Rice Centennial Campaign Exceeds $1 Billion

**By Tina Nazarian**

Projects for student development were and will be funded thanks to Rice University’s Centennial Campaign exceeding its fundraising goal of $1 billion.

According to Vice President of Resource Development Darrow Zeidenstein, the campaign received more than 200,000 gifts from nearly 50,000 donors. Zeidenstein said the campaign was launched in 2011, adding financial resources to begin implementation of President David Leebron’s Vision for the Second Century and rally the entire Rice community around the university’s ambitions.

“A campaign’s more than just raising money,” Zeidenstein said. “It’s about getting people involved. It’s about bringing them to campus as we did during the Centennial … to instill a sense of pride and engagement with the campaign. A campaign is a campaign not just to mobilize resources, but to mobilize people, and people’s energy and excitement as well.”

The money raised in the campaign has had both an immediate and long-term impact and has mainly raised the university’s gain in three areas — student support, research and community outreach, according to Zeidenstein.

Some of the raised money was gifted, such as to the Annual Fund, and was made, given, and spent that year, whereas some of the money that was committed, paid or not, is restricted by what the donor wants to see happen, Zeidenstein said.

“The biggest impact people will take flight,” said resident students should be able to keep a spot in West Lot 3 and others arriving later in the day will fill up more often.” Morgan said that the Inner Loop at West Lot 4 are occupied by the construction plans before they paid for parking.

“Knowing that the Inner Loop bus will now be made a modified loop around West Lot 3 to accommodate extra space for the construction site. According to Assistant Vice President for Student Project Management and Engineering Kathy Jones, the construction of the tennis center began in 2011, but student parkers were not notified until early last week. Jones College Freshman Joan Liu said she would have liked more notice from FE&P.

“I think the parking team did a poor job of notifying people of the situation,” Liu said. “It would have made more sense for students to know about the construction plans before they paid for parking.”

Jones said she anticipates only a few spaces,” Morgan said. “West Lot 2 will fill up more often.”

“I think [Gayle] is an incredible role model for our graduates,” Griffin said. “Her commitment to service and her experience in the medical field should appeal to many of our students, and I am positive that her address will be inspirational, memorable and enjoyable.”

Since 2006, Gayle has served as president and CEO of CARE USA. CARE’s 2012 Annual Report said that the organization combined $97 international programs aided 8.3 million people in 84 countries last year. According to CARE USA’s website, its programs include emergency relief during disasters, education and water sanitation.

“Dr. Helen Gayle to speak at graduation,” see NEWS p. 3

**By Wesley Chou**

Dr. Helen D. Gayle, president and CEO of the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere USA, one of the largest aid organizations in the world, will speak May 17 at Rice’s 101st Commencement.

“I was thrilled to accept President David Leebron’s invitation to speak at the 2014 commencement,” Gayle said to Rice News and Media. “I’m honored to play a part in sending another class of Owls out into the world and [be] a part of their special day.”

According to committee member John King, five undergraduate students and one graduate student formed the Commencement Speaker Committee that selected Gayle, while Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Robert Griffin and Senior Assistant to the University President David Vassar advised the group.

The committee submitted and ranked possible speakers until they came to agreement on Gayle, member Catherine Yuh said.

“One of the qualities and characteristics we were looking for in our class speaker were a commitment to serving the broader public, a wide and far-reaching impact and, finally, a sense of star power,” Yuh, a Brown College senior, said.

Griffin said Gayle duly met those requirements.

“I think [Gayle] is an incredible role model for our graduates,” Griffin said. “Her commitment to service and her experience in the medical field should appeal to many of our students, and I am positive that her address will be inspirational, memorable and enjoyable.”

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see GAYLE, page 5

**By Madeleine Thibald**

Rice University student parkers received an email Wednesday, Aug. 28 from Facilities Engineering and Planning informing them of lot closures due to the pending construction of the George R. Brown Tennis Complex.

“FE&P is in the process of closing off areas of West Lot 2 and 3 for the future tennis complex near Rice Boulevard,” Manager of Communications for FE&P Susan Glenn, wrote in the email. “We are asking all parkers to relocate from these areas before 7 p.m. this Friday, Aug. 30.”

Parking Manager Mike Morgan said that although close to 600 spots are being occupied by the construction, everyone who previously purchased a permit for West Lot would still be able to park there.

