State may cut TEG funding

BY HALLIE JORDAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Rice expects to see a drop of approximately $1 million in financial aid funds from the Texas Equalization Grant Program this year due to a $34.2 million state budget shortcoming for the fiscal year of 2011-2012.

Last year, Rice received $6.5 million from the state annually to help support Texas resident students at private universities whose families' average income is less than $50,000.

Even with these special funds in the operating budget, efforts made to cover the $1 million deficit.

Something called an unrestricted contingency fund allows for variations of budget uncertainties, Collins said. "We are taking this into account as we plan the fiscal year budget and will make sure we have sufficient contingency funds in the budget," Collins said.

With these special funds in the operating budget, efforts are made to make up for the predicted million dollar deficit will not go unnoticed.

"This will make the budget even more challenging to manage. A million dollars will have its impact," Collins said.

According to Rice President David Taylor, Rice student aid must be able to both judge the feasibility of proposals and the kinds of proposals that will be most useful for both grad and undergraduate students.

Anthony, the internal vice president of the Graduate Student Association, said that her primary concern for the committee is to ensure that there is collaboration between the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. "We work closely on projects that will be valuable to both of us," Sheikh said. "They're ready to fight for what they think is what is right for a Rice student and to see VISION, page 10

Alfa committee solicits student input

BY SETH BROWN

Thursday, February 11

Get a $6 million idea? The Student Senate's Asset Liquidation Appropriations Committee is soliciting student ideas — great and small — for proposals to submit to President David Leebron on how to use $6 million of the money from the sale of KTRU.

Committee Chair Sethi Sheikh, a Martel College junior, said that the committee is seeking input both online, through ALFA's website and Facebook, and in person.

According to Sheikh, the committee will analyze it and put together a report to help the committee's final decision Leebron ultimately makes on what to do with the money.

Sheikh said that the committee hopes to prioritize the highest quality projects, and that profit is not what is important. "We are looking for impact in terms of social impact and change," Sheikh said.

Taylor said that his job on the committee is to act on ideas from students and to provide the committee with feedback. "I will not necessarily vote on what to do, but to give insight on how to shape proposals and the kinds of things that are realistic or unfeasible."

"I will take a good idea wherever we can get it," Taylor said. "What the committee is trying to do is collect input from students and get the committee to provide us with great ideas."

Taylor said student input is valued and should consider the future when making their recommendations to the committee.

Students can submit proposals and suggestions for the committee at alfa.rice.edu or facebook.com/RiceALFA.

Further VISION participant Aaron Sharp said that his experience at the event last year solidified his decision to come to Rice.

Many of the people who I met THROUGH VISION are still my friends here," Sharp said. "VISION gave me a taste of what it is like to be a Rice student and

Minimums get VISION of life at Rice

WONDERING WHERE ALL THE PROSPERITY IS, students at Rice are hoping to see an increase in their award packages.

Prof. Provost R. Travis Koliha said that money that might have gone to graduate students, but a small amount also goes to undergraduates. Walker said Rice students who receive aid typically have at least a $10,000 increase in their award packages.

"Although most are not yet admitted, out-of-state students are likely to be competitive applicants at a number of schools," Vilhauer said.

Vilhauer noted that Rice received a $6.5 million state budget shortcoming for the fiscal year of 2011-2012. Even with these special funds in the operating budget, efforts made to make up for the predicted million dollar deficit will not go unnoticed. "This will make the budget even more challenging to manage. A million dollars will have its impact," Collins said. Since the Texas legislature only injects every two years, the financial aid office cannot predict if the grant will permanently be affected.

"This has been bad for schools who don't cover one hundred percent of need, those students might not get funding, which is really a concern," Walker said.

The Student Government Relations Corp. Kennedy will be taking a group of students to Austin in these weeks to advocate for funding for the TEG program.

Private schools are educating between 50 and 60 percent of state's students, and we would like to continue to get some reimbursement for our efforts," Walker said.

Jede locx ess anders

So your calendar says Maadi Grass isn't even after spring break? Maybe in New Orleans... but Hassmarkers Maadi Grass party is tomorrow right at 11. On a completely unrelated note, anyone know what the terminal velocity of those little beads is?

Build 'em up and knock 'em down

The annual engineering week student competition is on Wednesday from 3-5 p.m., and while it's too late to register, we still recommend dropping by and checking it out.

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VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE NO. 20
STUDENT-RUN
SINCE 1916
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

One of the prospective students visiting for VISION weekend plays piano.

The Black Student Association is hosting two films this weekend for Black History Month:

"Although most are not yet admitted, out-of-state students are likely to be competitive applicants at a number of schools," Vilhauer said.

Funds Appropriations Committee is to shoot down ideas, but rather to give insight on how to shape proposals and the kinds of things that are realistic or unfeasible.

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The Black List Project nonprofit organization that has been an important part of the diversity of Rice is the only private school in Texas that covers one hundred percent of need, those students might not get funding, which is really a concern," Walker said. According to Rice President David Taylor, Rice student aid must be able to both judge the feasibility of proposals and the kinds of proposals that will be most useful for both grad and undergraduate students.

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The Rice Thresher
Student input necessary for success of ALFA committee

It is rare that a university has a multi-million dollar budget devoted solely to improving student life; therefore, it is imperative for the students to be involved with this unique opportunity (see story pg. X). The ALFA committee has made it a primary priority to maximize the amount of student input it accrues prior to submitting a proposal to administration.

Students have the opportunity to contribute their ideas on how to spend the approximately $6 million left over from the sale in various ways. Students, be sure to fill out the surveys and send your stimulating, valuable input to the committee. In addition, meet with members of the ALFA committee as they come around to college PRDs and cabinet meetings; the Thresher encourages each and every student to participate in this unique opportunity; quite frankly, there is no excuse to being apathetic about six million dollars.

The expenditure of the funds will be towards something that benefits the current life of all students — undergraduates and graduates. Nonetheless is imperative for the student body and the committee to ensure that the money is spent wisely so that administration is ready for responsible funding. This is our money, from one of our student organizations, and the administration should not be underestimating our ability to prioritize our needs. Six million dollars. There is simply no way to emphasize how enormous of an impact that sum of money could have on our lives in the present and the future of the university.

As the spring rolls around we prepare to bid adieu to several of our colleagues as they leave us for the higher callings of our student body and the committee to ensure that the money will be spent towards something that students will benefit from for years to come. The expenditure of the funds will be towards something that benefits the current life of all students — undergraduates and graduates. Nonetheless is imperative for the student body and the committee to ensure that the money is spent wisely so that administration is ready for responsible funding. This is our money, from one of our student organizations, and the administration should not be underestimating our ability to prioritize our needs. Six million dollars. There is simply no way to emphasize how enormous of an impact that sum of money could have on our lives in the present and the future of the university.

A fond farewell to our departing colleagues

As the spring rolls around we prepare to bid adieu to several of our colleagues as they leave us for the higher callings of real life. Our outgoing editor-in-chief, Anna Wilde, has accompanied us on many long, late, and sweaty nights. Her baked goods, consistent ability to lose rock, paper, scissors bets, and constant Spurs boasting made her the perfect team mom. Her neglect of sleep, ability to find coffee splices at 5 a.m. and uncanny controversy dodging made her the perfect editor in chief. Let me, with all my heart, express my gratitude to Anna for all her hard work by asking her one question: do you want to be a part of history?

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR)

The Thresher apologizes to any individuals offended by last week's Backpage. The content was meant to be satirical in nature, any offense caused was unintentional and regrettable.

THE RICE Thresher
Friday, February 16, 2018

2 EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

thresher@rice.edu, twitter.com/TheRiceThresher

Online Comment of the Week

In response to “Features: joke candidates are no laughing matter,” Feb. 4: I served as Student Association President from 2009-2010, and I have to say that the assertion that the SA has been “inactive” “as we bed with the administration” is absurd. And to blame the SA for the decline in campus “productiveness” doesn’t make much sense to me either.

You left out one example of an area that students constructively grew around construction. During my entire time at Rice I heard students complain that they didn’t have enough input in the planning process of future facilities on campus. So a group of us met with various administrators, including President (David) Leebron to discuss master planning for the university. We put together a survey to gather student input on all sorts of aspects of campus facilities (bathrooms, parking, green space, campus dynamics, sports & recreation, etc.). We received great feedback from that survey, which we turned into a detailed report that showed the priorities of the administration.

The purpose of the report was to explain the general perspective of students regarding campus facilities in order to discuss the various options over specific projects that would allow students to provide meaningful feedback to the administration. This was a huge success.

HD2 channel? • HD radio? Is that the same as satellite radio? What?

The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1923, is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters except during examination periods and holidays. The Thresher is available online at http://www.thresheronline.com. Letters to the Editor must be received by 5 p.m. the Monday prior to publication and must be signed, including college and year if writing a thesis. Letters are limited to 150 words in length. The Thresher reserves the rights to edit letters for content and length and to place when we see fit.

Jocelyn Wright, former news editor, often expressed her opinions loudly and firmly — frequently fueling the fire between staff editors. Jocelyn always represented what she believed in, namely Vagina Monologues and Wiess College. Also hailing from Wiess, Natalie Clericuzio, sports editor will be leaving us this spring. Her southern gentility, steadfast devotion to her sport, and always striving to make coverage of Rice Sports more accessible through blogs and the Twittersphere.

The Thresher bids a farewell to our colleagues and wishes them the best of luck in the future. May your paths lead you to success and away from trolling the Thresher website comment section under obscure on-line handles.

Note

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America has opportunity to counter radicalism

The traditional order of the Middle East is being torn asunder. For decades, the United States has supported dictators who in most cases were backed by the very states that they oppressed and controlled. It is now clear to even the most obtuse observer that the Obama administration must now break with this tradition and work to fundamentally engage the Arab street and show that we do not need merely clients, but companions and partners in the journey of democracy.

Karthik Soora

However, most U.S. policymakers are looking at these protests as a potential problem. They worry about real, oil, and radical Islamists. They seem to think that those uprisings and protests are something that must be contained and subdued, rather than something that must be engaged. It is absolutely critical to understand that the protests and demonstrations in the Arab world are genuine, spontaneous, and driven by a desire to demand political freedom.

Cody Shilling

For those worrying about whether the transition will lead to a change in the stability of the country, the truth is no. The military has said Egypt will "remain committed to all of its international treaties." An implicit reference to its treaty with Israel. America has reason to worry about a change in the dynamic. The country may actually see a hope for real democratization, which would mean a region with more stability and a greater sense of self-reliance.

