Shepherd to build new opera house in West Lot

BY ANDREW TA  NEWS EDITOR

Rice alumnus Charles Renfro (Will Rice ’95) will be the lead architect for the Shepherd School of Music’s new opera theater, which is scheduled to begin construction just west of Alice Pratt Brown Hall in mid-2015, External Relations Coordinator for the Shepherd School of Music Holli Clements said.

“The architect will be the New York based firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro,” Clements said. “Rice alum [Renfro] is a partner with the firm. Pre-design and design will take place over the next year, with construction likely to begin in late spring or summer of 2015.”

Clements said seed funding for the building came from an anonymous gift during the Centennial Campaign. According to Rice’s website, the gift was designated specifically for the purpose of building a new opera theater, and additional funds were raised by Rice to complete the project.

“The anonymous gift, announced last year, allowed Rice to begin moving forward with the initial phase of this project, which included forming a search committee and interviewing prospective architecture, design and acoustics firms,” Clements said.

According to Clements, the university has acknowledged that the new building will reduce available parking spaces.

“As underground parking garage that would be built before the new facility and would serve the needs of both music buildings, in addition to other users of the west end of campus, has been discussed, but not confirmed, at this point,” Clements said.

According to Clements, the new opera house will provide a wide range of...
BRC begins expansion talks with Alexandria Real Estate Equities

BY OLIVER SD & YASNA HAGHOOST
FOR THE THRESHER & NEWS EDITOR

The BioScience Research Collaborative of Rice University and Alexandria Real Estate Equities are beginning a discussion on a potential future collaboration, according to President David Leebron.

Leebron said he believes a partnership with AREE would be beneficial for the BRC, given history of developing biomedical research centers across the country.

"AREE is probably the most successful developer of biomedical research centers in the U.S.," Leebron said. "We want the BRC to be as successful as it can be, and that means sort of being part of a kind of ecosystem of biomedical institutions."

Leebron also said that AREE has a good track record of cooperation with academic institutes, such as Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Academic institutions can work with AREE," Leebron said. "That’s what the evidence suggests."

A collaboration would allow the BRC to reach its full potential as a biomedical research center in Houston, according to Leebron.

"With cooperation with AREE, one of the most successful developers’ of biomedical research in the U.S., the BRC can have its research translated and applied and possibly have a new tower, which Rice cannot afford by itself," Leebron said.

"We hope BRC can become part of the ecosystem of biomedical institutions."

Leebron said cooperating with AREE would allow the BRC to become more attractive to potential partners such as Baylor, M.D. Anderson, UT Health and Methodist Hospital.

"If that really shows their intention to integrate themselves," Leebron said, "we want the BRC to be as successful as we'd like to be unless Houston is a center for biomedical research and application."

While Rice and AREE have had a relationship in the past, the conversation for a partnership began more recently, Leebron said.

"The conversation between Rice and AREE actually started years ago, because people from Rice and AREE knew each other," Leebron said.

"But it wasn’t until one year ago that progress was really made."

According to Leebron, a relationship between AREE and the BRC could lead to greater opportunities for students.

"Rice can benefit widely from this cooperation," said Leebron. "There may be funding to both support and better research opportunities."

Although no detailed plan has been laid out, Leebron said the basis for the first level of agreement will take place and cooperation would begin in the next half year.

Martel College freshman Catherine Levins said she believes Rice’s collaboration with AREE has the potential to be beneficial.

"It’s a good choice for Rice to conduct such a cooperation with a real estate company," Levins said. "It’s a good chance for Rice to develop relationships with other professional biomedical institutes in Houston."

Hanszen College sophomore Helen Xiang said integrating Rice into the larger Houston community is a step in the right direction.

"People see Rice as very isolated and private in its research, and working with other institutes in Houston will definitely help with whatever projects they are working on," Xiang said.

"Also, I think it’s really interesting how BRC is teaming up with a real estate company, because that really shows their intention to integrate themselves."
The full faith and credit of the United States of America should never be in doubt. That doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be debated or discussed, but it should never be in doubt.

