a winning team...

International SOS

EMS for those abroad

By Michelle Phillips

Students preparing to study abroad will have one less thing to worry about starting this semester. The Rice University Risk Management team announced that they are partnering with International SOS in order to provide emergency medical assistance to any students who are abroad.

According to Renee Block, the director of Risk Management, Rice has been thinking about a partner like this for some time as the university expands its study abroad options. She said many other schools already have partnerships with SOS.

"SOS will be on call for any Rice student, faculty or staff members abroad under a Rice-approved program in case of emergency," Block said. "This service will be particularly useful for those traveling to remote areas, for whom SOS can provide evacuation service if needed. "SOS has facilities all over the world. They will be able to know that Rice has a backup plan," Herrera said.

Although the current deal will only be free for Rice members traveling with a Rice-approved program, students traveling abroad independently will also be able to get a 20 percent discount on SOS membership by entering in Rice’s name.

Herrera also said that in case of civil unrest, such as what has recently happened in Egypt, SOS would also be instrumental in evacuating a person out of danger.

Several departments on campus are already making use of the SOS deal, including the Center for Civic Engagement, the Baker Institute and the School of Social Sciences, which is sending a group of students to Istanbul over spring break.

One of the students traveling to Istanbul is McMurtry College junior Audra Herrera.

"I feel safe, because I'm not worried about what medical conditions are like in other countries... it’s reassuring to know that Rice has a backup plan," Herrera said.

Block said that coverage by SOS is not an insurance plan for students abroad. While SOS will provide service and pay the bills in case of emergency, the individual’s insurance company will need to reimburse SOS for every once the student or faculty returns to the states.

"It’s important that they be particularly remote areas and in case of emergencies," Block said, adding that SOS is willing to work with any insurance company.

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Although Rice members are covered on approved trips, Block said all students should go to the Risk Management website and follow the steps there to get the information they need and provide their information to SOS.

"What’s important is that there shouldn’t be anything they need to worry about in terms of medical coverage - they will get it," Block said.

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Drought threatens Chinese wheat crop

The United Nations’ food agency warned Tuesday that a severe drought in China was threatening its wheat crop and causing water shortages for its people and livestock.

The state-run news agency in China said on Monday that this drought was the worst in 60 years. China is the world’s largest wheat producer and has been, for the most part, self-sufficient in grain for years.

If China has to import grain as a result of the drought, it could drive global wheat prices even higher than the record levels recently achieved. Experts said these high prices have been one source of blame for the protests in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world and forewarn even greater problems for such countries that depend on imported food if the drought continues.

Source: Wall Street Journal

Egyptian workers go on strike, contribute to unrest

Egyptian workers joined the street protests on Wednesday to express displeasure over low pay — an action that, according to some, has added a new dimension to the unrest in Egypt. Workers from companies in the construction, chemicals, textiles, transportations, telecommunications and tourism sectors went on strike in Cairo and other smaller cities throughout the country, blocking highways and shutting down factories.

The decision to strike was made by companies individually, and an estimate of the total number of laborers involved ranges from 5,000 to more than 10,000 people. The workers mainly demanded that the Egyptian government increase the minimum wage from 35 pounds per month (about $6) and give them the ability to form independent unions. Officials predicted that the workers’ involvement in the protests could injecting experience into a movement largely led by young adults. According to experts, this increased support could revitalize the dissenters’ efforts and help them gain large concessions from the Egyptian government.

Source: Wall Street Journal

Babies with spina bifida helped by surgery

According to a federally funded study conducted at the Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia, Vanderbilt University and the University of California at San Francisco, performing surgery on babies with severe spina bifida while they are still in the womb doubles the chance that they will be able to walk later in life. The study involved 158 mothers carrying babies with spina bifida and found that sealing up the defective spinal cord before birth also reduced the chances that the babies would need a shunt — a special tube — surgically implanted to drain fluid from their brains. Researchers said that expectant parents with babies who have spina bifida should consider the operation, which is available at the three centers that ran the study.

Source: The Washington Post

Pakistanis teen suicide bomber kills dozens

A teenage suicide bomber blew himself up on Thursday on the parade ground of the Punjab Regiment Center, a major military training academy in Mardan, Pakistan, during the morning lineup.

The 17-year-old boy was dressed in the uniform of a civilian school student, according to a person who said he witnessed the explosion.

The Punjab Regiment Center is one of the biggest Pakistani army training centers and this bombing is the second act of violence by militants against the school in the last 18 months. Source: The New York Times

Protests seek trial for Silvio Berlusconi

Italian prosecutors have requested that Italy’s Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi stand trial over accusations that he paid a 17-year-old Moroccan female dancer for sex and then used his influence to keep her from being detained by the police after she was arrested for alleged theft. Berlusconi denied the accusations and said that the prosecutors were trying to oust him from office.

Source: The New York Times

American alleged terrorist pleads guilty

Daniel Patrick Boyd, a U.S. man from North Carolina, pled guilty in a court in New Bern, N.C. to planning terrorist attacks. Boyd is a 40-year-old building contractor who became a Muslim at a young age and is alleged to have lived and trained six other rural Muslim men — including his two sons — who were part of a home-grown terror cell. According to prosecutors, he also stored weapons in his home and used them to train his followers before planning an attack on a U.S. military base. Boyd and his men were arrested in July 2009, and he was charged with conspiring to support terrorists and murder, kidnap and injure people. After receiving his guilty plea, prosecutors agreed to dismiss a few other counts against him, though they say he faces up to life in prison. Boyd’s sons will be tried in September and have denied the charges.

Source: BBC

This is Connor Hayes. You may remember him as one of the Backpage guys. Well, now Connor needs your help, and this time it’s serious business. Send an e-mail to scholarted@gmail.com to become part of Connor’s new team of feature writers.

