SA discusses bill to create task force on education

BY MILES KRUPPA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Student Association is considering a bill that would create a task force to examine the future of education at Rice University. Trent Navran, the SA Executive Vice President, introduced the bill to create the Rice Education of the Future task force at the student senate meeting; the bill will be put up for vote at the senate meeting today, Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Navran said the idea to form and chair the SA task force arose from discussions about the Rice experience that occurred during the continental, such as the Student Vision for the Second Century.

“Continental was a longitudinal...one of the key priorities we wanted to emphasize was advancing the Rice education,” Navran said. “Trent Navran, a McMurtry College senior, said in the letter.

The only fixed annual expense that Honor Council incurs, Leflogis writes, is a changeover dinner that is a tradition for the organization.

Despite admitting that the changeover dinner is an annual tradition, Honor Council did not include this expense in any of their reports since 2009 saw one. The receipt for the 2017 changeover dinner indicates that Honor Council spent $1,000 for a meal for 30 people, which amounts to around $33.33 per person.

In a letter to the Standing Committee, Donald Ostdiek said he supports Honor Council’s expenses to be below the level of blanket tax funding, the report states. “There has apparently been confusion as to whether the amount was $16.00 or $2.00 per student per year.”

Honor Council released a projected budget for 2014-15 after its meeting with the Standing Committee. Of the $12,375 projected expenses, $5,290 was allocated for one-time expenses such as furniture, supplies, tickets, and a scanner. As per previous years, $6,000 was allocated for changes to the executive vice president, as well as $200 worth of gifts from the Rice Book Store for purchases.
The budget also allocated $185.35 for sales tax on purchases, despite the fact that Rice is a tax-exempt organization.

In a letter to the Student Body, Donald Bowers II (Hanszen ’91), Associate Dean of Undergraduates, states. “There has apparently been confusion as to whether the amount was $16.00 or $2.00 per student per year.”

A panel of faculty, staff and students held a forum titled “Mobilizing Student Dialogue: What happened in Ferguson?” Could it happen here?” to address the shootings of Michael Brown.

A forum was held on Oct. 15 titled “Mobilizing Student Dialogue: What happened in Ferguson?”. Could it happen here?” to address the shootings of Michael Brown.

The event, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Center for Civic Leadership, had more people in attendance than could be seated at Fannin Pavilion.

Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot by Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 18. His death led to protests and continued unrest.

According to Felicia Martin, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, the decision to host the event was an effort to open the conversation.

“Making the decision and the violence linked to it called New Negroes in the late 19th century is of a kind of similar type of violence that is often meted out to African-Americans,” Byrd said. “I don’t think that way, in this context, is a new era.”

Associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese Luís Duno-Gutierrez discussed criminalization of minorities and mass incarceration, as well as racial profiling.

“Racial profiling roots in a visual regime,” breakdown by a series of cultural dis- courses that is in visually seeing the other as the criminal,” Duno-Gutierrez said.

“This is not connected to a single pro- gram who is racist. There is a whole history that constructs that whole visu- al regime,” Rice University Police Department Chief Johnny Whitehead said there are reasons other than bias to explain why events such as the Ferguson shooting occur, including poor training, lack of equipment, poor recruitment processes and lack of accountability when those events do occur. Whitehead also said
**The blanket tax is a draconian process for all parties involved.**

Nick Cornell
Sid Richardson College President

Cornell said one of the issues that the pod is looking into is potential reforms to the process so that it is easier for students to implement changes to the blanket tax levels that they voted on.

“The blanket tax is a draconian process for all parties involved,” Cornell said. “It involves a ridiculous amount of paperwork and a ridiculous amount of work reviewing the paperwork and numbers year after year only to arrive at results that don’t mean anything.”

According to University Court Chair Brian Baran, the blanket tax review process as a form of student oversight is essential.

“The SA leadership has been very good at advocating for its role in oversight of the blanket tax, but that needs to be accompanied by better following through on that oversight,” Baran said.

“What’s the point of having an annual review if we don’t follow up on problems that it identifies?”

Honor Council could not be reached for comment.
problems you want to solve.
The task force will include 11 members: four at-large undergraduate representatives, one senator, one college president, four new student representatives and Navran. Navran said he wants to include students with different academic interests on the task force.

“We believe it’s developing entrepreneurship, changing physical spaces on campus to enhance collaboration, changing teacher requirements to emphasize a more experiential learning process, it would be ideal to grow our team’s interest and abilities by finding people on campus who are plugged into different academic areas,” Navran said.

Online Education
The first line of the bill states: “Whereas, the proliferation of digital technologies and Massive Open Online Courses has caused higher education institutions to continually rethink their value proposition regarding their offerings to students and communities.”

Navran said the increasing reliance of Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, such as Coursera and edX, both of which Rice participate in, has forced colleges to reevaluate their value to students.

“There’s a threatening aspect of MOOCs, which is you no longer need to go to a place like Rice for a quality computer science class or go to Princeton for a high-quality history class; you can take them from those institutions for free on Coursera,” Navran said. “What that means for the future is that Rice is something you can no longer say they’re offering an amazing academic experience, the value proposition has to shift.”