Leader Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader

Pelosi also spoke about the Affordable Care Act, which she said is an innovation in wellness and prevention that will save about a trillion dollars over the course of 10 years, as well as giving Americans a healthier life to pursue their happiness, in accordance with the wishes of the founding fathers.

“We put it there as a pillar of social security, medicare, affordable care, for all Americans,” Pelosi said. “We are honoring the vows of our founders, who sacrificed everything, for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. So it’s liberating in that respect, for life, liberty and the pursuit of our founders, who sacrificed everything, in accordance with the wishes of the founding fathers.

“However, the internal power struggle within the Republican party will prevent much cooperation from occurring on the policies Leader Pelosi discussed,” Dargan, a political science junior, said. “If bipartisanship is really the goal, Congress needs to look at policies that are less politically divisive such as revenue-neutral tax reform.”

Pelosi is also optimistic about a framework and path for the Iranian nuclear talks, saying that one of the pillars of American national security is to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Pelosi called the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreeing to the sanctions on Iran an accomplishment. “It’s deadly serious,” Pelosi said. “The fact that Iran is a country that has proximity to Israel, and Israel has all this concern –– the pandering as she repeatedly referred to many of Pelosi’s statements but could sense an awareness of the major issues.

“In terms of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Pelosi mentioned that four weeks ago, if she were here, she would have said to remain calm. “After the actions of Putin the last few weeks, some of the same calm voices were saying, this is a different deal now,” Pelosi said. “We had a visit from the Prime Minister of Ukraine last week, and he [was] very calm, asking for diplomatic and economic support. He didn’t make a request for anything military.”

According to Kelty, because people seem to define Pelosi as a representative and role model for women, it seems that they end up asking her the same broad question about what the major challenges for women are in this country.

Dargan said he thinks while Pelosi demonstrated an awareness of the major issues requiring legislative action, she offered few concrete details.

“As is typical in these events,” Dargan said. Dargan said he hoped Pelosi would provide more specifics in her responses.

Pelosi also was asked to define bipartisanship in Washington since the government shutdown, rather than a temporary truce, Pelosi said he should be the judge.

“When Drezdjen asked Pelosi if she believes the passing of the first clean increase in the debt ceiling since 2009 is a sign of increasing bipartisanship in Washington since the government shutdown, rather than a temporary truce, Pelosi said he should be the judge.

“The full faith and credit of the United States of America should never be in doubt,” Pelosi said. “That doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be debated or discussed, but it should never be in doubt.”

“You have to view every situation fresh and assess the opportunities it presents, the public understanding of it.”

Pelosi said she is hopeful for comprehensive immigration reform.

Baker Institute Student Forum Vice President of Outreach James Dargan said he thinks Pelosi’s optimism for future cooperation with the moderate Republicans is a sign that bipartisanship is not a hopeless cause among partisan leaders.

Pelosi called the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreeing to the sanctions on Iran an accomplishment.

The Rice Thresher Wednesday, March 26, 2014

RUPD BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period March 16-22. This does not represent the daily crime log required by the Clery Act, which can be found at rupd.rice.edu

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Weiss College
Jones College
March 16
March 16

Lovelot College
Will Rice College
March 18
March 18

jones College
March 22

THEFT OF A BICYCLE

ASSAULT

THEFT OF A BICYCLE

THEFT OF A BICYCLE

MINOR IN CONSUMPTION

OTHER BUILDINGS

Dell Butcher Hall
March 20

THEFT OF A BICYCLE

OTHER LOCATIONS

Engineering quad
March 19

HIT AND RUN PROPERTY DAMAGE

March 21

DAMAGED PROPERTY-GRAFFITI

THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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THE BOOKS THAT SHAPED MY WORLD

GUEST SPEAKER

DR. MARY B. MCINTIRE

DEAN OF CONTINUING STUDIES

GLASSCOCK SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

7 P.M.

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

FARNSWORTH PILLOW

IN THE LEY STUDENT CENTER

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2014 Alternative Spring Break Showcase
Tuesday, March 31st
7:00 - 8:30 pm
RMC Grand Hall

Come learn about the ASP program and see what all 17 trips accomplished this year!!