Have you demonstrated a commitment to service? Submit your self-nomination!

Rotary Scholarship for Community Service

This scholarship honors one undergraduate for their community service outside the Rice campus community that embodies the Rotary motto of “Service above Self.” The recipient must have at least one semester left at Rice and maintain a 3.2 GPA.

Deadline for Rotary Scholarship: 5:00 pm on Friday, February 25, 2011

Friends-in-Deed Scholarship

This scholarship honors one student who has demonstrated, by hours of hands-on service, a humanitarian commitment to the under-served. All current Rice students, both undergraduate and graduate, who have at least one semester remaining at Rice and have maintained a 3.0 GPA, are eligible.

Deadline for Friend-in-Deed Scholarship: 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 23, 2011

For more information about the Awards and How to Apply, please visit the Community Engagement Center’s website below.

The recipient must have at least one semester left at Rice and maintain a 3.2 GPA.

CHOLARSHII»

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According to Boucher and Dudley, if the proposal is passed, the next step will be finding task force members. Boucher said that they would send applications involving a letter of interest and a resume to the entire student body and would encourage students from all backgrounds to apply. The SA Executive Committee would choose the final five members, subject to approval by the SA Senate.

Then, Boucher said the task force would begin discussions with colleges, RUPD, the administration and even the GSA, who, according to Boucher, expressed a keen interest in being a major advisory body to the committee and would be a valuable resource, because graduate students have experience with the alcohol policies of other universities.

When Dudley and Boucher and the others presented the task force proposal at the SA meeting, debate arose over some specific wording in the document. A motion was made to have more explicit wording about what the rules were for KTRU. "Nobody is exactly sure what the alcohol policy is, except that they know that they're allowed to drink and most of the time, it's overlooked," Wong said. "Having some clear, defined rules that will be universal is going to be helpful." Dudley said she was excited to continue working on this project and hoped to open it soon to the student body.

"This is, in a sense, my baby," Dudley said. "It was my senator project, and I would have to say that I could not be any happier with Rice student on this issue."

**KTRU FROM PAGE 1**

ide of whether KTRU should continue to broadcast on HD2, Lee said that, should the HD channel be successful for KTRU, he would use the agreement being renewed.

More College junior Tina Patraveva, who DJs the show on KTRU, said being broadcast on the HD2 channel is not only a big deal for KTRU, there will be more interest for them.

Yang said that KFPT will not have any programming or fundraising requirements for KTRU. There is already a link between KTRU's studio and KFPT's, Yang said.

KTRU will be giving away around 100 HD radios — which the station wants to keep a link between KTRU’s studio and KFPT’s — and $1.75 for a pitcher. "We wanted to keep that relationship strong going forward — we wanted to stay strong as a network," Marcus said.

Meeker, Pub student managers and advisers and RUPD decided to make the Pub dry in response to a particular concern around the school. The ban lasts one week.

"We wanted to keep that relationship strong going forward — we wanted to stay strong as a network," Marcus said.

Marcus said that approximately 50 people were in attendance and the Pub was able to sell tickets. "I was relatively pleased with the outcome considering that we had a fair amount of competition, as each college was doing its own thing," according to Marcus.

A student committee comes up with the idea of KTRU in response to the death of several Rice students and a rise in drinking accidents that occurred that same year. Rice President Norman Hackerman calls it a "Red letter day for the university." Approximately 3,100 students show up on opening day.

The drinking age is raised to 21. Business starts to decline and Willy's Pub eventually becomes in danger of closing down. In an effort to save the establishment, President Malcolm Gillis later waives the maintenance fees the Pub has to pay and reduces them for the following school year.

Willy's Pub re-opens after four months. Crime and the loss of an important factor to drink specials and music.

Willy's Pub institutes a no-smoking policy in accordance with a newly passed regulation by the Houston Council. According to Pub General Manager David Meeker, Pub student managers and advisers decided to make the smoking change primarily to protect the bartenders' health, and for environmental reasons.

Willy's Pub celebrates its 35th birthday with a long weekend full of special events and music.

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Wednesday, February 23, 3 to 5:30 pm

Grand Hall

**FIRST PRIZE $400**

Correction!

**Second Prize $300**

Four Prizes of $200 ea

**Pizza, T-Shirts, Door Prizes**

Register at www.forum.rice.edu by February 16.

Sponsored by the Rice Global iK Forum, Fluor Corp., and the George R. Brown School of Engineering.
When the going gets weird, the weird run for office
"Joke candidates" are no laughing matter

When the going gets weird, the weird run for office "Joke candidates" are no laughing matter

BY CONNIE HAYES
THREESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Maret College seniors Erik Tanner and Daniel Hayes entered the Student Association presidential debate Monday night as "joke candidates," al-

owed to participate in the forum for their comedic value over their presidential merits. As the debate came to an end and candidates were afforded the opportunity to give a closing statement, Tanner and Hayes turned to a more serious tone, offering thoughtful remarks on the state of the uni-

versity.

"There's something amazing at this university — that's right, upholstered furniture and a tradition of the university." When asked what his experience with the SA had been before, this is not to be confused with质量问题. Memories marred by campus issues related to both admin-

istrative disconnect and student apathy, Hays' comments resonated.

"I transferred to Rice after completing my freshman year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I was unable to find the kind of intellectual and extra-curricular challenge that Rice offered." "I transferred to Rice after completing my freshman year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I was unable to find the kind of intellectual and extra-curricular challenge that Rice offered. The reason I transferred to Rice is because of the intellectual atmosphere, the opportunities to engage in research, and the academic rigor that I found here, and I don't think anyone who has been here for even one year would argue with that." The reason I transferred to Rice is because of the intellectual atmosphere, the opportunities to engage in research, and the academic rigor that I found here, and I don't think anyone who has been here for even one year would argue with that.