“The biggest impact people will notice is where you used to swim in spaces in West Lot 3, there will be very few spaces.” Morgan said. “West Lot 4 will fill up more often.”

According to Morgan, commuters arriving later in the day will have to park in West Lot 4, and occasionally in West Lot 5. Morgan said resident students should be able to keep a spot in West Lot 4 and should not fear being displaced to the Greenbriar List, which will be the last resort and will occur only during game days when West Lots 4 and 5 are sold to capacity.

Morgan said that the Inner Loop bus will now be modified around West Lot 3 to accommodate extra space for the construction site. According to Assistant Vice President for Management and Engineering Kathy Jones, the construction of the tennis center began in 2011, but student parkers were not notified until early last week. Jones College Freshman Joan Liu said she would have liked more notice from FE&P.

“I think that the parking team did a poor job of notifying people of the situation,” Liu said. “It would have made more sense for students to know about the construction plans before they paid for parking.”

Jones said she anticipates only a small portion of the parking spots occupied by the current construction will be restored once the project is completed in June 2014. Glenn said that while no concrete plans have been decided on yet, FE&P will work toward solutions for improved parking in the future to better serve Rice faculty and students.

An email from Vice President for Administration Kevin Kirby Aug. 30 reminded Rice students, faculty and staff that although parking will be more limited, they should still park their cars within Rice’s campus to avoid disturbing the surrounding neighborhoods.

see SPORTS p. 9

**By Denise Lee**

For The Thresher

West Lot construction impacts parking, bus routes

see OPS p. 2

see A&E p. 6

see SPORTS p. 9

The Owls take flight

Wide receiver Jordan Taylor makes a leaping catch at the goal line against Texas A&M. For full story, see page 8.

**By Mathew Thibald**

For The Thresher

...
**Going abroad, a valuable opportunity**

When I decided to spend my last summer doing research, they usually wrinkle their noses over how boring such a choice is. Maybe it is because I love science, or maybe it is because I did my research in southern France. Either way, I was still determined to stay on a path I chose and I would try something new. Around that time, Rice invited me to consider a summer program that included research experience for undergraduate programs, which are summer research programs funded by the National Science Foundation. I was interested in this program and the opportunity to find a research position in France. This was exactly what I wanted at the time, and I felt it was the perfect opportunity to explore new places and learn about a different culture without being overwhelmed by the language barrier.

Living in Aix-en-Provence was perfect for my love of art and culture. Located in the south of France, this little town, full of pictures and freshly baked bread, is nestled in the heart of the country of France by constantly using English, so I refused to be a fool of myself and to hurt the administration. As soon as the opportunity came, I quickly became familiar with Crepe-a-Go-Go, an adorable little creperie, and the very kind woman who owned it. She became a close friend and my go-to person for food recommendations. I tried fresh mussels and ratatouille in Aix-en-Provence, which became some of my favorite meals. I also spent time at a local boulangerie, where I tried fresh-baked bread and pastries, which were some of the best I have ever tasted.

**Financial literacy is a must for students**

It is not a stretch to say that risk is endemic to any academic program we select as a collective, sometimes with the goal of learning from other cultures and gaining a global perspective on science. I love talking, and one of the worst parts of my summer was having to constantly use English as a result. I felt extremely lonely at the beginning of the program, and I started to talk about the challenges I faced. I soon realized that I was not the only one who felt the same way. The atmosphere of the program was extremely friendly, and the students and faculty members seemed like a definite indication that the administration is not approximating addressing the changing size of the undergraduate student body. However, the decision to end 28 faculty positions seems like a definite indication that the administration is taking students’ voices into account.

When allocating the remaining funds of the Centennial Campaign, the Thresher suggests the administration to consider student needs first. The Thresher hopes the administration to understand the importance of education for those who are qualified, regardless of financial circumstance. This balance between financial aid and academic opportunities should exist without the admission of any specific discipline. The Thresher urges the administration to consider the undergraduate student body’s need for financial aid and renovation in the future; the Rice campus should directly reflect and cater to the needs and activities of the students.

Perhaps most importantly, we suggest the administration use this Centennial Campaign’s funds to balance a financially healthy Rice.