Reid Whitaker, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Learning and Scholarship at Rice University, said he views MOOCs as supplements to the Rice education in the future, though not replacing it entirely.

“Rice is an institution that prides itself on small classrooms and interactions, especially the relationship between teacher and student,” Whitaker said. “What I do think that will happen is we will see more ways in which students can complete different courses that may not be the essential pieces [of a Rice education].”

Whitaker said MOOCs have the potential to increase the academic breadth of a Rice education through facilitating interaction with other universities.

“While we may have some limitations with Rice in terms of some co-curricular activities, MOOCs can provide an opportunity to research about all sorts of things,” Whitaker said.

According to Duncan College senior Brian Baran, MOOCs will not fundamentally affect the education Rice currently offers.

“We should first be asking whether we need to fundamentally change the way we approach higher education...”

Brian Baran
Duncan College senior

“I think there’s a reasonable case to be made that higher education on the level that Rice is providing is about a lot more than the classroom experience and that the classroom experience is about much more than the lectures and assignments,” Baran said. “It’s also about being in the classroom with people from a variety of backgrounds and having quality discussions that can’t yet really take place in an online environment.”

Whitaker said he also thought MOOCs will not be able to replace the core Rice classroom experience.

“I think that MOOCs will never replace that laboratory experience, the immediate live conversation, the non-verbal, the connections, the experience of college,” Whitaker said. “That can never be replaced by a MOOC, and it can never get to that level.”

Moving Forward
Baran believes the bill should be reviewed to make it clear that the task force does not presuppose specific changes should be made to the Rice education.

“We should first be asking whether we need to fundamentally change the way we approach higher education, because the answer to that question determines the type of adaptations that we should be making to new technologies and opportunities,” Baran said. “I think the language of the bill implies that we have already determined that major changes need to be made, and that’s a question that the task force should first be asking and considering.”

James College senior Lillian Siedel teaches a section of UNIV 110: First Year Foundations. She said Rice should try to incorporate leadership and extracurricular commitments into its curriculum, citing the Certificate in Civic Leadership as an example.

“Education should be about personal development, and that was mentioned in Le- ebron’s Vision for the Second Century,” Siedel said. “That is something important to consider, especially when moving forward and planning the next century of what a Rice education is going to look like.”

The bill states the REF task force will submit its members for approval on Oct. 8, hold town hall meetings and conversations in October and November, present progress updates on the Oct. 12, Nov. 5, and Nov. 9 satellite meetings, present a document of findings at the Nov. 29 satellite meeting, and submit the document to the administration’s Quality Education Task Force and Office of the President before Dec. 1.

Navran said he hopes the conversations leading up to the creation of the document will be fruitful.

“There are a lot of points where there is a lot of constructive data coming in, and this document will hopefully be the culmination of all of that,” Navran said. “I’m hoping that, along the way, there will be a lot of things that can inform faculty [and] administrators about what really does matter most to students.”

New cloud-based CampusPress to host Rice blogs

BY NAOKI SHEBA
THREESHER STAFF

The IT department has signed the contract to switch from WordPress to CampusPress, a specialized blogging platform designed for schools, this month. According to Rice University Director of Enterprise Application Andrea Martin, the switch was discussed in October 2013, and will be made later this year. Martin said CampusPress will address student demand for additional plug-ins and custom themes and provide for greater storage and unlimited blogs, users and bandwidth since it’s hosted online instead of Rice’s servers.

“It’s a very good deal for the campus,” Martin said. “[Blogging] will be getting much more functionality through the cloud offering compared to what we were able to provide on campus.”

In addition to the new features that CampusPress will make available, Martin said using CampusPress’ cloud offering will be less expensive than providing the blog services through Rice, Martin said the change will occur seamlessly by December, after a short three-month test period done by the CampusPress company.

“The names of all the existing blogs will remain the same and you won’t really know that it is hosted on the cloud versus here at Rice,” Martin said. “We will also keep our old server for a while, so there will be opportunity and time to [fix] any issues that are to come up.”

Martin said she will send out notifications to administrators of any blog.rice.edu site and ask them for their feedback. She said she hopes CampusPress can be integrated with OwlSpace course blogs to improve learning experiences.

“They have a module that we are going to try once we go into production and see whether it will work with OwlSpace,” Martin said. “We are hoping that is the case, but that is something that we will consider in the future.”

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Baker Institute hosts panel discussing lessons and applications of World War I

BY TINA NAZERIAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy hosted a panel discussion titled “Causes and Consequences of World War I: Can the Past Speak to the Present?” on Thursday, Sept. 29, featuring University of Houston Honors College Professor Robert Zaretsky, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies Adam R. Seipp, Samuel McCann Professor of History Peter C. Caldwell and commentary by Ronne Ronnies Baker Fellow Joe Barnes.