Eric Friedlander

Eric Friedlander is a senior and Jones College president.

Rice students take on a thousand extracurricular activities and struggle to juggle school, friends, family, and activities. The importance of these things was central to the debate between candidates Erik Tanner and Daniel Hayes, who are both seniors at Rice.

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Campus Reaction: Rice students must avoid apathy

As a freshman, I can remember Rice students being described as people who were interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo. Rice students who are interested in learning for the sake of learning. There was a certain amount of acceptance and tolerance for those who questioned the status quo.

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Peanuts and the gang are back but in quite a different fashion: they are all grown up. In Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, presented by the Rice Players, Charlie Brown and his friends are teenagers and, while they might be fictional, they face real and relevant problems. The cast of the show is small but strong and manages to give each character life.

Bert Royal’s play, Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, originally premiered on May 3, 2004. Starting in New York City, the off-Broadway production quickly spread throughout the United States, claiming several awards in 2004 and 2006. Royal’s dramatic parody addresses contemporary issues that teen dealt with, from drugs to homosexuality. The story opens on C.B. (Charlie Brown) right after his beloved dog Snoopy has passed away.

His dog’s death leads him to question where dogs and humans go in the afterlife, which leads C.B. down an unpredictable path as he tries to figure out who he is. C.B.’s friends have changed a decent amount since we last saw them. Now they drink hard liquor and smoke just about anything. Toward the end of the play, the characters are struck with tragedy, which brings C.B. closer to a friend that lives up in the clouds. This play does not call for many actors, so having a strong cast is crucial to its execution. C.B., played by Brown College sophomore Ben Seidensticker, is nearly flawless, as he creates a real character with complexity through his tone, physicality and connection to the other characters. C.B.’s sister (Jones College freshman Hayley Jones), a rebellious and dramatic girl, holds her own through most of her scenes.

The Rice Players production of Dog Sees God is a grownup version of Charlie Brown after the death of his famous dog Snoopy.

"Black List Project" inspiring, evocative documentation of strength

Historically, the term "blacklist" referenced people that were denied privileges and opportunities because of a social standard or prejudices. "The Black List Project," a photographic exhibit and documentary project, currently runs at the Rice Media Center in honor of Black History Month, attempts to emulate what Elvis Mitchell, co-producer of the project, calls the "black ability" and positive spin on what has been termed." The show is documented prosperous and strong African-Americans that have risen to their status from various professions and backgrounds. Mitchell, who is a National Public Radio correspondent and former New York Times film critic, and artist Timothy Greenwood-Sanders attempt to redefine the word "blacklist," which African-Americans have historically occupied.

However there is more to "The Black List Project" just for the black community, but also for the world. It really is a "talk to heal," as Greenwood-Sanders describes it: a talk to heal and evoke conversation toward reinterpreting the meaning of being black in America. "The Black List Project" began in 2008, and since its inception has branched out into a multimedia exhibit including a documentary film, a compilation of interviews, a book, a traveling portrait exhibition and an educational initiative. Timothy Greenwood-Sanders is well known for the power that his huge, intimate, gray-scale portraits of world lead players and cultural figures evoke. The question of what is the story behind the face? is resonant in each photograph. In "The Black List Project," he allows the voice, strength and struggles of his subjects to be heard.

With a mix of earthy old-school sounds and new school hip-hop, the third and final installment of the film portion of "The Black List Project" is a 30-minute document comprised of interviews with successful African-American figures. The newest additions include icons like singer and songwriter John Legend, famous model and author Beverly Johnson, President and C.E.O. of the United Negro College Fund Michael L. Lomax and C.E.O. of Black Entertainment Television Debra L. Lee. The strength of each interviewee is reflected in the music that accompanies his or her words. Together, they tell the stories behind Greenwood-Sanders' stilted stories of struggle, hard work and triumph.

On the surface, the interviews feature African-Americans talking about their respective fields and how they overcome hardships to explain what it means to be black in America. The stories are provocative and relatable to African-American culture and are successful in helping heal the wounds that young African-Americans may feel. However, the majority of what the subjects in "The Black List Project" say is a universal lesson of life. The project has a large educational component in its mission as a rich and encouraging artistic conversation that can foster meaningful discourse and change, if people are willing to listen. Discussing these themes with students of any race can incite discussions relating to writing, the individual voice, history, identity, mentoring, education, race and achievement, eventually redefining the significance of the "blacklist."
Relish: Lankford Grocery no longer tasty

Siegfried Bilstein and Dan Nelson

You know when that atom you really, really like starts getting crappy? Like when Jim and Pam got promoted on "The Office," or when Jessica Biel moved out of her house on "7th Heaven?" We experienced a moment exactly like that when we decided to go review Lankford Grocery, a burger place located in a secret corner of Montrose. Having been there several times before, we were excited to share the experience with the dudes we pay to live with us because we have no friends. Yet, for reasons we don't understand, Lankford wasn't at the top of its game last week.

Lankford, out to be confused with Lankford Market (that place that sells women's clothing in The Village), is a hole-in-the-wall burger joint located in what appears to be a condemned house. With floors that curve like waves in the Pacific breaking on the beach in front of you during a beautiful sunset, walking around the restaurant feels a bit too-funny for the overall vibe. The overall vibe is like you've been placed in a Norman Rockwell painting, if Rockwell dropped enough acid on day one to decide he was M.C. Escher. Actually, the warped floors are a little disconcerting the first time you visit, but after a while they're all part of the charm of this decidedly unholy establishment.

Fact: On its website, Lankford advertised as "Nothing Small. Nothing Healthy. Nothing Fast." The first two are definitely true, but usually we'd say that a "place isn't totally packed. Granted, it often is very full around lunchtime with real people who have real jobs, and it closes at 9 p.m. Although the inside is a bit cramped, Lankford has plenty of rooms outside if you don't mind breathing the bitter Houston air.