Historically, Rice has maintained a healthy balance between innovative research and student-centered learning. While this balance exists, students are both able to push themselves into the professional and academic world of research and to grow into young adults in the supportive and personal environment of the small classroom. To lose either of these traits would deprive future Rice students of the opportunity to be exposed to these two types of education as we move into the next century. Furthermore, when students of differing disciplines work together, they tend to develop a broader set of skills necessary for their future. Despite our reputation, Rice has strived to accommodate students’ needs across all income levels. Protection from these needs and activities, precluding the student body from voice-taking accounts, the number drops to just $12,000 for families with an income nearing retirement is $100,000 (a few hundred dollars a month), but other than this, they consider the financial aid and renovation in the future; the Rice campus should directly reflect and cater to the needs and activities of the students.

The Thresher would like to commend the administration for choosing to allocate a substantial portion of the $1 billion raised during the University’s Centennial Campaign to end 28 faculty chairs (see story, p. 1). Throughout the past year, the Thresher and the student body have communicated the need for new classes; the current class sizes are becoming too large and that the administration is not appropriately addressing the changing size of the undergraduate student body. However, the decision to end 28 faculty positions seems like a definite indication that the administration is taking students’ voices into account.

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Join the Club: New clubs span a variety of student interests on campus

Rice Coalition for Hunger and Homelessness

The Rice Coalition for Hunger and Homelessness will focus on tackling pov- erty and homelessness in Houston, ac- cording to founder Ahmed Haque.

Haque, a graduate student in bioen- gineering, said that while most service clubs tend to mitigate the effects of hun- ger and homelessness, RCoHH differs be- cause it will try to attack the problem at its source.

“Volunteering itself is great and in- credibly important but, in and of itself, isn’t enough,” Haque said. “In order to make meaningful change, there is a real need to spend time experimenting with new kinds of solutions, developing con- nections with existing agencies, building deeper awareness about the problem and generally serving as advocates for this group in need.”

The club was originally started to continue a project Haque and a group of friends had been working on called Sandwich-ness-for-All, in which students made and distributed sandwiches to the local impoverished and shelters, according to Haque. Eventually, the group realized their project could accommodate more volunteers, and more importantly, that what they were doing was not enough, Haque said.

“While handing out sack lunches was awesome and it was obvious that those receiving them were incredibly grateful, the work itself felt sort of low-impact,” Haque said. “Handing someone a sack lunch once a month, even if every month, is just a tiny Band-Aid solution to a serious structural problem.”

Basmati Beats

Basmati Beats is a group that sings a mix of Indian and American songs. It has existed as acts in the South Asian Soci- ety’s Dhakama and Kangula, but has be- come a separate club in order to be able to hold auditions, according to club co- president Ashley Joseph.

“Now, we can rope in people who would not necessarily be able to partici- pate unless they were members of SAS,” Joseph, a Jones College junior, said. “Holding auditions allows us to select members whose voices will be able to work well to- gether to create the best possible sound.”

The group will continue to perform in SAS’s cultural shows, but will also have other performances both in- and outside of Rice, Jo- seph said. “We plan to have a joint concert with SAS in November to showcase individual talent of members in both organizations,” Joseph said.

“Through the year, we hope to perform at venues in and around the greater Hous- ton community, and we plan to participate in South Asian a cappella competitions.”

Auditions will be held on Friday, Sept. 6 from 7-7 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 5-6 p.m.

Asian Pacific American Student Alliance

The Asian Pacific American Student Alli- ance will dedicate itself to establishing a Pan- Asian identity at Rice, according to Internal Vice Chair Bo Kim.

“Through collaboration with existing Asian-American organizations, both on and off campus, we will educate the student body about the shared experiences of Asian Ameri- cans and issues that affect Asian Americans as a whole,” Kim, a McMurry College sopho- more, said.

APSA was formed to increase awareness and spark campus discussion of Asian Ameri- can issues, Kim said.

NETwork Against Malaria

NETwork Against Malaria is a national or- ganization that works with schools in Uganda to distribute mosquito nets treated with insect- ics to reduce students’ risk of being bitten, according to Rice chapter co-founder and pres- ident Ashley Phillips.

“The major fundraiser for NETwork is the sale of beaded jewelry that incorporates paper recycling to reduce the number of students lost to malaria,” Phillips said.

Phillips said he, along with Will Rice Col- lege junior Sajani Patel and Brown College junior Julika Kaplan, founded the chapter because it allows interested Rice students to take an active role in a significant public health effort.