Cody Shilling is a Will Rice College sophomore.

We are definitely going to need a new Arab leader. Is it any wonder that when a government begins to heavily control information, the people rise up and demand freedom. The Egyptian government, for example, tried to cover up the protest and maintain control. But it failed. The people want to know what is happening, and they are not going to stop until they do.

For those of you who are still not convinced about the value of democracy, I would like to share a quote with you. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." That is exactly what the Egyptian people are afraid of. They are afraid of the government's attempt to suppress their voice and control their thoughts. They want to be heard and to have a say in their own future. And that is what democracy is all about.

Karthik Soora is a Rice College sophomore.

Culture of care extends to aiding peers with mental health issues

I'm clinically depressed. I take antidepressants, and I see a therapist in the Counseling Center regularly. If you were to run into me today — perhaps chatting in the senior, sitting late in cof f. I would have no idea. And why would you? Because I look normal. I know, you'd probably see me differently — you might judge me, look down on me, pity me or maybe even avoid me. So why am I telling you this? Because it's time to break the silence.

Allen Liao

Oh yes, all we know that Rice is one of the "happiest" colleges in the country. And it certainly seems that way when we talk to our friends about classes, parties, campus events, weekend plans — we work hard, we play hard, we have

about. And we have a chance to finally put our

Cody Shilling is a Rice College sophomore.

fun, we're happy, productive, successful. But the sobering truth is that under the surface, too many of us are struggling to stay afloat. Too many of us are affected by mental health problems, too many of us are struggling to stay alive. Even if you probably had no idea. And why would you? Because I look normal. I know, you'd probably see me differently — you might judge me, look down on me, pity me or maybe even avoid me. So why am I telling you this? Because it's time to break the silence.

Allen Liao

It is a good day when authorities who have been in power for over 30 years step down, and all signs point towards democratization and an end to totalitarianism in a country's political system. That is a unique and what a hopeful thing. Former President Hosni Mubarak renounced his position last week and the new leadership of the government of Egypt — the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces — even announced that the election of a parliament which came to power in an unprecedentedly transparent election will be a direct path to change the way their government works, which is exactly what we are watching in Egypt. That is why this is such a powerful message for the entire Middle East as well as the rest of the world.

Cody Shilling

But we must be careful. We cannot let this change in the Middle East be a cause for concern, nor should we allow another iron fist ruler to seize power. We must not let these transitions and protests be a way for the West to control the region. We have an opportunity to bring democracy to the Middle East. Yes, it is possible. It is a region of client states into democratic sentiments to be consolidated in its early years, and we must take care not to let a populist frenzy seize control of the momentum away from a controlled, deliberate process to bring a truly democratic society.

For all of President George W. Bush's rhetoric, we now have an opportunity. We have an opportunity to bring democracy to the Middle East. Yes, it is possible. It is a region of client states into democratic sentiments to be consolidated in its early years, and we must take care not to let a populist frenzy seize control of the momentum away from a controlled, deliberate process to bring a truly democratic society.

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SA GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

In the Student Association general elections held from Feb. 8 to Feb. 14, 47 percent of the undergraduate student body voted. The ballot featured 22 positions and eight proposed amendments. Names of runners-up are given in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>REACTION</th>
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</table>
| SA President   | Georgia Lagoudas            | "I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as SA President, and I am happy to see the tremendous support for the SA for the year. I know that we can work together to bring the SA out to the student body and serve as a centralized hub of information, ideas and initiatives. Looking forward to a great year."
| SA Internal VP | (Adrienne Waddell)          | "I wish the best of luck to Georgia next year, and I know she'll do a great job. I look forward to continuing to help the Rice community."
| SA External VP | Sanjula Jain                | "I'm really excited to serve my peers as External Vice President. I'm open to hearing any suggestions, and I'm working to get more places onto the Hedgemon, involve more students on family weekend and come to students' interests." |
|                | (Isabella Adamik)           | "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to run alongside some great people. I knew going into the election that whatever the results, Rice would be in good hands. Best of luck to the incoming SA Exec!"

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>REACTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA Treasurer</td>
<td>Ellen Liu</td>
<td>&quot;I am honored and excited to be elected Treasurer and can't wait to serve the undergraduate community with my fellow Executive Board members.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Grace Ge)</td>
<td>&quot;Being a part of the SA election was another valuable Rice experience that I won't forget.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoonjin Min</td>
<td>&quot;I can't say I was really surprised, but I'm really excited. The whole Exec team is female next year, and I'm really excited to work with them.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;I hope to do a lot with KTRU in the next year. There are plans in the works, including making our content easily accessible via the internet.&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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**THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT.**

Dear Rice University Students,

We are writing to express our serious concerns about alcohol abuse on campus over the last several months. As college masters, we have noticed both collectively and individually an increasing number of alcohol incidents. This anecdotal evidence is borne out by numbers from both RUMS and RUPD that show a significant rise in alcohol-related calls and treatment increases which are beyond that explainable by the growth of our student population alone. While we recognize that the majority of our students behave responsibly when it comes to alcohol, we believe that the current climate is both different from what it was a few years ago and worrisome. We are calling on all Rice students to join with us to reverse the current course by encouraging, and even insisting, that drinking on campus does not create problems for individuals, for our college communities and for our university.

Though the role of the college masters is primarily one of mentorship, the present alcohol problem has diverted our attention ever more to student safety and well-being, both for those of you who choose to drink and those who do not. We are asking for you to join with us to reaffirm our commitment to support a community in which personal freedom and personal responsibility are both valued and interwined. But part of our respect for these principles is predicated on the understanding that we all take initiative to safeguard each other's welfare.

Furthermore, our efforts cannot simply be reactive. They must be proactive and preventative as well. Please call RUMS immediately when a situation with alcohol becomes out of control or dangerous. But we also urge you to work diligently to prevent these situations from arising at all. If you are drinking or you are in a situation where drinking is occurring, please and promote moderation and reflect on the degree to which "Rice moderation" differs from social drinking, seek or create recreational activities that do not involve alcohol; encourage a caring and nurturing atmosphere at your college; make use of the wellness, counseling and other support systems and resources on campus; and always watch out for each other.

As troubled as we are about the status quo, we are determined to work with students to achieve a healthy and safe campus. We believe this begins with a renewed emphasis on personal and communal responsibility, and a recognition that our campus culture is shaped by all of our individual and collective decisions and behaviors. We are confident that with your help, we can realize our shared goal: a positive, supportive community in which to study, work and live.

Sincerely,

The College Masters

Ivy Jan and Rosemary van der Werff - Baker College
Steve and Laura Cox - Brown College
Luis Dano Gothberg and Marnie Hilton - Duncan College
Rob Griffin and Ann M. Adam Griffin - Hanszen College
Rudy and Nancy Guerra - Jones College
Marcelo Pasquini and Marie Nathalie Contou Carrere - Lovett College
Ted Tremblay and Beata Lach - Martel College
Karm Al Zand and Derek Phillips - McMurtry College
Dale and Elise Sawyer - Sid Richardson College
Michael Gustin and Denise Klein - Wiess College
Mike Wolf and Paula Krisko - Will Rice College

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011
SA GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>REACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sammy the Owl</td>
<td>Jonathan Hammann</td>
<td>&quot;I plan on really turning it up and increasing attendance and enthusiasm for all Rice athletics to the best of my ability!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natasha Kappaya</td>
<td>&quot;It feels good to know that we can sensibly dance into the same position next year.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Council Senior Reps.</td>
<td>Travis Smith</td>
<td>&quot;I look forward to seeing who else we pick up in the spring elections.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew Patterson</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kern Vijayvargiya</td>
<td>&quot;It feels great. I look forward to seeing a fourth and final term on the Honor Council.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Fwu</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Council Junior Reps.</td>
<td>David French</td>
<td>&quot;I'm really proud to have the opportunity to continue being involved in what makes this school great.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trey Burns</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erin O'Brien</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abby Endler</td>
<td>&quot;I feel really honored to be chosen to represent the sophomore class.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Cavallo</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adriana Bracho</td>
<td>Could not be reached for comment</td>
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All four referenda pass:
Honor Council External Vice Chair Kaleb Underwood:
"We are extremely excited that the referenda passed and that they passed with such a large margin. We are really glad — we think that this is going to really make our system better by giving us a document that the honor system can function under effectively and can accurately represent what our system is all about. I think our college reps did a fantastic job getting the word out to their colleges, I think the high positive turnout was because students realized that these were not major overhauls of the system — they were changes to make the system run better."

"On my Honor, ..."

Of the 87 students involved in the 50 Honor Council cases of the 2009-2010 academic year:

HEARINGS
38 in violation
- F + expulsion: 1
- F + 3*: 4
- F + 2: 4
- F + 1: 7
- F: 4
- *Failing grade in course plus 1 semester suspension
- 3 LGR*: 3
- 2 LGR: 9
- 1 LGR: 2
- Letters of reprimand: 4

27 WITHOUT HEARINGS
- 18 withdrawn under Article XII
- 8 dropped at investigation
- 1 pending
Panel discusses future of human spaceflight in U.S.

Students, alumni, faculty and staff explored space at a panel discussion on human spaceflight in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy on Tuesday, Feb. 15. The presentation, titled "U.S. Human Spaceflight: Context and Solutions," discussed NASA's future plans, including the possible commercialization of space travel, and featured prominent speakers from the aerospace industry.

The Baker Institute's Space Policy Program—a regular sponsor of such space-related events—brought together a diverse group of speakers from the aeronautics industry, including the possible commercialization of space travel, and featured prominent speakers from the aerospace industry.

Howard DeCastro, engineer of the Apollo program and former chief of systems engineering for the space shuttle, shared his insights on the shuttle's future. "We've retained the workforce and its critical skills," DeCastro said. "But in the end, it's NASA's decision." DeCastro described NASA's strategies to maximize the shuttle's use of the shuttle program from NASA and provide a logistical advantage and the U.S. its own method of sending astronauts to the international space station. He also said that the shuttle's use of the shuttle's available space could be increased to 60,000 pounds into space and bring a significant load back to Earth as well.