During this visit, Dan attempted to eat the most American (unhealthy) of all the foods that Lankford has to offer: the Geim burger, topped with mac & cheese, bacon, a fried egg and kaisero. The flavor was a bit underwhelming, based on Lankford's previous burger (more on that later on, actually), we expected the Geim to be super spicy and go awesomely with the mac & cheese. Instead, the whole affair tasted like a pretty bland, cheesy heart attack, with most of the flavor dominated by the fried egg and macaroni. Siegfried ordered the Wasabi burger, which is offered on the specials menu pretty frequently. Having bad it before, he expected the kind of spiciness that reminded him of the fifth grade when he thought wasabi was green ice cream that came with such a desert. He had ordered the burger last summer and enjoyed a remarkably hot, yet tasty, lime green sauce covering raw white onions and a pineapple slice on a light sesame bun. This time, however, he found the sauce too sweet and left the Wasabi more like mayo with just a little wasabi. The purpose of the pineapple is to contrast the wasabi, and sugar mitigates this heat, but while delicious, the sauce piqued the pins and pungent onions overwhelmed the wasabi.

Our course normative ordered a generic burger and didn't have much to say about it, except "buh-buh's is better." Our shorter, cuter roommate got a South of the Border burger and said that it lacked the advertised pico de gallo and toasted a bit more like a Cemex Salad burger. The waitress told him that the pico was, in fact, on there, but the taste and tomatoes were absent. We also got a bunch of sweet potato fries to share, and they were pretty delicious.

A description of Lankford is incomplete without mention of the Firehouse burger, which has been featured in one of those Tinsel Channel guest post shows ("Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives") and tastes like eating the sun. We defy you to find any sprayer food anywhere ever. We've both struggled through eating this burger in the past, and we recommend the experience to anyone who doesn't mind awkwardly sweating for the next day or so.

Overall, for some reason we still can't understand, Lankford just wasn't that good when we went to review it. It's not like on several occasions before, both of us think this low-quality visit was a total anomaly; but it did still happen, and that's what counts when you're a working journalist like we are. We felt it was our responsibility to write this negative review about one of our favorite places, so from now on we're only going to review things that we hate. Like East Surrey, Or Hipster.

Siegfried Bilstein and Dan Nelson are Weiss College reviewers.

Joseph Allencheril

The way I see it, the Pennsylvania Germans invented the holiday of Groundhog Day so that, centuries later, it might inspire Harold Ramis and Danny Rubin to pen the remarkable screenplay of the film. Groundhog Day, which was one of the most cinematic and entertaining movies of the year, is a collection old family DVDs.

The movie follows the story of Phil Connors (Bill Murray, Gnarly Bartner), an egotistical weatherman who comes to Punxsutaweny, Pa., to cover the annual Groundhog Day festivities for his TV station in Pittsburgh. But when a snow storm shuts down the roads, Phil and his crew — news producer Rita (Andie MacDowell), Four Weddings and a Funeral and cameraman Larry (Chris Elliott, Cabin Boy) — are forced to stay an extra day in the small town. Up until this point, the film might seem a bit unremarkable and reminiscent of the '90s.

But when Connors wakes up the next day, it is still Feb. 2, Groundhog Day. And when Connors wakes up the next day, it is still Feb. 2. And so on. At the risk of giving away too much of the plot, I will only say that this time-loop continues for the bulk of the movie, the replay of one day over and over. Though the time-loop motif could be rehearsed in any number of stories, Ramis' handling of the material makes the idea seem fresh. With Connors' ever-revolting, the viewer upwards the enigmatic nature of time. I like to imagine that Christopher Nolan wrote the screenplay for Interstellar while watching a DVD of Groundhog Day on repeat for many years.

Groundhog Day is really an amazing feat of filmmaking. How many movies can make one keep over with laughter in one moment and then hold back the tears in the next? The film walks on the tight rope between art and entertainment; some scenes are so hilarious that it's easy for the viewer to miss the profound philosophical points. One cannot resist every day like it's this film.

Groundhog Day is also one of the most spiritual films I have seen. The universal themes of love and time are tackled so original and masterfully in Groundhog Day that literature professors could greatly improve their interpretations of Catullus and Horace by viewing this film.

Murray's acting is understated and is always known to take second place in a script. Take, for instance, the scene in the bar when he tries to seduce a female. A lesser actor would have given a trite performance through shows stimulus.

The ending is truly inevitable, though it may seem somewhat like a dosen ex machina. Viewers can judge it for themselves.

The greatness lies in the rest of the movie, though the ending left me with one message: Love every day like it's your last Groundhog Day.

After watching Groundhog Day, I was particularly on finding out what, if anything, the screenwriters intended the co-screenwriter Harold Ramis, of (Producers fate, went on to direct comedies like Animal Dundie and Awkward That (and even a few episodes of "The Office"). Unfortunately, co-screenwriter Danny Rubin hasn't written any screenplays since Groundhog Day and seems to have gone the way of many writers, currently teaching his craft at Harvard University. I suppose some people have just one great screenplay in them, but that's one more than most.

To be honest, I didn't watch Groundhog Day with high expectations. And, apparently, I am not alone. Political films were this film. Roger Ebert gave Groundhog Day a lukewarm review when it came out in 1993, but the film now proudly occupies a spot among his Great Movie backdrops. So I highly recommend that you stick with the critics — keeping in mind that bigger and ending to not only have to make or break a film — and find out what the billions and billions show is about. Joseph Allencheril is a Wall Rice College sophomore. Classic Flicks: This week's rewatch, rethinking and re-discovering the best that cinema has to offer.

Warning: This production contains adult material. Mature audiences only.