“Malaria is a hugely significant public health concern, and NETwork allows us to assist in the effort to reduce the num- ber of lives lost to this disease,” Phillips said. “Rice is full of passionate, caring and globally aware students, and we saw a lot of potential for NETwork to thrive on our campus.”
FUNDING
FROM PAGE 1

Additionally, Zeidenstein said the campaign funded 28 endowed chairs. “That is 28 endowments that supports keeping the best faculty here and bringing really great professors to campus,” Zeidenstein said. “Not all those chairs have been fully funded and not all the professors have come, but a good number have [already], and that means more course offerings, better faculty, better academic reputation, etc. The impact on that is immediate for students now, [and] because their reputation is excellent in research and teaching, [there’s] going to be a long-term benefit from the campaign.”

Programs funded by the campaign money include the Chao Center for Asian Studies and the OpenStax College, a Rice initiative led by Richard G. Baraniuk, the Victor E. Cameron Professor in Engineering, to make free 25 textbooks from the 25 fields that make up 80 percent of the textbook market, Zeidenstein said. “The campaign raised millions to actually either acquire the rights to really good textbooks, or to contract with leading professors and faculty members who write those textbooks,” Zeidenstein said. “We pay them a good amount of money, they write really excellent textbooks, and they’ve put online for free.”

There are also a number of brand-new programs funded by donors, Zeidenstein said, including a doctoral program in art history, the only degree of its kind offered in Houston. Programs funded by the campaign money are called “really great programs,” Zeidenstein said. “We’ve been able to sustain the success of a university like ours.”

“We could not continue to have the success we have had without this kind of support,” Paige added. “The campaign’s success should give everyone a great feeling of optimism as Rice’s second century begins.”

“With a university our size to exceed a goal that was higher than we were advised could be achieved, in the economic climate we faced, is just a tremendous testimony to the support of our alumni, our friends and the people of Houston,” Zeidenstein said. “We ought to all take pride that we’ve created and sustained a university that attracts that kind of support. Per- sonal interaction is one of the most successful university campaigns. This is what it takes to sustain the success of a university like ours. We could not continue to have the success we have had without this kind of support.”

“Obviously there are a lot of things that people will come here for, like the residential college system and the atmosphere, but the main thing is to get that good education,” Figueroa said. “I think that having funds to improve Rice’s staff and to improve the way of life. I don’t think it’d even break the top 50 … Student life would be pretty barren and not nearly as rich if you took away philanthropy.”

The Center for Computational Finance at Rice University

The Center for Computational Finance at Rice University presents the 4th Eubank Conference:

Creating Growth through Entrepreneurship and Analytics

September 23, 2013

Details and registration at statistics.rice.edu

... Community Bridges works to connect Rice students the surrounding community. The program partners with organizations in Houston’s Fifth Ward. Applications for a Community Bridges fellowship are currently being accepted.

...
Rice Bike Rentals offers a new option for riders

BY JEREMY HUANG
FOR THE THRESHER

This past Sunday marked the start of the Rice Bike Rental program as a group of Rice University students took hold of 30 glimmering new bicycles — theirs to keep for the rest of the semester.

Previously, the bikes were kept in the base- ment of Sid Richardson College, which houses the student-run Rice Bike Shop. Employees of the shop worked closely with organizers of the Rice Bike rental program, helping to select and acquire the bikes.

The program aims to reduce Rice students’ dependence on motorized transportation by providing semester-long leases of quality bicycles at a reasonable price — $50 per semester, plus a $200 deposit, according to the group’s website.

General manager Seta McCroy said the number of applications greatly exceeded the number of available bikes. McCroy, a McMurtry College senior, said priority was given to applicants who have long-distance needs, such as those who live off campus.

Rice Bike Rental was initially conceived by five students taking the course ENST 302: Environmental Issues: Rice in the Future. The original group comprised McCroy, graduate student Allen Chen, exchange student Clement Olalde, and student Alyssa Casias (Wiess College ’13).

Rice Bike general manager Matt Makansi said a hallmark of the program is the accountability it asks of its participants in their commitment of regular maintenance. Casias said the program aims to reduce Rice students’ dependence on motorized transportation by providing semester-long leases of quality bicycles at a reasonable price — $50 per semester, plus a $200 deposit, according to the group’s website.