Each trip will have delicious, FREE food, so come hungry.

Fill out a stamp card by visiting 8 different trip tables and entered to win one of many prizes!!

Information will also be available at the event for 2015 ASP Site Leader, Faculty/Staff Participant, and Student Participant time lines and applications. Find out more at www.cic.rice.edu
RCEL hosts innovative conference with 14 universities, gains recognition

BY ANETA ALEM & ANDREW WEISS THRESHER STAFF & NEWS EDITOR

The Rice Program Council considers Rondelet successful despite many last minute ticket transfers

BY MADELINE TIBALDI THRESHER STAFF

Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson will have soon visited all 14 residential colleges to discuss the culture of care and encourage students to retrieve stress in safe ways, especially as it pertains to drug and alcohol usage, he said.

"I hit the two big points having to do with responsible, responsible and respectful behavior as well as the culture of care and the medical amnesty policy," Hutchinson said. "I then opened it up for questions."

Hutchinson said he hopes to clarify the medical amnesty policy and its delineation between the consumption and distribution or selling of hard alcohol, hallucinogens, narcotics and other illegal drugs.

"Personal consumption or possession are treated as a medical issue," Hutchinson said. "If you're in the business of endangering other people by providing or selling substances that are harmful or illegal, then that is not amnesty. And in fact you should anticipate that we will come down pretty hard on that kind of activity here."

Hutchinson also notified Emergency Medical Services that a friend has consumed too much alcohol or taken an illegal substance, the administration will treat the issue as a medical one rather than as a disciplinary one, in which the offending student could be removed from campus.

"I want our students to help each other, support each other and get each other the help that they need," Hutchinson said. "We don't want to see anybody hesitating to call for assistance if there is someone who needs medical assistance.

Hutchinson said it is especially important to engage students in this dialogue after the recent tragedies. He said that the issues are all certainly pertinent in the wake of Willy Week, and the turnover period must be rectified between students and the custodial staff.

Hutchinson also said he hopes students seeking stress relief and fun through jacks and other Beer Bike activities, but he wants to ensure they exercise responsibility and not go out of control.

"If colleges are choosing to do jack's, those jack's need to be respectful to the custodial staff, and also to the students that are in other colleges," Hutchinson said. "Jacks need to be respectful, there needs to be shared fun but should not impose upon the hardworking staff.

"I know that the format of his visits is student-driven, and they are a chance for us to get a good idea of what we need to change with them and get their questions clarified.

"Some of the colleges have set up means by which students can submit anonymous questions," Hutchinson said. "What I mean is to make sure they are all for the information they need about the culture of care, all for it."
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Conventional wisdom

ASB site-lead training program unfair, ineffective

I need to say it: The worst large-scale decision that I have made in the last year was becoming an Alternative Spring Break site leader. I'm writing this piece to express both how much I care about the ASB-site leader program’s potential and the extent to which the Community Involvement Center has disappointed me personally. I think this program is a concern to the larger Rice community, and students who may be considering applying to site lead should bear a perspective other than the one the university presents. However, this is a comment specifically on my experience with the ASB site-leader program that is in no way representative of all site leaders and is not targeted toward the hardworking members of the CIC. In total, the ASB program can run trips and gave around 200 Rice students and staff members access to service-learning opportunities. While it hurts me to communicate this in such a public way, I believe the ASB-trip experience is not worth the CIC's promotion of it because of the meaning involved and takes it to be a site leader.

The worst part about being an ASB site lead—er in the 2013-2014 school year had to do with the specific ASB site-leader program that Rice’s CIC ran and developed. It had to do with site leaders being held to uncommunicated expectations, the CIC’s concept and understanding of service limited to theoretical academia and the CIC’s staff’s lack of willingness to create, participate in or understand the value of an empathetic and growth-oriented relationship between students and professional staff.