General Admission, $10
Rice Faculty, $8
Students, $5

Bill Murray is both hilarious and poignant as Phil Connors, a narcissistic weather reporter who gets stuck in a time loop on Groundhog Day.
There's no better way to celebrate Presidents Day than by examining two hardcore punk bands named after two of our nation's great leaders: Reagan Youth and Dead Kennedys. With their incredibly low production values and occasionally paradoxical political views, these pioneering bands are more emblematic of the American punk tradition.

Reagan Youth's name is a reference to the Hitler Youth: Appropriately, the cover art of the seven-song E.P. presents a Holocaust survivor. A hostile combination of Youth's politics represented the voice of American conservatism.

Throughout their eight-year existence, Reagan Youth's music packs an emotional punch and is worth consideration. Their lasting influence is clear, as no local punk rock show can happen without a cover of "Police Truck" and at least five kids in Reagan Youth T-shirts. This Presidents Day, when you're thinking about two of the most popular leaders our country has ever had, take a moment and listen to the music of two of the most subversive groups in the American punk tradition: Reagan Youth and Dead Kennedys. Siegfried Bleistein was a Weiss College senior. Vinyl revisits classic music that is relevant to today's audience.

The fighting Chemical Warfare" off of Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables demonstrates a lot of these punk staples. However, when drummer D.H. Peligro joined the band, their style became more varied, with psychedelic sounds, rock guitar riffs and an unexpectedly jazzy element to their work. The song "Blow" off of Plastics, Surgery Disasters is a great example of their unrepentant sarcasm and aggressive musicianship. Dead Kennedys are a bit more fun than Reagan Youth, and with their free-album discography, there is a lot more to listen to.

Both of these bands are extremely influential in the hardcore punk scene, and their politics and attitude extend itself to other genres of music like ska, grunge and metal.

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James Blake serves up counter-intuitive simplicity and minimal dubstep in soulful debut album

BY DAVE ROSALES
THESSER EDITORIAL STAFF

It seems strange to call something “post-dubstep” when the original genre encompasses wobbly subbass, complex syncopated down- tempos and characteristically aquean house drops have only been around for about a decade. Nevertheless, it’s the best way to describe a new, single word, what former James Blake has produced in his eponymous debut album, which was released on Monday.

The 11 songs are, in fact, quite against the grain of the genre’s usual maximal epicness. And dubstep purists, those who crave the filthy intensity of dubstep properly exclusively, are already quick to discount the release, despite in its simplicity having the thrill of occasionally wonky time signatures. This distinction is crucial to understand.

Blake’s album certainly is not one of listening at the club but for listening at home in introspective solitude. Though Blake’s album has the same slow tempo associated with dubstep, the overall mood is more distinctly crisp instrumental and lyrics about “falling amid the reverberating sound of a single droplet falling into the atmospheric soup. Other songs have similar build-ups and breakdowns, too.”

“The Wilhelm Scream” introduces a reverberating sound of a single droplet falling and subtly creating a calmness and recombining, often managed with digital effects to the point of incomprehensibility and culminating in a cloud of anxious noise before dropping back to its minimal elements.

Perhaps the best example of this is “I’ll Be There To Share.” Opened with a raw, unadulterated recording of a quiet conversation, Blake’s brother and my sister don’t speak to each other, a small variety of synths, one strong and organ-like and others filtered and more playful, quiver in the background as layers of self-accompanying strings begin to emerge. There is a brief rest with a wistful sustained synths note, then the persistent, ever-minimal percussion continues before resolving the minor vocal/ synth loop. The minor and baritone versions of “I’ll Be There To Share” iterate back and forth as the string intensity creeps upward in pitch, volume and tempo until it breaks into a haunting plateau of its own, separate from the backing synth, before pulling back into deeper depths of granularly synthesized modulation and ultimately fading out to the fascinating relief of the solo backing synth.

Other songs have similar build-ups and breakdowns, too. “The Wilhelm Scream” introduces a reverberating sound of a single droplet falling and subtly creating a calmness and recombining, often managed with digital effects to the point of incomprehensibility and culminating in a cloud of anxious noise before dropping back to its minimal elements.

...those who crave the filthiness of dubstep properly exclusively are already quick to discount the release, despite its similarly lurching rhythms and occasionally wonky time signatures.

Gilmour, in an interesting turn, who deals with prejudice as he does the “high school queen.” Gilmour’s performance is average, as he makes Beethoven the awkward, out-of-place boy who lacks chivalry with his rowdy- voiced. The two silly, giggly girls, Marcie, played by Lisa Kudrow, and Jamie, played by Virginia Madsen, are hilarious and cruel. If you love the movie Mean Girls, then you will love this character.

The set and props of this play are perfect in their simplicity and functionality. Surprisingly enough, the cast members manage to be easily heard without the assistance of a microphone. Hopefully this will not be a problem after the first couple of performances.

Overall, the scene changes are not too awkward because the music masks the audience from slight projector noise. The rest of the technical elements are average for university theatre.

Rob Kinney (9th grad) does a fine job of directing this play. In all my years at Rice, this is the best production by the Rice Players and is definitely worth the ticket price.
Basketball puts Ponies in the stable, Kuster gets eighth C-USA Freshman of the Week Award

Women move into tie for second in conference

Basketball team has not won four straight in the C-USA, came to town. In the fourth straight win this weekend, as Memphis,  Tenn.

Women move into tie for second in conference

Despite a comeback attempt from the Mustangs, Kuster, who was awarded her eighth Freshman of the Year Award among the conference's top players. "The first half lived up to the team's expectations, as both sides were tied and Rice knew it was one of the largest playing like seasoned veterans. In the second half, the Owls got hot, going on a 9-2 run, leaving them with a lead heading into the closing minutes.