Robert Zaretsky

According to Zaretsky, the past itself does not speak. Rather, the interpreters—the historians—are the ones who speak. They ask if the past speaks to the present, they need to specify which past, and which present. “The events of June, July and August of 1914 were not the beginning of the war,” Zaretsky said. “Zaretsky said where a historian decides on the case hand.”

Carl Caldwell

Carl Caldwell said history seldom offers lessons, and it is important to analyze it at a specific level, not a general one. “History offers complex circumstances and unforeseen outcomes,” Caldwell said. “Historical actors are only ever partly aware of the ramifications of their decisions, often, maybe usually, they’re surprised by outcomes. If we abstract from the specifics of an event to find a general lesson, to try to utter a scientific verdict about the causes of war, we risk losing the lessons that history, as an actual event, actually faced. In other words, the search for the lessons can actually obscure the history.”

Caldwell said the two World Wars seem to offer two big, general lessons about the origin of war. “1914, seems to offer a lesson about what happens when diplomacy fails and military planning takes over—one must keep diplomacy open to preserve the peace, right?” Caldwell said. “When military plans are articulated, all the good intentions of diplomats become useless with horrendous outcomes. 1938, however, seems to offer the opposite lesson—diplomatic efforts to preserve the peace at all costs can lead to disastrous consequences.”

According to Caldwell, underthese lessons is also an interpretation of the event itself, as well as the interpretation of the event that was the common denominator. “To declare, while with our politicians we have, that the situation in Syria today is like Nazi Germany,” Caldwell said. “I’m not sure what—it’s [Bashar al-] Assad’s regime, or whether it’s ISIS. The complexity makes it really hard to make a judgment on the case at hand.”

Adam Seipp

Seipp explored the question of what lessons those who participated in the first World War, and later participated in the second World War—namely French military commander Maurice Gamelin, German Chancellor and war leader Adolf Hitler, and lawyer-turned-politician-turned-President of Czechoslovakia Edvard Beneš—derived. “In these three very brief examples, what we see is a bright, flashing cautionary tale about the so-called lessons of history,” Seipp said. “These were men who watched the same war from different vantage points and who derived completely different lessons from it.”

These lessons were mutually contradictory, Seipp said. “In some cases, those lessons would lead directly to state policies that, in part because of what happened in the second World War, seem to us to be morally dubious or atrocious,” Seipp said. “It was the lessons of World War I, as absorbed by this cohort, that would help to fundamentally shape the far bloodier wars of the 1940s.”

Zaretsky said it was this past, marked by diplomacy and a failure to act through, that political leaders in Europe remembered in 1914. “20,000,000 casualties, immeasurable horrors and hardship later, the world learned its lesson,” Zaretsky said. “We learn from past mistakes only to make new ones.”

Joe Barnes

Barnes said the question of when World War I begins and ends can be applied to the current situation in Ukraine. “You could quite plausibly say the crisis in the Ukraine is a mopping up operation at the end of a century-long struggle for mastery in Europe, the first armed portion of which ended in an essentially armistice and a stalemate, the second portion of which ended in defeat of Germany, the third portion of which ended in the defeat of the Soviet Union,” Barnes said. Barnes said he found all of the presentations interesting. “They gave us a small taste of how complex and contentious this issue remains after a full century,” Barnes said.

McMurty College sophomore Ruby Sanchez said she particularly liked Caldwell and Seipp’s speech for how they animately weaved a narrative about the figures, governments and events. “The light-heartedness of the discussion was very interesting and well worth going to,” Sanchez said.

Visiting students receive Rice Gmail accounts for duration of their stays

BY JIEYA WEN
THESSER STAFF

The IT department is making provisions for visiting undergraduate students to have Rice Gmail accounts, according to Barry Ribbeck, director of Systems, Architecture, Infrastructure, Cloud Strategies and Initiatives at Rice University. Visiting students are neither Rice faculty or graduate students; however, they are approved, enrolled and classified as a non-matriculated Rice student.

Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchin- son said visiting students should have the same access to Gmail as other Rice students. The decision to switch visiting students from RiceMail to Rice Gmail was collectively made by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduates, the Office of the Registrar, the IT department and the Administrative Department.

“The Student Association Senators brought this issue to me, explaining that our visiting students were not able to have the same access to Gmail as all other stu- dents,” Hutchinson said. “We agreed that this was not appropriate. In the interest of fairness to all students, we wished to ex- tend Gmail access to the visiting students.”

Google Student Ambassador Julia Hos- sa said Gmail, unlike RiceMail, is a part of Google Apps for Education, which pro- vides educational organizations features including university-wide email, online storage, calendars, and file-sharing within the university.

“Currently, visiting students, facul- ty and graduate students do not have a Google account due to a variety of intel- lectural property concerns,” said Hossia, a Martel College senior. “The main issue that pops up is that of security, both officially part of the Rice University Google community, so any documents, surveys, etc. shared publicly to only members of the Rice community will not be accessible to them.”

According to Ribbeck, the IT depart- ment is modifying existing account-man- agement software and policies to provide visiting students with Rice Gmail accounts.

“There are two pieces to the process,” Ribbeck said. “One is to ensure that if we remove the ability for the students to be visiting students with Rice Gmail accounts. These are two pieces to the process.”