As a change from last year’s program, the CIC implemented a mandatory ASB site-leader class (UNIV 315/316, two credits, followed by UNIV 317, one credit), originally sold as a benefit that would be understood through an empathetic and growth-oriented relationship between site leaders and professional staff. However, both courses held site leaders to drastically different expectations, workload, and policies (including an unreasonably strict attendance policy) than were provided when site leaders originally applied to the program. The course itself was disrupted and frequently failed to achieve any meaningful objectives.

During one service and community-based program run by the CIC, I cannot eloquently express the stark contrast between the CIC’s site leader treatment of the way that First Year Programs has so far treated the O-Week coordinators with trust, grace, and compassion.

In our last class of this term, the site-lead were asked what we had learned. The value of the service I’d organized for so other students (as well as participated in) did not come to mind first. What I learned from site leading is being passionate about and organizationally committed to your ASB trip may not be worth the program-related burnout of being a site leader at Rice. I am incredibly proud of the work my fellow site leaders have done in communities across the country, but given the service burnout, as well as loss of passion and dedication as this year progressed, I worry that this program may be doing more harm than good, despite the value of the service being created. Again, this is not to discredit my own, co-leader or participants — I am incredibly proud of everything we did and discussed on our trip. Y'all are great, and this isn't your circus, your mom's parlor.
Meet YouTube celebrity Michael Groth

Brown University has Emma Watson, Northwestern University has Che Haze and Rice University has Michael Groth. Groth, a Baker College freshman, succeeded in attaining over 2.7 million views within a year on his self-created video “How Old is Ash Ketchum?” He now has over 13,000 subscribers for his channel MANDJTV, is a YouTube partner and has six video channels that have broken 10,000 views.

Groth now tries to post videos about once a month. Groth started making videos in eighth grade with his younger brother. His first video, “Nerf War Gone Wrong,” received 60,000 views over two years.

Groth has created. He not only comes up with similar videos, which have also achieved high view counts. In this video, Groth utilizes math and complex logic to compute Ash Ketchum’s “technical age” and “actual age.” Finding the answer to this question is actually much more difficult than you might think.

In this video, Groth utilizes math and complex logic to compute Ash Ketchum’s “technical age” and “actual age.” Finding the answer to this question is actually much more difficult than you might think.

1. “How Old is Ash Ketchum?”
   View count: 1,873,304
   Published: July 21, 2013

In this video, Groth utilites math and complex logic to compute Ash Ketchum’s “technical age” and “actual age.” Finding the answer to this question is actually much more difficult than you might think.

2. “What Happens Inside a Pokeball!”
   View count: 19,601
   Published: July 30, 2013

This video showcases three Pokemon that have broken 10,000 views.

3. “My Fake Starter Pokemon”
   View count: 19,601
   Published: July 30, 2013

Groth’s second most popular video considers several explanations for why Pokemon fit inside a Pokeball and what it might be like inside. Find out if he thinks it’s a spherical prison or a dream oasis.

The editors’ picks for this week’s best events. Time to explore the wonderful world of Houston.

ART FEST
Come check out the 43rd Annual Bayou City Art Festival Friday, March 28 through Saturday, March 30 at Memorial Park. Over 300 artists will be on display with works ranging from painting and sculpture to jewelry and housewares. There will also be food trucks, music and, of course, kite flying contests. Don’t miss your chance to see S.H.A.R.K., the South Houston Area Recreational Kitties in action. Admission is free.

MUSEUMS
Louise your childhood at Hermann Park’s inaugural Hermann Park Kite Festival. Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, music and, of course, kite flying contests. Don’t miss your chance to see S.H.A.R.K., the South Houston Area Recreational Kitties in action. Admission is free.

KITE FLYING

BUCKET LIST
“Before I Die, I want to...” How would you respond? TEDGlobal speaker Candy Chang wanted the idea of the Before I Die walls in 2011. She created a wall near her home in New Orleans where citizens could record their bucket list ideas. The idea spread to communities worldwide. Now through March 31, Houstonians are invited to take part in this collective effort.