DeCastro also said that the shuttle's availability for providing its parts and its cargo operations. "I think the idea is good, but the delivery of policy, contacts and proposals is half," Castilleja said. "I hope we've found a way forward that will save jobs and talent and reinvigorate a passion for space exploration that has been lost in the discussions."
Wisconsin Senate considers anti-union bill

Lawmakers in Wisconsin are looking to pass a bill that would eradicate nearly all of the collective bargaining rights of government workers. The bill would also mandate that public workers pay half of their pension costs and at least 12.6 percent of their health care coverage costs. These proposed changes would save the state approximately $300 million in the next two years and at least $30 million by this July. Wisconsin is currently facing a $5.6 billion budget shortfall and hopes to solve its budgetary problems with this bill, which has been called the "most aggressive anti-union bill in the nation". On Wednesday, approximately 20,000 protesters gathered in the statehouse as part of a demonstration while more than 40 percent of the teachers in a Madison school district union called in sick, forcing the district to close for the second day in a row. Source: The Washington Post

Consumer prices increase

For the seventh consecutive month, U.S. consumer prices have risen due to simultaneous rises in energy and food prices. Fuelled by the rising cost of petrol, which has increased by 13.4 percent in the past year, energy prices have risen due to simultaneous rises in energy and food prices. Fuelled by the rising cost of petrol, which has increased by 13.4 percent in the past year, energy prices have increased by 2.1 percent while food prices have increased by 0.5 percent. Core consumer prices have increased beyond analysts' predictions, providing additional evidence that inflation is likely to become a growing concern. Notably, despite the rise in overall consumer price index figures, prices in the automobile industry and the medical care industry have decreased. The Federal Reserve has stated that sharp increases in commodity and energy prices will alter its initial predictions for the expected levels of inflation in 2011. Source: Financial Times

Egyptian President calls in sick, forcing the district to close for the second day in a row. Source: The Washington Post

Civil unrest in Bahrain, Libya

Protesters in Bahrain and Libya were active this week, disrupting political change. In Bahrain, anti-government protesters, who have gathered in Tripoli, the protest camp, which has been set up in the streets of Tripoli, the capital of Libya. Inspired by the successes of the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, protesters have been using social network sites like Facebook and Twitter to organize themselves. In response, Gulf countries have proposed increasing the salaries of government workers and releasing over 100 suspects.
RUPD removes unregistered bikes, frees space

BY TIMA OU
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rice University Police Department has been removing unregistered bicycles in an initiative to motivate students to register their bikes.

Sixteen bikes had their locks cut and were taken from around Lovett College on Wednesday. Baker College and Will Rice College also had unregistered and abandoned bikes removed earlier this month, and students from McMurtry and Duncan received notices earlier this month regarding the removal of unregistered bikes next Friday.

RUPD Major Dianna Marshall said available staff members are periodically sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair. The next time available staff members are periodical-ly sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair. The next time available staff members are periodical-ly sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair. The next time available staff members are periodical-ly sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair. The next time available staff members are periodical-ly sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair. The next time available staff members are periodical-ly sent around the Rice campus to identify and tag abandoned bikes — usually identified by flat tires or by a state of disrepair.

Students can go to RUPD to retrieve their bikes, but before RUPD returns them, the students must register their bikes and show that they have a secure lock.

"It's a piece of cake," Marshall said. "It might take you two minutes.

McMurtry sophomore Marisa Dieken said the process of registering a bike with RUPD is very simple, but she said she does not know why RUPD considers bike registration important.

"I don't think the RUPD makes it very clear why it's urgent for unregistered bikes to be confiscated," Dieken said. "I registered my bike, but I only did it so my bike would not be confiscated."

However, Director of Sustainability Richard Johnson said he would want to see more substantial data and statistics before stating that there was a shortage of bike stands at Rice. Johnson said so of summer of 2008, there were 1,638 bike rack spaces available around the Rice campus.

According to Johnson, 60 have been added to Duncan, 60 to McMurtry and 120 to the Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center. He said there will also be additional bike racks added at the Brockman Hall of Physics.

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Facilities, Engineering and Planning Manager of Communications Samsung Glenn said that the construction that began in 2007 at Rice, including the Seabrook Pavilion, the Rec Center and the renovation of the South Colleges, has added 200 bicycle racks of varying capacity for students, faculty and staff.

Glenn said the issue with an apparent shortage of bike racks on campus may be an issue of the locations of the bike racks. For instance, more employers have been using the bike racks around FE&P if it was located to be more accessible, she said.

"For the most part, some of the bike racks currently installed on campus are filled to capacity during peak hours, and there are many unutilized racks," Glenn said.

Regarding types of bike stands, Glenn said FE&P is phasing out the old-style, padded bike racks in favor of the semenator bike stands, which are more durable and provide more security for bikes, because they are anchored into the ground with small concrete footings.

Johnson said he suspects maintenance problems lie behind the abandonment of bikes. According to Johnson, Rice launched a new program this year in which student bike representatives at residential colleges are responsible for identifying abandoned bikes at bike racks and teaching their peers about bike maintenance. Bike reps have been appointed at five residential colleges — Jones College, McMurtry, Brown College, Martel College and Sid Richardson College.

Johnson said the role of the bike reps is to help create a bicycle-friendly environment at Rice by making sure that students have an approachable resource to assist them with bike problems. He said he hopes the bike rep program, the upcoming bike shop started by SID Richardson (sophomore) Michael Fiedl and Ben Sacks, and a successful bike sharing program will have as positive an effect.

"Over the past year, I've witnessed a dramatic increase in interest in bicycles at Rice," Johnson said. "I think we're on our way to becoming a campus with a strong bicycle culture, which is particularly remarkable for a school located in famously car crazy Houston, Texas."

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Achcar defies views of Arabs

BY HALLIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR


Achcar said his 400-page book explains that he believes the perception of the Arab world as anti-Semitic and extremist is unfounded.

"Since 2001, with 9/11, there has been a rise in Islamophobia and a depiction of the Arab narrative as highly influential in American thinking," Achcar said.

Achcar says he has observed a surge in the clash of "narratives." Historical records substantiate current perceptions, between Israelis and Arabs and feel a need to investigate the conflict in his book.

"Basically, in deconstructing 'narratives' and understanding their forward toward convergence of 'narrative' and a change in attitude," Gilbert Achcar

First, he says Arab are overwhelmingly critical of Israel, although that is often perceived otherwise. Secondly, he says a belief in Marxism and communism leads to higher concentrations of minorities, who might have extremist ideals, taking power. Thirdly, he said that often Arab countries are seen as very nationalist, when the opposite is much more different. Finally, Islam fundamentalism contributes greatly to the anti-Semitic perception. The fundamentalists follow a very literal interpretation of Islam, leading to the most significant amount of anti-Semitism.

With these four ideas, he stressed that Arab attitudes cannot be viewed as one-dimensional.

Though Achcar explained that much of the anti-Semitic perception stems from history, he defended more recent Arab actions, citing World War II as an example.

"Historically, the involvement of Arabs in the second World War who supported the Allied powers was a sentiment that would have been compared with those who worked with the Allies," Achcar said.

Achcar said the discussion was introduced by Rice Arabic Studies professor Lisauna Malouf. Jones College senior Emily Romano said it was Malouf's influence that encouraged her to attend.

"I came because I had taken classes with Dr. Malouf, but I feel that I still don't understand a lot about Middle Eastern politics and want to learn more."
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 Gorman 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.

**INTERVIEW BY BROOKE BULLOCK**

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**What is your $6,000,000 legacy?**

- **ALFA**
  ALFA.rice.edu
was a strong reinforcement in my decision to come to Rice.”

Students who attended from outside of the Houston area were offered reimbursements for certain travel expenses, up to a limited dollar amount. After meeting their hosts, students embarked on a bus tour of Houston, which allowed them around the Texas Medical Center, Museum District, Houston Zoo and Downtown’s Discovery Green. The bus then dropped them off at Treebeards downtown for dinner with their hosts as well as program volunteers.

“Treebeards at Market Square was chosen because they can hold the number of students, hosts and volunteers that need to be fed since the size of the program has grown out all on-campus locations,” Villaflores said. “This choice also allows us to take the participants off campus for an evening to experience a little of Houston.”

Students visited classes on Monday morning from 9 a.m. to noon and attended informational meetings for the individual academic schools and tours of facilities in the afternoon. The Center for Civic Engagement conducted an information session later in the day before a formal faculty and alumni dinner held in the Rice Memorial Center Great Hall on Monday evening. The last scheduled activity of the program was an activity night at Willy’s Pub, which includes, games and karaoke. Students departed campus on Tuesday morning. VISION attendee Omomayowa Olawoyin said she enjoyed the experience.

“I think that it will definitely have a large impact on my decision when April rolls around,” Olawoyin said. “I’ve been exposed to the teachers, staff, students, dorms, not to mention the great serveries. This experience has been great since it really brings you into the school, and you get a real feel for the environment.”

Rice students had their admission to the Houston Aquarium subsidized on Saturday for Rice Day at the Downtown Aquarium, sponsored by the Passport to Houston program.
Relish: Big Red Cock is what's for dinner

Siegfried Bilstein
and Dan Nelson

We’re pretty into President David Lebron and his Vision for the Second Century, so we went to eat at the Bio- sciences Research Collaborative last weekend. It was a poor choice. Dan swallowed something really bad and had to be hospitalized, while Siegfried got lost in all of the empty office space. To cheer ourselves up, we grabbed a whole bunch of doughnuts and went to check out a different BRC, located in the Washington area, which was in the New York Times once, so it has to be cool. The BRC, which stands for Big Red Cock (h/t) is not a gay bar — it’s a gastropub! Gastropub is in one of the pretentious words you learn when you pre- fer to read a food critic for your school’s paper, and it means “a place that serves really nice (expensive) burgers and beers” while the BRC is a great gastropub, it’s comparable to similar res- taurants in the area, and it wouldn’t be our first choice among them in terms of food, although the service is by far the best we’ve had in Houston.

I Am Number Four

ANTHONY LAURELLO
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Of all the myriad film genres, none is more awkward than the teen action movie. The new film by director D.J. Caruso (Eagle Eye), I Am Number Four serves as an ex- emplar of a film where the enor- mous concerns of a high school crush and the fate of the world weigh equally on the protagonist’s mind. While the film has a few glimmering mo- ments, it ends up transforming a relatively strong premise into a ridiculous tale that the audience is more likely to laugh at than connect to.

The story focuses on teenager John Doe (Alex Pettyfer, Tam- ortenti), the fourth in a group of nine extraterrestrials sent to Earth as infants for an unknown greater purpose involving their superhu- man abilities. The evil Mogadorians pursue the nine, in order of their numbers, so they can conquer and dominate our fair planet.