Ribbeck said, “If we want to understand Europe’s future fully, we need to see that the two World Wars were fundamentally interrelated. We have to look to a generation that was not just a lost generation, but a generation that was faced.”

Seipp said. “It was a generation that absorbed those lessons all too well, even when those lessons were fundamentally opposed to the lessons learned by someone living across an international border.”

Joe Barnes

Barnes said he found all of the presenters interesting. “This was not appropriate. In the interest of fairness to all students, we wished to extend Gmail access to the visiting students.”

According to Ribbeck, the IT depart- ment will migrate visiting stu- dents’ RiceMail accounts to Gmail on Sept. 30.

“During the migration process, visiting students” will have access to new messages immediately and [their] old messages will be transferred at a rate of 1 message/sec- ond until they have all been migrated,” Chatfield said in an email to affected stu- dents.

Ribbeck said visiting undergraduate students, like any other Rice student, will retain access to their accounts for at least four months after they leave Rice.

“Those months after they leave Rice, we remove the ability for the students to be able to change their passwords,” Ribbeck said. “All the services still work, however, in the fall, we start a cleanup process. We start doing our quarterly mass deletions, for about two to three months. Generally in December or January, all the [graduated] students are purged, leaving only [their data] are gone.”

Bela Khelcheva, a psychology visiting student from Paris, said she is happy about this change because with her RiceMail account, she has no access to Google’s email sources.

“[RiceMail] was OK to write emails,” Khelcheva said. “But it’s impossible to delete mails on [RiceMail]. If you delete it, it still stays there, just croused our. [RiceMail] is a bit inefficient overall, [and it] is hard to find old emails. I know that commu- nication within Rice is facilitated for me.”
Hi, my name is Mitch, and I’ll be your guide for the Rice University Tour of Publicly Neglected Outdoor Spaces. Many outdoor spaces on campus exceed in beauty, like the grove outside Brochstein Pavilion, the courtyard abutting Anderson Hall and the Humanities Building, and the engineering quad. As we shall see, some spaces are equal in beauty and opposite in utility.

Any tour begins at the entrance. You see that we have walked little more than ten paces before reaching our first stop, the main entrance grove. Here, too, two flora-filled triangles flanking the drive up to Lovett Hall. They are not forests but lawns liberally sprinkled with oaks, pines, a few hollies, and the Huff House on the right. Their names are not widely known, if they exist, a clear clue to their minimal usage. You may pass them on your way to the light rail stop or the museum district and not acknowledge their existence, as I have done a few times. If you do notice them, do you think to enter them? I have not set a foot in them. They feel like sacred groves, perpetually deserted for a reason, a nonessential reason. Our next stop, conveniently straight ahead, is Founder’s Court. Home to the annual campus-wide water balloon fight during Beer Bike, this granite island entices to a wide vista of Lovett Hall. It is empty due to its isolation from campus, but it could accommodate impromptu sporting events.

As we pass through the Sallyport, you will see our second stop, the academic quad. The contrast in foot traffic is extreme. The paved paths bear thousands of steps per day, while the hedged lawns sit pristine. You can see—oh, you have a question? How do I think the spaces could attract more usage? Good question. First you need awareness. Many folks don’t immediately think of these places as somewhere to gather or work because they aren’t welcoming. The only bench in the quad wraps around the base of Willie’s statue. With some chairs and a bit of aesthetic change, but these changes need not be permanent. I actively support ethical occupation. The architecture students hold their informal soccer league on the lawns in the fall, using the notched hedge design as goals, and ultimate frisbee players have been known to toss the disc over the hedges. One could easily imagine straight ahead, movies or lawn games propagating. Rice bocce looks appetizing.

For some reason, movable furniture has not migrated to the academic quad. I saw a chair and table under the live oak in front of Fondren once and silently applauded them. With some temporary shade structure, the small lawns flaming in the sun are work spaces that maximize the chance for happenstance meetings between commuting friends. That hope answers your question. You may wonder why we have stopped in an oft-used space, the Jamail Courtyard bounded by the Humanities Building. But the next stop is the undeveloped area across from it. With a little love and pavin, this unsung square could mirror the beautiful space in which we stand, complete with benches and properly walkable.

Our tour ends with the most neglected space. We approach it now. The engineering quad is to your right, and the mechanical engineering building building to your left. As you pass the mechanical engineering building, look right. Here it is. All I see are two huge, live oaks stretching a veering collotory over the space and graciously tapering down the open side of the courtyard to create a permeable fourth wall. It is not so much a courtyard as a courtroom. They are the most considerate trees on campus. This place begs to be inhabited, beg! Yet no one obliges because poor drainage often muddies the ground. The tragedy is palpable. A little seating, a little from ground up, all you need.

Any questions? You in the back? Ah, yes, why do I give this tour. Because every photograph of the academic quad is the same photograph. And when I see a healthy old tree, I want to stick a bench under it and sit for a while, and other people might like that too.
In retrospect, it’s easy to label ... Fondren Library. The project emerged from the Rice School of Architecture’s Spring Charette and will open Friday, Oct. 3.