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The closing reception for Darra Keeton's show will be held Thursday, Sept. 5 from 5-8 p.m. Come to experience her world of art and, perhaps equally as importantly, to dance.
Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Actions

C+

BY BENJAMIN HUBER-RODRIGUEZ
Thresher Staff

Ten years into its career, indie rock band Franz Ferdinand sings about playing the young man’s game of attending dance clubs and cruising for girls, and it sounds like the group is damn good at it. Unfortunately, it forgot how to play the game of making good rock music. While Franz’s earlier material contains slick observations and tales of everyday people, all sprinkled with late-night romances, Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action demonstrates its development into the kind of club rat songwriters it used to sing about—a more formulaic transition.

Scotland’s Franz Ferdinand first came to prominence in 2004 with its crossover hit “Take Me Out,” featuring an empyrical self-titled debut album. That record was an intricate collection of stories set to Franz’s trademark dance-rock grooves with a smattering of crunch in all the right places. In Right Thoughts, the Glasgow quartet’s fourth LP, its sound has been stripped of its edginess, dynamics and tempo shifts, resulting in a run of 10 tracks so similar it can be difficult to tell when one ends and the next begins.

The album starts out with “Right Action,” a song about ending up with the girl you met the night before. As the title and opening track, it is weak but representative of the record to come. Lead singer Alex Kapranos’ previously witty wordplay is reduced to, “This time, same as before, I’ll love you forever,” the song devolves into a series of “Do-do-do’s.” The next track, “Evil Eye,” describes a femme fatale at a club. “Love Illumination” is potentially an other sure-to-be hit to perfectly accompany the final dog days of summer.

To its credit, Franz maintains the professionalism and musicianship of a seasoned rock band. Its lineup has been consistent since the group’s inception, and although it no longer tries for the fiery guitar sound has been stripped of its edginess, dynamics and tempo shifts, resulting in a run of 10 tracks so similar it can be difficult to tell when one ends and the next begins. These dance numbers, a failure to deviate from the formula leaves the album lacking additional dimensions.

Right Thoughts is Franz’s first LP in four years, and its hiatus has resulted in a narrower scope in both sound and lyrics. Ten upbeat dance tracks, its sound about hazy Saturday night lovin’. The record is catchy and can be fun, but nothing on it comes close to the inventive highs of Franz’s previous discography. On “Treat Me Animals,” Kapranos describes dance hall denizens as animals and proclaims himself king, Fitting, since the characters of his songs are more closely resemble shadows of bears than any kind of human.
Owls take early lead, fall short to the Aggies

By Dan Elledge

For the first time in 18 years, the Owls visited an old Southwestern Conference foe when they traveled to College Station to play Texas A&M University on Saturday. With Texas A&M redshirt sophomore quarterback Johnny Manziel suspended for the first half of the game for breaking NCAA rules, the Owls soared out of the gate to take a 14-7 lead after the first quarter.

Despite Manziel’s celebrity status, the Owls were on fire in the first quarter of the game for breaking NCAA rules, the Owls took their foot off the gas pedal and let Texas A&M take back the reins. “On the first play, we used one of the packages we installed and got the ball rolling,” McHargue said. “It’s one of those things that I told the team we needed to create more turnovers.”

The Owls notched another touchdown at the end of the first half thanks to an acrobatic grab by junior wide receiver Jordan Taylor to cut the lead in half, 28-21. At the start of the second half, the Owls had a chance to tie the game, but McHargue threw two crucial interceptions on back-to-back drives. He said that these errors were inexcusable and ultimately cost the team in the long run.

“We shot ourselves in the foot,” McHargue said. “You know to come and play Texas A&M was really proud of the offensive line, really proud of the running back, over 500 yards [on offense] and to have over 500 yards [on offense] and to have over 500 yards.” Bailiff said that the offense should be geared up and ready to torch defenses as the season goes on.

“Texas A&M capitalized on those turnovers, scoring 10 straight points to take a 38-21 lead and never looked back as the Owls were defeated 57-31. The game did not end without fireworks, however, as Manziel drew a 15-yard penalty for taunting junior Malcolm Hill and redshirt freshman Darrion Pollard after one of his three passing touchdowns. A&M Head Coach Kevin Sumlin benched Manziel for the rest of the game and for the first half of A&M’s next game after he drew the penalty. The Owls were not interested in moral victories after losing by three touchdowns.

“McHargue said that there were a lot of mistakes, but that since it was Week One the team will learn from them and fix everything that is necessary.

“We were dreaming big,” Bailiff said. “We came here to win this football game, as the football team is hurt right now.”