The film opens with the murder of Number Three, forcing John and his guardian (Timothy Olyphant, The Crazies) to leave Florida for the town of Para- disguise, Ohio. In the picturesque town, John makes friends with the socially ostracized Sam (Cameron McKa- lifie, Flipped), falls in love with the beauti- ful Sarah Hart (Shanae Grimes, "Glee") and makes enemies with football quarterback and bully Mark (Jack Abel, The Lovely Bones). Also, poor John does not have much time to enjoy the agonies and excitements of high school movie clichés before the Mogadorians begin to hunt him down, forcing him to team up with his new acquaintances and the combat-ready Number Six (Teresa Palmer, Bedtime Stories) to defend himself and the planet.

While Michael Bay (Transform- ers) only produced the film, D.J. Ca- rus’s style seems to take after the blockbusters director I Am Num- ber Four. The film emphasizes with the top shots and explosions to the point where either subtlety or nuance has absolutely no place. While this does energize the action sequences, it gives the movie the feel of a video game. This is crush- pounded with the fact that when the aliens die, they become gray and blow away. This monstrosi- cally and ridiculous touch allows the film to be friendly for children but clearly shows that the writers held audience market demographics, not quality story, first and foremost. The score of the film echoes this as it seems that Caruso simply looked at songs popularly downloaded on iTunes and put them in the movie wherever he could fit them.

The casting of the film further adds evidence to my theory that high school is for attractive people in their mid-twenties. While I am sure Pettyfer was considered for his ability to seem cool to young boys and dreamy to young girls, he seems laughably older than many of his classmates, especially his friend Sam. When the two spend time to- gether, this difference has almost pedophilic overtones. The strongest acting is from Olyphant, who must manage delivering lines such as “Unlike the humans, when we love, we love forever” with a serious and somber expression.

As the action of the movie hones, the high school sub- plots become more and more out of place and absurd. When evil aliens shoot huge red laser guns at Sarah, she seems far more concerned that John might have some feelings for the newly introduced Number Six than with the prospect of dying a slow and painful death. Further- more, the end of the movie features a plot hole so large and inexplicable that I could not help but vocalize my frustration in the middle of the theater. Despite all these cavils, I sadly am aware that the movie will probably prove to be a hit. The end of the movie is a perfect set up for a sequel, and unless I am pleasantly disappointed, we shall soon see Hollywood churn out another film in the series that appeals to the lowest common denominator.

August

Hustle and flow.

THE WEEKLY SCENE

Emily’s picks for events outside the hedges, both around Rice and in the Houston area, for this week:

August

The Alley Theatre’s new pro- duction of August: Osage County is offering special $50 tickets for tomorrow’s 12 p.m. performance. This Pulitzer and Tony award winning play focuses on a dysfunctional Oklahoman family confronted with estrangement.

Alley Theatre
615 Texas
www.alleytheatre.org

WareHouse Live
115 St. Emanuel
www.warehouselive.com

ROBYN

Kooky Scottish singer Robyn will be performing at Ware- House Live tomorrow at 8 p.m. for $32-$50. Perhaps best known in the United States for her hit song “Do You Know (What It Takes),” Robyn is also known for her rapt “Kirsten Nicholas,” reference to Dave Chappelle’s sketch.

The Rice Philharmonics Win- ter Concert is tonight from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Following up to their Valentines Day serenading, our favorite co-ed a capella group will be performing new jams and old favorites for free. Bring your own food and beverages!

PHILS

The Rice RiceVBallConcert is tonight from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Following up to their Valentines Day serenading, our favorite co-ed a capella group will be performing new jams and old favorites for free. Bring your own food and beverages!

SPOCO

Tonight is Spoco Big Of Texas Improv Show at 7:30 p.m. For just $5, you can watch your friends perform with improv images from all over Texas. Proceeds go to- wards sending Spoco to Chica- go’s for the Big Midwest College Improv Tournament!

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Emily Nicholson and Mark Plitt Thresher Editorial Staff

In this week’s New Yorker magazine, Mark Plitt, neuroscientist at Baylor College of Medicine and author of *The Logical Singularity*, is being profiled for his research and recent works. Dr. Eagleman does much of his research on synesthesia and “neurons,” which investigate the relationship between the brain and the world. He teaches a class about each half (NEUR 355, Neuroscience and Behavior). Nevertheless, among his notable publications in the field of neuroscience, he has authored an internationally best-selling collection of short stories. In light of his fascination for neurons, how has your research on science and brain affected the content that you have written in *The Logical Singularity*?

Dr. Eagleman: In general, I see art and science as being the same thing; they’re both ways of trying to figure out what’s going on around us and trying to address the mysteries. They’re both fundamentally creative pursuits, where you’re making up new narratives. In science, you’re trying to put those narratives to the test to see if they match up with mother nature, while in philosophy you make up stories that illuminate some aspect of the human condition, but you don’t subject them to the same culling where you have to commit to one or the other with more data. But I also emphasize that science is a very real sense in which art and science are important ways of exploring the world. And science works day-to-day in that we try to gather evidence to weigh in favor of or against our different stories, but there are times when the scientific toolbox runs out or when it’s insufficient to address those bigger problems. And in those cases, you work on understanding the structure of this possibility space. You work on understanding what kind of things are possible here, and you address some of them and make experiments, but it won’t be surprising if in our lifetimes we’re not able to come up with the killer experiment that determines what happens after we die.

RT: Fundamentally, postnaturalism sounds like agnosticism. How is it different?

Dr. Eagleman: I think there are two big differences. First of all, the majority of the time when people say “agnostic,” they mean “I’m certain whether God exists or doesn’t exist.” Which is still saying you’ve inherited these two stories, God is existentialist, and you’re just trying to decide if it’s story A or story B. What distinguishes postnaturalism is this active exploration of new ideas, and it’s not just about being open-mindedness; it’s going out and trying to figure out the structure of the possibility space. A lot of agnostics’ views are uncertain about the existence of God, and postnaturalists would like to be certain about it at one point or another. They’re sort of in between and maybe hoping to eventually be able to commit to one side or the other with more data. But postnaturalism’s end goal is not to decide the right answer. My goal is not to say in 10 years, “I know the truth, because I’ve dealt with this before and now I understand the structure of possible truths.”

RT: A lot of people use religion as a way to find answers when they feel lost and emotionally spiritually, and it seems that postnaturalism brings up a lot more questions than it answers.

Dr. Eagleman: Those people will not sign up for postnaturalism because postnaturalism is about finding the truths that are going on around us. Organized religions have a very useful function in that was, among others. Possibilism is more of a way of seeking truth, and it might be totally functionality for a lot of people. A lot of people really need and want certainty, and that’s fine. But for people who are willing to concede uncertainty and ignorance, this is the right framework. Just all religions and all movements, it’s appeal to some and not others.

RT: You mentioned the usefulness of religion. How would postnaturalism supplement a plethora of community service issues that organized religion contributes to? What about artistic and architectural contributions?

Dr. Eagleman: I think because it’s postnaturalism, it’s possible literature. Every time you turn the page, I’m going to give you a completely different story about what’s going on here. And it worked. Something about that appealed to people. Can you imagine the people who are die hard fans, the die-hard fans of the African gods, but not about a particular character or animal, but about other characters. I thought there should be a much wider discussion than that. So postnaturalism emphasizes an active exploration of new ideas, instead of just buying into what’s been handed down in the past. It also explains the scientific temperament of creativity, and of tolerance for multiple hypotheses. Thinking of new narrative stories and having a wide enough table to allow for multiple stories. The way that science works day-to-day in that we try to gather evidence to weigh in favor of or against our different stories, but there are times when the scientific toolbox runs out or when it’s insufficient to address those bigger problems. And in those cases, you work on understanding the structure of this possibility space. You work on understanding what kind of things are possible here, and you address some of them and make experiments, but it won’t be surprising if in our lifetimes we’re not able to come up with the killer experiment that determines what happens after we die.

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The album begins with the song "Infinity," a fitting title as the synthesizers in the introduction create an "Infinity," a fitting title as the synthesizers in the introduction create an almost limitless feel to the listener. It's got a life of its own and is just moving along. I have a friend at Facebook, who's been tracking how many people have their connection status to photographable. It's in the hundreds, maybe thousands now. So it's living on its own legs at the moment. I'm about 60 percent done with a book called Why I'm a Possibilist, but it's going to be my first novel because the others are already under contract. I'm glad you asked me this question because I have at various points considered really starting something, like the School of Life in England, because, when they're out of college, they don't have a chance to think about these philosophical issues. I spoke on possibilities at the School of Life, and it was really cool. I crowed really dug that. So I was thinking of starting something like that in the States. 

The strongest song on the album is "Waiting on You," a lament about a lover that can never be. Lyrics such as "I'm guarding us wandered too close to the water/The current's been sweeping us in," tell a tale that we can all relate to, of external circumstances ruining the desires of heart. The song begins with complexity, but as its passion increases, it becomes almost a cappella as Barthmus skips octaves and croons in a young choirboy's voice. 

The album description says that Nocturne of Exploded Crystal Chandelier would serve as an excellent soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. I could not agree more, but the music also serves as a great soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. It's got to be them, to be expected to find a gem like Sun Airway. The music also serves as a great soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. I could not agree more, but the music also serves as a great soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. It's got to be them, to be expected to find a gem like Sun Airway.

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While the album impressed me with its consistent quality, the final song "Five Years," clocking in over seven minutes, stood out as going on too long. Sun Airway seems to have expanded the song so much that they seem to lose sight of the listener. The album description says that Nocturne of Exploded Crystal Chandelier would serve as an excellent soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. I could not agree more, but the music also serves as a great soundtrack to a Sofia Coppola movie. It's got to be them, to be expected to find a gem like Sun Airway.

Nocturne of Exploded Crystal Chandelier
Artist: Sun Airway
Label: Dead Oceans
Release: Oct. 26, 2010

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COLLEGE BATTLE
GIVE SMALL CHANGE TO MAKE A BIG ONE

Check out the 2011 College Battle video at rafsi.rice.edu!
- filmed and produced by senior Austin Lipinski '11 -

Compete for your college to win $1000 and the Sammy Cup!

JAR WARS 3/7 - 3/10

Add change to your college's Rice Annual Fund jar during lunch March 7-10 to help your college win the battle! Answer questions posted daily on rafsi.rice.edu for "virtual" contributions.