Fifth-year architecture student Nathan Keibler and junior architecture students Monica Burckhardt and George Hewitt construct Soundworm outside of Fondren Library. The project emerged from the Rice School of Architecture’s Spring Charette and will open Friday, Oct. 3.

Soundworm was inspired by a di-rector of a summer full of electronic pop tracks, it arrived perfectly at the center of a di-rection to Avicii featuring a folk bal-loon. It’s so nice to be a student, because people want to support you,” Eichner said. “That’s something I wish more students realized — now’s the time to push and experiment, because people in the community want to help you. It still won’t be easy, but at least you’re not doing it on your own.”

Eichner and Hewitt said they want the piece to express the concept of multiple points being accessed in one space. “We want students to just walk by and hear these sounds out of context,” Hewitt said. “So at one point of the structure you might hear a weight/traffic, while at another point you’ll hear a coffee machine whir. We’ll keep changing locations as frequently possible, searching for different ways to curate space, so it can always be evolving.”

Eichner and Hewitt also said they hope students won’t view the work passively. “Feel free to climb on it,” Eichner said. “Don’t be afraid of playing around.”

Eichner also hopes the project will give other students the confidence to pursue their own large-scale initiatives. “We’re truly in unchartered territory, and I hope it sets a precedent,” Eichner said. “I hope students see this and think, ‘If they can do it, we can,’ and also that the administration can feel confident helping students construct even bigger and better projects.”

The public reception for Soundworm will be Friday, Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Smith Courtyard outside the Anderson building. Hewitt and Eichner also encourage students to check the project online at soundworm.wordpress.com. “I’m just so excited for it to be done,” Hewitt said. “Once we hear noises coming out of those pipes we’ve been staring at for months and months, we’ll be flying high.”

THE WEEKLY SCENE

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

GANDHI

With 130 works including paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, sculptures and rare books, the Menil’s latest exhibition is the first international proj-ect to explore the diverse contributions and ideas put forth by the image of non-violence himself, Gandhi. The installa-tion is on display Oct. 2 through Feb. 1.

MINIL COLLECTION 1515 Sul Ross St. MINIL.ORG

OPA!

Live out your Mediterranean fantasy at the 48th Annual Greek Festival this Thursday, Oct. 2 through Sunday, Oct. 5. This four-day feast boasts authentic food, folk dancing and live music. The Greeks are famous for their celebra-tions — you won’t want to miss this.

ANNUNCIATION GREC ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 3511 Torkum Blvd. GREEKFESTIVAL.ORG

PAGANINI

Turns out you don’t even have to leave campus this weekend for a fun, so-phisticated evening. Just stroll down to Hamman Hall this Oct. 3 to watch the Rice Players. Paganini tells the story of a mad genius violinist in a dream-like, accompanied by beautiful, ee-nie music. Tickets are $5 for students.

Rice University Chamber Hall PLAYERS.BLOG.RICE.EDU

IGGY BABY

Yeah, you read that right — world-famous Australian rapper Iggy Azalea is coming to Houston Oct. 3. Gaining international recogni-tion for her eclectic and sometimes controversial music, Iggy is also the fourth solo female rapper ever to top the Hot 100. Tickets are $99.

RICE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CENTER 520 Texas Ave. RICEUCAMPUSCENTER.COM
SBTRKT
FROM PAGE 6

made a collective move toward the smooth-er, slower, sultrier side of music (see Drake, Lorde and Pharrell, who were featured everywhere). SBTRKT’s new album is an exercise in electronic abstraction. It is most certainly not a dancey album, the trait that made his debut so irresistible to begin with. Such a drastic change in style could spell doom for many musicians, but luckily SBTRKT has moved in the exact direction the rest of the world has.

The opener and title track “Wonder Where We Land” features Sampha once again, but rather than pitting him against a flurry of breakbeats, he is instead backed by sparse bass notes and bright piano chords before a flurry of falsetto voices, sped up and played backwards, breaking the minimalism of the song wide open. “Higher” features rapping by Raury and is chock full of lush synth production, but the slow boom-bap of the bass and snare never breaks tempo, with SBTRKT instead choosing to increase volume on the high-pitched, scream-like synths, creating the song’s climax. The track also features descriptive lyrics with clever wordplay, a treat in the oft-overlooked lyric sheet of the electronic music genre: “Use a fake ID to buy some cigarettes from the bodega / ate a pack of bad karma didn’t pay for now and laters / but my life is full of sufferings that happen now and later.” “Look Away” combines all the tricks of the modern sample-heavy electronic game, with soaring, zithering theremin-like synths, blaring siren horns, backwards drums and haunting, tinkling pianos all graced by the soprano vocals of Caroline Polachek. All this building and climaxing in the first half of the album leads to an unexpected drop in energy on the standout track “New Dorp. New York.” Featuring Vampire Weekend’s Ezra Koenig on vocals, this is a song with a distinctive theme and story to tell, that being old money in the neo-gothic New York City, with Koenig’s smooth delivery perfectly enunciating playful alliterations and assonance in lines like “Flags flappin’ in Manhattan” and “Gar-goyles garglin’ oil.” The downtempo track, nearly all drum and shaker, stands against the lavish production found throughout the album and serves as a breakthrough in style for SBTRKT.