However, Bailiff drew on a lot of positives that the Owls could point to. He said he was really proud of the running game, as Rice racked up more than 300 yards on the ground. Bailiff said that the offense should be geared up and ready to torch defenses as the season goes on.

“You know to come and play Texas A&M and to have over 500 yards [on offense] and to see how good of a team we will be offensively is fantastic,” Bailiff said. “[Charles] Ross to play the way he did, I think at one point there he was averaging over nine yards a carry, I was really proud of the offensive line, really proud of the offensive effort.”

McHargue said that the team’s goals did not include winning the Southeastern Conference Championship and that all of their goals are still obtainable. He sees this game as a small hiccup on the road to an extremely successful season.

“I know we gave up a lot of points, but those kids gave a maximum effort and we are going to be a good C-USA football team,” Bailiff said. “Our goals are still intact. The first goal coming here was to be a better football team. We are going to leave here accomplishing that objective.”

Rice has a bye-week before their home opener on Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m. against Kansas University. The Owls won last year in Lawrence, Kansas on a last-second field goal to notch their first win of the 2012 campaign.
Women’s soccer enjoys weekend with first win of the young season

By Nicki Chamberlain-Simon

Junior goalkeeper Amy Czyz found her career high of 11 saves in Rice University soccer’s scoreless game against Western Kentucky University. The team traveled to Bowling Green, Ky. last Friday, Aug. 31, where they held off an aggressive Western Kentucky team to finish in a 0-0 tie.

Czyz, who has the fourth-highest number of single game saves in Rice history, had to compensate for a new defensive combination and an offense that was not able to maintain ball possession.

“It was for me to make saves and it was a nice change of pace, but that probably means that something else is lacking,” Czyz said.

Western Kentucky outshot Rice 6 to 1 in the first period, which set the tone for the rest of the game. Sophomore forward Danielle Spriggs had Rice’s one shot on goal, but the Owls could not reach the goalkeeper for the remaining 88 minutes of the game.

“I thought where we struggled the most against Western Kentucky was in our midfield and our forwards,” Head Coach Nicky Adams said. “We were having a hard time holding the ball...we would get forward and just give it right back to them.”

Hughes Earns 2 Goals and 1 Assist in First Season Win

Sophomore Lauren Hughes found her rhythm on Sunday after scoring two goals and providing an assist for the third. The team faced the Southeastern Conference’s Kentucky University. The team traveled to Bowling Green, Ky. last Friday, Aug. 31, where they held off an aggressive Western Kentucky team to finish in a 0-0 tie.

Hughes’ first goal was a shot outside the goal box in the 33rd minute and was assisted by Guinny Truong. Freshman back Jenny Fischer provided the second assist toward the end of the first half. Even after Vanderbilt scored two goals and outshot the Owls 9-2 in the second half, the team was able to clinch the win.

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As two seniors who have followed Rice University athletics over the past few years, we have gone through some surprises and disappointments. We have witnessed volleyball’s huge upset to clinch the conference title at home in 2009 and women’s tennis’s impressive winning streak that handed it the conference title last season. We saw both women’s soccer and swimming become premier teams in the conference, securing their first conference championships in their short histories. On the other hand, there have been times when seasons have ended abruptly. Baseball last year was on the cusp of going back to the College World Series for the first time since 2008 before it stumbled against North Carolina State in the Super Regionals, two wins shy of making it to the World Series at Omaha. We had a promising basketball team with young stars like Tamir Jackson and Arsalan Kazemi that gave us a glimmer of hope at ending the 43-year-old NCAA tournament drought before a string of transfers and allegations against the athletic department left the team in shambles.

Looking forward to our last year as Rice undergraduates, and considering this year’s football team and schedule, we are anticipating wins and a run at a conference championship. The last time Rice football won a conference championship was 1957, but the opportunity has come again.

This year’s team brings back 18 starters and the momentum from last year’s convincing win in the Armed Forces Bowl against the U.S. Air Force Academy. The result of the Texas A&M University game should come as no surprise due to the talent the Aggies have on both sides of the ball and does not dampen our outlook on the season. In fact, there should be many positives taken away from that game, including the productivity on offense, which included more than 300 yards rushing against one of the top 10 teams in the nation. The fact that the Owls got off to an early 14-7 lead after the first quarter shows they can play at a high level.