What you can buy with $1000...
1,000 Wendy's frosties (delicious)
200 kiddie pools
10 reliable printers

Thank you to the 2011 Senior Class Gift Committee:

Baker
Clarissa Balli
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Dona Yotovova

Will Rice
Mike Burcham
Alexandra Espinoza
Michelle Kerkstra
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Submit Beer Bike pictures to emilysk@rice.edu for a chance to win $100!
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Women's tennis goes home to sweep opponents

by Teddy Grodek

Talking with freshman star for ward Jessica Kuster before last weekend, it was no secret that these two Conference USA games were the Owl's most important — and most difficult — of the season.

"It's great being one of the best teams in the conference right now, but we have to get wins this weekend," she said. "It's no secret that [the University of Houston and the University of Memphis] are both great teams, and we're going to have to play really well to stay at the top." The Owls (19-9, 7-3 C-USA), talk to take down two of the top teams in the conference in two mad games, was surely a tall one. Having recently stayed at the top. The Cougars were unstoppable of Houston, and the Owls have been largely unchallenged since their CUSA game have begun.

The Cougars were unstoppable from the beginning, scoring the first eight points of the top four and close the gap to two, but Houston put together another run and ended the half up 29-19, one of the Owl's worst halves of the year. Senior forward Morgan Mayse would actually be outscored by conference and has been largely unchallenged since their CUSA game have begun.

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Men's tennis goes home to sweep opponents

by Dan Elledge

Returning to their nest at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium after their slip-up last weekend at Louisiana State University, 14th ranked Rice continued their undefeated streak at home (6-0) with an impressive 7-0 win over the University of Louisiana Lafayette (0-5) in Irelad and 6-4 win over Southern Methodist University (1-2) and Alabama Christian University (2-1).

To add to the Owls' weekend triumphs, senior Omar Podlewski was named the Conference USA Tennis Athlete of the Week after he went 3-0 on the weekend.

On Friday against Louisiana-Lafayette, Rice easily won the doubles point as they were two out of the three matches. After that, Rice dominated singles play as they won five out of the six matches thanks to victories by Christian. The Owls recorded the doubles point as they won five out of the six matches thanks to victories by Christian. The Owls recorded the doubles point as they won five out of the six matches thanks to victories by Christian. The Owls recorded the doubles point as they won five out of the six matches thanks to victories by Christian. The Owls recorded the doubles point as they won five out of the six matches thanks to victories by Christian.
Men’s track collects twenty season best marks
Trip to A&M proves to be successful tune-up meet for C-USA Indoor Championship next week

by Jonathan Myers
Threshers Editorial Staff

One thing nearly all college sports fans have an opinion on is conference loyalty. Should you pull for your squad’s conference mates in intrasquad competition, or do it for nothing? For the Owls’ track team, conference loyalty meant something this weekend, as they competed in the Texas A&M Challenge for the third year in a row, which features three teams from each of Conference USA, the Big 12, the Pac-12 and the Southeastern Conference. This meet combines the scores of the three teams representing each conference in order to determine conference supremacy for that season. While C-USA finished third and the Big 12 dominated, finishing in first place by ten points with a margin of victory, Saturday’s meet was not without惊喜s for Rice, which compiled 397 points at times or marks amongst his competing athletes. Head Coach Jon Wanenbarg (Jones ’88) spoke about what he saw in the competition last week.

“We’ve had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out about what he saw in the competition last week. “Lot of good things happened across the board and we’re finding out who our guys are doing well.”

“We've had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out who our guys are doing well.”

Once again, redshirt junior Michael Taito shined in the 1000-meter, posting a season-best time of 2:23.55 in 5th place, his first time of 20:45 in the 5,000-meter. He earned points for Rice, with a time of 21:04 and junior Gillin Shrestha followed another second behind in 12th place. Freshman Jan Priceley had a season-best effort in the 400-meter run, with a time of 50.61, while sophomore Donte Moore came closer to breaking 22 of 800 meters, but was disqualified after the false start. Other Owls runners that crossed the finish line include junior Alex Weinheimer and Michael Trejo, but they were unable to contribute points to Rice’s effort as they finished 7th and 8th, respectively. Junior Dan Skat and Jordan Hmaidan continued to improve in the 100-meter run, with Skat bringing home a season-best mark of 11.2 and Hmaidan clocking a time of 11.3. Skat placed sixth and now owns the fourth best time of any C-USA runner this season.

The 800-yard run, an event normally unique to Big 12 schools, did not treat C-USA or the SEC well, with the bottom four runners being comprised of athletes from Rice, Mississippi State and the University of Houston. Senior Cameron Hayes finished 8th, with a time of 1:54 and junior Gillin Shrestha followed another second behind in 12th place. Freshman Jan Priceley had a season-best effort in the 400-meter run, with a time of 50.61, while sophomore Donte Moore came closer to breaking 22 of 800 meters, but was disqualified after the false start. Other Owls runners that showed promise included junior Alex Weinheimer and high jumper, but they were unable to contribute points to Rice’s effort as they finished 7th and 8th, respectively. Junior Dan Skat and Jordan Hmaidan continued to improve in the 100-meter run, with Skat bringing home a season-best mark of 11.2 and Hmaidan clocking a time of 11.3. Skat placed sixth and now owns the fourth best time of any C-USA runner this season.

“Lot of good things happened across the board and we’re finding out some things about guys.” Warren said.

“We've had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out who our guys are doing well.”

“We've had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out about what he saw in the competition last week.

“There’s nothing that we can’t do if everyone doesn’t utilize their potential next week.”

“We've had the talent in most events, and we expect guys like Clayton Chaney, Ugo Nduaguba and Michael Trejo to really drive us,” Warren said.

“Our distance events are coming to the fore, our sprints and we’ll be fine.”

“We've had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out about what he saw in the competition last week.

“We've had the talent in most events, and we’re finding out who our guys are doing well.”
Golf falters late after solid start
by Paul Fitzgerald

Road trip takes toll as men’s basketball drops two
UAB erased with a solid showing at the start of the season, but their recent play has not been as strong.

The Owls’ performance in the second half of the season has been inconsistent, with games against UAB and Memphis resulting in losses. However, the team has shown resilience in their recent games, particularly against Marshall.

On Thursday, the Owls faced a tough challenge against Marshall, who had been playing well in recent games. Despite a strong performance in the first half, the Owls struggled in the second half, giving up a nine-point lead to the Thundering Herd.

Coach Paul Fitzgerald expressed his disappointment with the team’s performance in the second half, stating that they needed to improve in that area.

The Owls will look to bounce back from this loss when they take on UTSA on Saturday. A win in that game would be crucial for their playoff hopes.

’enough to make it worth it, and those kind of combined to lead to some good scores.”

Rice continued their strong play throughout the second round, closing out their season with a mid-pack finish. The Owls were one of the top teams in the tournament, but they struggled in the final round.

The Owls’ performance in the tournament was consistent with their overall season, with strong performances in some games and a lackluster showing in others.

Looking to close the season with a strong finish, the Owls squared off against UAB, who had been the only team to beat Rice all season.

Rice was 14th on the leaderboard, remaining within striking distance of a solid finish. Yet a poor final round left them in 14th place with a three-round score of 92.

Rice could not capitalize on the momentum built throughout the tournament, and UAB emerged as the victors.

The Owls’ season was marred by inconsistency, with strong performances coming in sudden spurts amidst a trend of mediocrity.

looking to snap a streak of losses and qualify for the conference tournament. Rice was showing resolve on the road and had the blazers on their heels early. The Owls took their biggest lead of the game on a layup by junior guard Connor Frizzelle late in the second half, but a Sanders jumper and foul at the free-throw line left the Owls trailing by five.

The Owls continued their strong play throughout the tournament, finishing third in the final round with a score of 92. Despite the loss in the final round, the Owls were able to qualify for the conference tournament.

The Owls’ season was marked by strong performances throughout the tournament, with a solid finish in the final round accounting for their overall success.

Looking to close the season with a strong performance, the Owls squared off against UAB in the final round of the tournament.

Rice cut the lead to two and ignited a 10-2 run that carried them to a victory. The Owls were able to maintain their momentum throughout the tournament, with strong performances in key matches.

The Owls’ season was a mix of strong performances and disappointing losses, with the final round showing the team’s potential.

Rice was heading into the final round of the tournament looking to qualify for the conference tournament. The Owls were up against tough competition, including UAB, who had been strong throughout the tournament.

The Owls’ season was marked by a mix of strong performances and disappointing losses, with the final round showing the team’s potential.

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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

Redshirt freshman Lindsay Miller competes in the 3,000 meter run at the Houston Indoor Invitational. Miller had a season-best time on Saturday.

Mark your calendars and let the countdown begin. Only seven days remain before — no, not spring break — the Conference USA Indoor Track and Field Championships. While spring break may seem particularly early this year, the women's track and field season feels that much shorter as well. From the first day of practice to the start of the conference meet, the track and field team will have just seven weeks of training under their belt since returning from winter break. In fact, the C-USA Championship will be the only fourth full squad meet for the Owls of the season.

However, now that the weather has climbed out of the mid-90s into the mid-70s, the team will have had two full weeks of uninterrupted training — knock on wood — in the lead-up to the meet.

For that reason, no one was happier to see 70-degree weather this week than women's track and field Head Coach Jim Bevan. The past few weeks of unseasonably cold weather put a wrench into the team's training plans and had worked against Rice in its preparation so far this season.

"We've been behind in some areas due to the weather," Bevan said. "We've got a little bit behind in the technical events but now we have good weather and we've got a good solid two weeks to get healthy, get wired right for each and every event."

Despite the weather, however, Rice made a strong showing at the Texas A&M Challenge last weekend, posting six season or lifetime bests. Senior Allison Pye led the Owls with a season-best time in the 3,000 meter run at 9:43. According to Bevan, Pye led for the majority of the race and was just out run at the very end. Regardless, Pye's time in the second-best she has ever run in the 3k and her best in the past two seasons.

Pye said it was a bountiful relief to run so much faster after years of hard work and injury.

"Our conference continues to get better. It's shaping up as an interesting conference meet."

Jim Bevan
Head Coach

"I was actually pretty happy with how I raced," Pye said. "I've had a few rough patches over the last two years and that was the closest I've run to a personal record in the past two years so it was definitely my best race in a long time."

"It made me more excited about the rest of the season and the upcoming outdoor season because it's nice to feel I'm headed in the right direction again."

The rest of the Owls also impressed in the JK, as junior Marie Thompson, sophomore Johanna Thompson, sophomore Farah Madany and redshirt freshman Lindsey Madany all ran season-best times of their own.