Other highlights include the emotion-drenched piano and vocal crooner “If It Happens,” as well as the intriguing closing track “Voices In My Head,” which takes a dark, noir jazz hand through the electronic washing machine into the future and features notable New York rapper A$AP Ferg as he eerily brings the song to coda with the repetition of “Voices in my head, voices in my head.” The dense texture of the tracklist and numerous guest vocalists (including Jessie Ware, among others) make this an album ripe for repeated listening. While nearly none of the songs are simple, the mood is: swanky R&B brought to life with spooky synths, either very high or low in the register, and spacious, unpredictable rhythmic patterns. That SBTRKT was able to take components from all faces of current pop music and still create something that sounds both surprising and infective is a testament to his ability not just as a DJ and producer, but as a songwriter.

Notable tracks:
2. “Wonder Where We Land”
6. “Look Away”
12. “If It Happens”
15. “Voices In My Head”

Album available for $9.99 on iTunes.
Menil Collection to launch Bistro Menil with cask wine

BY WALDEN PENMANTEL

The Menil Collection will open its namesake restaurant, Bistro Menil, just north of Richmond Avenue by the end of this month. The bistro aims to be Houston’s first large-scale cask wine bar and will also serve craft beer, along with a range of Asian, European and American dishes. Greg Martin, former chef of Café Annie and Taco Milagro, will head the kitchen, while Sean Iese, who previously worked with Jackson and Company Catering and City Kitchen Catering, will head the craft beer and cask wine programs.

The beer program will focus on local Texan microbrews, while the wine list will center on classic wines from the US and Europe, with the intention of showcasing the strengths of the cask storage method.

“We had to pick something at some point,” Martin said. “Sean’s developed a really elegant way of focusing on bars. It’s a low-quality and unflappable beverage, interest has surged recently due to its large environmental impact.

“The movement in Western Europe and the United States for the last 20 years has been to make wines biodynamically sustainable, and in California, Washington and Oregon there’s been a focus on how we can make the greenest product possible, and the greenest way to get the product to the guest is in casks,” Martin said.

The casks are made of steel similar to the tanks that many wineries are using to store wine in metal kegs. Although, in order to get the product to the guest is in casks,

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Menil Collection to launch Bistro Menil with cask wine

BY WALDEN PENMANTEL

The Menil Collection will open its namesake restaurant, Bistro Menil, just north of Richmond Avenue by the end of this month. The bistro aims to be Houston’s first large-scale cask wine bar and will also serve craft beer, along with a range of Asian, European and American dishes. Greg Martin, former chef of Café Annie and Taco Milagro, will head the kitchen, while Sean Iese, who previously worked with Jackson and Company Catering and City Kitchen Catering, will head the craft beer and cask wine programs.

The beer program will focus on local Texan microbrews, while the wine list will center on classic wines from the US and Europe, with the intention of showcasing the strengths of the cask storage method.

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The Rice University football team claimed their first victory of the season on Saturday, Sept. 27 by defeating the University of Southern Mississippi 42-23. The Owls (3-0, 1-0 C-USA) outgained the Golden Eagles 393 to 231 in yards, including a 217 to 40 advantage in rushing yards. Sophomore running back Torran Davis led the team in rushing for the third time this season, gaining 171 yards on 29 carries and adding two touchdowns. Davis now has 400 yards rushing on the season and 281 over the past two conference matchups.

Sophomore quarterback Driphus Jackson also threw for 378 yards and two scores in the win, bringing his season total to 728 yards and six touchdowns. Up 20-6 with just over a minute remaining in the third quarter, Jack-
son hit redshirt senior wide receiver Mario Hull on a 40-yard pace into the end zone, giving the Owls an 11-point lead that would help secure the victory. According to Jackson, the play was critical in the game’s outcome. “We needed those big plays,” Jackson said. “Mario [Hull] came through for us, and at the end of the day, that’s what we expect out of him. Obviously Mario is a great receiver for us, we just have to do a better job of tal- lating all on the opportunities in the game.”

Head Coach Nicky Adams said the team’s success is a result of the trials the team has gone through since the season began. “We’ve hung together since the opening game at Notre Dame, and we’ve just continued to work hard to do it, so we’ve been working hard to do it, so we can show out on Saturday.”

Senior kicker Jackson Hair was removed of his kicking duties after beginning the sea- son by making two of six field goals. Red- shirt junior kicker/punter James Farrimond, who has been a consistent performer this sea- son, replaced Hair for field goal duties and made both of his field goals and all five of his extra point attempts against Southern Miss. According to Farrimond, the new position has been a frightening but exciting transition. “That’s what I was first year, actually,” Farrimond said. “But once it went through [the coaching], I was just like, ‘Wow, I really can do this.’”

