

Listen up: It's time to break the mold. Sex is stale. Making out is the next big thing.

The Will Rice players present their second annual theatre production, *The Odd Couple*.

Rice seniors Bubba Heard and Lacey Carmon both set records for Rice Track at last weekend's UTEP meet.

the Rice Thresher

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Southern Reconstruction

Baker, Will Rice, Lovett to undergo renovation in years to come

BY DALE SWARTZ
THRESHER STAFF

A magic date is set in the minds of many students on campus, particularly undergrads: Fall 2009. This is when major construction for current projects will conclude — including the Autry Court renovation, the new Recreation Center, the Collaborative Research Center and Duncan and McMurtry Colleges. Even with a dramatically transformed campus, the construction-free horizon is getting farther away, because a new, complex project is on the drawing board.

Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman is spearheading a \$70 million, 14-month renovation that will affect Baker, Will Rice and Lovett Colleges. All students at Baker and some at Will Rice will be displaced in the academic year 2009-'10 during their colleges' renovation.

The Board of Trustees approved the pre-design for the project at its meeting in late March. While the design is still evolving, current plans call for demolition, renovation and expansion at three of the six south colleges.

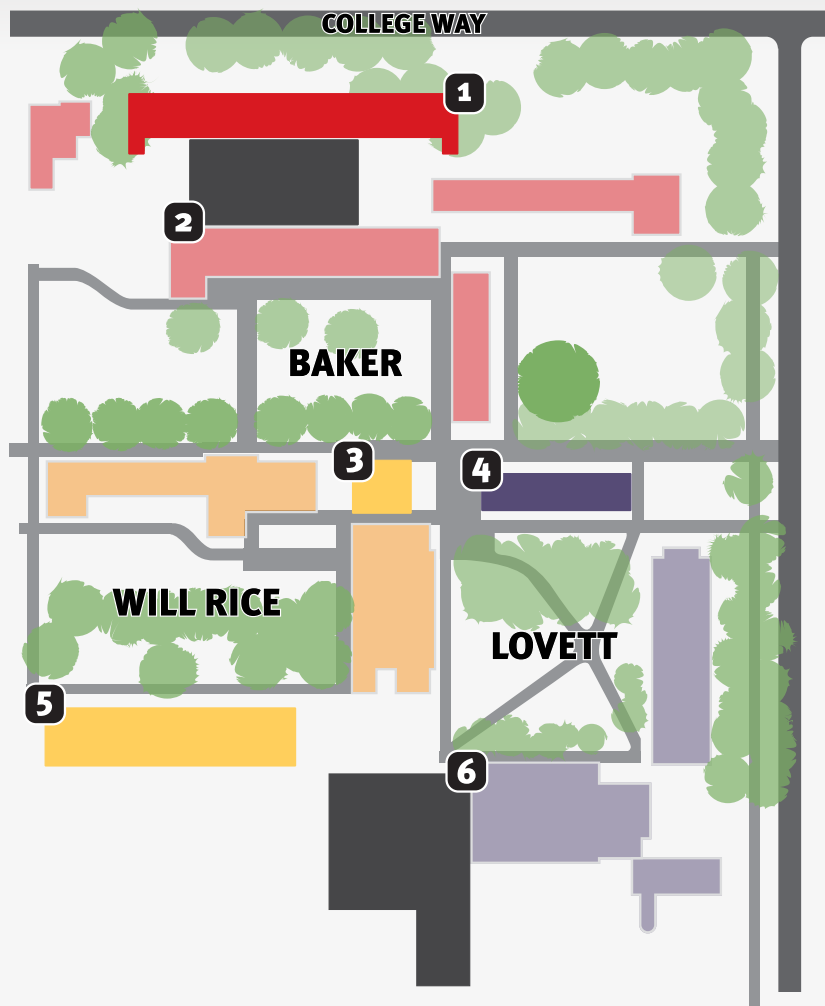
Baker's plan

The most extensive construction will be at Baker. The corner of the 1950's wing will be demolished, and the remaining portions of that building will be extensively renovated. A large new wing will be connected to the current Housing and Dining office, whose facilities — including the kitchen and servery — will also be renovated and incorporated into Baker. Additions and reconstruction will bring the total number of beds at Baker from 207 to 240, said Facilities, Engineering and Planning Project Manager Eleni Barzouka.

The newly renovated, East-West portion of the 1950's wing at Baker will become part of Lovett, forming the third side of a new quad for the college.