This year’s schedule plays out beautifully for the Owls due to the shuffling of teams in and out of the conference over the past two years. The majority of the teams the Owls are going to play are in the bottom quarter of the NCAA rankings, which presents an opportunity for Rice to capitalize on and add wins.

Even though the schedule is weaker than most years, there are still games that will make or break the Owls’ season. The first such game takes place Sept. 21 against cross-town rival University of Houston, which beat Rice last season 35-14. Even though this is now a non-conference game, implications are always strong, and a win in this encounter would give Rice momentum heading into the conference season.

The game that will decide the Owls’ conference chances will be on the road Oct. 5 against the University of Tulsa. Last year, Rice battled against the heavily favored Golden Hurricane but ultimately fell short 28-24. If the Owls can rival this one in Tulsa, the road to a conference championship will not seem so distant.

We encourage you to be part of what we think will be a fun, successful season with many wins. With free student tickets and a competitive football team, there is no excuse to be anywhere else on Saturday afternoons.

Football has chance for memorable year
Mathison Ingham/Thresher

After making an athletic grab, junior wide receiver Jordan Taylor dives for the endzone to score a touchdown at the end of the first half to cut the Texas A&M lead to 28-21. The Owls went on to take the contest, 52-31 on Aug. 31.

Dan Elledge and Alex Weinheimer

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Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Benjy’s - 2424 Dunstan, Houston, TX 77005
Dress is casual

Please contact Laura Griffith at laura@rgmadvisors.com for more information. Please go to our website rgmadvisors.com for more information about the company.
After falling victim to this summer’s health care waver scam, John Hutchinson was cornered into the exorbitant university health care policy and forced to pay nearly $2,000 in fees. As a less-collegeAP Chemistry teach-er, Hutchinson lacked the funds and was too proud to ask his wealthy former busi-ness partner David Leebrof help. Trapped between his ego and a desperate need for money, Hutchinson turned to the dark alceves of his untapped potential, and Hutchenberg was born. 

Outwardly a spokesperson for the Alcohol Policy Advi-sory Committee and the stu-dents he claimed to govern, Hutchenberg’s behind-the-scenes actions were not quite so innocent. Over the sum-mer, he began his work in a small vehicle three miles into the West Lot desert. As his opera-tion grew, he moved into a larger space at the nearby 1 Sun-set Blvd. residence. Still, this was not enough for this increasingly crazed pro-fessional. At the begin-ning of this academic year, Hutch opened up his “research” lab in Dell Bucher Laboratory, where he scaled up produc-tion of his distinct blue-tint-ed grain alcohol. Hutchinson had broken bad.

Soon, he realized that in order to build a proper empire, he would need a distribution network. So he developed a radical re-cruitment and training op-eration known as SCAL@R. Under the guise of teach-ing students chemistry in a small-sized active learning environment, the program secretly instructed them on Selling Clear Alcohol and Li-quor at Rice. 

With the permanent ban on hard alcohol that Hutch-enberg strategically or-chestrated, demand for the so-called “Hutch Hooch” was as high as ever. Hutch-enberg had long since paid off his health waiver, but he couldn’t stop. The money kept flowing, and Hutchenberg needed a way to clean his tainted cash. Naturally, he turned to his associates in the Cashier’s Office. 

While it appeared to the outside public that nobody in the office was ever working, the employees were actu-ally spending nearly a full workday sorting and laun-dering Hutchenberg’s new-found wealth.

But it was not just his financial status that was changing. Since entering the business, Hutchenberg’s hair slowly began to thin into oblivion, and colleagues began noticing irrational be-havior such as breaking into random dance and giving impromptu speeches. But recent developments have made Hutchenberg’s future uncertain. DEA official John-ny Whitehead and his army of EMS agents have been in pursuit for months but lack the undermining evidence necessary to convict. They hope endangering student’s lives by taking away the am-nesty policy will prove use-ful in this witch hunt for the producer of Special Blue.

How will it all end? Is Hutchenberg acting alone? Is Jesse Pinkman going to find happiness? Is Martel a college? Will Hutchenberg be able to escape before he is taken down by the amnesty policy? Tune in to RTV5 Sun-days at 8 p.m. for a com-pletely unrelated low-budget programming.

The backpage is satire and written by Alex Weinheimer and Beed Thomburn. For comments or questions, please email aw@rice.edu. Photo illustration by Claire Eletzer.