DANCE TECH
See dance and technology seamlessly streamlined in WIRED: Dance and Technology. The combination of choreography and spot-on visual effects is sure to excite your senses. The show runs March 28 through April 5. Tickets are $16 plus tax and are sold at the door.

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A&E

album closer “A Dream Of You And Me” that harken back to Let’s Dance-era David Bowie or the dark and pounding rhythm section, pioneered by legendary 80s group Depeche Mode, on “Light House.” These tracks could come off as musically generic, and without Herring they do to an extent, but the anticipated progression and alternating dynamics provided by the band eschew cheesy flourishes and place Herring’s vocals at the center of attention, exactly where they belong.

Lyrically, Singles is an album about calling out relationships, both familial and romantic, for what they really are. Its plentiful metaphors are riddled with references to the sea, as suggested by the cover artwork. “Sun in the Morning” could be taken literally, but when Herring cries out “She feeds me daily soul,” you get the impression that he’s talking about a potential wife or child. The slow jam “A Song for Our Grandfathers” describes the pressures of being a family man. But when the record closes with “A Dream Of You And Me,” Herring lets all of his emotional distress wash away as he relaxes into a seafaring dream, filled with an empty vastness and inner peace. These are by no means master strokes at the complexities of human relationships, but the heart with which Herring vocalizes his internal struggles conveys a personal importance that groups taking wider swipes at life fail to communicate. And if heartfelt, resonant communication backed by solid, catchy synth tracks doesn’t make a great record, I don’t know what does.

This Week in Entertainment

BY LOUIS LESSER

ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

Despite outgrossing its predecessor, the sequel to the beloved 2004 Will Ferrell comedy was more tepidly received by critics and fans. Nonetheless, the film arrives for home viewing in a variety of editions, including extended and unrated varieties. It tells the story of a reunited news team in New York City facing the challenge of 24-hour programming. Bonus features include behind-the-scenes documentaries, audio commentary and deleted, alternate and extended scenes.

HEAD OR HEART

CHRISTINA PERRI ALBUM

Since her career took off following a performance of her song “Jar of Hearts” on a 2010 episode of So You Think You Can Dance, the talented singer-songwriter has emerged as a contemporary music star. After a two-year absence, Perri returns with her second studio album, which contains 13 original tracks, including collaborations with artists such as Ed Sheeran and her lead single “Human,” which has already charted on the Billboard Hot 100.

Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes

The newest edition of the best-selling game series is the first of two entries in the fifth incarnation of Metal Gear Solid, to be followed by Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain. The game features radically enhanced game design and a brand-new, open-world format on a redesigned interface. The programmers behind the game worked to enhance every element of previous versions to take full advantage of the next-generation gaming systems. Available for PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

Noah

Acclaimed director Darren Aronofsky (Black Swan) brings the biblical epic to the big screen with Russell Crowe (Les Misérables) in the titular role, in which he teams up with Jennifer Connelly, his co-star in 2001’s Best Picture A Beautiful Mind. When Noah sees visions of an apocalypse, he must take extraordinary measures to protect his family from a coming flood. PG-13. 132 minutes.

Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain

In this sequel to the award-winning Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes, the story continues with a brand-new narrative. The latest game offers an expanded story and enhanced gameplay mechanics. With a focus on global politics and espionage, this entry promises to be a thrilling and thought-provoking experience. Available for PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

Singles

FROM PAGE 6

Two Bedroom, Two Bath Apartment Homes Ready for Move In!

Student Pricing Starting at only $1600/month!

Medical Center Shuttle includes stop for Rice University
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Kaylen Strench
A&E Editor

The stable mystery in social networking is whether the latest fad will be a "fad" or a fundamental new institution that others will build upon. In a type of Darwinian competition, sites compete for inclusion in the latter category. There are two such mediums, however, that have already made a lasting mark as radical new forms of artistic expression, if not viable business models. Twittering and bloggery present phenomenal new access to the human psyche on a micro and macro level. They should be taken seriously as mediums of literary expression, and they have the potential to showcase the new aspects of human nature that are not accessible in traditional literature.