The 1950's wing of Will Rice will be completely demolished and replaced by a new wing which will hold 128 beds. The entire college will see a net increase of 14 beds, to total 238. A new Will Rice master's house will be constructed, though its location has not been determined. One

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On the Horizon

There are six major changes in store for the South Colleges:

1. The addition of a North Wing to Baker College, which will house 92 students.
2. Renovation to the Baker servery and kitchen.
3. The construction of a new Will Rice Masters' House.
4. The E/W Wing of Baker will be renovated and reassigned as part of Lovett College; the westernmost corner of the wing will be demolished.
5. The addition of an East Wing to Will Rice College, which will house 128 students, and the old 1950s wing of Will Rice will be demolished.
6. The construction of an East Servery and Kitchen, linking the Lovett and Will Rice Commons.

Web Exclusive: See the complete plans at ricethresher.org

Backup server brought online after crash

RACHEL CARLSON
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

One of Rice's three e-mail servers suffered a hardware failure and a subsequent operating system collapse at 10 a.m. Monday. The failure severely slowed e-mail access for about 50 percent of users until after 2 p.m. Director of System Architecture and Infrastructure Barry Ribbeck said a replicate mail service was implemented in lieu of the failed server and functions exactly like the original system.

Ribbeck said the failure at 10 a.m. was repaired with a replacement part within 30 minutes, but a flood of recovered information led to the corruption of the operating system software at 2 p.m. E-mail access was restored at 2:30 p.m. Ribbeck said the replicate e-mail service used to restore services was installed during Winter Break in response to previous e-mail outages in the fall semester.

"When messages are mailed to your account, they go to two independent systems," Ribbeck said. "When one system fails, we can turn on the second one."

The Information Technology Department planned to test the replica this summer but was forced to implement it during Monday's system failure, Ribbeck said.

The backup server differs from the original in that it does not contain a quarantine system for spam, Ribbeck said. The replica will still include the registered blacklist system, RBL, which continually screens incoming messages, but currently lacks the DSPAM defense system, which tags and removes spam.

Ribbeck said that the replica e-mail server is a new and innovative method of system recovery. Only two other institutions in the world, Carnegie Mellon University and University of Michigan, use this backup feature.

"When you look at peer institutions, we are way far removed from what they're doing, Ribbeck said. "Some don't even back up their mail."

IT is still deciding whether to revert back to the original system or use the replica as the primary e-mail server. One of the disadvantages of using the replica is that the system is based in the Mudd Laboratory instead of the Primary Data Center located off campus, which is more secure in the event of a storm.

"The Primary Data Center has more resources and is built to withstand a category three hurricane," Ribbeck said. "Mudd Lab has a wooden roof."

Ribbeck said the replica system worked effectively, and IT is continuing efforts to make user access more convenient.

"We used this as an opportunity to learn what we did well and what we're supposed to do better," Ribbeck said. "Overall, in terms of the continuity process, everybody's very happy with the processing of it."

Common reading controversy continues

BY CINDY DINH
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

As Orientation Week advisers prepare to leave campus next month for summer break, they will tuck away a copy of next year's common reading book. A selection committee of students, a faculty member and Advisor to the Dean of Undergraduates Matthew Taylor met earlier this month to narrow down their list to two contenders: Allen Raymond's memoir, *How to Rig an Election: Confessions of a Republican Operative* and Greg Mortenson's novel, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time*.

Both non-fiction works have been selected for their relevance to current events, Taylor said.

"The response from *How to Rig an Election* has been really passionate," he said. "Just the subtitle really engages people's political feelings."

He said the book is not ideological but gives readers a behind-the-scenes view of the political process and addresses ethical issues, which may help prepare students to discuss the upcoming presidential election.

Students' various reactions to *How to Rig an Election* were raised when Taylor introduced the book to O-Week advisers, with some students suggesting the subject content might polarize people.

"I'm not worried about that," Taylor said. "In a university setting, it's okay to disagree. The university has complete faith in O-Week advisers and upperclassmen to help new students learn how to talk about things that might be difficult."

Taylor is more concerned with how the community outside of Rice will feel.

"I think folks outside of Rice who haven't read the book will look at the title only and say Rice is bashing the Republican Party," Taylor said. "If we choose this book, we're thinking of how best to present it to the world outside of the hedges."

The other possible selection, *Three Cups of Tea*

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Thresher facelift

Supposedly, change is bad. But we've had the same basic design for years, and we wanted to move into the 21st century. Here's our updated look. We're also interested in your thoughts about our redesign, so send your opinions to thresher@rice.edu.

President's Study Break

Take a breather from all that academia you're trying to cram down your throat to shove food there instead! The President's Study Break will be held next Friday from 9-11 p.m. in the Ley Student Center as well as in the newly-opened Brochstein Pavilion.

Savor this Thresher

Because finals are quickly approaching, even *Thresher* editors need sleep. So hold on to this newspaper, because the last issue of this year will come out after commencement, on Friday, May 16. That's almost a month! Hello, Wednesday nights. And schoolwork.

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