The Owls will return home next week to take on the University of Hawaii, a non-

**Football earns first victory**

*by Evan Neustater*

**Rice vs. Southern Miss**

Rice University Rugby found on-field success despite underdog status

*by Kevin Mohranam FOR THE THRESHER*

Rice University Rugby opened its fall 2014 season with a victory over Stephen F. Austin State University, winning 24-22. The rugby team is not accustomed to success, however. Last season, the team finished as the runners-up in the state of Texas. Rice defeated Sam Houston State University in the semifinals of the Texas Cup 53-22, and then suffered a loss to St. Ed- ward’s University in the championship match.

Rugby president Greg Flores said the team’s recent success has been impressive, especially considering the relative size of other schools in the state.

“We finished in third place last year in con- ference,” Flores, a Will Rice College junior, said, “We took second in the Texas Cup, a six-team tournament of all the best rugby teams in Texas. The previous year, we went to nation- als. For the second-smallest Division I school with only [four] thousand people, I think that’s pretty good.”

According to Flores, the team is actively recruiting members. Despite last week’s win, Flores said the team needs more numbers in order to remain competitive with the larger schools they play.

“Rice Rugby is at a severe disadvantage,” Flores said. “We go to a school where there’s around [4,000] undergraduates, and most schools that we play have 30,000. So, for us, try- ing to find 20 or 30 guys to play rugby is a tough task. The more people we have at practice, the better the practice is. Anyone who is even thinking about playing rugby should come out to a couple [of] practices. Give it a shot. Play in a 8-side match.”

According to Rugby captain Alan Grizzaff, the athleticism required to play rugby makes it one of the most intense club sports.

“Conditioning is the key,” Grizzaff, a Will Rice junior, said. “You have two 40-minute halves of running clock, and it becomes way easier when you’re conditioned. We try to practice very hard and motivate [the players] and push for that extra conditioning. Because then it’s very easy to fun when you win on game day.”

Flores knows the rules of rugby are a challenge for many. “There are some really difficult to understand for many who come out to games, and he said the team is taking steps to make the game more approachable to any students who want to come out and watch.”

“It’s definitely a competitive game,” Flores said **Rice vs. Southern Miss**

**42-23**

75TH MINUTE GOAL STRETCHES LEAD TO 5-0

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conference opponent who is also currently 1-3 on the year. Hawaii has not lost by more than 12 points this season, including one-point and eight-point losses to Pac-12 opponents the University of Washington and Oregon State University, respectively. Despite defeating Southern Miss, Bailiff said the team will have to remain focused on its next opponent and winning its second game of the season.

“It was a big win, the first one in conference,” Bailiff said. “We got Hawaii coming to town, so we’ll enjoy this one on the flight home, and then everything is about getting that winning streak at home going again.”

The Rice University women’s volleyball team (11-5) won one game and lost another this past weekend. The Owls gained a 3-0 victory against the University of Southern Mississippi while in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on Friday Sept. 26. After the shutout victory, the team traveled to Bowling Green, Kentucky, only to fall 3-2 in a close match against Western Kentucky University.

The weekend performance stands as the first two Conference USA matches of the season. The team will return home to face the University of Texas, El Paso and Charlotte University this weekend.

Head Coach Genny Volpe said the team’s offense performed well against Southern Miss.

“I was glad to see us come out so focused,” Volpe said. “We can do some impressive things when we do that. Our offense was pretty solid all evening, and I felt like we made some solid adjustments in set two when they were getting hot.”

Volpe also said she felt gratitude towards the Rice football team, who also played at Southern Miss over the weekend, for attending the game.

“We also really want to thank our Rice football team and Coach Bailiff for bringing the football team to support us,” Volpe said. “It was awesome to have them cheering us on the road.”

While she was pleased with the win against Southern Miss, Volpe said Rice did not play as strongly in the WKU match.

“We came out pretty flat and just didn’t produce,” Volpe said. “Giving a team like WKU a two-set lead is not something anyone wants to do. In the third and fourth set, we settled in. It was a fun and competitive match, but it definitely hurts when you are not on the winning side.”

Volpe said she is pleased with how hard the team fought.

“I was proud of how the team stuck to the game plan; it was a battle, and we never backed down,” Volpe said.

Volpe said senior Jillian Humphrey, junior Kylee Reed and sophomore Sara Blasier — who is No. 38 in the country in assists per set — had standout performances this weekend.

“[Humphrey] had a great match and played like a senior,” Volpe said. “[Reed] was key coming in and getting key kills at critical times. [Blasier] played solidly and led the team well.”

Volpe said, while they suffered a rough loss on Sunday, the team gained experience that will aid them in the upcoming matches against the University of North Texas, UTEP and Charlotte.

“We now need to carry this over into next week,” Volpe said. “We will be tough to beat if we take this valuable match and learn from it.”

Volleyball splits away weekend conference games
said. “Something we get a lot is, ‘Yeah, it looked great, but I wasn’t really sure what was going on.’ This year, we’re going to get a scoreboard out to the field. I know one of the problems with watching rugby is that a lot of people are unfamiliar with the rules, but if they can tell who’s winning, it would help.”