First, the question arises as to why anyone should respect blogs and Twitter on their literary merit. Many are written stream of consciousness, by more plebeians versus traditionally educated intellectuals, and thus the language deviates phenomenally from traditional texts. To stifle or ignore these handles for these reasons, however, forwards a notion of literary purism – the idea that intellectuals, and thus the language deviates by mere plebeians versus traditionally educated human nature that are not accessible in traditional literature.

Accept the deviations present in these forums as my take would be that we should be wary of purifying vernaculars signify lack of status or intellectual new institution that others will build upon. For others were deemed unworthy of respect blogs and Twitter on their literary merit. There are two such mediums, however, that have already made a lasting mark as radical new forms of artistic expression, if not viable business models. Twittering and bloggery present phenomenal new access to the human psyche on a micro and macro level. They should be taken seriously as mediums of literary expression, and they have the potential to showcase the new aspects of human nature that are not accessible in traditional literature.

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Rachel Marcus
Senior Editor

As a stereotypically busy college student, I definitely should not watch much TV as I do. Lost has no number one vice; new characters pull me in, and plot twists hook me for seasons to come. That being said, even I cannot watch every single new show. I can multi-task all I want, but my work takes precedence, and my shows never make it past my pilot test. Recent mid-season premieres have offered new possibilities for my weekly tv schedule; others were deemed unworthy of my time. Here is my small representation of what’s worth our precious moments of free time, and what probably should not make the cut.

Crisis
Sunday 10/1 p.m. central on NBC

This show is unwatchable. It has been on my radar, for now. The concept of the world’s most influential people subject to kidnappers’ requests after their children are kidnapped on a deep school field trip is far-fetched, hollywood, and ridiculous. I have so far as a few shows make me care less about the main characters. They allude to a linking of identities that cannot be expressed strictly through conversation or abstract artistic means. The answers to these questions are enormously significant and have much to say about the nature of human expression. These forums make the human mind less and less a private black box, they allow a linking of identity that cannot be expressed strictly through conversation or abstract artistic means. The answers to these questions are enormously significant and have much to say about the nature of human expression. These forums make the human mind less and less a private black box, they allow a linking of identity that cannot be expressed strictly through conversation or abstract artistic means.

Take social media seriously

Kalen Strench
A&E Editor

Twittering and bloggery present phenomenal new access to the human psyche on a micro and macro level. They should be taken seriously as mediums of literary expression, and they have the potential to showcase the new aspects of human nature that are not accessible in traditional literature.

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Baseball sweeps Florida Atlantic

by Michael Kidd

The Rice University baseball team competed in a three-game series this past weekend against Florida Atlantic University. In the battle of the Owls, Rice came out victorious in all three contests. The Owls improved to 19-6 on the season and 8-1 in Conference USA play. With the sweep, Rice is now on a nine-game winning streak; the Owls have won 12 of their last 13 games.

Junior right-hander Zech Lemond took the mound for the Rice Owls for the first of three games against FAU on Friday night. Rice led 1-0 after seven innings of play with Lemond pitching all seven scoreless innings. Not until the eighth inning did senior Shane Hoeschle rip a two-out single down the third base line to tack on another run. Lemond threw 8.1 shutout innings and struck out a career-high 12 batters. He was pulled with one out in the ninth and replaced by sophomore Matt Ditman, who secured the 2-0 win.

Sophomore pitcher Blake Fox took the mound on Saturday. The FAU Owls struck first with an RBI single in the first inning. Rice rallied for four runs in the bottom of the third inning to take a 4-1 lead. They then tacked on six more runs in the ballgame, winning by a final score of 14-1. The Owls were 10-13 hitting with runners in scoring position, and Rice's offensive performance coupled with Fox's pitching secured the victory. Hoe- schle tied a career-high by going 4-4 on the day with three doubles. He has hit safely in five straight at-bats since his game-winning hit on Friday night.