Bevan was especially impressed with the efforts by the freshmen.

"Farah and Lindsey [had] great times for freshmen in their first time running JK. They're not far off where Lynnette White [Brown '09] and [sophomore] Nicole Merzic were when they were that age."

The vaulters also improved, with sophomore Caro Wilson posting a lifetime best and junior Elena Oliver posting a season best height of 11 feet 2.5 inches and 12' 2.5", respectively. Senior Ari Ince also had strong attempts, but she did not improve over her school-record height from two weekends ago, with her best small vault coming at 12' 6".

Bevan still saw a good deal of promise in Ince's performance.

"I always try to look at the meet as an interesting conference meet," Bevan said. "It opened your eyes to another level of competition and hopefully that's what we needed before the conference meet."

The conference meet will be especially competitive this season, a departure from a few years ago. Bevan noted that the C-USA has grown more competitive over the past few seasons.

One area that continues to get better, Bevan said, is "shaping up as an interesting conference meet."

"It was a loaded meet with some of the best teams in the country and it was a good venue for competition," Bevan said. "It was a great step to be a part of. We learned a lot and now we've got to get ready for the conference meet."

For that reason, the Owls are especially looking forward to the C-USA Outdoor Championships, as the defending CUSA Outdoor champ, UCF brings several threats, but Bevan noted that the Golden Knights are especially dangerous in the sprints. According to Bevan, they boast two of the best sprinters in the country.

Tulsa is especially strong in the 400 and distance races, while UTEP has a team that is well-rounded from all angles. SMU can threaten thanks to their throwers, strong distance runners and high jumpers.

Regardless of which schools are this week, however, Bevan said it's hard to predict what will happen at the championships since seven days is a long time during the indoor track season. "I always try to look at the meet the week before," Bevan said. "It's so short that people can improve so fast that conference rankings don't mean a whole lot. In a week, there's a lot of changing that can happen."

Take the IT Survey by February 21

IT uses an annual survey to gather input from students so that we can better meet your technology expectations around the campus.

We need to hear from you!

Complete the survey for the chance to win an iPod Shuffle!

If you haven't responded yet, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey:
http://it.rice.edu/survey.aspx
Asia is larger than you

What-a-season

Pain goes to Egypt

Catch some beads

Don't be lazy

MONDAY 21

FRIDAY 18

SATURDAY 19

As a Charlie Brown Puberty ~ the RMC Chapel at their Win-

Darn kite to fly? What about

Love Your

SUNDAY 20

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

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The real world is only 100 days away

Catching beads

Embracing moments are at the crux of your college 5 years.

Before Baroque was cool, this is what the cool kids list

Before Baroque was cool, this is what the cool kids list

Before Baroque was cool, this is what the cool kids list

...
**Rice gets money, gets paid, makes it rain.**

As most of you don't know, because the only section of the Thursday you read is the Backpage, President Leebro has entrusted the profits of the KTRU sale to the ARFA committee. Although no one knows what this acronym stands for (our safety experts, the Beer Bike water balloon fight carsions for severe risks and a 4.68 percent mortality rate. This dangerous tradition would be safer with helmets, elbow pads, knee pads and shoulder pads).

**Water Balloon Fight**

$120,000

Anonymous donor endowed by SA and administration safety experts, the Beer Bike water balloon fight carsions for severe risks and a 4.68 percent mortality rate. This dangerous tradition would be safer with helmets, elbow pads, knee pads and shoulder pads.

**Library**

$90,000

For those tired of having their backs strained from hucking like rabbits in the library stacks, new study rooms would have full-sized waterbeds, romantic decor and, of course, a newer ending soundtrack of Kech Phrase.

**Housing and Dining**

$285,000

Beer on tap in the survey. Please, God.

**Administration**

$200,000

Leebron is always trying to turn Rice into other prestigious learning institutions, but to secure our position as "Heart of the South," our headmaster should now be clad in the very finest magi's robes and armed with an owl feather wand.

**Will Rice College**

$10,000

Some have suggested renovating the outdated, depressing and altogether shit-hole commons. We feel our budget would get them what they deserve.

**Rice Stadium**

$1,000,000

It is a sad fact that Rice football games offer even disappointment. While this may be true, adding a huge to the top of the stadium means leaving the game will be fun no matter what the scoreboard says.

**Sports**

$3,650,000

A secret laboratory for cloning Anthony McDonald and Sam McGaff in a place that no Rice student would ever think to go Rice Stadium. The new team should be operational for the 2014 season.

**Loveott College**

$60,000

To continue Loveott's progress this semester lowering their campus-leading 18.6 percent STD rate. Protection against STIs and pregnancies will be implement- ed from the use of condoms and chastity belts to falling down stairs and hangers.

**Recreation Center**

$12,000,000

Students are tired of the current BYU/Build it at the Rec Center. The pong tables would be equipped with cups and beer.

**Thresher**

$25,000

With the Backpage editors penchant for trouble and previous arrests, a legal fund could prove beneficial.

**Marching Owl Band**

$200,000

The MOB definitely needs music less. And marching lessons. Oh, and learn how to make jokes. They could use new hats, too.

**Buses**

$600,000

New shuttle services would be available throughout the day. The Blue Line would operate during the late night picking up drunks along the inner loop and take them to Whataburger and 59 Diner. The Red Line would run an express from McMurry Colleege and Duncan College to Memorial Hos- pital. Finally, the Green Line would serve Jones College and the Houston Zoo so that Louisville can service the animals.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**WEST End FAMILY**

is searching for a part- time live in babysitter. Job would include 25 hours a month of child care. Times will be flexible, and we can work around school schedules or other part time work schedules. May move in after this semester ends. Separate private quarters are pro- vided. Can be furnished if you prefer. A monthly fee of $300 pay for all utilities, cable and wireless internet. Must be able to pass a background check and have a clean driving re- cord. Please email a brief description about yourself to myg.gazettomaster.com.


**Today's Backpage**

**Houseden**

The Thresher editors are often asked to guess what the thesis is about. Although no one knows what this acronym stands for (our safety experts, the Beer Bike water balloon fight carsions for severe risks and a 4.68 percent mortality rate. This dangerous tradition would be safer with helmets, elbow pads, knee pads and shoulder pads).

**Wayne Graham**

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**Rice Baseball**

Is back

Wayne Graham attempts to walk the mound.

**Free strippers**

at Hanszen! Too bad they're Rice strippers.

**Georgia wins SA**

President

Must have been the football.

**Buy more Classifieds!**

Less work for us.

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**SPORTS**

**Marching Owl Band**

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**Buses**

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**CONCLUSIONS**

The IBM supercomputer "Watson" has gained attention for win- ning $7,412 on Jeopardy. While the powerful PC might have bested the Jeopardy champions, it could not handle the Backpage. The Backpage is satire written by Alex Weinheimer, Anthony Lauriello and Zach Casias. Email questions and concerns to rice-jobs@testmasters.com.
STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

RICE BASEBALL 2011
With a simple Google search for Rice's junior Anthony Rendon, it doesn’t take long to get caught up in the build up surrounding the Owls third baseman.

ESPN’s head of MLB scouting Keith Law lists Rendon as the “early favorite” to be the top pick in June’s MLB Amateur Draft. Butler predicts that he will be in the majors within one year of the draft, an extraordinarily accelerated rate for an MLB prospect. Major League scouts compare Rendon to phenom Bryce Harper, the 2010 top pick and No. 2 prospect in all of baseball according to Scouts, Inc. Through pages and pages of praise from talent evaluators at the next level, it’s easy to see why the 2010 Baseball America Player of the Year and Dick Howser Trophy recipient is widely considered the best college baseball player in the country.

But in spite of all of the hype, the very first search result does not bring you to an ESPN scouting report or a 2011 MLB Mock Draft with Rendon’s name at the top. Instead, it goes to the Rice Official Athletic Site, where Head Coach Wayne Graham’s acclaim of his superstar is short and sweet. “The complete player,” Graham’s evaluation of Rendon reads, conclusively listed before the overwhelming list of accolades and honors that the third baseman has already garnered. With a player of the caliber of Anthony Rendon, the on-field performance simply speaks for itself.

But even with perhaps the best player in baseball on the roster, questions remain for the Rice Owls in the 2011 draft, the opening day lineup, and most importantly for Rice baseball, the future. But it is an almost entirely new group slated to get starts for Rice in 2011, with only Rogers (Baker ’10) and Mike Ojala (Mar. 19, ’10) among the 2010 starters. Across this crop are two freshmen, John Simms and Austin Kubitza, who have earned the trust of Coach Graham and will both get starts this weekend against Stanford.

"If you’ve got guys that can start in the big leagues at 18 and 19, then why can’t these guys start now?" Graham said in an interview with the Rice Thresher. "We recruited them knowing they had the ability and I’m excited for them.

Men on the Mound

The challenge for Rice in 2011 will be starting pitching. last season, while 12 of Rice’s 14 scheduled games slated against six teams in Baseball America’s pre-season top 25.

The combination of returning players and a stellar recruiting class leaves little doubt that the Rice baseball roster has the talent to make it to the College World Series. But if a trip to Omaha is indeed the goal of Coach Graham’s team, the roster must overcome some inexperience and get consistent contributions from the promising group of players new to the starting lineup.

In 2010, Rice started 14 of 37 games, the opening day lineup will feature new starters in at least five positions. Freshman pitchers will occupy two of the three weekend rotation spots to start the season, including this afternoon’s season debut against Stanford. Yet another challenging schedule awaits, with out-of-conference games slated against six teams in Baseball America’s pre-season top 25.

The return of freshmen John Simms and Austin Kubitza to the rotation will help the Owls get started on this path. Simms, who pitched well for the USA 18 & Under national team this summer, will start tonight, while Kubitza will get the nod Sunday. Returning with an increased role in the rotation this season is junior Matthew Reckling, who will start tomorrow against a Stanford lineup dominated by right-handed batters. Reckling was one of the best pitchers for the Owls in the fall and led the team in pre-season spring ball in strikeouts. Junior Taylor Wall, the most experienced starter on the team, will not start this weekend due to matchups but will be in the starting rotation this season. The second team USA player from a year ago returns after leading the team in starts and strikeouts in 2010 and looks to replicate his success on the mound this year. Another name in the mix for Rice in sophomore Chase McLindon, who made tremendous strides in the Alaskan Summer League and will be in the weekend rotation this spring. Tony Consiglio, a transfer from a year ago and now a senior, also had a strong fall and is likely to receive some starts as the season progresses.