According to Flores, rugby games are a great form of entertainment, and he encourages students to come watch.

“I think [games have] a great atmosphere,” Flores said. “There [are] a lot of big hits. You’re seeing fifteen guys out there working hard, putting it all on the line, and working as a team to try to represent our school. It’s really entertaining to watch.”

Off the field, the rugby team has developed a reputation as a “fraternity” due to their camaraderie and team events. According to Grizzafi, however, the comparison is not entirely accurate.

“I wouldn’t say it’s a fraternity,” Grizzafi said. “But we do enjoy the sense of brotherhood that we bring about. We have community service; we’re not out there to just go mess around, we try to give back to the community. We hope that the Rice community doesn’t just see us as those frat boys out there.”

Flores also said the chemistry that the team shares is a direct result of the team playing such a violent and competitive game together.

“A lot of our best friends happen to be on the team,” Flores said. “But I think I bond a little more with someone that’s out there, hitting other guys with me, sweating and bleeding. It’s definitely a brotherhood, something we take very seriously.”

The next home rugby game is on Saturday, Oct. 18 against Texas State University. Grizzafi said it could be a crucial game for the outcome of the season.

“That could be the biggest game in terms of who wins conference, so it would be great to have a huge crowd,” Grizzafi said. “It would pump the players up even more. Our goal is to win conference, nothing less. [This game] could turn the tide on how the conference shapes out.”

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### Rugby Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>UH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Texas State</td>
<td>Nov. 15-16 SWC Champ.</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>UNT</td>
<td>Jan. 17 Baylor</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>Jan. 31-Feb. 14 Texas Cup</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
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<td>Alumni Game</td>
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Brown College senior Maggie Colson avoids a Duncan College player during their game on Sunday, Sept. 28. Brown won the contest 18-13 and next plays Martel College on Sunday, Nov. 5. Duncan next plays McMurtry College on Sunday, Nov. 5. The win gives Brown and Duncan 1-3 and 1-2 records on the season, respectively.
One striking trend appears to be the fact that Rice now has a satirical outlet that adds to campus discourse in The Rice Mockingbird. “It’s been a long three years with no source of satirical journalism on campus,” Reed Thornburg, a Hanszen College senior, said. “How was I supposed to discover through humor with other students? It was a nightmare.”

But seniors aren’t the only ones catching the funny bug. “The Mockingbird changed my life,” Michael Portal, a McMurtry College sophomore, said. “It’s got jokes and pictures. And most importantly it’s a vehicle for change.”

It is hard to believe that something like this has surfaced in the 1980s, but it certainly is turning the tides on Rice’s perception that the school is getting worse.

The price of the Rice Ring shocked the world this year when it remained static for the first consecutive year. “Unprecedented!” Houston-area ring specialist Johnny Dang said. “How am I supposed to compete with this at my store Johnny Dang’s & Co.? It means, it’s basically a discount considering inflation adjustment and the relatively strong international gold market.”

The static price of the rings, while economically mystifying, has generated quite a buzz on campus. “Yeah I got the ring because my brother went to A&M and drank his ring out of a beer, and then asked his fiance to marry him with it,” Grant Patterson, a McMurtry senior, said.

But the excitement appears not to be limited to North Campus.

“I’m just excited that the price of the ring didn’t go up so I didn’t have to kill Deagol on a rowboat during a family fishing trip,” Tranhald, a Jones College senior and early Hobbit type, said. “I used the money I saved (in real terms) to get the inscription I wanted: ‘Ash nazg durbatulûk, ash nazg gimbatul, ash nazg thrakatulûk, agh burzum-ishi krimpatul.’”

By far the greatest single contributor to campus’s optimistic sentiment occurred last week when Selbel (East) survey made available, for the first time, one percent milk.

“Before today I had to bring my own centrifuge to lunch to meticulously combine whole and skim milk carrots and then throw half out,” Christine Jeong, a Lovett College senior and mixed martial artist, said. “Now, I don’t have to do that. I just pick up the pink one.”

However, while other students agreed the addition was an incremental step in the right direction, they questioned its necessity.

“Personally, I didn’t think it was that big of a deal, primarily because the set of all linear combinations of 1 and, with real coefficients, is actually equivalent to the same set using only 2 and 5,” David Garner, a Mathematics weiner and Hanszen senior, said.

Aside from a few people crying over spilled milk, the change has largely been met with exultation. “I know in the past people leave Rice thinking the best days of the university are in the past, but I refuse to cling to such petty nostalgia, Miniver Cheevy,” Marcel Merwin, a Jones senior and highfalutin literati, said. “I was originally planning on using the money I saved (in real terms) on my Rice Ring on one percent milk, but now I don’t have to. If this new milk means anything, it’s that this university is heading in the right direction. So we best on.”

The Backpage is satire and written by Reed Thornburg, and this week Dennis Budde, Andrew Stout and Bhagwat Kumar collaborated. For comments or questions, please email us at riveneu@gmail.com.