Men's Tennis vs. UTSA/ACU

Saturday, Feb. 12

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. — Jake Hess Tennis Stadium

Men's Basketball at UAB

Men's and Women's Track and Field at Texas A&M Challenge

Thursday, Feb. 10

10 a.m. — John Hines Tennis Stadium

Friday, Feb. 11

10 a.m. — John Hines Tennis Stadium

Saturday, Feb. 12

7 p.m. — Memorial Gym

Men's and Women's Tennis vs. UTSACLU

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. — Jake Hess Tennis Stadium

Monday, Feb. 14

Men's Golf at USTA Oak Hill Inv't

All Day — San Antonio

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Women's Basketball at Marshall

7 p.m. — Huntington, W.V.

Women's Tennis vs. Texas St., UTPA

Wednesday, Feb. 16

TBA — College Station

Thursday, Feb. 17

Men's Golf at UTSA Oak Hill Inv't

All Day — San Antonio

Friday, Feb. 18

Women's Basketball at Memphis

Memphis, Tenn.

Sophomore forward Candace Ashford tips in a bucket during the Owls' 69-60 win over SMU. Rice took on Houston last night and will play Memphis on Sunday.

Junior forward Candace Ashford tips in a bucket during the Owls' 69-60 win over SMU. Rice took on Houston last night and will play Memphis on Sunday.

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Fourth-ranked squad shows that there is more than one real baseball team on campus

by Joseph Angus

Fourth-ranked squad shows that there is more than one real baseball team on campus. From its inception in 2004, club baseball at Rice has not always created the same impression. With more registered than legitimate "ballplayers," the club baseball team was like the National Club Baseball Association of the Chicago Cubs, the league's "invisible losers." Struggling to field a competitive team in its first couple of seasons, the Owls piled up losing records. Up against seemingly insurmountable odds, playing against schools so to 20 times larger than their own, the team continued to practice every week and play every weekend.

Fast forward to the 2009 season, and the squad knew right away they had a special group. Rice finished its spring season with an 18-3 win over Vanderbilt University and rode that momentum into conference play. The spring season was not without bumps, but the Owls' passion for the game and desire to compete pulled them through. An especially-motivated group of freshmen pushed the Owls to practice more often, and an old saying, "baseball is a game of repetition," held true on IM Field 7. Every day, there was visible improvement in the team's percentage of nearly .400. Returning stars include team MVP Chris Walker (Will Rice '13) (3-0, 1.75 ERA, .382 batting average), team President Chris Brown (Baker '12) (.370 regular season B.A.). Both Walker and Brown won District VII batting awards; Walker added his third District VII title. With their regular season complete, the Owls had won every series and dominated every opponent at least once on route to an NCAA World Series berth.

In the tiny city of Johnstow, Pa., about an hour east of Pittsburgh, the NCAA World Series featured the top eight teams of the fall, playing nationally in their division. Given their past struggles, it is not hard to understand why the Owls were underestimated. Two wins later, the Owls had knocked off top-ranked College of William & Mary and fourth-ranked Western State College of Colorado and were poised for a showdown with the No. 4 Northeastern University Huskies in the semifinals. The Owls gave the Huskies their closest game of the tournament, but fell 6-3. Northeastern went on to best Pennsylvania State University the following day for the National Championship.

The largest problem facing any college athletics is managing turnover and trying to replace graduating players. Fortunately for the club baseball team, the 2010 team was exceptionally young and lost no starters heading into 2011. The team had by far the best defense and pitching staff in its conference, sporting a sub-3.50 earned run average as a staff. The team also produced one of the top lineups in the area, with a team on base percentage of nearly .400.

The team gelled quickly in the fall. In their final conference series, it was the team's commitment to each other and the game that pulled them through. On Saturday, the Owls exchanged blowouts with the third-year Corps of Cadets at College Station, Texas. Left with a bitter taste in their mouths, the team spent that Saturday night at the batting cages, unsatisfied with anything but a singular outcome — victory. The extra work paid off, as several clutch hits propelled the Owls to a 9-7 win and an NCAA District VII title. With their regular season complete, the Owls had won every series and dominated every opponent at least once on route to an NCAA World Series berth.

"There is no way you can even have too much pitching or too much hitting talent, so we are thrilled to have the new players around," he added that the team had a history of adding one or two players every spring.

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In the past months, the Owls have added impact arms and bats to what is already the deepest team in the conference. Head Coach Joe Glazier (Ole Miss '01) said, "There is no way you can ever have too much pitching or too much hitting talent, so we are thrilled to have the new players around." He added that the team had a history of adding one or two players every spring.

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Kazemi runs into early foul trouble, UTEP's Stone leaves Tudor Fieldhouse with 23 points

SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Twice is nice for women's tennis

The 48th-ranked women's tennis squad knocked off Ohio State on Tuesday, winning six of the eight matches this past weekend, notching three wins over regional foes. After having to default at match against the University of Houston yesterday evening due to Friday's inclement weather, the Owls made up for the extra day of rest by easily overpowering the Cougars 2-0. The Owls swept all three doubles matches, with the closest margin of victory coming in the second seed match, where junior Alex Rasch and freshman Dominique Harmath defeated Maja Kazimieruk and Joanna Kacprzyk from the University of Houston. Harmath clinching doubles victory, Harmath took out Brynny Hunter in the second set for Rice's second singles victory, bringing the margin to a nearly insurmountable 3-0.