Chase McDowell pitched for Rice in the final game of the series on Sunday. In similar fashion to Saturday, the FAU Owls scored a run in the first inning but could not hold the lead. The Rice Owls answered in the bottom of the inning with two runs. Ewing hit a sacrifice fly to tie the game at one run apiece. A few pitches later, junior catcher John Clay Reaves hit a solo home run deep to left field to give Rice the advantage. McDowell went seven innings, allowing the one run until freshman CJ Chatham hit a solo home run in the eighth inning to tie the game at two runs apiece. The game remained tied until the bottom of the 12th inning when junior infielder Kyle Ewing hit a walk-off single to win the game for Rice. Ditman did not allow a single hit in his relief role and struck out eight batters to improve his scoreless innings streak to 17.1 consecutive innings pitched without giving up a run. -see BASEBALL, page 10-

Men’s tennis wins twice at Rice Invitational

by Catherine Levins

This past weekend the Rice men’s tennis team competed in the 56th annual Rice Invitational against Texas A&M, Corpus Christi and Tulane University. Despite persistent rain on Friday, the team won 4-0 against Texas A&M, Corpus Christi.

Sunday’s matches against No. 67 Tulane proved to be a closer match. Tulane had the advantage after the round of doubles, so the Owls needed to win four of six singles matches to secure the team’s 3-2 victory.

Rice Invitational

by Catherine Levins

The Rice Invitational Annual Tournament is one of the oldest collegiate tennis events in the United States. It dates back to 1954 when it was organized by the Rice University Tennis Club. The tournament has grown tremendously and is now one of the premier tournaments in the country. It is held on the Rice University campus at the Rice Tennis Center and hosted by the Rice University Tennis Club.

The tournament is open to all collegiate teams and is divided into singles and doubles divisions. The tournament includes both men’s and women’s teams. The men’s division is divided into three brackets, while the women’s division is divided into two brackets. The tournament is held over three days, with matches being played in the morning and afternoon.

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Lemond said the Owls have grown as a team as the season has progressed. He said the winning streak is a testament to the intensity and focus the team brings into every game.

“You can really see how much more we want it now compared to how we started off,” Lemond said. “We go out with the same intensity every day and everyone’s on board. We don’t want to lose to anybody.”

Skyler Ewing said as the season progressed, the offense developed consistency and the pitching staff has been routinely strong throughout the season.

“It has been one of those deals where, as we move on throughout the season, we have gotten more comfortable at the plate and much more consistent,” Ewing said. “It’s great [to know] our pitching will always be there and that we can rely on our pitching to the extent where we will always [be competitive] in ballgames.”

The Owls will travel to Murfreesboro, Tenn., this upcoming weekend to face the Blue Raiders of Middle Tennessee State University. The three-game series begins Friday, March 28, and first pitch is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.
Track and field begins outdoor season at Texas Southern relays

by Shannon Foreman

The Rice University men’s and women’s track and field teams began their outdoor season this past weekend at the Texas Southern University Relays at TSU in San Marcos, Texas. Several Owls performed strongly at the meet, especially junior Claire Uke, who won the shot put event with a personal-best mark of 4.4 meters, the second-best throw in the nation last week.

Uke said she was surprised by her own performance and hopes the momentum will carry through the rest of the season.

“I actually wasn’t expecting to throw that far on Saturday, so I’m really excited about how the season is going to progress,” Uke said. “Things pan out correctly, I should be able to peak toward the end of [the] outdoor season when things really count.”

Many other field athletes also surpassed their previous personal-best performances. In the women’s pole vault, sophomore McKenzie Johnson won the event with a vault of 4.42 meters, the fifth-best mark in the country last weekend, and junior Alexa Janke returned from injury to break her own personal best to finish in third place with a vault of 3.84 meters.