"If you’ve got guys that can start in the big leagues at 18 and 19, then why can’t these guys start now?" Graham said in an interview with the Rice Thresher. "We recruited them knowing we wanted to make them into weekend starters eventually."

Call to the Bullpen

Without the return of two of the Owls late inning pitching. "He hasn’t made any mistakes," Graham noted of Hamilton, who has decided to go with the defensive-minded Hamilton to start off the season. It’s hard to miss the golden locks of senior Derek Hamilton and Shane Hjelmesche. Hjelmiches have battled for the starting spot all spring, but Coach Graham has decided to go with the defensive-minded Hamilton to start off the season.

"He hasn’t made any mistakes," Graham noted of Hamilton, who has impressed the coaches with his glove when given the opportunity. "Hofheinz is definitely in the hunt, but we’re just starting with Hamilton at [shortstop] because he’s been as good as anyone we’ve had at [shortstop]."

Hofheinz has displayed a strong arm all spring and figures to get time in the infield. Returning as the starter at second base is sophomore Michael Batters, who started every game for Rice last year in route to freshman All-America honors. Batters will look to take the next step this year among the nation’s top operands and will bat in the two top spots for Rice. One of the most improved players from a year ago, the aforementioned Chargois will start at first for Rice following a stellar fall season with the bat. Chargois is a switch hitter who provides versatility for the Owls lineup and will also see time out of the bullpen. With the two-time reigning C-USA Player of the Year at third base, the only concern these for Rice will be how Rendon bounces back from a broken ankle suffered last summer while playing for Team USA. Rendon has shown some side effects this spring after a speedy recovery and looks to be near full strength for the start of the season. He will bat third in the lineup, where his unmatched plate discipline should create opportunities for his teammates in the lineup.

Sophomore first baseman J.T. Chargois looks to make a throw during spring practice. Chargois ability to hit from both sides of the plate, as well as his arm make him a valuable commodity for Rice.

"It (Chargois) is throwing as well or better than anyone we’ve got, but he’ll be a one-inning guy because of him playing first," Graham said of his team’s late inning pitching.

"Duffy will be our stopper/closer and probably pitch the eighth and maybe ninth, and J.T. will be a pure closer and only pitch one inning with the ninth."

After seeing much action out of the bullpen in 2010, seniors Abe Gonzales and Boogie Ananognos will anchor the middle relief for Rice and provide a lot of experience for the unit. Joining that group is senior lefty Doug Simmons, who is coming off of a strong fall and will continue to get situational work this season. Sophomore Tyler Spurlin and Jeremy Fant will pitch well in the fall and are likely to see appearances in long relief for Rice this year. Redshirt sophomores Andrew Benak and Anthony Fifo saw time last year and will contribute as they battle back from injury.

Web Gem Wonders

One of the biggest stories of the early spring for the baseball team has been the competition at short-stop to replace Rick Hague (Lowen ’05), the 2nd round draft pick of the Nationals last June. Freshman Derek Hamilton and Shane Hjelmesche have battled for the starting spot all spring, but Coach Graham has decided to go with the defensive-minded Hamilton to start off the season.

"He hasn’t made any mistakes," Graham noted of Hamilton, who has impressed the coaches with his glove when given the opportunity. "Hofheinz is definitely in the hunt, but we’re just starting with Hamilton at [shortstop] because he’s been as good as anyone we’ve had at [shortstop]."

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"If you're looking for a player to have a breakout year in 2011, it's hard to miss the golden locks of six foot six junior center fielder Jeremy Rathjen. After surging in the second half of the season to earn Second Team all-Conference USA honors, Rathjen enters the season as the team’s clean-up hitter behind Rendon. Rathjen led the team in the spring..."
Sophomore second baseman Michael Ratterree lays down a textbook bunt during practice this week. Ratterree was the most heralded freshman of last year's incoming class and proved his mettle, earning Freshman All-America honors and was one of two Owls to start all 63 games, the other being Rendon.

Junior Craig Manuel will be the Owls quarterback missed last season due to a sprained ankle. He showed up for a clutch hit to hit vital situations and has received admiration from the coaching staff for the work he has done with the young pitching staff. If Manuel improves at the rate he has already exhibited so far in his Rice career, he should develop as one of the better catchers in the country this season. Behind Manuel is sophomore Greg Person, who showed one of the most improved bats in the fall and is due to see plenty of starts this season. Person displays a strong throwing arm and has good defensive skills. He is making him a candidate to contribute from behind the plate. Freshman Tyler Pearson, a 38th round draft pick of the Indians, projects as one of the top freshmen in the class and has impressed coaches with his throwing.

**Omaha Outlook**

People will look at the 2011 Rice baseball team and say that they will have to overcome a lot of the same issues that plagued the squad last year to get to Omaha. Led by Rendon, the offense will be strong and should score plenty of runs. But many folks look at the pitching staff and wonder who the anchors of the staff will be.

While the team does not necessarily return a staff of bona fide aces from 2010, the incoming talent and internal improvement from a year ago provides depth and strength potential at the front end of the rotation. Simmels and Kudrna are two power arms that have the chance for immediate impact on the collegiate level. McDowell and Reckling look poised for breakout years, while Wall returns at last post-season pitch a year ago. There are questions with the staff, but with the talent and improvement that has been on display in the fall and early spring, you can expect for this unit to be improved from 2010.

Defensively, there are a few players in the lineup that look ready to take the next step as nationally recognized offensive threats. A lot of the team's offensive success will hinge on how Ratterree, Chopitis and Rendon surround Rendon in the lineup. If those two have breakout years and force teams to decide who to pitch to, the offense should pick up where it left off a year ago. Manuel and Fuda are both coming off nice seasons and should also be major offensive contributors.

The bullpen line is that while not loaded with returning starters, Rice should be able to compensate with depth and the improvement of their young pitchers. There seems to be an abundance of players on the verge of putting together breakout years. While not built on veteran talent, the Owls are stacked with players poised to take full advantage of the increased responsibility they are taking on this season. The depth of talent, combined with a coaching staff often regarded as one of the best in the country, bodes well for a team looking to get back to the College World Series for the first time since 2008.

So while 2011 looks to be billed as the Year of Anthony Rendon, Rice should be able to compensate with depth and the improvement of their young pitchers. There seems to be an abundance of players on the verge of putting together breakout years. While not built on veteran talent, the Owls are stacked with players poised to take full advantage of the increased responsibility they are taking on this season. The depth of talent, combined with a coaching staff often regarded as one of the best in the country, bodes well for a team looking to get back to the College World Series for the first time since 2008.

Even with the loss of Sigfo Seastrunk (Will Rice '10) to the MLB draft, Ratterree looks to be one of the deepest positions for Rice in 2011. Junior Craig Manuel will be the starter after a superb 2010 season in which he was forced into action due to Seastrunk's injury. Manuel started 16 games as a catcher and did not make an error all season. He showed a knack for clutch hits in vital situations and has received admiration from the coaching staff for the work he has done with the young pitching staff. If Manuel improves at the rate he has already exhibited so far in his Rice career, he should develop as one of the better catchers in the country this season. Behind Manuel is sophomore Greg Person, who showed one of the most improved bats in the fall and is due to see plenty of starts this season. Person displays a strong throwing arm and has good defensive skills. He is making him a candidate to contribute from behind the plate. Freshman Tyler Pearson, a 38th round draft pick of the Indians, projects as one of the top freshmen in the class and has impressed coaches with his throwing.

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STARTING LINEUP 2011

Three full-time starters along with two who split time return to the diamond; bullpen stocked with experience and arm strength.

HAMILTON
04
SS
Derek Hamilton

RATHJEN
03
CF
Jeremy Rathjen

RATTERREE
08
2B
Mike Ratterree

MICHAEI
15
LF
Michael Fuda

FUDA

ANTHONY
23
3B
Anthony Rendon

RENDON

3B

CRAIG
10
CF
Craig Manuel

MANUEL
MANUEL

CHARGOIS
33
P
John Simms

PITCHERS

Name
Michael Aquino
Keenan Cook
Abe Gonzales
Dan Gonzales-Luna
Shane Hoelscher
Connor Mason
Will Maxwell
Andrew Murphy
Tyler Pearson
Geoff Perrott
Tyler Spurlin

Position
Outfield/Utility
Outfield
Infield/Utility
Infield/Outfield
Infield/Pitcher
Outfield
Catcher
Catcher
Catcher
Infield/Pitcher

Year
Junior
Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore
Freshman
Junior
Freshman
Freshman
Freshman
Freshman

B/T
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R
R/R

Hometown
The Woodlands
The Woodlands
Houston/St. Thomas
Houston/Lamar
The Woodlands
Houston/Lamar
Swanee, Ga.
Shreveport, La.
Lubbock, Texas
The Woodlands

Name
Boogie Anagnostou
Andrew Benak
Tony Cingrani
Tyler Duffey
Matt Evers
Jeremy Fant
Anthony Fazio
Brad Kottman
Austin Kubitzka
Chase McDowell
Holt McNair
Kyle Mueller
Matthew Rockling
Doug Simmons
Taylor Wall

Year
Senior
RS Sophomore
Senior
Sophomore
Senior
Sophomore
RS Sophomore
Sophomore
Freshman
Sophomore
Sophomore
Freshman
Sophomore
Junior

Throws
Right
Left
Right
Right
Left
Right
Left
Left
Right
Left
Left
Left

5/R
Relief
Relief
Relief
Relief
Relief
Relief
Relief
Relief
Starter
Starter
Relief
Relief
Relief

Hometown
Alvin College
Houston/Langham
New Lenox, Ill.
Houston/Bellaire
Houston/Stratford
Cypress
Beaumont, Texas
Denton, Texas
College Station, Texas
Austint, Texas
Beviloo, Texas
Houston/Kinkaid
Kingwood
Houston/Westside

BENCH

Name
Michael Aquino
Keenan Cook
Abe Gonzales
Dan Gonzales-Luna
Shane Hoelscher
Connor Mason
Will Maxwell
Andrew Murphy
Tyler Pearson
Geoff Perrott
Tyler Spurlin

Position
Outfield/Utility
Outfield
Infield/Utility
Infield/Outfield
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Outfield
Catcher
Catcher
Catcher
Infield/Pitcher

Year
Junior
Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore
Freshman
Junior
Freshman
Freshman
Freshman
Freshman

B/T
R/R
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Hometown
The Woodlands
The Woodlands
Houston/St. Thomas
Houston/Lamar
The Woodlands
Houston/Lamar
Swanee, Ga.
Shreveport, La.
Lubbock, Texas
The Woodlands

Rounding Out the Roster
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
Before the first pitch, the Owls train in October through November and begin spring intrasquads when class resumes in January.