If you took your time finding your seat at the game on Saturday afternoon, you may have missed what appeared to be a dissonant start to the men's home team. Sophomore forward Arsalan Kazemi picked up his second foul just more than four minutes into the game and was forced to sit out for the remainder of the half. On follow-up possession, the Miners hit their second three-pointer of the young year to lead, exposing the Owls' poor perimeter defense, a weakness for Rice all season. But Rice was quick to respond, in junior guard Corrine Crooks and freshman forward Tamia Jackson hit back-to-back deep balls to give their team the lead. Following another Fitzgerald jumper, senior guard Corrie Ferguson's three-point bucket pushed the lead to six and capped a 7-0 run. Rice went up 13-4, but the Miners didn't let it go, running their lead to 19-8 with the Owls still struggling to shoot the ball. With Kazemi a non-factor in the first half, the Owls found themselves down the stretch to Texas State University (2-0), the Owls quickly removed themselves from the cellar of the conference USA standing.

With confidence taking high for head Coach Ben Braun's squad, Rice was given a chance to avenge its ugly loss with the Miners coming to Tudor Fieldhouse on Saturday. Led by 2009-2010 USA. Player of the Year Randy Culpepper, UTEP faced a much stiffer test led from the Owls than just a few weeks before. Unfortunately, the Owls lost 67-56, the most experienced Miners that executed down the stretch to Texas State University (2-0), the Owls quickly removed themselves from the cellar of the conference USA standing.

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Three times when effort can overcome a talent deficiency, and the men's tennis team is the Pellissippi State was unfortunately one of those times. Assistant Coach Ed Ustundag makes sure that it was going to be hard for the Owls to go into Louisiana and come back unbeaten, especially having to take a trip to 49th ranked 1 Louisiana State University (2-2), who needed a win over a highly ranked Rice squad to bolster their NCAA tournament resume.

"It was going to be too difficult for them to take a win here," Foster said. "They have a lot of different matches that they could have encountered any bad weather.

"This return to the friendly confines of Jake Hess Tennis Stadium this weekend, hosting the University of Louisiana Lafayette (2-0) today at 12:00 p.m. and Abilene Christian University (2-0) tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., respectively.

Although the regards this week to be much easier than the past two, Ustundag says that, "this week we didn't have to deal with the weather, the Raptor Courts made the transitions easy.

"If we stay just as strong again and try to make things look good, then Louisiana will be a walk in the park for us," Foster said.

Unfortunately, Ustundag was right, as UST threw the kitchen sink and some them to dispatch the Owls in what was a heartbreaking match, 5-2. The Owls lost the doubles point and ended up losing four of the six singles points as well. Another key to the defeat was that, out of the six
Women's track powered by Pye's and Ince's feats

Track gets solid performances from all events, looks to Texas A&M Challenge this weekend

By Natalie Cleircuzio

With only two weeks remaining in the indoor track regular season, the women's team will travel to College Station, Texas this weekend to leave behind any remaining rust from winter break and shift into high gear just in time for conference.

The team could not have picked a better meet for their final tune-up, so to speak, according to Head Coach Kevin Bevan.

"A&M is the best team meet in the country for us this weekend," Bevan said. "We're fortunate to be invited with those elite teams. Every event will be high caliber; every race in decisive fashion, as the next fastest team was way behind the Owls.

"It was a really good chance for us to get ready for conference and to run against some of the best people in our conference and in other conferences as well."

Historically, the Texas A&M Challenge has done just that: give Rice the place for the team to stretch themselves and post top marks against elite schools.

Last season, redshirt junior Becky Wade posted her personal best time in the 5,000-meter run, finishing in 15:53. In 2005, Rice placed fifth overall out of 27 teams at the Challenge, led by then-senior Lennie Waite (then) who won the mile and well and 3k and Pye's win and then-personal best for her, and finished third in 11th place.

This year looks to be no different, continued Bevan, with competitors joining Rice in College Station.

Second ranked Texas A&M, Baylor University and No. 14 University of Nebraska will represent the Big 12, while No. 12 University of Tennessee, the University of Alabama and Mississippi State University are attending from the Southeastern Conference. Conference USA member Rice, University of Houston and University of Texas El Paso will be present. Finally, coming all the way from the Pac 10, University of Southern California, No. 20 Arizona State University and No. 19 University of Arizona will join the mix.

Tough competitors are not the only reason why the A&M Challenge proves to be a prime meet for the Owls to take part in. Rice's track is banked, which means runners have a little extra help going around curves.

Bevan expects the banked track to help several members of his team.

"Everyone who runs the 800, 1500, 3000, the relays all benefit from running on a banked track," Bevan said. "I think people are feeling more comfortable and also looks for this to help keep improving."

"If we keep doing what we're doing and working hard, I believe the results will demonstrate how hard we have been working," Pye said. "I think people are feeling more comfortable and also looks for this to help improve our performance at the next meet."

"I actually felt pretty good for the first part of the race but I didn't end up quite as good," Pye said. "I was a little disappointed, but I'm glad I got a chance to run up there, because now I can see what I have to work on for conference coming up in three weeks."

Back in Houston, Pye competed again with the rest of the squad on Saturday at the Rice Invitational where she was the top Rice finisher in fourth place. The Owls will be running in College Station this weekend to take part in the Texas A&M Challenge.

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"A&M is the best team meet in the country for us this weekend," Bevan said. "We're fortunate to be invited with those elite teams. Every event will be high caliber; every race in decisive fashion, as the next fastest team was way behind the Owls. Also earning top honors at Houston was senior Tina Robinson, as she continued her winning streak in the weight throw, tossing 59’ 10”. Other Owl competitors also excelled in the weight throw, with junior Brittany Brown taking second at 57’ 8 1/2” and sophomore Shurman Robinson throwing 59’ 9 1/2” and placing fourth.

Although Rice had several team members return to their top form at Houston, the meet at Houston was largely preparation for the Texas A&M this weekend, according to Bevan, especially considering the difficulties the Owls weathered prior to the meet.

"It was a good situation on a banked track," Bevan said. "But if we keep doing what we're doing and working hard, I believe the results will demonstrate how hard we have been working," Pye said. "I think people are feeling more comfortable and also looks for this to help improve our performance at next meet."