The Rice women carried their success into the running events as well. Junior sprinter Tyrae Bennett qualified for the NCAA as well as the Victor Lopez Classic, which will feature over 20 collegiate teams.

The Owls will have an opportunity to continue their winning streak when they play host to the Texas Southern track and field teams this upcoming weekend. The team bested both Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and Tulane University in their previous personal-best performances. In the pole vault and sophomore thrower Evan Karakolis’s third-place finish in the javelin.

Men’s track and field Head Coach Jon Warren said he was pleased with the start to the outdoor season but knows the team has much more potential.

“Getting off to a good start is pretty important since we only have eight weeks until the outdoor conference meet,” Warren said. “We are still looking for significant improvement as the season progresses, but I am happy with the start.”

The Owls will next compete at Rice on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30 at the Victor Lopez Classic, which will feature over 20 collegiate teams.

Clark visits NCAA championship

by Julie Doar

Last weekend, swimmer Casey Clark represented Rice University in three events at the NCAA Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships in Minneapolis, Minn. Clark, a Baker College junior, competed in the 100-yard butterfly, the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle events. She placed 2nd in the 100-yard butterfly, 4th in the 200-yard freestyle and tied for 9th in the 100-yard freestyle. Clark did not qualify for the finals.

Clark said she was excited for the NCAs and wanted to continue her momentum from the regular season and Conference USA championships.

“I was really looking forward to [the 100-yard butterfly] this past weekend,” Clark said. “That was my focus throughout the season, and I felt that it was my best chance of making it back to finals. NCAs was a lot easier for me; I think my goals are a lot higher at this point in the season.”

Clark said she was looking to improve on her performance despite not advancing to the finals.

“I was 2nd in the [100-yard butterfly], which was an improvement from my seeding,” Clark said. “Both of my 100s were relatively close to my best times, so I was happy with those events.”

Clark said she has taken much away from her experience and gained a new perspective and appreciation for the sport.

“The experience has taught me some things,” Clark said. “I’m so excited about moving on down in preparation for the meet. I think it’s easy to forget that the meet represents some of the fastest swimmers in the country. Taking some perspective and enjoying the experience are the most important things I took away from the meet.”

Although the season has ended, Clark has a far-seeing eye. She said she is already looking forward to her senior year season, and she wants to help get a team relay qualified for the NCAs next year.

“My goals for the rest of my swimming career are getting a relay qualified for NCAA as well as setting points at the championships,” Clark said.

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713.348.4357
helpdesk@rice.edu
Dear Rice Community (and Daniel Imas),

In response to your comment that overcrowding is a problem at all colleges on Beer Bike morning, I think this issue is something that can be addressed on a case-by-case examination. But I would suggest that all colleges are overcrowded in general. By my own experience, Martel is a special case. As keg-usage data corroborates, individuals have a hard time standing.

Ultimately, if we cannot find balance, I feel that this reflects severely on our values as a Rice community. Do we not like drinking openly at the break of dawn? Is it so important that we migrate to Martel that we completely disregard Wiess’ awesome tradition? Do we not value the chance to act like complete children once a year? Is it so important that the Martel community has the right to get intoxicated at 6:15 a.m. and listen to “Crown on the Ground” together as a collective, without the burden of drunken riff raff climbing on shit.

Martel deserves its own chance to skip around playing Candy Land, even if this comes at the minor cost of people enjoying time with their own colleges for a brief period. Similarly, if we cannot find balance, I feel that this reflects severely on our values as a Rice community. Do we not like drinking openly at the break of dawn? Do we not value the chance to act like complete children once a year? Is it so important that the Martel community has the right to get intoxicated at 6:15 a.m. and listen to “Crown on the Ground” together as a collective, without the burden of drunken riff raff climbing on shit.

My dream is that the Rice community finds balance this Saturday, even if individuals have a hard time standing.

Dean Hutch

The Backpage is satirical and written by Alex Weinheimer and Reed Thornburg. Newspaper Logo designed by Luis Prado from the thenounproject.com. For any comments or questions, contact ajw3@rice.edu.