Junior catcher Craig Manuel tags out redshirt freshman outfielder Will Maxwell at the plate as sophomore pitcher Jeremy Fant looks on. Manuel will catch today and Sunday, with sophomore Geoff Perrott catching tomorrow.

Redshirt sophomore Andrew Benak delivers a pitch during Wednesday's intrasquad. Benak faced only five hitters after being sidelined with an arm injury the rest of the season. He will appear as a long reliever this year.

Freshman shortstop Shane Heelscher watches the ball go into freshman catcher Tyler Pearson's glove during an intrasquad game. Heelscher will see time as designated hitter, along with backing up infield positions.

Redshirt sophomore outfielder Ryan Lewis waits for the fly ball in right field. Lewis, a former quarterback on the gridiron, was named a starter due to his excellent arm range and left-handed bat and should bat eighth.

Sophomore pitcher Jeremy Fant hurls a four-seamed fastball during an intrasquad contest. Fant greatly improved this fall and spring, and the crafty reliever should see plenty of long relief opportunities during the season.

ALL PHOTOS BY JAMES LIU
**A CLOSER LOOK:**

Baseball America Preseason Top 25

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| 21   | Cal St.-Fullerton|  21  | Texas A&M       |
| 22   | Connecticut     | 22   | Louisville      |
| 23   | Clemson         | 23   | St. John's      |
| 24   | Arizona State   | 24   | Miami (FL)      |
| 25   | Florida State   | 25   | Tulane          |
| 26   | Stanford        |      |                |

Despite UT backing out, Rice still faces tough foes

**by Natalie Clericuzio**

For the first time in 11 years, the baseball team and the University of Texas will not tangle on the baseball diamond during the regular season. Agreements were in place to have a "home and home" series, played with three games at Rockhlin Park in 2011 and three games at UT’s Disch-Falk Field; however, UT backed out of the agreement in order to play a series against the University of Hawaii. While Owls fans may be disappointed by the omission, this is Rice’s advantage, as Texas is ranked higher (No. 6 in the nation according to BaseballAmerica.com) than any other squad the No. 18 Owls will face during the regular season.

However, that does not mean Rice’s season is free of challenges. Top 25-ranked foes on Rice’s slate include Rice’s season-opening opponent, No. 13 Stanford University. Also ranked is the University of Arizona, No. 21 Texas A&M University and the University of California, No. 19 University of Arizona, No. 13 Stanford University, No. 12 UCLA, No. 20 Texas Tech and No. 16 Rice University, which will look to avoid consistent pitching, highlighted by a strong Arizona pitching staff — the Cardinals ranked No. 14 in the nation according to Baseball America. No. 1 Arizona and the Owls face each other three times before succumbing to the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Owls must battle a Pac-12 opponent when the Golden Bears visit. Despite UT backing out, Rice still faces tough foes this season, it may work to Rice’s advantage, having returned seven seniors that hope to capitalize on their last opportunity for success. New coach Todd Whitting, plucked from national powerhouse Texas Christian University, will hope to return the University of Houston to the success enjoyed there in the ‘90s as an assistant. Look for sophomore DH M.P. Maness, East Carolina hopes to put itself in the mix with six of Arizona’s top seven hitters returning to the field in 2011, the Cardinals have the bats to take them the distance. The duo of starting pitchers sophomore Kent Heyer (7-4, 3.56 ERA) and junior Ryan Simpson (6-1, 2.77 ERA) look to hold their own form the mound for the Wildcats as well.

Coming off a 7-1 defeat of the Owls in 2010, A&M must like its chances with Rice in 2011 despite A&M’s No. 21 ranking. Starting pitching will continue to be a strength for the Aggies this season, led by junior righthander John Slighton, who posted a 2-3 record and a 3.99 batting average on top of that. Junior reliever Brooks Petrick may be the Bears’ biggest asset, having been named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writer’s Association Stopper Watch List after posting a 2-1 record and a 3.24 earned run average last season. With the departure of outfielder from the ‘10 squad, however, Baylor’s newcomers will have to walk up for the Bears to reach their potential.

Hoping to return to its one-time baseball dominance (College World Series Champions, 1987), Cal baseball has the talent to generate the production needed for the Bears to make the NCAA Tournament in 2010, and return a talented, youthful team. However, starting pitchers sophomore Conrad Fry and junior Bobby Fronch must draw on their extensive experience and improve in 2010 to carry the team where it hopes to go.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

Despite only having a 19-30 record inside Conference USA, 2010 was the Thunderbirds’ most successful season since joining the conference and will look to win both regular season and tournament championships on its way to a national seed.

**UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

Much like Marshall last year, Memphis enjoyed its best season since joining Conference USA, placing third in the regular season. The team returns all but three lettermen, hoping to find even more success and compete for a C-USA crown. It has a difficult schedule, however, playing 28 games against 15 win teams, leaving little margin for error.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

The only other team besides Rice in CUSA to make the NCAA Tournament in 2009, Southern Miss is hoping to repeat as CUSA Tournament champion this season. The Golden Eagles lost quite a bit of production from last season but still have Conference USA ranking pitcher Anthony Rendon for active conference leaders in runs batted in with 98.

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY**

Despite only having a 10-20 record inside Conference USA, 2010 was the Thundering Herd’s most successful baseball season since joining the conference. The Herd returns 12 pitchers from last season, meaning it has had to make the NCAA Tournament in 2010, and return a talented, youthful team. However, starting pitchers sophomore Kent Heyer (7-4, 3.56 ERA) and junior Ryan Simpson (6-1, 2.77 ERA) look to hold their own form the mound for the Wildcats as well.

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**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA — TUSCALOOSA**

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**TULANE UNIVERSITY**

Tulane, a team that had a 30-win season but a disappointing CUSA season, is returning all but one of its starters in 2011, hoping that stability will bring more wins in 2011. It is also returning two of its three key starters and one of the conference’s top runners. The Green Wave could very well compete for a conference title.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

2010 record: (24-12, 10-6 CUSA) *as postseason: last in Auburn, Ala. regional (1-2)

The only other team besides Rice in CUSA to make the NCAA Tournament in 2009, Southern Miss is hoping to repeat as CUSA Tournament champion this season. The Golden Eagles lost quite a bit of production from last season but still have Conference USA ranking pitcher Anthony Rendon for active conference leaders in runs batted in with 98.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA — BIRMINGHAM**

2010 record: (27-25, 11-15 CUSA) *as postseason: N/A

UAB, a team in the middle of the C USA pack last season, lost much of its talent from last season, meaning it has had to bring in 15 new players to campus, including 12 pitchers. The Blazers’ success this season depends on how quickly these new players can adapt to the college level.

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

2010 record: (32-12, 10-4 CUSA) *as postseason: N/A

UF, a bottom-feeder last season, has managed to bring in its second consecutive top 20 recruiting class, raising the bar significantly; they have to become a competitor inside C-USA. The young, speedy team will have to come together to truly compete this year, but it is not beyond possibility that this talented group will start winning baseball games.
Junior starting pitcher Matthew Reckling and junior center fielder Jeremy Rathjen look to lead Owls back to Omaha

By Christine Jeon  

As the countdown for the first pitch actually commences, Reckling is taking his newly established confidence and performance as an opportunity to be a leader in the coming months.

"I hope to sustain my performance throughout the season, and be a dependable guy when I step on the mound," he said. "I'd like to get the respect from my teammates and coaches."

The rest of the pitching staff is consolidated as the solid lineup that will play a crucial role in supporting the starters such as Reckling.

"I think [Coach] Graham is very excited about our new players," Reckling said. "We have solid choices, six starting options and a lot of eligibility select."  

Will the preseason success garnish the fans with hope for another trip to Omaha? Or will it be another disappointing season for the Owls? As it is for all games, only time and performance will tell.

"A lot of us components need to click together for us to get to Omaha. Hopefully the older guys will give a time of production," Reckling said.

"As part of the pitching staff it's all about having the mentality, confidence and dependability in each other, pounding the strike zone and trusting the guys on the field to make plays. Camaraderie and chemistry will also be a big part of success, and knowing how to come back and win when you're down." 

Rathjen was a batting average of .333, while he led his former team with a slugging percentage of .584, a whopping increase from his .232 batting average in his previous year. He started 53 out of team's 63 games, 22 as a designated hitter and 31 as an outfielder. He hit a .317 batting average and a whopping increase from his .292 batting average and .505 slugging percentage the previous year.

Rathjen improved his game in the second half of the season. Averaging a higher hitting average as an outfielder than a designated hitter, he maintained a .340 in conference games and his .347 in the Austin NCAA Regional, which earned him Second Team All-ConfERENCE USA honors at the end of the season. The lanky center fielder took his momentum to Santa Barbara, Calif during the summer, where he hoped to further improve his game with the Santa Barbara Foresters of the California Collegiate League.

"I wanted to be a better player when I came back this fall. I'm now one of the older guys on the team so I want to play well," Rathjen said. "I would like to be a consistent player on the team so everyone knows they can count on me, and I want to lead by example."

His fall performance proved nothing less. He was named on the team with a batting average of .335, while he led the team with a slugging percentage of .533. Not only did the junior's early score performance lead Head Coach Wayne Graham to say that Rathjen is "ready for a breakout year," but it also earned him a spot on the coaches' Conference USA Preseason All-Americans, an accolade shared by fellow junior Taylor Wall and Anthony Rendon.

"It's a great honor," Rathjen said. "But the most important thing is to play well so I can make the post-season all-conference team."

Preseason honors had no impact on the Louisiana native. He seems to be focusing on only goal in mind.

"I would like to be a consistent player on the team so everyone knows they can count on me, and I want to lead by example.

Jeremy Rathjen  

Brown '12

"To win the national championship," he said. "Not making an appearance, but to win it."

Yet the junior slugger was interested in taking one series at a time.

"I mean, the goal is to sweep against Stanford," Rathjen showed confidence in himself and credited his teammates when asked about the road to Omaha.

"I think we have a lot more talent this year. Our pitching staff has a lot more depth, and so it's going to get to Omaha you need a lot more depth," he said. "Everybody is rooting for everybody in the team so we hope that comes true."
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