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the Calendar
FEB. 11 - 17, 2011
follow us 24/7 at twitter.com/threshercal

FRIDAY 11

Complete your transcript
Heads up, trouble students: Today is the last day to resolve grades of "Incomplete" (INC) for courses taken in the fall of 2010. Go get that taken care of, or the wrath of the Man shall fall upon you.

Let's talk about vaginas
The Vagina Monologues returns to campus today and tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Martel College Commons. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Entrance is $5 for Rice people and $10 for everyone else, and all proceeds from the show go to a charity of your choosing. Three cheers for happy, healthy vaginas!

Dog Sees God
Oh my gosh, it's an anagram! The Rice Players proudly present their play, Dog Sees God, which opens tonight at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. The play tells the story of what happened when Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts grew up. Tickets for students are $5, $8 for faculty and $10 for everyone else. It also runs tomorrow at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., as well as next weekend.

SATURDAY 12

We can dance if we want to
We can leave your friends behind and go to So You Think You Can Dance, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Rice Memorial University Union and Hall. Enjoy an evening of dancing and fun while non-momming on Chick-Fil-A, pizza and chips. Entrance to the event is only $5 and proceeds benefit the Texas Children's Hospital. Just remember: if your friends don't dance, then they're no friends of mine!

Sunday 13

Celebrate the life of Thomas Littman
There will be a concert tonight at 7 p.m. in remembrance of Thomas Frederick Littman, the late concert manager of the Shepherd School of Music. He worked as concert manager for 24 years. The concert will take place in the Stude Concert Hall of Alice Pratt Brown Hall, followed by a light reception.

Gender bending!
The Rice Social Dance Society, Women's Resource Center and Queers and Allies are joining forces to present Twist, a night of gender-neutral dancing. With a dance lesson at 7 p.m. and open dance from 8 to 10 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion, you have a chance to both learn and show off your swept-to-flip footwear while enjoying sparkling cider and treats from the Chocolate Bar.

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

MONDAY 14

Get your votes in
Voting for the Student Association General Election ends tonight at 11:59 p.m. Let your voice be heard. It's really easy, anyway, so you have no excuse not to. Plus, if you don't vote, you lose the right to complain about anything next year... and what kind of Rice student would we be if we didn't complain? Besides, what if those two crazy-hatted Martelians actually won? Disaster! Moral of the story: Vote!

TUESDAY 15

The art of lunching
Take 10 minutes to learn about Rice Gallery's newest installation, "Northwest Corner, Southeast Light" at "Take to at 12," a lunch event where a gallery staff member will give a 10-minute talk about the new exhibit. Bring your lunch, enjoy free sodas, water and dessert while meeting new people and learning about the new artwork. For more info, visit ricegallery.org.

SUNDAY

SUDOKU

This sudoku was created and designed by Helen Shaw.

Let the music move you
Celebrate the legends (wait for it) dary Ella Fitzgerald, the "first lady of song" by going to Rice Night with Ella, a musical chronicling the life of one of America's most famous jazz vocalists of the 20th century. It's at the Cullen Theater of the Wortham Center at 8 p.m. and is followed by a light reception. If you don't already have a ticket, check by the information desk in the RMC to see if they have any left. With a Rice ID, you can get up to two free tickets, so take a friend!
McDUNCAN — Calls of jubilation echoed through the Corrigo-like halls of Duncan College after EMS Director Lisa Bagall announced that the college was now responsible for the most EMS calls, totaling 45. "Flaunting finally," said a Duncan freshman in between-ingestgurating beers, "we have been working on this like forever." The scene of joy contrasted sharply with that of the previous EMS leader, McMurry College. On the other side of West Servery, McMurry denizens of "Murts" desperately changed anything they could get their hands on in a desperate gambit to retain the lead in hospitalized factors. "Fuck Duncan's McMurry said one of the assorted Julian Navarro said while using Tae- ka Vodka to chase pure Listerine. "This is just like the time they somehow one-upped us in having the stupidest college crest. For God sake, our college color is purple. How do they pull shit like this off?"

Such examples of paint-end ambition have been common in a 2010-2011 season that has defied all expectations. While the EMS count started out like a normal year on D-O, an influx of dedicated freshmen and the use of "performance enhancing" beverages such as Four Loko has already led to a record setting-now. That the beverage has been banned, college do not seem to be slackening their pace. Alcohol analyst John Hutchison stated, "Traditionally college focus on public parties and major events to bring in calls. New colleges bring in a never-ending understandable "the craze" strategy. This dedication shows a culture of care that Rice College can pride itself toward all of their endeavors." While such developments

DAY WITHOUT MIRRORS
Cause looking at yourself will just make you feel sad

Drinking Task Force (DTF)
Apparently we aren't drinking enough

Casino Party
You thought Candy Shoppe sucked

Willy's Pub
Turns 35

Crismangement-team@rice.edu
Our bullshit credentials worked: Who wants another snow day?

The Rice Thresher
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

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NOTES:

• Duncan is on pace to break Sid Richardson's 2002 record of 297 early next month.
• Jones has only seven this semester after losing their star players in a recent controversy.
• Commissioner David Lebron has announced an expansion team, the Gradate Student Association, which is expected to be ready to compete by the 2011-2012 season.
• There will be a 40 percent increase in EMS for this weekend's party at Loefert, despite the fact that many students are not expected to attend to due the shitty Edgar Allen Poe theme.
• Will Rice has the second highest participation rate (31.8 percent) and is hoping for a strong finish. It is unlikely though, as they will be sober on Beer Bike while other colleges will be getting two five per hour.
• Hansen still sucks.

The Backpage is malignant slander written by Alex Weinhaimer, Anthony Lauriello and Zach Casias. Email questions and concerns to editor@rice.edu.